



DANCE PARADE

NEW YORK

2024
MEDIA KIT

(267) 350-9213 | DANCEPARADE.ORG | PUBLICITY@DANCEPARADE.ORG

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our mission is to promote dance as an expressive and unifying art form by celebrating the diversity. We believe that live dance performance can awaken a communal human spirit and has the potential to create a more equitable and vibrant society.



18TH ANNUAL DANCE PARADE

Under the theme "Dance Free NYC", we recognize that dancing has not been always recognized as a 1st amendment right and needs to be. Over ten thousand dancers will showcase more than 100+ unique styles of dance in the world's largest display of the diversity of dance, Saturday May 18, 2024.

18TH ANNUAL DANCEFEST

At the conclusion of the parade, DanceFest comes alive in Tompkins Square Park with choreographed performances, workshops and social dance – all FREE to the public!



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS

Our Community Engagement Programs provide engaging education curriculum to schools, recreation facilities and community centers in all five boroughs of New York City. Students enjoy the exciting conclusion of 10-20 weeks of classes by performing in Dance Parade and at DanceFest!

DANCE PARADE NEW YORK

Dance Parade New York is the world's only parade to exclusively celebrate and showcase the diversity of dance. This annual celebration of eclectic dance styles from around the world boasts tens of thousands of dancers and spectators, more than 100 styles of dance and nearly 200 dance groups.

The parade is a colorful explosion of beautiful dancers. A family and community favorite, the yearly parade is a one-of-a-kind display of New York's richly diverse artistic community and the cohesive impact it has on the international community.

The parade commences on Avenue of the Americas (Sixth Avenue) and 17th Street, travels south and turns East on to 8th Street. As it passes through Astor Plaza, Emcee Jerry Goldman announces each group with choreography at our Grandstand at 4th Avenue. We call this "40 Second" street because each group has 40 seconds to strut their stuff. The parade continues on Saint Marks Place and finishes at Avenue A.

As the parade filters into the park, it transforms the space into a world of spirited dance displays and interactive activities. At DanceFest hours of on-stage performances, dance lessons, workshops, kids' activities and dance parties await those attending this post-parade festival.

Both the parade and festival are excellent ways to educate the community about the evolution of dance, the vital role it has played in cultures around the globe, and the importance of supporting the organizations and individuals who work so hard to preserve and promote this vital art form.



ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

The organization owes its roots from a dance advocacy movement related to the 1926 NYC Cabaret License requirement that restricted dancing for 91 years. In 2006, a New York State Supreme Court ruled against a group of House, Hip-Hop, Ballet and Swing dancers that social dancing was not considered expressive activity protected by 1st Amendment freedoms. As a result, the inaugural Dance Parade of 2007 was organized to present dance as expressive in all its forms. In late 2017, the organization successfully led a repeal of the Cabaret Law, liberating the licensing requirement for dance venues.

Since 2007, hundreds of organizations have been invited to showcase their pageantry and culture in New York City's largest dance event by presenting their art on this public world stage. The parade presents emerging as well as established artists and showcases over 100 styles of dance, allowing thousands of artists to reach a broader audience.

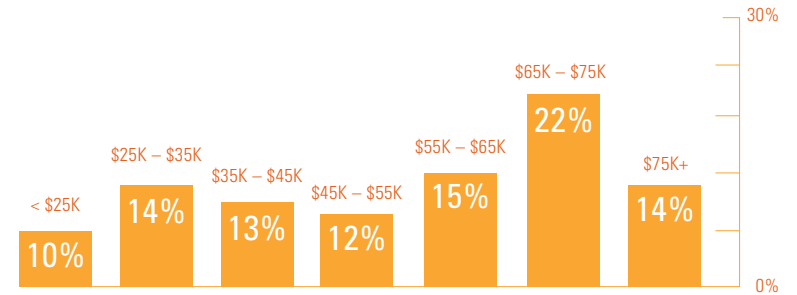
DanceFest serves as a Grand Finale to the parade in Tompkins Square Park which includes curated performances on stage, "Experience Dance Booths," a teaching area and a social dance area—all free to the public and providing an opportunity for artistic dialogue and collaboration.

Throughout the year, the organization utilizes its vast network to employ its roster of dedicated dancers and performing artists in New York City performances such as Winter's Eve at Lincoln Square and in unique productions like "Dancing Through the Light" at Greenwood Cemetery and Eve Ensler's "One Billion Rising".

Since 2008, the organization offers Community Engagement Programs, which have benefited thousands of students through ten-week residencies at schools, community and senior centers. The programs crescendo with signature participation in the parade and festival.

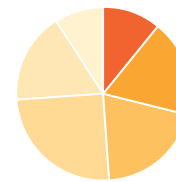


DEMOGRAPHICS



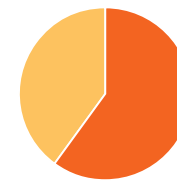
AUDIENCE BY INCOME (THOUSANDS)

AUDIENCE BY AGE



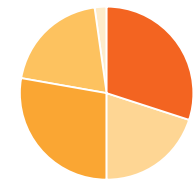
- 11% < 18
- 18% 18-24
- 20% 25-34
- 25% 35-49
- 17% 50-64
- 9% 65+

MALE/FEMALE RATIO



- Female
- Male

AUDIENCE BY DIVERSITY

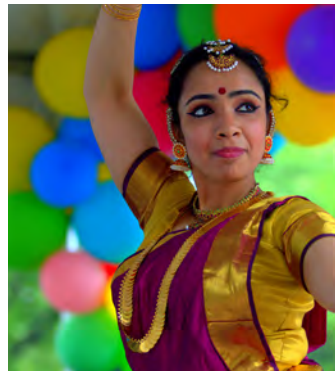


- 30% Caucasian
- 28% Hispanic
- 20% African American
- 20% Asian
- 2% Other

DANCE PARADE	2024 Goals
Audience (Estimated)	120,000
Dance Participants	10,000
Groups Represented	160
Types of Dances Represented	100
Decorated Floats & Vehicles	75

DANCEFEST	2024 Goals
Audience (Estimated)	11,000
Performances	90
Performers	450
Types of Dances Represented	40
Dance Workshops/Lessons	8

THE DANCE PARADE



TRADITIONAL AND MODERN DANCE FORMS

Dance Parade New York showcases cultural vibrancy with ethnic groups, including: African, Middle Eastern, Latin American, Asian, as well as social dance styles, including: Swing, Salsa, Tango, Hip Hop, club dancing, and more. Traditional dance forms such as Ballet, Modern, Tap and Jazz are also heavily represented during the parade. Modern forms include dancers from the New York Nightclub soulful house, electronic and burning man style performing artists along with hip-hop, whacking, voguing, popping and locking dancers.

WATCH OUT FOR THE NEW YORK DANCE POLICE!

A brigade of 30 uniformed men and women “NYDP” patrol the parade playfully seeking participants to join the dance. Continuing a fan favorite tradition started in 2007, audience members, onlookers or others not dancing are approached by the dance police and asked a few questions. Non-dancers are given a summons stating that they must report to a dance school or nightclub to serve time: dance lessons or practice. The summons is accompanied with a discount or free offer for entry to a club or school. The Dance Police’s vigor brings smiles to those being ticketed... maybe the NYPD should follow suit.

GRANDSTAND AKA 40 SECOND STREET

It’s named that way because groups with choreography have 40 seconds to perform. The grandstand is located in Astor Place Plaza, where Fourth Avenue meets St. Mark’s Place. Seating more than 300 spectators, the stands are the best seat on the parade route as over 10,000 dancers stop and perform.

