



Shaumba-Yandje is the founding Executive and Artistic Director of **OrigiNation, Inc.** and Artistic Director of Educational Programs and **AileyCamp Boston at Celebrity Series of Boston.** She has extensive training, teaching and performance experience in all areas of dance including African, tap, hip-hop, swing, gospel, ballet, step, modern and jazz. She received dance training at the **Boston Conservatory** and the **Alvin Ailey School** and has facilitated workshops for the **Wang Center's Bring in Da Noise, Bring in Da Funk**, the entire **Needham Elementary School System** of 3,000 students, **Riverdance**, the **Wizard of Oz** and Grammy Award Winning R&B Artist **Lauryn Hill's Refugee Project**

Summer Camp. Mrs. Dibinga has received numerous awards for her work with **OrigiNation** including the prestigious **Upstander's Portraits of Courage Award** in January 2008. This award included adding Mrs. Dibinga's portrait on a display at the Boston Public Library. This display will then travel across the country.

Mrs. Dibinga is also the co-director of ***Our Story: A Celebration of the African American Experience through Music, Dance and Spoken Word.*** She co-directs this annual production with her husband **Anthony Taalib Robinson.** The first production went up in 2000 and has been seen by over 10,000 people through its tours across Massachusetts and its annual production at Roxbury Community College.

She has appeared in several films, musicals, industrials and television commercials including WCVB's *Chronicle* and *City Line*, MTV's *The World Famous* and Spike Lee's film *Summer of Sam.* She founded **OrigiNation, Inc.** in 1994 to provide a safe haven for youth where they can learn the importance of self-respect, health, nutrition, education, self-esteem and the extent of African influences on various contemporary art forms. This work continues at the **OrigiNation Cultural Arts Center** which she opened in September 2003 in Boston's inner city of Roxbury. Her center is home to her award winning youth professional dance companies **NIA Dance Troupe, Girlz of IMANI, Aleye Boyz Troupe** and **IMANI, Jr.** In 2007, **NIA Dance Troupe** won three national dance competitions including two on **BET's 106 & Park Wild-Out Wednesday** dance competition. Additionally, **Girlz of IMANI** and **IMANI, Jr.** have placed first in the **New England Cheer and Dance Competitions** which were held at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center.

The Center also houses **OrigiNation's Performing Arts Program, the IMANI Summer Program, the Summer Dance Intensive** and the **Youth Empowerment through the Arts Tour.** This tour kicked off in November 2007 with a 10-day tour in **South Africa.** During this tour, members of **NIA Dance Troupe** performed and facilitated dance workshops as well as distributed donated clothes and school supplies to students in **Pretoria, Capetown, Johannesburg** and **Soweto.**