

www.neworleanssocietyofdance.com

PRESENTS:



Millisia White, Artistic Director

THE NEW ORLEANS SOCIETY OF DANCE

Louisiana's Premier Dance Production Company. Our mission is to embody, encourage and expose Louisiana vernacular folk artistry throughout communities. The strategic art of dance-production is our specialty. We are fully dedicated to the enhancement of Louisiana's cultural & artistic landscape.



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Millisia White, Artistic Director



Ms. Millisia White is a native of New Orleans, a daughter of Louisiana's Creole heritage, an accomplished choreographer and artistic director a.k.a. the passionate force of The New Orleans Society Of Dance and its signature ensemble, The Baby Doll Ladies. Throughout her school age years, Millisia is fortunate to have turned her childhood passion for dance-arts into an early profession. Upon graduating High School in 1994, from The New Orleans Center For Creative Arts (NOCCA), Millisia was privileged to have already started earning performance credits on projects produced by luminaries, including Quincy Jones & Brandon Tortikof (*Big Tyme T.V; Pilot.*) and Debbie Allen (*Cholesterol Low Down Seminar; Director Dollie Rivas*). Possessing well-rounded dance skills with over two decades of choreography experience, Ms. White continues to extend her professional dance undertakings behind the scenes and camera lenses as both master choreographer and dance-production manager of works with Lifetime T.V., Essence Festival Empowerment Summit and the History Network's 2016 reboot of the classic "ROOTS" episodic series to name a few. Established in March 2005, Ms. White founded The New Orleans Society of Dance (NOSD) with the purpose of identifying, developing, and providing a working platform for fellow dance-artists, as well as with a dedication to contributing in a long-term and meaningful way to the cultural-arts landscape of New Orleans and Louisiana. As a result of her love for all things synonymous with her hometown's culture and traditions of street dancing, post Hurricane Katrina, August 2005, Millisia began advocating for cultural renewal in New Orleans, pouring her heart, talents and time into a personal campaign that she has coined as "New Orleans Resurrection," which is based on one of the first women's street masquerading practices in the U.S. (Mardi Gras; New Orleans c.1912).

In 2007, Millisia White would breathe new life into the resurrection of New Orleans old "Baby Dolls" traditions with The Baby Doll Ladies at the helm of arguably the greatest paradigm shift of this under-acknowledged Mardi Gras custom. As an indigenous culture bearer and community scholar, Ms. White is humbled to become the chosen keeper of heirloom-artifacts handed down from pioneering elders of the once dormant, doll-masking & Jazz-dance culture (i.e. Miriam Batiste-Reed/ Lionel Batiste ca.1930 & The Ernie K-Doe Dolls ca. 2003). Per the guidance of Ms. White, NOSD's resurrection, conservation and cultivation efforts include more than a decade of ambassadorship, documentation & research, thus expanding the dance company's role by incorporating an educational/teaching mission. From 2012-2014, NOSD in association with the Presbytere, LA State Mardi Gras Museum, Millisia and Company worked together to co-sponsor a belated exhibit in commemoration of 100 years of the doll-masking cultural legacy; co-curated by Ms. White. The following year, Millisia White's New Orleans Baby Doll Ladies would honorably draw national and even international visibility to its unique folk artistry with a featured performance in The 2014 MACY's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Another testament of Ms. White's dedication to bringing more awareness and new appreciation for the doll-masking folklore is bestowed by the City of New Orleans Office of Economic Preservation, which sanctioned The Baby Doll Ladies with an annual Mardi Gras Day, Walking Parade; a paramount gesture in the living history of community centered Mardi Gras and New Orleans culture of street-dancing. Presented the same year of her dance company's inaugural parade, Ms. White is the 2016 award recipient of the prestigious "Delta Sigma Theta Artie Award" for Dance. As for the future, Millisia is looking forward to continuing to burgeon as a dance-arts entrepreneur thru her love for New Orleans Society Of Dance and sharing its living history in ways that it has yet to be seen. In her spare time, Millisia enjoys jogging, creative writing, and participating on panels geared toward women's studies, entrepreneurship, arts and entertainment.