Tickets are available for purchase and all proceeds go to offsetting the cost of the parade.

2024 DANCE PARADE & FESTIVAL



2024 THEME & GRAND MARSHAL

Each year, Dance Parade brands the parade and festival with a theme and honored individuals who have made significant contributions to a particular dance culture or have achieved notability in their genre of dance.

2024 THEME (18TH ANNUAL) : *DANCE FREE NYC*



BRENDA BUFALINO
TAP DANCE



CHARLES "LIL BUCK" RILEY
JOOKIN



MARTHA ZARATE-ALVAREZ
MEXICAN-FOLKLORIC



NORMAN SIEGEL
CIVIL LIBERTIES

For bios, visit danceparade.org/grand-marshals

PAST THEMES & GRAND MARSHALS

YEAR / THEME	GRAND MARSHAL	GENRE
2023 <i>Beyond the Zone</i> (17th Annual)	Ronald K. Brown Elizabeth Streb Natasha Diggs	Afro Infused Contemporary Extreme Action Hip-Hop, Soul, Funk, R&B
2022 <i>Back to the Streets</i> (16th Annual)	Eduardo Vilaro Heidi Latsky Rich Medina	Latinx Contemporary Physically Integrated Dance House, Hip Hop, & Afrobeat
2021 <i>Dance Brings Us Together</i> (15th Annual)	Lisa Lisa Virginia Johnson H.T. Chen & Dian Dong	Pop Music Ballet Contemporary
2020 <i>Dance Without Borders</i> (14th Annual)	David Dorfman Princess Lockeroo Liquid Todd Sarina Jane	Modern Waacking EDM Masala Bhangra
2019 <i>Movement of the People</i> (13th Annual)	Bill T. Jones Baayork Lee Louis Mofsie DJ Dara	Contemporary Broadway Native American Drum & Bass
2018 <i>The Cabaret of Life</i> (12th Annual)	Camille A. Brown Mickela Mallozzi Council Member Rafael Espinal Doc Martin	Contemporary World Dance Cabaret R&B
2017 <i>The Dance for Peace</i> (11th Annual)	Maurice Hines Mestre João Grande Rosie Mendez Frankie Bones	Tap Capoeira Community Techno
2016 <i>Decade of Dance</i> (10th Annual)	Garth Fagan Kwikstep & Rokafella	Modern Choreographer Hip Hop & Break Dance

YEAR / THEME	GRAND MARSHAL	GENRE
2015 <i>Live Free & Dance</i> (9th Annual)	Carmen de Lavallade Robert Battle Mary Verdi-Fletcher Rekha Malhotra	Ballet Ballet Physically Integrated Dance Bhangra
2014 <i>Be the Momentum</i> (8th Annual)	Savion Glover Jawole Willa Jo Zollar Hex Hector	Tap Contemporary House
2013 <i>Unity Through Dance</i> (7th Annual)	Dr. Charles Davis Jacquelyn Buglisi Louie Vega	African Dance Theater Soulful House
2012 <i>United We Dance Parade</i> (6th Annual)	Ashley Tuttle Elisa Monte Bill Shannon DJ Jonathan Peters	Ballet Modern Skate Board on Crutches House
2011 <i>United We Dance</i> (5th Annual)	Charles Reinhart Joseph Harrington Kat Wildish	Contemporary Broadway "Billy Elliot" Community
2010 <i>Diverse City</i> (4th Annual)	Ellenore Scott Elizabeth Zimmer DJ Jellybean Benitez Amy Marshall	Contemporary Dance Critic Pop Music Modern
2009 <i>Live to Dance, Dance to Live</i> (3rd Annual)	Luis Salgado Don Cambell Morocco	Broadway Popping and Locking Raq Sharki
2008 <i>May Feet</i> (2nd Annual)	Luigi Faccuito	Jazz
2007 <i>One Parade, Many Cultures</i> (1st Annual)	DJ Kool Herc DJ Danny Tenaglia Djoniba Moufle	Hip Hop House African

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS

Dance Parade's Community Engagement Programs allow participants of all ages - from schools to community and senior centers - to discover their own innate capacity for the communication of ideas, thoughts, and feelings through the medium of dance.

PROGRAM OFFERINGS

CULTURAL RESIDENCIES – Multi-week residencies focused on culturally specific dance forms

COMMUNITY KINECT – Using dance to instill lifelong enthusiasm for physical fitness

AGELESS ACTION – Serving older Americans through the joy of movement and dance

WORKSHOPS AND PERFORMANCES – Single-day performances and workshops

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS – Making dance accessible no matter the location

OUR PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Exposure to the creative process as it relates to dance: from conception, to reflection, to construction, critique, and public presentation
- A greater comfort with, and awareness of, their bodies in space as individuals and as a collective
- Physical activity that supports coordination, flexibility and improved circulation and engaging explorations of meaningful ways to maintain fitness for a lifetime
- A unique perspective on learning about and respecting history, progress and diversity by studying the way a culture moves

All participants in Dance Parade's Community Engagement Programs have the unique opportunity to dance alongside their teaching artists in our annual parade on Broadway and Festival in May!

Dance Parade is a 501(c) non-profit that presents over 200 groups in over 100 styles of dance annually during our May Parade and Festival. Supported by proceeds from the parade and its generous donors, we are privileged to be able to offer a unique, experienced selection of dance for your community through one (or more!) of our programs.



ORGANIZATION & STRUCTURE

Dance Parade, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity. The organization is governed by a Board of Directors and staffed by a passionate team supported by volunteers with a wide-range of professional expertise. Nine specialized committees which include executive, development, finance, production, marketing, recruiting, legal, educational outreach and affiliates, work to accomplish Dance Parade's tasks and goals each year.

Spectrum News NY1 and Spectrum Noticias NY1 are the organization's media partners. The organization is largely funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Corporate Sponsors and generous individuals who love dance and support the organization's mission and "Why We Dance."

CULTURAL EQUITY



EDUCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT



EMOTIONAL & PHYSICAL HEALTH



FREEDOM & PEACE



WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

"I applaud Dance Parade for its efforts to keep the beating heart of our performing arts community alive amid the pandemic and look forward to the many ways everyone gathered will further enhance the rhythm of New York as we take steps to restore our city's vibrancy and build a brighter, safe, more prosperous future for all." — [New York City Mayor Eric Adams](#)

"I commend Dance Parade for advancing and celebrating the spirit of the arts that continues to enrich New York so greatly." — [US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand](#)

"Since its inception in 2006, Dance Parade New York has become an eagerly anticipated event, providing dancers with exciting opportunities to share their moves and to learn and enjoy other dance traditions." — [New York Governor Kathy Hochul](#)

"As the director of a Mexican folkloric ensemble, it's a extraordinary pleasure to be a part of the Dance Parade. With the current news of walls and immigration we want to show the world the real aspects of are culture through our music and dance." — [Jose Mendoza, Director of Xochipilli Dance Ensemble](#)

"Dance Parade is the best hope to grow dance popularity in NYC." — [Caterina Bartha, former Executive Director of Doug Varone and Dancers](#)

INTERNATIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE





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REV 02.24

2024 Parade and Festival Theme: "Dance Free NYC":



Selected Bios of Performing Artists in **Dance Parade** and at **Site Specific** areas of **DanceFest** May 18, 2024:



Hyp-ACCESS

Hyp-ACCESS is a partnership between Hypermobility creators, Laura "L" Tuthall (they, she) and Audre Wirtanen (she, her). We are disabled community organizers, care access advocates, artists, researchers, and the co-developers of ABNR. We repurpose artistic, somatic, and scientific knowledge to serve communal Hyp+ autonomy and quality of life.

