

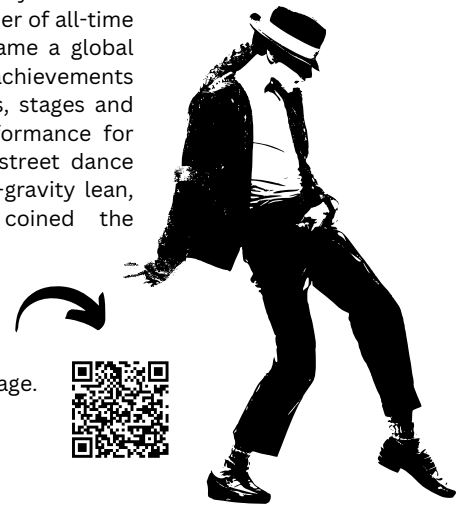
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

highlighting & celebrating black excellence in dance

MICHAEL JACKSON

MJ is regarded as one of the most significant cultural figures of the 20th century. He was named the most successful entertainer of all-time by Guinness World Records. He became a global figure and his world record music achievements broke racial barriers. Through songs, stages and fashion, he proliferated visual performance for singers in pop music; popularizing street dance moves including the robot, the anti-gravity lean, and the backslide (which he coined the "moonwalk").

Scan here to watch Michael Jackson perform his hit song "Billie Jean" and moonwalk for the first time live on stage.



ESIE MENSAH

Esie Mensah is a Canadian award winning Director, Choreographer, Dancer and Educator. She is a member of the Canadian Guild of Stage Directors and Choreographers as well as a two-time Dora nominated artist who has worked with megastars like Rihanna, Drake, Janelle Monae, Nelly Furtado and Arcade Fire to historic brands like Holt Renfrew, Coca-Cola, TIFF, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto Raptors, and more. Esie is pushing boundaries and paving the way for black artists to shine in the arts.



Scan to see Esie performing in one of her creations at a Toronto Raptors game!



JAMES BROWN

A singer, dancer, and musician, James Brown was the legendary founder of funk music and a major influence on Hip Hop music. Brown built a reputation as a dynamic live performer. He danced vigorously as he sang, working popular dance steps, such as the Mashed Potato, into his routine along with dramatic leaps, splits and slides. James Brown's performances were famous for their intensity and length. His own stated goal was to "give people more than what they came for – make them tired, 'cause that's what they came for."



Scan to view a compilation of James Brown's unique and eccentric dance moves and performance style.



THE NICHOLAS BROTHERS

Fayard and Harold Nicholas were an entertainment act who excelled in a variety of dance techniques. The brothers were best known for their unique interpretation of "Flash Dancing", a form of tap dancing that incorporates highly acrobatic technique. They were considered by many to be the greatest tap dancers of their day, if not all time!



Scan to view an exceptionally entertaining excerpt of the two from the film *Stormy Weather*.



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