

**SETS & CHASERS**  
**World Premiere 1999 – Dayton, Ohio**

Choreography.....Kevin Ward  
Music.....Edward Kennedy “Duke” Ellington  
Lighting Design.....James T. Allen  
Costume Design.....Maurita Elam, Kevin Ward

**Dancers:**

Alexis Britford, Michael Green, G. D. Harris, LaMoi Hedrington,  
Marlayna Locklear, William B. McClellan, Jr,  
Rebecca Sparks Vargas, Nabachwa Ssensalo, Jarel D. Waters, Sheri “Sparkle” Williams

A ballet set to Duke Ellington’s orchestra recorded live on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 1940 at a ballroom dance in Fargo, North Dakota. The fusion of sounds includes the static of the local radio station, the voices of the announcer and Duke Ellington, the background texture produced by the musicians and crowds.

The title refers to the sequences of numbers that jazz musicians separate an evening’s performance into (sets) and the breaks (chasers) that signal the end of a set. All in all, this is an exciting documentation of a major event, a live recording of the 1939-1942 Ellington orchestra, hailed as one of the greatest ensembles in the history of American music. This legendary band included the jazz legends Rex Stewart, Wallace Jones, Ray Nance, Joe Nanton, Juan Tizol, Lawrence Brown, Barney Bigard, Johnny Hodges, Otto Hardwick, Ben Webster, Harry Carney, Freddie Guy, Jimmy Blanton, Sonny Greer, and of course Duke Ellington. The recording includes: Sepia Panorama, Ellington’s radio theme; Koko; Mood Indigo; Harlem Airshaft; Clarinet Lament; Pussy Willow and Chatterbox.

-Intermission-

**RAINBOW ‘ROUND MY SHOULDER**

**Original Premiere, 1959**

**DCDC Premiere, 1987**

Choreography.....Donald McKayle  
Traditional Music Arranged by.....Robert DeCormier and Milton Okun  
From the Collection of.....John and Allen Lomax  
Lighting.....John Rensel  
Original Costume Design.....Domingo A. Rodriguez

**Men On The Chain Gang**

Alexander James Edwards, Michael Green, LaMoi Hedrington,  
H. Deondre Horner III, William B. McClellan, Jr., Jarel D. Waters

Solo I.....LaMoi Hedrington  
Solo II....., William B. McClellan, Jr.,  
Sweetheart, Mother, Wife.....Alexis Britford/Marlayna Locklear

The chain gang working along rural roads in the South has become a thing of the past for most states, but at one time it was a common sight to see a group of men linked together at the ankles with a length of chain, leaving or returning to a prison farm. A woman appears in their dreams, and to each prisoner, she is a sweetheart, mother, or wife. Yearning for freedom, two men escape only to die in their quest. This dance mirrors the lost hope and frustrations of these men on the chain gang.

*The reconstruction of this work is part of  
"The Black Tradition in American Modern Dance",  
a project of the American Dance Festival supported by  
a generous grant from the Ford Foundation.*

-Intermission-

## **CHILDREN OF THE PASSAGE** World Premiere 1999 – Dayton, Ohio

Choreography.....Donald McKayle and Ronald K. Brown  
Music.....Dirty Dozen Brass Band  
Costume Design.....Omotayo W. Olaiya  
Lighting Design.....William H. Grant III

### **Movements:**

1. Dark Mansion
2. Indulgent Spirit
3. Cortege
4. Yesterday's Whispers
5. Shout

### **Dancers:**

Alexis Britford, Michael Green, G.D. Harris, LaMoi Hedrington, Amy Jones, Marlayna Locklear  
William B. McClellan, Jr., Rebecca Sparks, Nabachwa Ssensalo, Jarel D. Waters, Sheri "Sparkle" Williams

Set to the vibrant rhythms of the Dirty Dozen Brass Band, it follows a party of decadent lost souls that are haunted and later rescued by spirits that reconnect them to their ancient and ancestral character. A cadence that is drawn from the traditional marching jazz bands of New Orleans with the grind and groove of the contemporary jazz and soul music. The language of movements is translated from the visual poetry of African and African American dance and the celebration of cultural rituals of yesterday and today.

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