Audre and Laura met in a somatic training that wasn't accessible and developed ABNR behind the scenes by combining sensorimotor theory with the values and practice of Disability Justice. We learn Disability Justice praxis from activists online, notably those of Sins Invalid and Health Justice Commons. Hyp-ACCESS was launched in January 2020 as a reformation of Laura and Audre's previous community work. We develop and run care access programs in the arts, medical advocacy, and somatics, and are accessibility consultants for dance organizations and policy groups.



Akim Funk Buddha and the Orchestra

Akim Funk Buddha is a multi-disciplinary artist who blends hip hop, theater, dance, and spoken word to create innovative and thought-provoking performances. With over 20 years of experience, he has toured internationally and collaborated with a diverse range of artists and organizations.



Skybody® (Aerial Dances)

Having founded Skybody® in 2008, Fran Sperling has traveled worldwide and performed for Donald Trump, Patricia Birch, Lincoln Center's Little Orchestra Society and Outof Doors Festival, Big Apple Circus, MTV, New world circuses and festivals, corporate events and for an educational program they created teaching children about equalibristics. Her credits include Late Night with David Letterman, Bindlestiff Circus, Big Apple Circus, The Zipper Theatre's Avoe the Belt, Streb, Zamperla Circus and the Spider in Alessandra Belloni's various adaptations of Tanrantella, Spiderdance and has performed with Phish in Madison Square Garden. Skybody®'s classes have been featured on Live with Kelly and Regis, TV Guide Network: Hollywood Bodies, Good Morning America, Pix 11 Morning news, CBS's Toni On New York, as well as NY Magazine, Time Out, Shape, German Glamour Business and Vogue. Self Magazine, the NY Post and Vital Juice online.



William Irving (Contemporary)

Irving dares to dream and creates his reality because he believes humanity's ability to fantasize and imagine is the root of real change. Through dance, Irving explore the relationship between Afrofuturism and the synchronistic. Afrofuturism is a cultural aesthetic, philosophy of science, and the reimagining of a future filled with arts and technology through a Black lens. For something to be synchronistic, two or more events must exist or occur at the same time. In dance, synchronistic experiences occur all the time because the choreography itself (as an idea) exists in parallel to the history of every performer—both their learned and unconscious movement languages. Because fantasy plays an integral role in his work, Irving excavate how choreographic ideas and performers can physicalize imagined spaces that are not governed by sexism, gender, or color discrimination. At the end of it all, Irving's work is an experiment to see how the rigidity of social institutions and fantasy antagonize yet fuse in the same space.

Selected Bios of Performing Artists in **Dance Parade** and on **DanceFest Main Stage** May 18, 2024:



MAZarte Mexican Dance Company

MAZarte is an artistic organization that exposes the urban community to a unique dance work, the history and art that accompany it and promotes the indigenous artisans of the Mexican communities. The goal of MAZarte is to create a union between dance, research and indigenous art to promote the Mexican cultural heritage, bring history to life and offer educational programs to the communities in which we live. We believe that our approach to culture and the arts should be holistic and through each program reconnect and support the indigenous communities we left in Mexico.

Each part of MAZarte's repertoire is based on original dance movements that maintain the pure essence of ancient Mexican traditions. Each program represents a different region of Mexico and shows the great variety of cultural influences in the country's dances and traditions



Andres Bravo and Sarita Apel (Argentine Tango)

Andres and Sarita are the ATUSA 2019 official US Tango Salon Champions as well as the Tango Salon Champions of the SoCal Tango Championship and Festival 2019. Together they have performed and taught at many prestigious Milongas like for instance at the Astoria Tango Club and Tango La Nacional in New York, San Diego's Milonga Nocturna and the Salon Canning and Maldita Milonga in Buenos Aires. They have performed with the Tango For All Dance Company and Accent Dance NYC and performed in Luis Bravo's (director of Forever Tango) production "Cumparsita" furthermore in the productions "Tango+Tango" and "Gotham Tango" at the Thalia Theater in NYC, the "Spring Fever Tango Cabaret" show in New Orleans and "Souls of Tango" in New York.



Saung Budaya, Indonesia Dance Group

Saung Budaya Indonesian Dance Group was established in 2005 when dance instructor Amalia Suryani came to New York City and held dance workshops in the Indonesian Consulate. Saung Budaya's goal is to introduce Indonesian culture through dance and music to the Indonesian-American youths in New York City and more generally, to the wider public.

Over the past 17 years, Saung Budaya has grown to become a vital part of the Indonesian community culture in New York. A variety of dances from all over the Indonesian Archipelago are taught within the group who have performed around in the East Coast / Tri-State Area. Saung Budaya currently consists of 20 dancers whom are mostly students and young professionals.



Surati for Performing Arts (Classical Indian Dance)

Surati has created, produced and performed original works that have had a national impact on communities within the U.S and beyond. Surati's work has attracted people from over 25 U.S states and 10 countries worldwide. Surati works with dancers, musicians, technicians, composers and actors and has about 60 volunteers who donate their time throughout the year for various tasks. Even during the pandemic Surati has created programs to serve over 10,000 people in-person and via social media. Surati works with artists, administrators and technicians who are culturally and ethnically diverse, including African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans as well individuals with learning and physical disabilities. Surati brings its programming to the under-served communities including senior citizens or low-income communities.

Former DP Grand Marshals appearing at Dance Parade and on Main Stage at DanceFest May 18, 2024



Ronald K. Brown, 2023 Grand Marshal

Ronald K. Brown is a choreographer and the artistic director of the Evidence, A Dance Company. He is known for incorporating African diaspora movement and spirituality into his work, and has received numerous awards and accolades for his choreography and leadership in the dance community.



Elizabeth Streb, 2023 Grand Marshal Elizabeth Streb is a choreographer, dancer, and founder of the dance company STREB Extreme Action. She is known for her use of high-flying acrobatic and athletic movement in her work, and has been recognized for her contributions to the field of dance with numerous awards and accolades. Learn more about Elizabeth Streb



Eduardo Vilaro, 2022 Grand Marshal

Eduardo Vilaro is a celebrated Cuban-American choreographer and artistic director, best known for his dynamic and culturally-rich dance works that fuse traditional Latin American dance with contemporary movement. He has been the Artistic Director of Ballet Hispanico since 2009, where he continues to push the boundaries of contemporary dance and celebrate Latinx culture.



Virginia Johnson, 2021 Grand Marshal

Virginia Johnson is an American dancer, choreographer, and artistic director, best known for co-founding the Dance Theatre of Harlem and for her work as a principal dancer with the company. Johnson has been recognized for her contributions to dance with numerous awards and honors, including induction into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



David Dorfman, 2020 Grand Marshal

David Dorfman is a renowned American choreographer and dancer known for his physically demanding and socially conscious works. He is the founder of the David Dorfman Dance company and has received numerous accolades and awards for his contributions to contemporary dance.



Bill T. Jones, 2019 Grand Marshal

Bill T. Jones is a multi-talented artist, choreographer, dancer, theater director and writer, has received major honors ranging from the Human Rights Campaign's 2016 Visibility Award, 2013 National Medal of Arts to a 1994 MacArthur "Genius" Award and Kennedy Center Honors in 2010 among others. He is a two time Tony Award winner for Fela! in 2014 and Spring Awakening in 2007.