March 4, 2016

Mrs. Millisa White
1515 Jefferson Davis Pkwy, Ste 215
New Orleans, Louisiana 70125

Dear Mrs. White,

Congratulations on your selection as the 2016 recipient of our prestigious "Artie" award in the area of Dance. You were nominated by Min Gonzales Washington and selected by the members of the New Orleans Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. You are among several nominees to receive this honor. This spectacular event will take place on Sunday, April 10, 2016 at Warren Easton Charter High School located at 3019 Canal Street, NOLA, 70119. The time of this event is from 3:00 PM till 5:00pm. We are asking that you report to the venue for 2:30 PM so that you can be seated in a reserved section of the auditorium.

Please invite family and friends, as they will enjoy this entertaining event. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the chair of the Arts & Letters committee at qucentia57@yahoo.com or (504) 278-9313.

Sincerely,
Cecilya Head Jenkins
Chapter President

Now to give you a brief history of the "Artie"

The "Artie" is one of the sorority's many successful events. It has flourished over the past years through the dedication and support of the Arts and Letters Committee and the chapter's musical ensemble, the Treble Clefs. Following a four-year hiatus due to Hurricane Katrina, the New Orleans Alumnae Chapter resumed its annual presentation of the "Artie" in 2009.

The "ARTIE" is presented in six genres, which include Drama/Theatre, Literature, Dance, Visual Arts, Music and Patron of the Arts. The "Artie" is presented to talented individuals and groups in the greater New Orleans area who have made significant contributions to the arts.

The "Artie" presentation is the New Orleans Alumnae Chapter's spring cultural extravaganza!

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Select, adult dance-talent make up NOSD's signature chant and dance act known as Millisia White's New Orleans Baby Doll Ladies, a, masking, music and dance group committed to preserving and promoting women's arts in New Orleans. Scholarly research documents that the very first group of pioneer "Baby Dolls" masqueraded and formed their own Mardi Gras celebration in the year 1912, combining African exuberance and rhythm with French Creole style and toy dollish regalia. The women of the early *Jass Dance* is noted as being instrumental to the birth and development of New Orleans Jazz culture and its doll-masquerading customs. The tradition gained popularity thru the eras as social aide clubs and musical family groups began to adopt the practice as a form of their own identity (c. 1920-1942). The Baby Doll Ladies cast members are inducted seasonally and distinguished by signature painted faces, each with a unique moniker and outfitted in dollish themed regalia complete with matching dance props. From dance-videos to concert stages to national parades, the troupe's array of ornate character-dancers engages audiences with creatively choreographed stage works that energetically convey a contagiously uplifting, smart and sassy message of empowerment and artistic excellence! The Baby Doll Ladies repertoire includes mashes of Hip Hop, R&B, New Orleans Funk, Brass Band/"Second Line" and Bounce beats as well as the added dynamics of group chanting on top studio tracks produced by in house music ambassador, D.J. Hektik. Additionally, as an outreach component, the group incorporates k-12th grade performances and arts-integrated programs for schools and youth organizations. Millisia White's New Orleans Baby Doll Ladies have brought its once dormant dance traditions from the streets of New Orleans Second Line (Brass/Jazz) processions to a variety of main stages with production credits including: OH, Those Baby Doll Ladies cabaret, The New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, The Jazz and Heritage Foundation and The 88th annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade to name a few. In addition to performing stage shows year-round, notably as of 2016, the dance company annually hosts its New Orleans Baby Doll Ladies Mardi-Gras Day Walking Parade.





The New Orleans Baby Doll Ladies' Mardi Gras Day, Walking-Parade; 2/9/2016 (Courtesy of NOSD)



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NOSD.org/2016 - 2018 Mardi Gras Day

