

# In Memorium: Vivianne Gauthier



Vivianne Gauthier (March 17, 1918-June 1, 2017), icon of traditional Haitian dance has joined the ancestors. At the age of 19, after completing her studies, despite the reluctance of her parents, she stood up and gave free rein to her passion which was dance, passion dating from her childhood.

Vivianne Gauthier, whose vivacity and know-how remains a model to follow, has never ceased, despite her age, to participate with remarkable tenacity in the formation of youth

and the promotion of traditional dance in particular and the Haitian culture in general.

Vivianne Gauthier, who has received many honors (Honor and Merit of the Choir of the Cathedral, August 2001; Honor and Merit of President François DUVALIER for Culture, 1961; - Engraved table for the fight in the Development of Haitian Culture, 1996; Homage to the National Television of Haiti for Dance, December 23, 1997; Honorary Board of SOROPTIMIST International Club of Port-au-Prince awarded to Mrs. Vivianne Gauthier for her construction for the advancement of her profession, March 7, 1999; Honorary Table and Merit awarded by CELICOOP to Mrs. Vivianne Gauthier for his outstanding contribution to the Haitian Community, February 25, 2002; Homage to the Status of Women and Women's Rights, April 27, 2003; and Oscar of the "Woman of Merit", awarded by the Fondation Défi , 21 March 2009) as a sign of respect for her work in dance, remains a monument for the artistic and cultural sector of Haiti.

In 2001, she mounted "1804" (with Frédéric Surpris), the first Haitian musical on stage that required twenty dancers and dancers, four drums, a flute, dozens of costumes, a sound and light infrastructure via the initiative of Productions Artistiques Frédéric Surpris and the Dance Company Viviane Gauthier, with the support of an association of former students of the school. The historical theater ballet "1804" is an overflowed the history of Haiti from the crossing of enslavement to the present in 21 paintings grouped in two parts, mixing folk ballets with the rhythms Nago, Dawomen, Spider and Yanvalou; songs and choirs; mime; Parades and theater scenes.



From 1938 to 1948, for 10 years, she was a teacher at the Sisters of Wisdom. It will leave the teaching for the benefit of the state enterprise: the National Lottery. She will spend 21 years in this company but will continue to dedicate her afternoons to dancing. She replaced Lavinia Williams several times with the Sisters of the Holy Trinity and founded her school in 1950, which later became a reference in the teaching of roots and folk dances.

In 1950, she founded the dance school Vivianne Gauthier. In 1971 her talent became known on European soil. She believed that Yanvalou, and Ibo dance was the basis of all of the other Haitian dances and that it was the best form of exercise because it involved moving all parts of the body from head to toe. Although often credited as a choreographer she considered her vocation to be the preservation of Haitian dance and she drew a line between Haitian folkloric dance and Vodou, saying the two were not the same.

