



## **Dr. George Faison**

Dr. George Faison is an award winning, internationally celebrated producer, writer, essayist, composer, director, choreographer, dancer and philanthropist. The recipient of numerous awards, Faison began studying at Howard University when he was fifteen years old. He spent years in the Howard University building of Fine Arts, absorbing all educators and artists had to offer him. He received a Doctor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

He is the first African American to win a Tony Award (1975) for best choreography (The Wiz). Faison began his career as a principal dancer with the Alvin Alley American Dance Theater. His Broadway career began with the musical

Purlie

. After leaving the Ailey Company, he formed the George Faison Universal Dance Experience and went on to create several American dance classics which include:

Slaves

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Suite Otis

,

Gazelle

,

and

Poppy

. He has also choreographed and staged concerts for musical legends including Ashford and Simpson, Roberta Flack, Stevie Wonder, Earth, Wind and Fire, Dionne Warwick and Stephanie Mills. Dr. Faison has directed regional productions across the country in theaters from the New York City Public Theater to the Princeton University McCarty Theater to the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. He has written musicals which include:

Apollo, It Was Just Like Magic, Sing Mahalia Sing, If This Hat Could Talk  
(based on the life of Civil Rights activists Dorothy Height) and most recently,  
Bah Humbug: The Notorious E.B. Scrooge

based on a Christmas Carol. His film credits include

Sgt. Peppers Lonely Hearts Club Band, The Cotton Club, Driving Me Crazy,  
and the

Josephine Baker Story

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Dr. Faison is a co-producer and artistic director of the New York City Summer Stage Harlem Dance Caravan

at the Richard Rogers Amphitheater in Marcus Garvey Park. Faison recently co-produced the 10

th

Anniversary Gala of

The History Makers "An Evening With Valerie Simpson in Honor Of Nick Ashford"  
and directed

"Steppin' Out Of The Negro Caravan"  
at Howard University.

