

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF

# DAVE



A CHOREOGRAPHED LIFE OF  
PURPOSE & PASSION



FIRST 8 COUNT: AUGUST 15, 1972

FINAL CURTAIN CALL: JUNE 16, 2025

CELEBRATION OF LIFE  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2025

11:00AM - 3:00PM

DEBBIE ALLEN DANCE ACADEMY  
1850 S MANHATTAN PL, LOS ANGELES, CA. 90019

# DAVE'S

## LIFE JOURNEY



### EARLY LIFE AND INFLUENCES

David Lee Scott Jr. was born on August 15, 1972, in Los Angeles and raised in Compton, California. The oldest of four siblings born to Evelyn Louise Scott and David Lee Scott Sr., he grew up in a home where movement was instinct, rhythm was second nature, and charisma wasn't optional—it was inherited.

He taught himself to dance by watching television and imitating the way people walked, transforming ordinary observation into extraordinary artistry. He'd study posture, dissect swagger, and decode cadence. Everyday gestures became his choreographic vocabulary. Michael Jackson, Prince, James Brown, and the Nicholas Brothers served as his unofficial faculty. Walking, he often said, was humanity's first dance move—he simply elevated it into something transcendent.

He attended Marion Anderson Elementary, Bret Harte Middle School, Compton High School, and Washington Prep before earning a basketball scholarship to Weber State University in Utah. College had its plans, but Dave had vision. One pivotal night at a club, during a dance battle that would reshape his destiny, a representative from Rob Base's team approached him. A touring spot had just opened, and Dave was offered an opportunity that would launch his career. He said yes without hesitation, and the trajectory of his life shifted forever.

### CAREER AND CRAFT

Dave refused conventional pathways, instead forging his route with instinct, determination, and a talent that commanded attention before it earned credentials. Self-taught and self-made, yet eternally collaborative, he built his legacy from the ground up. His first professional dance opportunity was with female rappers Nikki Kixx and Smooth, followed by his inaugural choreographic opportunity with Immature. From these formative experiences, Dave understood that choreography transcended mere movement—it was storytelling through the human form, a catalyst for unlocking each dancer's authentic voice and empowering them to illuminate their artistry.

He toured alongside Ginuwine, Tyrese, and Brian McKnight, while simultaneously sculpting the talents of B2K and Mindless Behavior. His creative imprint graced a defining era of dance-centric cinema: *You Got Served*, *Stomp the Yard*, *Step Up 2: The Streets*, *Step Up 3D*, and *High Strung*. His television contributions proved equally influential, serving as choreographer for Season 8 of *Dancing With the Stars* in 2009 and lending his visionary artistry to *So You Think You Can Dance* from 2008 to 2015. Beyond choreography, Dave harbored ambitious dreams of film production and directing, perpetually envisioning ways to expand his creative dominion within the entertainment landscape.

Accolades arrived, but they never consumed him. He claimed the American Choreography Award in 2004 for *You Got Served*, the Fred and Adele Astaire Award in 2008 for *Step Up 2: The Streets* and again in 2016 for *High Strung*, and the World Dance Award in 2011 for *Step Up 3D*. RIAA-certified Gold and Platinum plaques adorned his achievements with chart-topping artists including B2K and Mindless Behavior. Yet what truly mattered wasn't the recognition—it was the revelation he sparked in others.

He taught at Millennium Dance Complex, then at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy under Mrs. Allen's mentorship, and later at Broadway Dance Center and The PULSE on Tour, where his reputation for nurturing both technique and confidence became legendary.

He possessed an extraordinary ability to perceive potential where others saw only promise, coaxing brilliance from the willing and the uncertain alike. He selected dancers not merely for technical precision but for authentic passion and genuine devotion to the craft. And when they achieved that breakthrough moment? He'd reward them with his signature grin and a single, emphatic word: "Boom."

Dave cultivated rituals and idiosyncrasies that defined his creative essence. He would never enter a rehearsal without his weathered fisherman hat—a talismanic companion that became as integral to his process as the music itself. His philosophy was elegantly straightforward yet profoundly impactful: "Don't ask about the job. Do the job!"



## LEGACY AND REMEMBRANCE

Dave never waited for permission or invitation. He constructed opportunities and then graciously held doors open for those who followed. He provided countless individuals their inaugural chances and ensured those moments carried lasting significance. His work transformed cultural landscapes, but his true impact resided in the human transformations he facilitated. Above all, he sought to be remembered for his boundless love of life, his extraordinary ability to illuminate faces with smiles, and his unwavering devotion to artistic excellence.



## LIFE OFFSTAGE

Beyond studio lights and choreographic reels, Dave embodied a tempest of energy, tenderness, and infectious laughter—fundamentally loving, irresistibly funny, and relentlessly hardworking in every endeavor. His humor struck like lightning, his magnetism undeniable. A natural comedian who treasured both laughter and the gift of making others laugh, he could seamlessly pivot from impromptu sound effects to spontaneous pop-and-lock demonstrations without warning. Scripts were unnecessary; authenticity was his only requirement.

