

THE NEW ORLEANS SOCIETY OF DANCE, LLC

Presents:



Mardi-Gras Day Walking Parade & Gallier Hall Master Performance

Debuting Fat Tuesday, February 9, 2016
In Cooperation With The City Of New Orleans
Office Of Economic Preservation

The New Orleans Society Of Dance, LLC.

1315 S. Jefferson Davis Pkwy, Ste.215
New Orleans, LA 70125



www.neworleanssocietyofdance.com

HOME OF:

Millisia White's New Orleans Baby Doll Ladies
WWW.BABYDOLLADIES.COM

MARDI-GRAS DAY
2/9/2016

**ABOUT
THE NEW ORLEANS BABY DOLL LADIES
WALKING-PARADE:**



"Dance" has always been instrumental to the development of New Orleans jazz, and is the most important feature of the original "Baby Dolls" Phenomena of the early days of "Jass," c.1912. By highlighting the essential role of dance, The Baby Doll Ladies Walking Parade explores and aims to present the Doll masking tradition in its proper historical perspective and its correct place in history. Therefore, another important goal of The New Orleans Society Of Dance is to rescue the tradition from stereotyping, invisibility & obscurity. The BDL parade rolls at 7:50 a.m. (following clarinetist Pete Fountain's Half Fast Walking Club and preceding Krewe of Zulu) with an intermission at Gallier Hall for Mayoral greetings and an exciting two-minute Master Performance for all! The BDL Mardi Gras theme for 2016 is: "Royal & Red Hot!" featuring twenty-four Baby Doll Ladies dance-characters with N.O.S.D. Music Ambassador D.J. Hektik.

FOR PARADE MAP & MORE INFO VISIT:
WWW.NEWORLEANSOCIETYOFDANCE.COM

PASSING THE TORCH



The Baby Doll Ladies are chosen keepers of heirloom-artifacts from descendants of the city's beloved music and dancing family of Babydolls (c.1930), known as Original Baby Doll Aunt Miriam Batiste-Reed and her late brother, Musician Uncle Lionel Batiste in support of uniting & carrying on their family's values of the doll masking culture.

YOUTH OUTREACH



The Baby Doll Ladies' incorporate a school & youth teaching mission as part of community outreach efforts. The k-12 program is designed to motivate students with use of performing arts and literacy components helping to raise students' self-esteem and awareness of the NOSD doll-masking traditions.

LIVING HISTORY



In 2012, the Baby Doll Ladies are proud to have hosted the only celebration of record for the centennial of the Baby Doll tradition. One celebratory event included an invitation from the Jazz Fest to present the untold stories of the group's living legacy at the historic Alison Miner Stage.

PRESERVATION



The New Orleans Society Of Dance co-sponsored The Presbytere State Museum's "Babydolls" exhibit, showcasing 100 years of Doll Masking in New Orleans, co- curated by N.O.S.D. artistic director & community scholar, Millisia White.



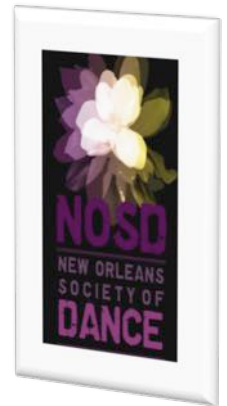
ESSENCE Festival 2011

In addition to performing professional dance-acts at festivals and other events the Baby Doll Ladies work to cultivate the masking, music and dance traditions that make up the essential qualities of community-based Mardi Gras. The Baby Doll Ladies Walking Parade creates new knowledge to a wider audience and frameworks for reinterpretations of existing historical documents.



DANCE-COMPANY OVERVIEW:

The New Orleans Society Of Dance, LLC (NOSD) is a culturally centered dance-production company with an accomplished portfolio of servicing patrons throughout performing arts communities and the entertainment industry. Select, adult and junior dance-talent make up NOSD's signature ensemble known as Millisia White's New Orleans Baby Doll Ladies, a masking, music and dance troupe committed to preserving and promoting women's arts and the cultural landscape of Louisiana. Scholarly research documents that the very first group of pioneer "Baby Dolls" masqueraded and formed their own Mardi Gras celebration in the year 1912, combining African exuberance and rhythm with French Creole style and toy dollish regalia. This endearing Mardi-Gras tradition gained popularity thru the eras as social clubs and family groups began to adopt the practice as a form of their own identity. Est. 2005, Millisia White created The New Orleans Society Of Dance Baby Doll Ladies in order to resurrect and help preserve this once dormant tradition with an elevated sense of aesthetics and purpose, performing professional dance-acts year round.





2008, *The Baby Doll Ladies* adopted their signature porcelain facial art and annual themed, ornate outfits which marked a new trend in Baby Doll Costuming.



The New Orleans Society Of Dance's Music Ambassador, D.J. Hektik and The Baby Doll Ladies performed as a song and dance-act for the first time at the renowned Jazz festival; Congo Square Stage in 2009.



2010, *The Baby Doll Ladies* brought to the community forefront the very first Mardi-Gras featured appearance in its honor, with an historic appearance in the Krewe Of Zulu.



2012, *The Baby Doll Ladies* commemorated the centennial year anniversary of the "Baby Dolls" with a presentation of over 50 women of excellence, in reverence and celebration of the elder women (of the jazz) who masked before us.



The New Orleans Society Of Dance premiered "OH, Those Baby Doll Ladies" cabaret at the Old U.S. Mint Theatre in association with the Louisiana Museum Foundation in 2013.



In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina (August 2005) The New Orleans Society Of Dance's signature ensemble, "Millisia White's Babydoll Ladies featuring Music Ambassador, D.J. Hektik," was established to serve as an example of hope and cultural restoration. Our creative objective is showcasing New Orleans heritage of dance on par with New Orleans Music and to resurrect the doll-masquerading tradition, with the art of dance at the cultural forefront. Since 2005, the N.O.S.D. and its Baby Doll Ladies continue spearheading a "Resurrection" and preservation campaign, providing belated recognition to this once dormant practice.

From The Big Easy To The Big Apple!



2014, *The Baby Doll Ladies* and Music Ambassador, D.J. Hektik represented Louisiana heritage, and its endearing Mardi Gras traditions in the MACYS Thanksgiving Day Parade.