Camille A. Brown, 2018 Grand Marshal

Choreographer. Educator. Activist. Camille A. Brown's award-winning choreography reclaims the cultural narrative of African American identity. Her bold work taps into both ancestral stories and contemporary culture to capture a range of deeply personal experiences.



Robert Battle, 2015 Grand Marshal

Mr. Battle, is the third artistic director of the world renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, following Alvin Ailey and Judith Jameson. He was honored as one of the "Masters of African-American Choreography" by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and he received the prestigious Statue Award from the Princess Grace Foundation.



Carmen de Lavallade, 2015 Grand Marshal

Ms. de Lavallade will appear in the middle of the parade on a float with other famed ballet stars and friends who have supported her 65 year career in ballet, which saw her rise to overcome racial barriers and become the first African-American prima ballerina at the Metropolitan Opera.



Mary Verdi-Fletcher, 2015 Grand Marshal

In 2015 the 9th Annual DanceFest celebrated the 25th anniversary of the monumental civil rights legislation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Ms. Verdi-Fletcher, whose physically integrated troupe was the first professional company of its kind in the US to bring the talents of dancers with and without disabilities to the stage, led the parade while dancing in her wheelchair.



Savion Glover, 2014 Grand Marshal

Savion Glover is an American tap dancer, choreographer, and actor who is widely considered one of the greatest tap dancers of all time. He has received numerous awards and accolades for his innovative and virtuosic approach to tap dance, including a Tony Award for his choreography in the Broadway musical "Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk".

Selected Bios of Teaching Artists on DanceFest Teaching Stage May 18, 2018:



Princess Lockeroo – Waacking Teaching Artist / Soul Train Line

Princess Lockeroo is a multi-faceted performance artist, with talents encompassing choreography and artistic direction & music production for stage and film, costume and makeup design. Lockeroo is a Waacking Specialist and emphasizes the freestyle element of the dance which encourages the development of each individual dancer to become a living embodiment of music. Her innovative and unique style of Propeller Waacking has thrilled audiences from all over the world since her showcase on So You Think You Can Dance (Season 8) and has inspired countless students throughout Asia, Europe and beyond to study Waacking. Lockeroo was most recently featured on the Wendy Williams Show and in the Icona Pop video. Princess Lockeroo has performed at Carnegie Hall with Hugh Masekela, Lincoln Center and Apollo Theater.. With students from around the world, Princess Lockeroo continues to teach and share her passion for dance and Waacking at the best studios in New York City: Broadway Dance Center, Peridance and Steps on Broadway.



Tony Waag, Tap Dance Teaching Artist

Tony Waag is an accomplished tap dancer, teacher, and producer with over 30 years of experience in the art form. He began his training in New York City with legends such as Honi Coles, Gregory Hines, and Jimmy Slyde, and went on to perform with numerous renowned companies including Tap Dance America, Manhattan Tap, and the American Tap Dance Orchestra. Waag is also the founder and artistic director of the American Tap Dance Foundation, a nonprofit organization that promotes and supports the art of tap dance through education, performance, and preservation. Under his leadership, the organization has presented countless shows and festivals, as well as created programs for dancers of all ages and levels. As a teacher, Waag is known for his deep knowledge of the history and technique of tap dance, as well as his ability to inspire and challenge his students to reach their full potential. He has taught at institutions such as The Juilliard School, New York University, and Harvard University, and has conducted workshops and masterclasses around the world.

Selected Bios of Performing Artists on DanceFest Family Stage May 18, 2024:



Ajna Dance

Directed by Ajna founder Minila Shah, the Ajna Performance Ensemble shares a blend of Classical Indian dance, folk and Bollywood. The unique combination with a focus on expression and grace that come from Classical styles have made our performance work stand out. Most recently, we were invited to perform at PGA The Hero World Challenge in Nassau Bahamas at an event hosted by Tiger Woods for the Tiger Woods Foundation. The Ajna Performance Ensemble has also appeared on ABC's Good Morning America with Priyanka Chopra, on NBC with Nick Cannon, the Food Network with Rachel Ray, Good Day New York in collaboration with DJ Rekha and the Smithsonian as well as most recently on Untitled with Action Bronson on Viceland. Moreover, we have had the honor of performing at various high profile events at the United Nations, The Rubin Museum, MoMA Film, Facebook, Google and Macy's. Ajna also works with a number of nonprofits and professional organizations including the Women's Education Project, New York Cares, and the American India Foundation. As a New York City based company, we believe in building strong communities through dance have participated in festivals, celebrations and dance showcases in the city including the Fourth Arts Block (FAB) festival, the India Day parade, Dance Parade New York, the South Asian International Performing Arts Festival (SAIPAF), 8 in Show at Dixon Place and the PMT Showcase.



Fusha Dance Company, Brooklyn, NY

Fusha Dance Company is based in New York City and dedicated to celebrating the abundant richness of dance, drum, and culture from Africa and the Diaspora.

Under the artistic direction of Funmilayo Chesney, the goal of FDC is to enhance lives, increase confidence, empower participants through dance, drum, drama, music, visual arts and nutrition and wellness programs. FDC promises to educate on the healing powers of dance and diet while encouraging global cultural appreciation and opening possibilities by building strong students in our classrooms and communities.



Niall O'Leary Irish Dance Troupe

The Niall O'Leary Irish Dance Troupe is a professional Irish Dance Company who perform at corporate events, weddings, parties, festivals, concerts and showcases mostly in the New York area. They completed a hugely successful tour of Japan with Irish folk band 'The Suffering Gaels' in 2001, performing 26 shows in large venues such as Osaka Festival Hall. They have also performed with Afro-Irish band 'De Jimbe' at the Rhinebeck Center for Performing Arts and Pier 63, New York City. The Troupe have appeared in concert at The Union Square 'Summer in the Square' concert series in Manhattan every summer since 2001. They have also headlined The Rockland 'Worldfest' International Dance Festival and been featured regularly in the annual New York City Irish Dance Festival. In December 2001 and March 2002 the troupe toured America with 'The Three Irish Tenors'. The Niall O'Leary Irish Dance Troupe have also performed at the Gala St. Patrick's Day Ball in The Plaza Hotel in New York, the American-Ireland Fund dinner, AIB Corporate entertainment, Eileen Ivers Show, Pfizer Pharmaceutical's Corporate Show, Prudential Corporate Show and 'Shadfest' on the River Hudson.



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

KATHY HOCHUL
GOVERNOR

May 21, 2022

Dance Parade
455 FDR Drive, Suite B104
New York, NY 10002

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to send greetings to everyone gathered to enjoy *Back to the Streets*, the 16th Annual Dance Parade and Festival in New York City.

New York State is home to some of the finest and most diverse resources for the creative and performing arts. Dancing is a powerful and expressive art form, transforming passion, energy, and joy into movement. Since its founding in 2006, Dance Parade New York has become an eagerly-anticipated event, providing dancers with exciting opportunities to share their dance tradition and to learn and appreciate others.

On behalf of all New Yorkers, I congratulate Grand Marshals Heidi Latsky, Rich Medina, and Eduardo Vilaro, as well as Executive Director Greg Miller and everyone involved with this event. Best wishes for a wonderful day of music and dance.

