

## **Former Principal Ballerina Brings Classical Ballet To Midtown**

*The minority-owned business offers classes for youth and adults.*

(FEBURARY 19, 2004 – MEMPHIS, TENN.) - A new dance studio, ***Ballet On Wheels, Academy of Ballet***, officially opens its doors today. *Ballet On Wheels* offers all levels of classical ballet classes. Chauniece R. Conner, Artistic Director, is very optimistic about what her classes will offer. “I have a passion for cultivating my students into poised well trained classical ballet dancers. *Ballet On Wheels* is committed to developing and defining the art of classical ballet, through self-discipline, creative expression, and performance exposure for young people of mixed ages and diverse backgrounds,” states Conner.

*Ballet On Wheels, Inc.* is not your typical classical dance program. It is where creative input and ideas are encouraged, and where the teacher/student relationship is mutually defined and respected. Through the advanced skill set of the staff, students receive a strong foundation in all dimensions of ballet training, including fundamental instruction and performance experience.

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Conner, a native Memphian, danced professionally with the Carlton Johnson Academy of Ballet. Her performing credentials include, **The Nutcracker**, **Sleeping Beauty**, **Coppelia**, **The Red Shoes**, **Peter and the Wolf**, and **Cinderella**. Conner was selected in 1986 to perform this title role as “Clara” in **The Nutcracker**, with the now defunct Tennessee Ballet Company. This performance made her the first African-American female dancer throughout the Southeastern region of the United States to perform this title role.

***Ballet On Wheels*** is currently accepting applications for students in intermediate through advanced skill levels. Weekday classes are taught at TheaterWorks in Midtown at 2085 Monroe-Overton Square. For more information, contact Chauniece Conner, at (901) 870-4348.