

Aesha Ash

One of my goals has been to change the demoralized, objectified and caricatured images of African American women by reminding young ladies from challenged environments, that they too can command poise, grace, elegance and beauty-they can be beautiful swans. - *Aesha Ash*

Aesha Ash is an internationally acclaimed, talented dancer who founded a nonprofit to inspire young black girls to pursue their dance dreams. A student of the legendary School of American Ballet, Ash joined the New York City Ballet at age 18 as its first black ballerina in its corps. She has performed numerous solos and as principal. She has performed internationally, working with the Berjat Ballet in Switzerland and across Europe. She also worked with the renowned Alonzo King's Lions Ballet when she returned to the United States in 2005. Since retiring, Ash created a nonprofit organization called the Swans Dream Project which uses imagery and Ash's own experience to present an alternative view of African American women to young girls.