



Debbie Allen continues to be one of the most respected, relevant, and versatile talents in the entertainment industry today and is an internationally recognized director, choreographer and author. As Culture Connect Ambassador, Ms. Allen represented the U.S. in visits to Brazil, China, Italy, and India expanding the opportunities in arts education for young people all over the world. She is a member of the prestigious President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, a board member of the American Film Institute, and an Executive Committee member of UCLA's School of Theatre, Film, and Television.

Debbie Allen has received three Emmy awards honoring her choreography, and two Emmys and one Golden Globe for her role as "Lydia Grant" in the hit series, *Fame*. She then forayed from acting to directing- first with the series "Fame," followed by "Family Ties" and "Bronx Zoo," before taking the reins at NBC's "A Different World" as director and producer in 1988. Allen has choreographed for artists such as Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey, and Janet Jackson, and also holds the distinction of having choreographed the Academy Awards a total of ten times, five in consecutive years. She produced the Steven Spielberg epic film *Amistad*, and recently directed the second highest rated original movie in Lifetime Channel history, *Life is Not A Fairytale: The Fantasia Barrino Story*. Allen also has staged musicals for the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. where she has been Artist in Residence for over ten years. She has partnered with James Ingram, Arturo Sandoval, and Diane Louis for Pepito's Story, Dreams, Pearl, and Alex in Wonderland.

In March 2008, Debbie Allen made her critically acclaimed Broadway directorial debut with the premier of an all African American production of Tennessee William's classic, *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*, which starred James Earl Jones, Phylicia Rashad, Terrence Howard, Anika Noni Rose, Gian Carlo Esposito.

She is currently creating a new musical in association with the Sultanate Qaboos Cultural Center of Oman called *Oman O'man* which premieres March 2009 at the Kennedy Center.

Debbie Allen lives in Los Angeles with her husband, Norman Nixon, and their two children, Vivian Nichole and Norman, Jr.