Millisia White's New Orleans Baby Doll Ladies ft. D.J. Hektik



PRODUCTION CREDITS

- 2017: *"Baby Doll Ladies featuring Carlos Grasso," Live film scoring project; Music Box Village (N.O., LA.)*
- 2017: New Orleans Jazz Heritage Festival *Kids Tent (N.O., LA)*
- 2017: New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival *School Day (N.O., LA)*
- 2017: *"OH, Those Baby Doll Ladies" Cabaret Series (LA State Museum Old U.S. Mint; N.O., LA.)*
- 2017: The New Orleans Baby Doll Ladies Inaugural Mardi-Gras Day, Walking Parade (N.O., LA)
- 2016: The New Orleans Baby Doll Ladies Inaugural Mardi-Gras Day, Walking Parade (N.O., LA)
- 2016: NOSD/BDL Youth Empowerment Assembly – Pitre Elementary School (Jefferson Parish)
- 2015: *The Baby Doll Ladies Resurrection Of A Mardi Gras Tradition – NOSD Film Documentary*
- 2014: *MACY'S Thanksgiving Day Parade (Herald Square); NBC –Baby Doll Ladies FT. D.J. Hektik*
- 2014: NOSD Youth Initiative - John Clark, John Mcdonogh, & McMain Charter H.S. (N.O., LA)
- 2013: Treme Culture Fest *Scholarly panel & United "Second-Line" Parade (N.O., LA)*
- 2013: *"OH, Those Baby Doll Ladies" Cabaret Series (LA State Museum Old U.S. Mint; N.O., LA.)*
- 2013: New Orleans' Children's Hospital; *"Baby Doll Ladies Mardi Gras In May" (N.O., LA)*
- 2013: Mardi Gras Day Parade; *Krewe of Zulu (N.O., LA)*
- 2013: Presbytere, LA State Museum *"Baby Doll Ladies" Exhibition Gala (N.O., LA)*
- 2012: Epic Recording Artist *"Future" Concert (Civic Ctr.; Houma, LA)*
- 2012: New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival; *Alison Miner Stage (N.O., LA)*
- 2012: Red Bull Music Academy Convention; (N.O., LA)
- 2012: Mardi Gras Day Parade; *Krewe of Zulu (N.O., LA)*
- 2011: NOSD/BDL Youth Empowerment Assembly McDonogh 42 Charter School; (N.O., LA)
- 2011: Red Bull Music Academy *"On The Floor" showcase (N.O., LA)*
- 2011: Essence Music Festival; *Visa Stage/Footprint (Ernest Morial Convention Ctr.; N.O., LA)*
- 2011: Krewe of Zulu Mardi Gras *"Big Shot" Annual Character Appreciation Party (N.O., LA)*
- 2011: Mardi Gras Day Parade; *Krewe of Zulu (N.O., LA)*
- 2011: Red Bull Music Academy Film Documentary *"Street Kings; Battle of The Bands" (N.O., LA)*
- 2010: Red Bull Music Academy *"Street Kings; Battle of The Bands" Showcase (N.O., LA)*
- 2010: 40 Acres & A Mule Film Documentary *"If God Is Willing & The Creek Rise" (N.O., LA)*
- 2010: Mardi Gras Day Parade; *Krewe of Zulu (N.O., LA)*
- 2009: New Orleans Jazz Heritage Festival Congo Square Stage (N.O., LA)



Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Top Caption: It Was Fat Tuesday In New Orleans, Everywhere Else It Was Just Tuesday

Bottom Caption: "BON TEMPS: A marcher with the Baby Doll Ladies struts down St. Charles Avenue as part of Tuesday's Mardi Gras festivities in New Orleans. The group is one of a series of parades that close the Carnival season, a blowout celebration before the solemnity of Lent."

Credit: Dan Anderson/European Press Photo Agency

THE LOUISIANA WEEKLY

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Homegrown terrorist numbers rise after Trump takes office

ANALYSIS: The number of homegrown terrorists in the United States has risen sharply since Donald Trump took office, according to a report from the FBI. The report, released in late February, says that the number of homegrown terrorists in the United States rose from 1,000 in 2015 to 1,500 in 2017. The report also says that the number of homegrown terrorists in the United States is expected to continue to rise in the coming years.

La. has a critical shortage of public defenders

NEW ORLEANS — Louisiana's public defender system is in a state of crisis, with a critical shortage of attorneys to represent indigent defendants. The Louisiana State Bar Association says that only 1,000 attorneys are currently practicing as public defenders in the state, despite the fact that there are over 1 million indigent defendants in Louisiana each year.



Members of The New Orleans Baby Doll Ladies walk down St. Charles Avenue ahead of the Zulu Parade during Mardi Gras in New Orleans, Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017.

NAACP sounds alarm on 'decline' in civil rights commitment

WASHINGTON — The NAACP has issued a report that says the federal government's commitment to civil rights has declined significantly since the end of the Obama administration. The report, released in late February, says that the federal government has failed to take any meaningful steps to address the ongoing problems of racial inequality and discrimination in the United States.

