

Ivy Burch Dances Like a Dream, Rebellion and All...

By Hayes Thompson
The force of Ivy Burch's character as a dancer jumps off the stage, grabs the audience and compels viewers to follow every move of her lithe, graceful body.

There's nothing subtle about Ms. Burch. Her vibrant, dynamic style was showcased last Friday night in a movement created and choreographed by Ms. Burch's mentor, Chuck Davis

The story line is simple. It's about some Africans — Congolese according to the program — who are happily practicing their native religion. Then a white Catholic priest and two nuns bring a new

religion to the village, setting up a direct confrontation between all the elements of racism in its religious garb.

During the segment in the village, where she plays the role of high priestess, Ms. Burch moves with graceful power, interpreting the Congolese dance steps, as envisioned by Davis, with skill and precision.

Then from the aisle come the three figures portraying the Catholic priest and the two nuns. They march slowly to the stage.

The confrontation begins. In many ways, this dance portrays the classic battle between white women and black men, because the priest takes no active role. He just stands there, symbolizing the authority under which the nuns function.

The African priest fights valiantly for his audience, but before long the young girls — his flock so to speak, Ms. Burch included — begin swaying along with the movements of the nuns.

But suddenly, defiance screaming with every move, with every twist of her shapely body, with every kick of her long legs, Ms. Burch breaks away, dancing alone in rebellion against the takeover.

And that's how it ends: one black woman defiantly resisting the white takeover of her man, her culture and her religion.

Ms. Burch brings that fiery defiance to the stage right out of her personal life.

She lives in Weaver Street Apartments, a federally subsidized apartment complex, an environment where it is often a lot easier to surrender than fight. But Ms. Burch has chosen to fight.

"I can't take all the credit," she said in a recent interview. "My mother has pushed and inspired me a lot. When I get discouraged, she urges me to keep trying." Mrs. Onnie Burch, Ivy's mother, explains: "It is very simple, I want my daughter to be successful in whatever she does. So I am supportive of her endeavors.

According to Ms. Burch, her main tasks right now are her three-year-old daughter, April, and the Weaver Street Dancers, a group of kids from the same neighborhood. Ms. Burch leads the group.

Davis backs her completely. "If I had a daughter, I'd want her to be just like Ivy," said Davis, an internationally known dancer, founder and director of the Chuck Davis Dance Company. "She works so hard she makes you want to help her, and she has the sense of responsibility to finish what she starts."

One good example of that is Ms. Burch's work with and dedication to the Weaver

Street group. "Chuck wanted me to go to Africa with him last year," Ms. Burch said, "and had even sent me an application. But I was so involved with the Weaver Street group and other local groups that I didn't follow through."

But she has not closed the door on her dancing future, and has not limited her horizons to Durham.

"I really want to be a professional dancer," she said, "and I'd like to go to the NYU School of Dance (New York University), because I think I'll need that type of background to reach the level I'm aiming for."

Impressed, with her talent and her commitment, Ms. Burch's dance teachers believe she has a bright future in dance.

"The thing that impressed me about her is her integrity," said Abel Salaam, assistant artistic director with the Chuck Davis group. "By that I mean she has an excellent spirit for dance, along with lots of natural ability and self-discipline."

The self-discipline has held Ms. Burch in good stead for the past four years that she's been studying dance under Davis's instruction.

And Friday night's performance was a peak in her short dancing career. She showed by that performance, as Salaam has said, that with the right instructors, Ms. Burch has a bright dancing future.

Davis sums it up this way: "Her overall attitude toward life is very up, and this attitude extends to her dance. A lot of us are in her corner, and her general get-up-and-get-out-there-and-get-it-done attitude makes us want to do all we can for her."

And while Ms. Burch more than likely will appreciate all the help she can get, she's doing her share as well. Boldly, she attacks her goal to be a dancer, because there's nothing subtle about Ms. Burch.

Actress Gail Fisher, who played "Peggy" on the CBS-TV series, *Mannix*, is one of Hollywood's finest pool players.

