



Renowned choreographer and dancer Randy Louis Duncan was born on December 14, 1958 in Chicago, Illinois. Growing up and attending public schools on Chicago's west side, Duncan's career began at age fifteen with the Joseph Holmes Dance Theater. Duncan later began formal dance studies with Geraldine Johnson, followed by classes at the Sammy Dyer School of Theater, Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, and Illinois State University. Duncan credits Harriet Ross and Joseph Holmes with much of his inspiration.

Drawing upon ballet, jazz dance, and modern dance for his choreography, Duncan created works that have been performed by numerous dance companies including the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago, River North Dance Company and Gus Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago as well as companies in Seattle and Tel Aviv. In 1987, Duncan choreographed for the first all-African American cast of *A Chorus Line*. Duncan's musical theater credits include *Guys and Girls*, *Street Dreams*, *West Side Story*, *Carousel*, *Hello Dolly*, and *Don't Bother Me I Can't Cope*. He has taught and judged dance competitions throughout North America, Europe and the Middle East. Duncan's classes in jazz dance have taken him to Mexico, England, France, Amsterdam, and Israel.

Duncan has been a three-time recipient of Chicago's prestigious Ruth Page Award for Outstanding Choreographer of the Year (1988, 1990, and 1992). In 1994, Duncan won the Jazz Dance World Congress Award. He regularly serves on panels for the National Endowment for the Arts, the Illinois Arts Council, Arts Midwest and the Illinois Arts Alliance. He has received numerous other awards including the Artistic Achievement Award from the Chicago National Association of Dance Masters, three Black Theatre Alliance Awards for theatre, and the Gay Chicago Magazine After Dark Award for his work in Apple Tree Theatre's production of *Hello Again*. He earned an American Choreography Award Nomination for his choreography in the block buster movie *Save the Last Dance*, starring Julia Stiles. Duncan's work can be seen in the companies of Joffrey Ballet, Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago, River North Chicago Dance Company, Bat-Dor Dance Company of Israel, Ballet Met of Columbus, Ohio, and many others. While working in such theatres as the Goodman, Manhattan Theatre Club, South Coast Repertory, Actor's Theatre, Court Theatre, and Oregon Shakespeare Festival, he has created original choreography for *Hair*, *Carousel*, *Zoot Suit*, *Once On This Island*, *The Rose Tattoo*, *Amadeus*, *Antigone*, *Death and the King's Horseman*, *Pirates of Penzance*, and the Pulitzer Prize winning play *Ruined*. Recently, he returned from Yale University where he choreographed director Liz Diamond's production of Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* starring Oscar Award winner Lupita Nyong'o. Since 1995, Duncan has choreographed world premieres for Chicago's Dance for Life annual fundraising event. He is a proud member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Union as well as Actor's Equity. More recently, he was inducted into the Hall of Fame at his alma mater, Illinois State University.