Culinary artistry ranked among his hidden superpowers. He possessed an almost mystical ability to transform minimal ingredients into memorable feasts. His seafood pasta and cucumber salad achieved legendary status among friends, requested like precious commodities. He once playfully boasted he could transform plain rice into a complete turkey dinner. When elaborate cooking wasn't called for, he found profound satisfaction in life's simpler pleasures: top ramen, fresh seafood, hot tamales, pig feet, and hot pickles.

He cherished holidays with childlike enthusiasm. Music was his constant companion. His mornings began with his daily prayer and Mary J. Blige's "Just Fine" reverberating through the kitchen as he danced with his partner Natalie, moving as if privacy were guaranteed even when audiences gathered. This daily ritual served as his spiritual anchor, grounding him in joy before the world demanded his attention. His entertainment preferences reflected his eclectic soul, with particular affection for "Weird Science" and "The Shawshank Redemption."

He is survived by his parents, David Lee Scott Sr. and Evelyn Louise Scott; his sisters, Antoinette Scott-Mays and Tamesha Scott; his children, Jasmine Scott, Neko Scott, and Cy Scott, and a granddaughter. He also leaves behind his partner Natalie Casanova and an expansive constellation of chosen family and friends, including his best friend and business partner Keisha Gamble, Kountry Vaculik, Ketrina Askew, Tyaneka Lawrence, Columbus Short, John Silver and Dre Bailey. He was preceded in death by his sister Monique Scott.

Dave lived with intentionality, moved with exuberance, and left behind a rhythm that resonated in hearts long after the final beat faded into silence.





**PROGRAM ORDER**

**OPENING WORDS – JOHN SILVER**

**PRAYER – FAITHFUL**

**TRIBUTE PERFORMANCE – STOMP THE YARD**

**OBITUARY READING – TAMESHA SCOTT**

**SPECIAL TRIBUTE – COLUMBUS SHORT**

**MUSICAL TRIBUTE – MICAH POWELL**

**MEMORIAL VIDEO PRESENTATION**

**SPEECHES**

**MUSICAL TRIBUTE – COREY MEKELL**

**DANCE PERFORMANCE**

**CLOSING REMARKS – JOHN SILVER**

**GATHERING FOR FOOD & MUSIC**



# DAVE SCOTT'S NOTABLE ACCOLADES & CONTRIBUTIONS

## Major Awards & Honors

- American Choreography Award

Winner of Best Choreography in a Feature Film for *You Got Served* (2004), a film that revolutionized cinematic dance battles.

- Fred & Adele Astaire Award

Winner of Best Choreography in Film for *Step Up 2: The Streets* (2008), highlighting his unmatched talent in urban choreography.

- Award-Winning Legacy

Proudly recognized as a 2× Fred & Adele Astaire Award winner and 3× American Choreography Award recipient—cementing his place in dance history.

## Choreography in Film & Television

Dave Scott's creative vision elevated countless films and shows, including:

- *You Got Served* (2004)
- *Step Up 2: The Streets* (2008)
- *Stomp the Yard* (2007)
- *Dance Flick* (2009)
- *House Party 4* (2001)
- *Coach Carter* (2005)
- *Battle of the Year: The Dream Team* (2013)

His dynamic choreography shaped the storytelling in each of these projects, introducing a new generation to the power of hip-hop movement.

## Television Contributions

- Resident Hip-Hop Choreographer on Season 8 of *Dancing With the Stars*
- Choreographer from Season 3 onward on *So You Think You Can Dance*

His presence brought a bold, authentic flair to mainstream television, bridging street dance with prime-time exposure.

## Mentorship & Dance Education

Beyond the stage and screen, Dave was deeply committed to cultivating talent and educating the next generation of dancers. He taught and mentored through:

- Los Angeles Hip Hop Intensive (in partnership with the Debbie Allen Dance Academy)
- PULSE Dance Convention
- Millennium Dance Complex
- Broadway Dance Center