Monday-Friday Daytime

August 9 - 13, 1982

	WFMY CH. 2 Cable 11	WPTF CH. 28 Cable 3	WTVD CH. 11 Cable 6	WUNC CH. 4 Cable 9	WTTG CH. 5 Cable 10	WRAL CH. 5 Cable 12	WTBS CH. 17 Cable 13	WGHP CH. 8
7:00	Good Morning	Today	Captain Kangaroo Morning		New Zoo Revue	Good Morning America	Fun Time	Good Morning America
7:15					Great Space Coaster		I Dream Of Jeannie	
7:30								
7:45								
8:00	Cartoon Critters				Porky Pig		My Three Sons	
8:15	Kroft Superstar				Bugs & Popeye		That Girl	
8:30								
8:45								
9:00	Beverly Hills 90210	Richard Simmons Woman's Page	Donahue		I Love Lucy	Hour Magazine	Movie:	Good Times
9:15					My Three Sons			Richard Simmons
9:30								
9:45								
10:00	One Day At A Time	DH'rent Strokes Wheel Of Fortune	One Day At A Time		Ghost & Mrs. Muir	Frog Hollow Edge of Night		AM Carolina
10:15	Tattletales		Alice		Rhoda			
10:30								
10:45								
11:00	Price Is Right	Texas	Price Is Right		Woman's Page	Love Boat	Movie:	Love Boat
11:15								
11:30								
11:45								
12:00	Woman's Page	The Doctors	News		Panorama	News		Family Feud
12:15	Young & The Restless	Search For Tomorrow	Young & The Restless			Ryan's Hope		Ryan's Hope
12:30								
12:45								
1:00	As The World Turns	Days of Our Lives	As The World Turns		Movie:	All My Children	Movie:	All My Children
1:15								
1:30								
1:45								
2:00	Capital	Another World	Capital			One Life To Live		One Life To Live
2:15								
2:30								
2:45								
3:00	Guiding Light	ScoobyDoo	Guiding Light	Sesame Street	Popeye	General Hospital	Fun Time	General Hospital
3:15		Popeye			Flinstones		Flinstones	
3:30								
3:45								
4:00	Munsters	Laverne & Shirley	Charlie's Angels	Sesame Street	Odd Couple	Bugs Bunny	Addams Family	People's Court
4:15	Gomer Pyle	Wonder Woman			Rhoda	Happy Days Again	Ozzie & Harriett	Sanford & Son
4:30								
4:45								
5:00	Wild Wild West	News	Mary Tyler Moore	Mister Rogers' Electric Company	Carol Burnett	Beverly Hills Andy Griffith	Partridge Family	M.A.S.H.
5:15			Jeffersons		Star Trek		Hazel	M.A.S.H.
5:30								
5:45								
6:00	News	Star Trek	News	Dr. Who		News	My Three Sons	News
6:15	CBS News		CBS News	Doctor In The House		ABC News	Father Knows Best	ABC News
6:30								
6:45								

Monday Evening

August 9, 1982

	WFMY CH. 2 Cable 11	WPTF CH. 28 Cable 3	WTVD CH. 11 Cable 6	WUNC CH. 4 Cable 9	WTTG CH. 5 Cable 10	WRAL CH. 5 Cable 12	WTBS CH. 17 Cable 13	WGHP CH. 8
7:00	CBS News	NBC News	Jeffersons	MacNeil/Lehrer	Welcomeback Kottler	Sanford & Son	Green Acres	Entertain Tonight
7:15	P. M. Magazine	Family Feud	M.A.S.H.	N.C. People	M.A.S.H.	P. M. Magazine	Andy Griffith	Tic Tac Dough
7:30								
7:45								
8:00	Fantastic Funnies WKRP In Cincinnati	Little House	Fantastic Funnies WKRP In Cincinnati	Evening At The Pops	Incredible Hulk	Best Of The West ABC Baseball	TBS Movie:	Best Of The West ABC Baseball
8:15								
8:30								
8:45								
9:00	M.A.S.H.	NBC Movie: "Loving You"	M.A.S.H.	Elizabeth R	Merv Griffin			
9:15	Filthy Rich		Filthy Rich					
9:30								
9:45								
10:00	Cagney & Lacey		Cagney & Lacey		News		TBS News	
10:15				With Ossie & Ruby				
10:30								
10:45								
11:00	News 2	Bonny Hill	News	Alfred Hitchcock	M.A.S.H.	News	All In The Family	News
11:15	Quincy	Tonight	M.A.S.H.	Dave Allen At Large	Odd Couple	Nightline	TBS Theatre:	Nightline
11:30								
11:45								
12:00			Rockford Files		Perry Mason	Late Movie:		Late Movie:
12:15	Columbo	David Letterman						
12:30								
12:45								

Kyanize

D. PAINT

For All Your Painting Needs

In the Imperial Bldg
Morris St., Durham, N.C.
Phone 688-2339