Sincerely,


Kathy Hochul
Governor



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS



DANCE PARADE[®] NEW YORK

DANCE RESIDENCIES, WORKSHOPS, & SPECIAL EVENTS

Carlye Eckert, *Community Engagement Director* • (971) 344-4844 • carlye@DanceParade.org

"I commend Dance Parade for advancing and celebrating the spirit of the arts in education that continues to enrich New York so greatly." - U.S. Senator Kristen Gillibrand

ENGAGING NEW YORK CITY'S FIVE BOROUGHES!

Dance Parade's Community Engagement Programs offer participants of all ages - in schools, recreation facilities, senior centers and at public events - opportunities to discover their own innate capacity for the communication of ideas, thoughts, and feelings through the medium of dance.

PROGRAM OFFERINGS

- ★ **CULTURAL RESIDENCIES**
Multi-week residencies focused on culturally specific dance forms
- ★ **COMMUNITY KINECT**
Using the artistry of dance to instill lifelong enthusiasm for physical fitness
- ★ **AGELESS ACTION**
Serving older Americans at community centers through the joy of movement and dance
- ★ **VIRTUAL PROGRAMS**
Making dance accessible no matter the location
- ★ **WORKSHOPS AND SPECIAL EVENTS**
Single Day Performances and Workshops

PROGRAM BENEFITS

- * Exposure to the creative process as it relates to dance: from conception, to reflection, to construction, critique, and public presentation
- * A greater comfort with, and awareness of, their bodies in space as individuals and as a collective
- * Physical activity that supports coordination, flexibility, and improved circulation
- * A unique perspective on learning history and cultural diversity by studying the way a culture moves

Since 2007, all participants in Dance Parade's Community Engagement Programs have the unique opportunity to dance alongside their teaching artists in our annual Parade on Broadway and Festival in May!



Dance Parade is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that presents over 200 groups in over 100 styles of dance annually during our Annual Parade and Festival. Supported by proceeds from the Parade and its generous donors, we are privileged to be able to offer a unique, experienced selection of dance for your community through one (or more!) of our programs.



CULTURAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM

OUR PARADE AND TEACHING ARTISTS SHINE IN SCHOOLS AND IN COMMUNITY CENTERS!

Throughout the New York City's 5 boroughs, we offer 6-10 week residencies with our qualified dance groups who immerse participants in a chosen cultural dance style and prepare them to be "Stars on Broadway" alongside 10,000 other dancers in our annual parade in May. Our residencies bridge the professional, aficionado and amateur dance worlds by making movement accessible to all audiences, while holding true to the discipline, passion and personal expression inherent to arts study.

★ SINGLE-GROUP RESIDENCIES

One of our experienced and specially trained teaching artists from a single dance genre will work with your community for 6-10 weeks.

A residency with one of Dance Parade's teaching artists provides a more in-depth experience in the international dance/culture of your choice – to support a curricular theme, or in celebration of a holiday, or to honor a particular region of the world.

★ MULTI-GROUP RESIDENCIES

Several of our experienced and specially trained teaching artists work with your community, giving them broad exposure to a range of cultural dance styles. Create your own program based on our available groups.

Programs we've designed include:

North-South-East-West: Four weeks each of dances from the North (French Canadian); South (Bolivian Tinkus); East (Japanese Yosakoi); and West (American line dancing)

Continental Tour: European folk dances from countries such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Italy, Russia, Bavaria, and Ireland.

Journey to Asia: Included groups who perform dances from India, Turkey, Nepal, and Thailand.



COMMUNITY KINECT

Each session with Dance Parade artists instills techniques to promote increased flexibility, coordination and discrete motor skills and more efficient circulation. Students are exposed to adult role models of working dance artists which encourages them to think differently about physical fitness and exercise.

COMMUNITY KINECT SERVES YOUTH AND ADULT POPULATIONS IN THREE MAJOR WAYS:

- * Provides alternatives to traditional fitness programs which are also culturally and socially relevant to the served populations.
- * Encourages positive group dynamics, fosters cohesion and cooperation, and instills sensitivity and respect for personal vs. group space.
- * Relieves stress and encourages creative problem-solving



LIFELONG PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL WELLNESS THROUGH FITNESS ORIENTED DANCE

The inaugural Community Kinect program was developed in partnership with the New York City Parks & Recreation Centers in the Spring of 2012.



AGELESS ACTION

In partnership with the New York City Department for the Aging, Ageless Action is devoted to serving older Americans through the joy of movement and dance.

We honor life experiences with exercises that empower and re-inspire an aging nyc population. Ageless Action is a 10-week curriculum based on resources from the National Center for Creative Aging.

Students in a communal setting are exposed to diverse forms of traditional and modern dance forms. 60-minute classes with our friendly multicultural teaching artists focus on a gradual increase of balance, flexibility, stamina, and agility. Whether dancing down Broadway, on a parade float, or in the Dance Parade grandstand, seniors are invited to be featured alongside their teachers and 10,000 dancers from around the globe in the annual Dance Parade on Broadway and Festival in Tompkins Square Park.



NYCTM
Department for
the Aging

**DANCE
PARADE**
NEW YORK

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

LIGHT UP STUDNETS ONLINE WITH AFRICAN, PAN-AMERICAN, ASIAN, AND OTHER FORMS OF DANCE!

Inspired by the global COVID-19 Pandemic and the necessity to keep dancing, continue learning, and connecting with one another, our organization has developed virtual dance programs and educational outreach initiatives for the times when meeting in-person is not possible or online learning experiences are desired.

VIRTUAL PROGRAM BENEFITS

- * Inspiration to move and create no matter the location
- * Exposure to new diverse ideas, movements, rhythms, and cultural experiences in a familiar setting.
- * Access to concert quality dance in the comfort of participant's homes or classroom.
- * Physical activity that supports well-being, coordination, creativity and engaging exploration of meaningful ways to maintain dance for a lifetime.

Participants have the unique opportunity to join the city wide celebration as a culminating experience in our annual Parade and Festival.



★ VIRTUAL CULTURAL RESIDENCIES*

One of our specially trained teaching artists from a specific dance style will work with your students for 8-10 weeks over your selected virtual teaching platform. Our residencies provide in-depth experience in the international dance/culture of your choice

★ VIRTUAL CLASSES*

Our highly trained dance artists teach weekly online classes providing fitness and joyful connection through movement for people of all ages. These classes are listed on our website and are offered on an ongoing basis.

**A computer, camera phone or tablet is required and we work with our client's privacy policies and protocols surrounding virtual learning.*

★ VIRTUAL ASSEMBLIES

Introduce one or more cultural dance styles that support a curricular theme, celebrate a holiday, cultural diversity, or honor a particular region of the world. Through live virtual introduction, recorded performances, dynamic informational content, followed by a short livestream workshop, virtual assemblies give students broad exposure to select history, unique cultural traditions, and global dance practices.

WORKSHOPS, PERFORMANCES, AND **SPECIAL EVENTS**

CUSTOMIZED SINGLE DAY DANCE ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS, SENIORS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Since 2007 Dance Parade has produced curated performances and workshops for diverse events and programs such as the Lincoln Square Tree Lighting Festival, Webster Hall, Green-Wood Cemetery, Community Access, Dance Manhattan, Dance New Amsterdam, Dixon Place, NY City Hall, and the New York City Parks Department. Our teaching artists and performing groups will travel to your school, business or community center to spark up the workplace, compliment school curriculum with cultural dance or offer a fun fitness alternative—at an attractive cost.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Planning a festival, birthday party or cultural event? From Ballet to Breakdance, our network of artists extends to over 75 styles of dance.



