

# Isaura Oliveira

*Artistic Director, Choreographer, Dancer, Actress & Teacher*

Community Arts Advocates, PO Box 112, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

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## *African Brazilian Culture*

Ms. Oliveira was born in Salvador-Bahia, the cradle of African Brazilian culture, where African traditions and the arts are constantly maintained and nourished. This is exactly from where and how Isaura built her cultural-artistic experience. She has devoted her extraordinary talents to work in academic, artistic, community, educational and health venues.

Isaura appeared in a PBS and BBC-TV's documentary "Dancing #5: New Worlds, New Forms" in 1993, as the representative for Brazilian dance, through her classes and interviews. Her classes, lectures, and performances left a lasting impression at Smith, Radcliffe,



Wellesley Colleges; Brown, Wesleyan University, University of Massachusetts-Boston, Stanford, UC Riverside University; as well, at Motion Pacific in Santa Cruz-CA, Spontaneous Celebrations and The Dance Complex in MA.

Isaura performed ANCESTRAIS -her acclaimed solo performance of dance, theater and multi-media, at Massachusetts Institute of Technology Kresgie Auditorium in 2001.

### Concerts & Festivals

\$500 for first performance/workshop

\$500-\$400 for library performance

\$200 for additional performances/day.

\$2000 and up for dance concerts

with ensemble and costumes

### School Assemblies & Residencies

\$500/ first assembly

\$200 for additional performances same day.

\$1000/day for residencies

## **Programs:**

- **African Brazilian Cultural & Folklore Workshop**
- **Brazilian Carnivale Workshop**
- **"Iwa Pele Experience" Brazilian Carnivale Dance Concert**
- **African Brazilian & Modern Dance Workshops**
- **African Brazilian & Modern Dance Master Classes**

## **Quotes:**

"There simply are not more than a small handful of dance performance artists anywhere in the world who are as talented. Ms. Oliveria is a world-renown expert in her field, a leading proponent of Afro-Brazilian culture and dance whose influence has been profound, and whose performance work has been hailed by an international group of critics and scholars."

-- Thomas DeFrantz, MIT Music and Theater Arts

"It was a stunning full-evening solo production in which she drew upon the intimate relationship between theater and dance. The attention her performance garnered was outstanding; the audience was truly spellbound by the range and depth of her powerful creation. Not only did the audience see the lyricism and rhythmic dynamics of Brazilian modern dance, but also they felt a continuum of emotional expression that was initiated by the traditional Yoruba divinities at the center of her work. This choreography was fusion that communicated contemporary relevance. "

-- Yvonne Daniel, Ph.D. Smith College Dance and Afro-American Studies

## **Resume:**

### **Professional Background:**

Actress, Dancer, Choreographer, Dance Teacher and Artistic Director.  
Afro Brazilian dance: Traditional, Contemporary & Experimental Theater.  
Modern Dance with African, Brazilian and Caribbean Roots.

### **Teaching/Choreographing:**

Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA  
Dance Instructor, Choreographer and Brazilian Culture Consulting  
Yanvalou Dance and Drum Ensemble/Music Depart., 1998 to Present  
MIT-Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA  
Guest Artist-Afro Brazilian Dance/ Theater Department, Spring '01 to '02  
Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT  
Visiting Artist, Dance Department, Fall '02  
Smith College, Northampton, MA  
Guest Faculty/ Dance Department, Fall '97 and Fall '99  
Hampshire College, Northampton, MA  
Guest Faculty/Dance Department, Fall '99  
University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA  
Guest Faculty/Theatre Department, Winter '99  
Radcliff College-Harvard University, Cambridge, MA  
Radcliff Dance Program-Faculty Fall 98/ Spring '99

### **Lectures Demo / Master Classes / Lecture-Demonstration-Performances:**

Stanford University, Stanford, CA; African Studies Depart., May '02  
University of California, Riverside, CA; 3 Master Classes, Dance Depart. May '02  
Brown University, Providence, RI; Master Classes , Lecturer and Performances-1998 and 2002  
Tufts University, Boston, MA; Master Class- 2001

### **Elementary, Middle and High Schools:**

Summer Arts at Derby-Derby Academy, Hingham, MA, summer 2000  
Arts in Progress-Agassiz Elementary School, Boston, MA, spring 2000  
Boston Arts Academy, Boston, MA, 1999  
Amherst High School, Northampton MA, 1999  
Cambridge Latin High School Summer Program, Cambridge, MA, 1997

### **Education, Honors, Awards & Grants:**

Federal University of Bahia, Salvador, Brazil, Bachelor of Fine Arts, 1987  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology Council for the Arts, 2001  
Margarita Horta Award, Bahia, Brazil, 1987