

## **Erika Aisha Moore**

**Ericka Aisha Moore** believes in the impact of art (dance) to empower individuals, which therefore empowers community. Since starting to study dance (jazz, ballet, modern, and hip-hop) seriously at the age of 15, Ericka has been driven to perform and to create pieces that speak about the world she lives in. Ericka made her 2000 choreographic debut with *Fingers N the Hood*. The piece toured 5 inner-city areas in San Diego (The Urban Village, Encanto Boys and Girls club, Chicano Park, Centre City, and North Park Community Center) receiving the Union-Tribune Critic's Choice Award and extensive television coverage. *Funkalosophy* was Ericka's second full-length show created in 2002. *Funkalosophy* reveals how the hip-hop subculture contributes to an activist dance theatre, while empowering youth and others with a voice concerning their political and social issues. *Funkalosophy* was reset in 2003 and 2004. The 2004 production was the longest running dance theatre production in San Diego; 9 weeks 6 shows a week.

Moore's third full-length performance piece was a collaborative work called *Fallen Petals*; this work was commissioned by The California Arts Council's Next Generation Grant. The presentation interweaved East Indian dance with hip-hop and modern dance to create a unique, combined vocabulary of expression. Though it focuses on issues related to AIDS, the work also focuses in a broader sense on the concepts of death and dying, and how the human capabilities can empower community.

Ericka has been a professional dancer for Eveoke Dance Theatre since 1997, performing in over 17 full-length shows as a principal dancer for Eveoke and has danced with the Colette Harding Contemporary Dance Company and with Peter Kalivas in the PGK Project. Ericka's choreography was seen at Celebrate Dance Festival, danced by Skin Muscle Bone Dance Company. Ericka is also a seasoned music designer and has worked with Eveoke Dance Theatre, Stone Soup and Sledgehammer Theatre.