CURRICULUM GUIDELINE FOR TEACHING ARTISTS: Cultural Residency Program in schools

Examples are given below. Teaching Artists answer the following questions and complete the "Specifics" column of the grid for each week's lesson after undergoing Dance Parade training.

1. What MOVEMENT language: vocabulary, terminology, symbols are relevant to the style of dance? What will students be familiar with/able to define at the end of this residency? List at least four (and their descriptions/definitions).
2. What CULTURAL or HISTORICAL terms/concepts will students be familiar with and able to define at the end of this residency? List at least five (and their descriptions/definitions).
3. Please list three websites that provide information about the style of dance.
4. Please list three composers or resources for music that accompanies the style of dance.
5. How will students be involved in the process of creation during the residency?
6. What other resources and skills - like books, photographs, playing of instruments, storytelling, painting, etc. - can you draw upon to help facilitate your classes and share with students? Please list them.

Activity	Methodology	Goal/Outcome	Specifics: Exercises as related to style of dance
Warm-Up (10 min)	Lead participants through group-unifying and centering warm-up, incorporating both technical & stylistic elements, localized & full body conditioning, introduction to music specific to style	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare participants for class physically, mentally, and socially 	<i>Warm up group exercises in a circle or facing front/multiple directions. Practice Movements: Isolations- articulation of body parts; Dynamics- big & small, fast & slow, loud & quiet; Level changes; Balancing; Shifting weight; Rotation; Extension & Flexion; Locomotion-traveling through space; Moving to music-use diff. rhythms. Practice Listening- stop/start on cue.</i>
Skill-Building & Making Connections (20-25 min)	<p>Participants learn & practice movement terms (gestures, whole body, and traveling) alone and in sequences.</p> <p>Participants discuss work using language specific to the cultural style; use vocabulary, technical terms and historical contexts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice stylistic dynamics and spatial formations • Understand dance terminology, range of dynamics, sequencing, rehearsal & recall of short sequences from class to class 	<p>Week 1-2: Gestures and Rhythms, Call & Response</p> <p>Week 3-4: Across the floor, Stringing movements together, Practice moving together in unison vs. working with a partner or alone. Introduce the concept of the choreography and its meaning.</p> <p>Week 5-6: Identify choreographic steps; their feeling, dynamics, and relationship to music. Introduce any props or elements essential to choreography</p> <p>Week 7-8: Put everything together. Explore spatial pathways; moving in diff. directions. Entering and leaving/beginning and</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Immerse participants in particular cultural dance style; may pertain to final performance 	<p><i>ending the dance. Recall and practice with a partner. Rehearse as a group.</i></p> <p>Week 9-10: <i>Polishing the dance; break down small sections of choreography and practice. Find expression, explore what it means to perform; practice splitting the class in half and performing for one another</i></p>
<p>Creative Exploration & Improvisation (10-15 min)</p>	<p>Participants use elements of skills learned in movement studies to learn and/or create small phrases & choreographies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explore, create, and memorize movement sequences; may pertain to final performance ● Find personal relevance and expression within the genre being studied 	<p>Week 1-2: <i>Spell your name with your body: create shapes for each letter in name, Dance like Me: replicate stationary gestures/shapes led by teacher or with a partner, Follow the Leader: introduce traveling while replicating gestures/shapes,</i></p> <p>Week 3-4: <i>Pass/Catch movement across a circle, Musical Response: move like the music, stop & start w/ music, create movement or small dances that express what you hear. Mirror a partner.</i></p> <p>Week 5-6: <i>Improvise while traveling across the floor using different levels and speeds. Try as individuals and in small groups of 3-4 where one person is leading and followers echo movement.</i></p> <p>Week 7-8: <i>Students bring a prop to class and improvise with them. In small groups, create movements based on steps learned in classes so far and share them with class- use following & mirroring techniques.</i></p> <p>Week 9-10: <i>Identify descriptive/expressive words that express the themes being explored in style of dance and/or choreography and practice choreographed steps</i></p>
<p>Reflection & Evaluation (5-10 min)</p>	<p>Participants reflect on what they've learned through discussion, journaling, drawing, and silent reflection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Make personal & collective insights into the experience of dancing in each class, its impact, and overall cultural significance 	<p>Week 1-2: <i>What was the most memorable part of class? What was difficult? How did it make you feel to dance?</i></p> <p>Week 3-4: <i>What do you already know about the dance or the culture that it comes from? What are 1-2 questions you have about this style of dance so far?</i></p> <p>Week 5-6: <i>Does this style of dance remind you of anything you have experienced in your life outside of dance? If so, what?</i></p> <p>Week 7-8: <i>If you had to teach someone one thing you've learned so far about this style of dance, what would it be?</i></p> <p>Week 9-10: <i>Write or draw expressive words or symbols that remind you of or represent the dances you have learned.</i></p>



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DANCE PARADE TEACHING ARTISTS



Robenson Mathurin (Haitian Folk, African Diaspora, Contemporary)

Robenson is a New York-based dance artist performing, choreographing, and teaching Haitian Folklore, Contemporary, Modern, Jazz, and Afro-based dance styles. Since 2012, he has been a principal dancer in the international Compagnie de Danse Jean Rene Delsoin, based in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, through which he has toured in the USA, Trinidad, and Taiwan. In 2017, he created the platform "Robenson Dance & Fitness" to support better health and dance training in Haiti and abroad, and in 2021, he created the course "Rabòday Fit", taught regularly at Fit4Dance studios in Brooklyn, NY. His goal is to spread joy by building awareness of Afro-diaspora dance and exchanging with fellow dance artists in this industry. Mathurin has worked with US-based companies including but not limited to Jean Appolon Expressions and Kriyol Dance! Collective. He has also choreographed for top Haitian artists including Ruthshelle Guillame, Darline Desca, and Roody Roodboy. He continues to expand his choreographic portfolio and training through international teaching opportunities and residencies including the Mark Morris Teaching Artist Training Program and dance studies at The Taylor School. Robenson is currently an artist-in-residence with Haiti Cultural Exchange's Lakou NOU 2022 Program.



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Stephanie Peña (Salsa, Bachata, Merengue)

Stephanie Peña is a choreographer, dancer and teaching artist. She earned an MFA in Choreography at the University of Roehampton in London to expand her choreographic practice. Her choreography has been showcased at CUNY Hunter College, at University of Roehampton and Elefeet Dance Festival (London, UK), Open Marley Night (Baltimore) and Ticino in Danza Festival (Switzerland). As a dancer, Peña is currently working with Lakai Dance Theatre. She has performed at Jacob's Pillow, Hibernian Hall, New York Live Arts and MIT. She has also worked with Ligia Lewis, Rosemary Lee, Oriana Fox, Brice Mousset and many more artists.

As a teaching artist, she is currently teaching Contemporary and Latin Social Dances such as Merengue, Bachata and Salsa to children K-12 at public schools and community centers through Dancewave, Pentacle, AIRE Purelement and Little Island Outreach Program. She also teaches online dance classes to adults. Peña continues to grow by collaborating with dance artists and inspiring others to move their bodies.



Funmilayo Chesney (African Congolese and Afro Brazilian)

Funmilayo was born in Brazil and grew up in Guyana. Funmilayo traveled extensively to Nigeria and Ghana, where she lived and studied dance for three years.

For close to 20 years, Funmilayo has been teaching Congolese Dance in New York City and is the director of FUSHA Dance Company founded in 1995. In 1996 she won the Ethnic Dance Award for the best African dance instructor.