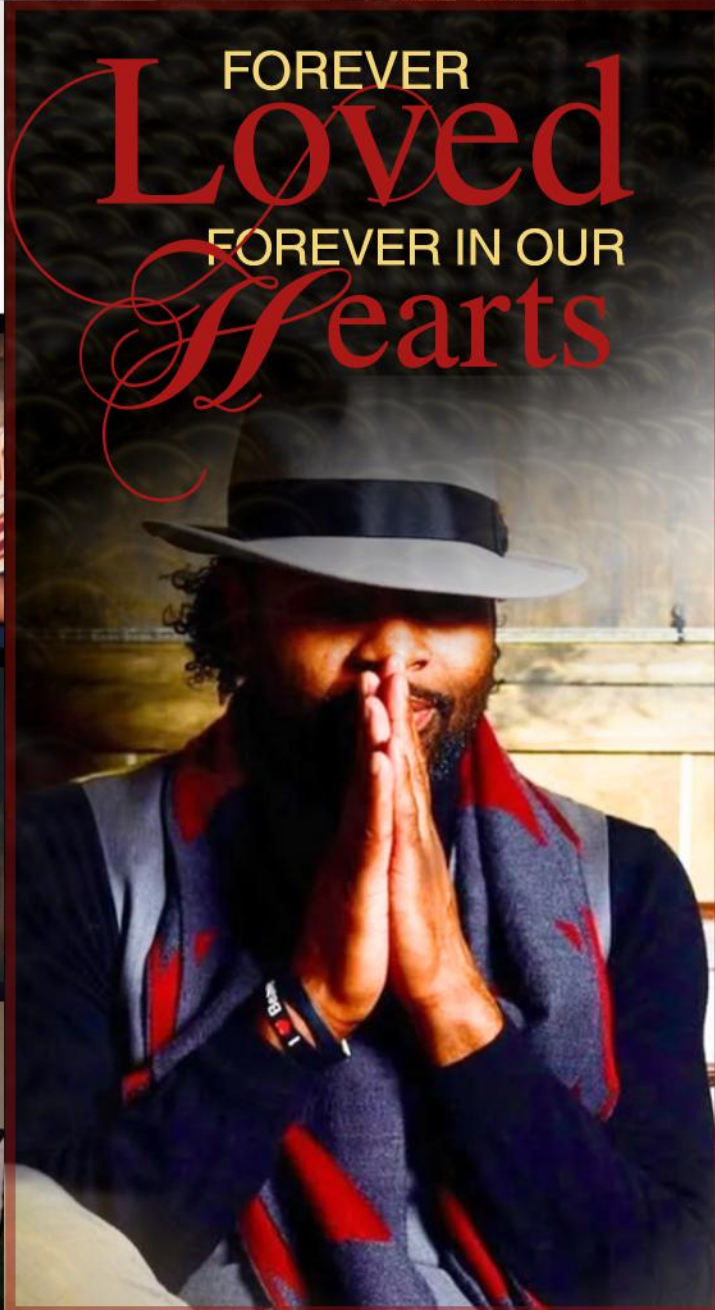
Dave wasn't just a choreographer—he was a cultural architect. A visionary. A mentor. A movement.

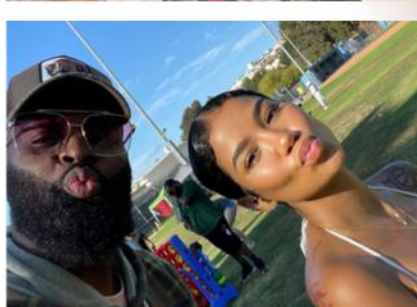
## CHOREOGRAPHY & CAREER HIGHLIGHTS



## A Legacy in Motion

Dave Scott's impact stretched far beyond the awards and accolades. He helped define what hip-hop choreography could look like in film, television, and real life. Through every routine, every class, and every beat, he inspired a generation to move, to feel, and to rise. His legacy lives in the rhythm of every dancer he's touched.







David  
LEE  
SCOTT  
JR.  
FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS

Thank You

WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU FOR THE OUTPOURING OF LOVE, PRAYERS, AND SUPPORT WE HAVE RECEIVED DURING THIS TIME. YOUR PRESENCE, KIND WORDS, AND GESTURES OF COMFORT HAVE MEANT MORE TO US THAN WORDS CAN EXPRESS.

WE ARE ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL TO DEBBIE ALLEN, THE DADA STAFF, VIVIAN NIXON WILLIAMS, MAJOR KING, JOHN SILVER, KETRINA ASKEW, JANAE LEWIS, TYANEKA LAWRENCE, COLUMBUS SHORT, MICAH POWELL, COREY MEKELL, TAMESHA SCOTT, KARIMA VICTORIAN, FAITHFUL, ÉJA WONG, CHUCK MALDONADO, RAJ WILL, DJ DUBZ, SIMON "SONIC" MENDOZA, JANELL JONES, MILLENNIUM DANCE COMPLEX, MICHELLE CASANOLA, ERICK RIOS, EMMANUEL HURD, RYAN "KOA" MALCOLM-CAMPBELL, ANTOINETTE MAYS, NICKY CUTLER, THE GOORIN BRO'S TEAM, KHADIJAH SEAWOOD, ANDRE BRIMMAGE, KEISHA GAMBLE, KOUNTRY VACULIK, NATALIE CASANOVA, SERENITY IMPRESSIONS OBITUARY DESIGN, ALL OF THE CHOREOGRAPHERS, DANCERS AND ADMIRERS WHOM LIVES DAVE TOUCHED. AND SINCERE THANKS TO SERENITY FUNERAL HOME AND THE ROYAL MEMORIES MORTUARY FOR THEIR PROFESSIONALISM, KINDNESS, AND RESPECT SHOWN DURING THIS TIME OF REMEMBRANCE. PLEASE KNOW THAT EVERY PRAYER, EVERY HUG, AND EVERY ACT OF KINDNESS HAS BROUGHT LIGHT TO OUR HEARTS. WE WILL FOREVER HOLD YOUR LOVE CLOSE AS WE CHERISH THE BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES OF OUR BELOVED.