

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Savion Glover

PERSON

Glover, Savion

**Alternative Names:** Savion Glover;

**Life Dates:** November 19, 1973-

**Place of Birth:** Newark, New Jersey, USA

**Work:** Newark, NJ

**Occupations:** Tap Dancer; Choreographer; Actor

## Biographical Note

Tap dancer, choreographer and actor Savion Glover was born on November 19, 1973 in Newark, New Jersey. Glover began taking in music classes at Newark Community School of the Arts at four years old. He soon progressed to advanced classes, becoming the youngest student in the school's history to receive a full scholarship. At the age of seven, Glover enrolled in tap dance classes, and was soon opening at festivals with such greats as Jimmy Slyde, Chuck Green, Honi Coles, and Buster Brown. In 1991, Glover graduated

from Newark's Arts High School.

Glover appeared on Broadway for the first time at ten years old in *The Tap Dance Kid*. He was featured in the title role when the production moved to the Minskoff Theater in 1984. From 1988 to 1989, Glover danced in *Black and Blue*, a Broadway musical revue of black Parisian culture in the interwar period. His performance earned him a Tony Award nomination for Best Performance by a Featured Actor in a Musical, and he was dubbed a "teen-age prodigy" by *The New York Times'* dance critic Anna Kisselgoff. In 1989, Glover made his film debut dancing in *Tap*, alongside Gregory Hines. The following year, at the age of seventeen, Glover made his choreographic debut at the Apollo Theater's Rat-A-Tat-Tap Festival in New York City, and began dancing on *Sesame Street*. Upon his graduation from Newark's Arts High School, Glover portrayed the young Jelly Roll Morton, appearing again with Gregory Hines, in George C. Wolfe's *Jelly's Last Jam*. In 1996, Glover rejoined Wolfe to conceive, choreograph and star in *Bring in da Noise, Bring in da Funk*, a Broadway musical revue of black history. Glover returned to film in 2000 to portray the tap-dancing minstrel Manray/Mantan in Spike Lee's satire, *Bamboozled*. He also appeared in the television biopic *Bojangles* (2001), *Classical Savion* at New York City's Joyce Theater, and provided the choreography for the tap-dancing penguin Mumble in the animated movie *Happy Feet* (2006). Glover opened his tap school, The HooFeRzCLuB School for TaP, in Newark in 2009. He continued performing pieces such as *SoLe Sanctuary* (2011) and *Om* (2014) at the Joyce Theater, until reuniting with director George C. Wolfe as choreographer of the 2016 musical *Shuffle Along, or, the Making of the Musical Sensation of 1921 and All That Followed*.

In 1992, Glover became the youngest recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts grant. Glover was nominated for several Tony Awards for *Bring in da Noise, Bring in da Funk*, winning the Best

Choreography Award, in addition to a Drama Desk Award.

Savion Glover was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on November 30, 2016.

## Related Entries

**Arts High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**BRICK Avon Academy** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Queen of Angels School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Professional Children's School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Jose Feliciano Performing Arts School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Arts High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**'Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk'** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Tap Dancer/Actor**

**'Jelly's Last Jam'** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Tap Dancer/Actor**

**The Tap Dance Kid** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1983 to 1985]

**Tap Dancer/Actor**

**Black and Blue** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1988 to 1989]

**Dancer**

**Tap** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1989 to 1989]

**Performer**

**Sesame Street** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1990 to 1994]

**Dancer**

**Various** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1991 to ?]

**Dancer/Choreographer**

**Not Your Ordinary Tappers** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1997 to ?]

**President**

**HooFeRzCLuB School for a Holistic Approach to**

**Tap** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 2009 to ?]

**Founder**

**Apollo Theater** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 199007 to 1990]

**Ensemble Choreographer**

**Hines-Hatchett** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Student**

