Santyria Johnson is a 30-year-old Memphis native and military veteran who began singing at age 7, and dancing competitively at age 9. She has spent over 20 years honing her discipline and passion for the performing arts. From singing in her first ever live concert on stage at the Historic Orpheum Theatre at age 11, to performing the Nation's Anthem at the FedEx Forum at age 13, Santyria has never wandered far from the stage.

Through her younger years, West African dance found her. Santyria performs movements based upon traditional and contemporary African dance forms. Her artistic background includes training with the Watoto Academy of the Performing Arts, the Bantaba Dance company of Memphis, and the Sankofa African Drum and Dance company of Nashville.

Santyria is dedicated to the continuous development of her craft as a performer and Teaching Artist. She is a graduate of the Orpheum Theatre Group's Teaching Artist Training Program. Her work as a choreographer and TA for the Orpheum includes facilitating creative movement, script writing, and storytelling workshops for its various programs.

Santyria's purpose is to share her gifts in ways that best serve herself and her community. Her teaching style and regime are designed to encourage and support youth in the discovery, exploration, and nurturing of their artistic and creative gifts; her students form a new consciousness about themselves and their personal identities. Santyria's favorite quote comes from Alvin Ailey, who believed "Dance is for everybody."