Funmilayo has also studied Ballet, Modern, Tap, Sabar, Guinean, Haitian, Afro-Cuban, Afro-Brazilian, Dahome, and Dunham. She is employed by the Department of Education where she teaches ethnic dance to pre-k through 12th grades in the artist in residence program.

The ancient dance of the Congolese people has been combined with the genius creations of their descendants and have shaped the musical culture of many music and dance styles in the diaspora i.e., Samba, Salsa, Hip Hop, Reggae, Calypso, Cassava, Jazz, Hawaiian, Belly Dance, the Electric Slide, and even Michael Jackson's "Moonwalk". Funmilayo became inspired to form Fusha Dance Company to empower and educate people on the healing powers of dance and to celebrate the richness of dance and culture from Africa and the diaspora.



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Tom Sullivan (Improvisation and Creative Contemporary Movement)

Tom Sullivan is a native New Yorker. He earned a BA in Special Education from Arizona State University, MS in Special Education from Hunter College/CUNY, and MA in Dance Education from New York University/Steinhardt. Tom studied at the Laban Institute of Movement Studies and is a Certified Movement Analyst. He also is a Certified Pilates Beginner Mat 1 Instructor. Tom is an instructor in both Moving for Life and Body Mind Dancing. He has performed as a dancer with HARRY, dance and other works by Senta Driver, the Martha Graham Ensemble, and The Washington Square Repertory Company of NYU/Steinhardt, as well as several independent choreographers. He currently performs with the Phyllis Rose Dance Company, which brings multicultural dances to schools throughout the tri-state area. Upon retiring from teaching Special Education classes for the NYC Department of Education, he has worked as a teaching artist in dance for Go Project, Arts Connection, 92nd Street Y, and Education in Dance and the Related Arts. Tom enjoys choreographing, painting, and volunteering as a teaching assistant with Dance for PD (Parkinson's Disease).



Punchali Khanna Kumar (Bollywood)

Punchali Kumar has been extremely fortunate to train in the style of Bollywood and Classical Indian Dance with prominent teachers in 3 continents, each renowned for their expertise in a particular dance form. Punchali's gurus have truly been a great source of inspiration for her over the years. She is thankful for their time and extensive training and aspires to instill the same grace and ethic in her own students. While she appreciates the complexity and purity of each individual dance form she has trained in, Punchali has fused them to create her own eclectic style, which creates the essence of Moksha Arts.



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Abeba Baptiste (Contemporary, Hip hop, African Diaspora) A dancer, choreographer, and creative visionary, Abeba likes to consider herself the Jill of all trades. Well-versed in multiple dance styles ranging from Hip-Hop to Afro-Fusion, Abeba showcases her passion for movement through an authentic, cultural, and urban lens.

Graduating from Hofstra University in 2019, with a B.A. in Dance and Public Relations she has professionally trained and danced in the works of Dyane Harvey-Salaam, Earl Mosley, and Fritzlyn Hector, to name a few. Her television and industrial performance credits include WonderamaTV, Estelle, Fatman Scoop, Eddy Kenzo, Adekunle, Baby Cham, Wayne Wonder, and HoodCelebrity.

Abeba is currently in graduate school, pursuing a M.A. at New York University in Dance Education with a concentration on dances of the African Diaspora. Through sharing and collaborating, Abeba hopes to continue to be a vessel for art and expression.



Victor "Kid Glyde" Alicea (Breakdance)

Victor "Kid Glyde" Alicea is the president of Dynamic Rockers, one of hip hop's most historically significant dance crews. In addition to being a world-renowned dancer, he is a committed educator, mentor and entrepreneur who has also performed extensively in live performances and battles around the world. He is the son of legendary Glyde of the original Dynamic Rockers and has been breaking for twenty years, starting with lessons from both his father and Kid Freeze.

Kid Glyde is the organizer of many major hip hop dance events, including the famous B-boy Massacre series and the unique Octagon NYC battles. He also teaches and is the featured b-boy expert for HowCast.com, an online tutorial website. He remains a prominent and inspirational b-boy in the hip hop community and



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continues to take b-boying culture to the next level. Kid Glyde is the founder of Kids Breaking League Studios and KBL Foundation which focuses on making the maximum positive effort for the community and helping connect kids around the world through the art of dance.



Ru Bao (Ballroom, Latin, Social Dancing)

Mr. Ru Bao graduated from Beijing Dance Academy University where he became a professional dance teacher. He has been sent overseas by the university and participated in many competitions around the world. Mr. Ru has won many championships and awards throughout his career including the highest Chinese Government Prize, the Chinese National Professional Latin Dance Championship, the Southeast Asian Professional Latin Dance Championship, First China "Lotus" Gold Award, Professional Latin Dance Champion, Professional Latin Dance Champion (Seattle 2004), and participated in the International Latin Pro-am competition many times in United States. Mr. Ru has acted as a judge for the USA and China "Level A" Dance Competition. Today, Mr. Ru is an IDTA and NDCA Professional Dance teacher, a professor of Beijing Dance Academy University, the founder of Asian American DanceSport Corporation, and Ru Dance NY School.



Juliette Nieves-Becker (World Hip-Hop & Fusion Dance)

Juliette Nieves-Becker is a dancer, choreographer, teacher, and the dance company owner of Reaction Dance Company NYC. She received formal dance training through her internship at Broadway Dance Center in 2011, and later graduated from Pace University in 2015 with a B.A in Commercial Dance and minor in Arts Management and Administration. She received two awards for the concept of Reaction while still attending college in 2014. After college, she devoted herself to growing her dance company. She expanded her business to include private events, school dance assemblies with Arts Horizons 2015-present and Academic



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Entertainment 2020-present, and performances hosted by cultural institutions such as the Parrish Arts Museum in NY. Along with running a company she's also taught many dance styles (Hip Hop, Jazz, Contemporary, Bollywood, Latin Styling, Kpop, and fusion) to people of all ages with Creative Connections, Arts Horizons, The Dance Parade, and assisted with Flamenco Vivo with Flamenco dance classes. Her choreography credits include: We're All Immigrants Part 1, Raw Artists: Stellar Miami in 2019, Dixon Place: 8 in Show in 2019, Dances of the Diaspora: The Beats of India in 2019, Kennedy Holiday Showcase: Mehndi Diaries in 2018, Reaction presents: The United Boroughs of NYC in 2018, Dance USA Dance on Zee TV, Reggaeton music video "Conoci Bailando" by Ozzie Valencia, and The Globalization of Hip Hop performed at various schools and cultural institutions across the U.S.



Amanda Cardona (Boogaloo and Social Dance)

Amanda Cardona was born in NY and raised in the Bronx and is the founder of The Boogaloo Project. The Boogaloo Project is dedicated to preserving the history of, educating others about, supporting, and evolving the art of Latin Boogaloo music & dance! As a Nuyorican, Amanda was drawn to Boogaloo for a lot of reasons; it gave her a fun & unique way to connect to both sides of her culture: Latin & American, a way to fuse music & dance styles she loves from Salsa to Swing & everything in between, and finally a way to learn more about her own culture & history.

Amanda's love of Latin music and dance is directly correlated to her exposure and acceptance of her Puerto Rican roots. Amanda is a multi-faceted and prolific artist- skilled in performing, teaching, choreography, social dancing to name but a few. She is known as "The Footwork Queen" - amazing and sometimes confounding others with her quick feet and imaginative footwork patterns. Currently, you can find her traveling both domestically and internationally, engaging in various projects.