Study documents how strict voter ID laws suppress voting by people of color

WASHINGTON — A new study from the Brookings Institution shows that strict voter ID laws in several states have led to a significant decline in voter turnout among people of color. The study, released in late February, says that the decline in voter turnout is particularly pronounced in states with the most restrictive voter ID laws.

Trump signs Executive Order on HBCUs

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Monday that directs the federal government to support Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The order, released in late February, says that the federal government should take steps to ensure that HBCUs receive the same level of support and funding as other colleges and universities.

First Black astronaut remains a forgotten pioneer

WASHINGTON — NASA barely mentions Robert R. Lawrence Jr. during anniversary events, memorials, and other tributes to the agency's 50th anniversary. Lawrence, the first Black astronaut, flew on the Space Shuttle Challenger in 1983.



Robert R. Lawrence Jr.

Robert R. Lawrence Jr. was the first Black astronaut to fly in space. He flew on the Space Shuttle Challenger in 1983. Lawrence was a member of the Tuskegee Army Airfield and was a member of the Tuskegee Army Airfield. Lawrence was a member of the Tuskegee Army Airfield and was a member of the Tuskegee Army Airfield.



Week Of March 6-12, 2017
Caption: "Baby Dolls – New Orleans style...Members of The New Orleans Baby Doll Ladies walks down St. Charles Avenue ahead of the Zulu Parade during Mardi Gras in New Orleans, Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017."
Credit: AP Photo/Gerald Herbert



Monday, May 1, 2017

Caption: Left, a lightning bolt over Jazz Fest grounds, Above, Lorde performs on the Gentilly Stage on Sunday afternoon. Right, New Orleans Baby Dolls stroll the festival.

Credit: Chris Granger

100 Best Photos of Jazz Fest 2017

Published on: May 10th, 2017

The 2017 New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival is in the books! As always, there was a ton of great music, food, parades, and special moments. Take a look below at some of the best photos of the Fest as captured by the WWOZ photography team- Ryan Hodgson-Rigsbee, Eli Mergel, Ken Moldonado, Charlie Steiner, Leona Strassberg Steiner, Bill Sasser, Olivia Greene, Black Mold, Marc PoKempner, and Kichea S. Burt.



New Orleans Baby Doll Ladies at Jazz Fest day 3 on April 30, 2017. Photo by Ryan Hodgson-Rigsbee www.rnrphoto.com

Topic tags: Photography, Jazz Fest

Related content:

Jazz Fest 2017 Live Broadcast Schedule

Photo highlights from Day 1 of Jazz Fest

Photo highlights from Day 7 of Jazz Fest 2017

Source: wwoz.org

April 30, 2017

Credit: Ryan Hodges-Rigsbee



A member of the New Orleans Baby Dolls poses with her friend, Christine Jones, at the 2017 Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans, Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017. (AP Photo/Gerald Hebert)

Source: apnews.com
Feb. 29, 2017
Credit: AP Photo/ Gerald Hebert



natgeotravel Following

natgeotravel #NGITravelStories // Wrapping up the day as @ChrisBickford shares images from Carnival celebrations in Venice and New Orleans. In this photo, the legendary Baby Doll Ladies, a group committed to preserving and promoting women's arts in New Orleans. The original "Baby Dolls" were the first women to form their own Mardi Gras celebration in the 1920s, combining African exuberance and rhythm with French Creole style. The Ladies continue this tradition with an elevated sense of aesthetics and purpose, performing year-round and participating in community outreach. Check 'em out! #BabyDollLadies #NewOrleans #MardiGras

amaching @accordingtoarea get your groove on 🎉🎉

37,262 likes
FEBRUARY 14, 2015

Add a comment...

Source: IG @Natgeotravel/ natgeotravel.com
Feb. 14, 2015
Credit: Chris Bickford



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Ben Hider



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FEATURING
DJ HEKTIK

THE
"BABY DOLL LADIES"

OF
MARDI GRAS

© 1912 - 2012

DJ HEKTIK

FEATURING

Millisia White's New Orleans

Baby Doll Ladies

AT THE
NEW ORLEANS
JAZZ &
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**FRIDAY, APRIL 24TH,
CONGO SQUARE STAGE 1:30PM**