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Marlon Mills (Salsa)

Marlon "International" Mills, one of New York's most well-known dance personalities in the Salsa dance community, was born in NY to parents from the Caribbean and was educated in NY & Spain. He found his love of Salsa in 2001, after having been taken to a class by a co-worker and has not looked back since. He has trained with some of the best in the business, including Maria and Eddie Torres and has been teaching Salsa for more than 14 years. Marlon has performed Salsa for films, television, festivals, clients such as Marriott Group and American Express, and on stage for artists such as Jose Alberto El Canario, Hector Tricoche and El Gran Combo. He has also made appearances on Sesame Street as a performer and recently at Lincoln Center's Midsummer Night Swing as an instructor and performer. Marlon has taught at prestigious universities such as NYU, Columbia Business School and Hofstra University. He currently teaches at LIU and at several dance studios. Marlon has since joined the 92Y Staff and is currently teaching all levels of Salsa. Marlon hosts weekly social dance events that feature some of the top Latin bands and artists from the NY area. Marlon is also a Teaching Artist for the Dancing Classrooms program, teaching ballroom dance to kids throughout NYC public schools. He is known for his warm smile, amazing lead and excellent teaching abilities. Through clear teaching and strong fundamentals, he takes people from having two left feet to dancing up a storm while having fun on the dance floor in a relatively short amount of time. His goals are to continue teaching, dancing, traveling the world and positively impacting the lives of others. His motto — Changing lives, one dance at a time!



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Ajna Dance Company (Traditional Indian Dance & Bollywood)

Ajna Dance Company is New York's premier South Asian performing arts organization specializing in artistic and authentic arts education, performances and classes. The company was created in 2012 by Minila Shah with the purpose of making Indian dance and culture more accessible to people and students of all backgrounds. Ajna dancers and teaching artists are trained in a broad range of South Asian and western dance styles and offer highly skilled and personalized instruction. Ajna performance company's signature style blends the grace and technique of classical dance with the freedom and fun of Bollywood music and dance. Ajna Dance Company is leading the way in South Asian arts programming for schools across the tristate area. We have worked with over 200+ schools through our Indian dance assemblies, residencies and after-school programs. We incorporate social studies, geography, language into our lesson plans and students walk away learning new dance styles and with a better understanding of South Asian culture. Our team of teaching artists are professionally trained and we tailor the lesson plan and choreography to the grade level of the students.



Eva Lu (Chinese Classical and Contemporary Dance)

Eva Lu holds a bachelor's degree and MFA in dance and choreography. At the age of 28, she was cited as one of the nation's "outstanding dancers". Eva has more than 10 years of experience dancing and touring worldwide with the China National Performance Arts Company. In New York, she is the artist director of Eva Dance Studio. Eva teaches, directs, and choreographs dance performances for celebrations, galas, charity fairs, and dance festivals, including choreography for the Brooklyn Ballet's "Nutcracker".



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Karen Kriegel (Traditional Korean Dance)

Karen Kriegel began her Korean dance career in N.Y.C. while attending the Juilliard School after being introduced to Master Sohn InYoung of the NOW Dance Company.

For 18 years Ms. Kriegel has studied with many teachers including two Korean national treasures. She focuses on Korean traditional dance, neo-traditional and works at her own dance company, the WDI-World Dance Initiative, which collaborates with folkloric dancers of other genres in performance and teaching settings. In addition, Ms. Kriegel is the Korean dance teacher at Democracy Prep Charter High School, the Korean Culture School in Harlem. She is also a teaching artist for the Flushing Town Hall Smithsonian Institution Affiliate Program.



MJ Choi (KPop and street styles)

MH Choi is the founder and director of I LOVE DANCE (2006), a collection of studios in the Tri-state area which celebrate KPop and street styles of dance with the vision of creating an outlet for people who love dance. MJ seeks to cultivate a classroom environment that is warm and friendly, where people of various backgrounds meet not only to learn dance but to share profoundly meaningful experiences of enrichment derived from intercultural exchange.



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Martha Nora Zarate (Mexican Folkloric, Latin, Indigenous Dance)

For 35 years, Martha Nora Zarate has actively participated in Mexican folkloric dance throughout the Americas and Europe. She has assumed various roles both on stage & behind the curtains, including associate artistic director, choreographer, instructor, principal dancer, costume designer and props designer. However, Martha's focus in recent years turned towards research, instruction and artistic direction.

In 2013, she founded Mazarte Dance company to fulfill her vision of creating a tangible union between dance, research, and authentic indigenous art. Through Mazarte, Martha aims to create awareness about Mexican cultural heritage while also preserving artistic techniques that are in danger of being forgotten and lost.

Martha's pedagogical training was at Escuela Normal de Puebla, 1983-1986 where she specialized in the teaching of dance and history with teachers from different parts of Mexico and the Americas (Peru, Argentina, and Venezuela). Martha has vast experience as a teaching artist including at the prestigious Universidad Autonoma de Mexico in 1984 and 1985. Martha has taught Mexican Folk Dance at a diverse array of primary and secondary schools in different regions of Puebla, Mexico. She also taught in Tula, Hidalgo and led that year's 16 top student dancers to win the regional Indigenous Dance contest from the state of Puebla. Martha trained under Elias Guerra, Vidal Calvario and Rodolfo Reyes Cortes, Choreographer of the Ballet Folklorico Nacional de Cuba.

Major Performances have included being a principal dancer at various international tours, Ballet Zomalli Tonatiuh, in Italy, Austria and Germany, performing an extensive program of dances from different regions in Mexico, including Aztec dances and dances from Michoacan, Guerrero, Veracruz and Jalisco. Performed in the CIOFF International Festivals in Italy in 1990 and 1995 and in the Inter Sanger und Musikertreffen Festivals in Austria and Germany, 1991. Martha is well versed in Contemporary dance, Jazz & Flamenco as well as Folk dance: Mexican, Argentinean, Peruvian and Venezuelan.



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Pooja Narang (Indian Dance and Bollywood)

Pooja Narang is a Bollywood dance choreographer and educator. In 2003, Pooja brought her choreographic style, vision, and passion to the East Coast with the creation of her company and Indian dance school Bollywood Axion.

Pooja's innovative choreography has appeared in several major motion pictures ,Including Bollywood Blockbusters, 'Jaaneman', 'Kabhi Alvida Na Kehna', 'Karma aur Holi', and Hollywood Films 'The Accidental Husband' and 'The Gold Bracelet'. Pooja has also choreographed the world's first Bollywood Flash mob which took place in Times Square and various parts of the city in August 2009 receiving over 2 million hits and counting on YouTube. Other notable works can be seen on Sesame Street, and Nick Jr. Wonder Pets.

Pooja has trained Celebrity Artists on various projects including: Sushmita Sen, Rati Agnihotri, Randip Hooda, Archana Puran Singh, Aishwarya Rai, Naomi Campbell, Uma Thurman, Colin Firth, Jeffery Dean Morgan, Ali Larter, Tina Sugandh, Tyra Banks & The Kings of Bachata - Aventura. Pooja has also Choreographed alongside Slumdog millionaire Choreographer Longinus Fernandes for the hit dance show "So you think you can dance Canada" in addition she has done choreography for Grammy Award Winner John Legend's music video ' If you're out there' remixed by Rajstar. Pooja's dance classes and individual training lessons are in high demand in New York City and around the country. Fusing contemporary western influences, classical Indian dance techniques ,and contagious energy of Punjabi Bhangra and the passionate spirit of Hindi cinema, Pooja hopes to spread her love of Bollywood and Bhangra dancing to people of all ages and backgrounds.