



Lester "Kofi Black" Twumasi. A driven unique, talented dancer with the drive, determination and talent to reach his dream. His goal is to impact the lives of others with artistic expression. Lester Twumasi was introduced to Hip-Hop culture at an early age listening to his father's record collection. At age 13 he began his dance journey where he was introduced to renowned dancers such as Christophe A and Marcel "Frost" DaCosta. His love for dance grew even stronger which encouraged him to share his talent on many stages including opening up for artists such as Shawn Desmond, Machine Gun Kelly and much more! Lester has choreographed for Trè Armstrong's professional

performance group D.A.E.I Elite. Also he has taught many workshops for Peel District School Board and dance events in Ontario. Lester loves to pass on his knowledge with the younger generation. Working with at risk youth at a mentorship program Lester has lots of experience resonating with youth to help build their character and confidence.

NAN

GIORDANO



Artistic Director of Giordano Dance Chicago since 1993, Nan has guided the development of a large and diverse repertoire. Nan was trained by her father and mentor, Gus Giordano, who created the world-renowned Giordano Technique. Developer of the Nan Giordano Certification ProgramSM, Nan is the world's preeminent authority on the essence, discipline, progression and continuance of the Giordano Technique; the vision of the NGCPSM is to provide worldwide, ongoing, and in-depth access to this ground-breaking dance form. She had an extensive performing career in concert dance, as well as in the industrial and fashion worlds. Her concert dance experience began with Giordano Dance Theatre, before apprenticing and then joining Giordano Dance Chicago. With her father at the helm of the company, she traveled and performed extensively around the world; she also had the

opportunity to perform in numerous WTTW dance television specials choreographed by her father including the Emmy Award winning "The Rehearsal." When an injury ended her performing career, Nan became Associate Director of the company and was instrumental in establishing a working Board of Directors, which has evolved into today's three separate boards. In the last twenty- one years, under Nan's leadership, GDC has established a high profile reputation for excellence in the Chicago dance community, as well as in the national and international dance worlds. Sid Smith, former dance critic of the *Chicago Tribune* in his glowing review of one new work, wrote that it was "further evidence of artistic director Nan Giordano's shrewd instincts for choreographic talent and excellent dancers." Nan's concert choreography credits include four works in Giordano Dance Chicago's repertoire. On the commercial side Nan has choreographed several television commercials. Nan teaches master classes throughout the United States, and has toured internationally as guest teacher in many countries including Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, El Salvador, France, Germany, Guatemala, and Mexico. She is also the driving force behind GDC's major outreach program in Chicago Public Schools. Nan received the Manford Byrd Jr. Wizard of Oz Award for Outstanding Service from Howland School of the Arts. Nan is Artistic

JAY T. SCHRAMEK



Jay is a Dora Mavor Moore Award nominated performer, educator and adjudicator. His twenty year teaching career spans Canada's most prestigious post-secondary arts institutions and dozens of dance studios. A graduate of Ryerson University's dance program and a former Mr. Dance of Canada, he has been a faculty member at the Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts, George Brown College and Saint Lawrence College. Jay has been a guest teacher at: Sheridan College, Etobicoke School of the Arts, Pearson School for the Arts, the Eastern Arkansas Ballet, Duboforce Mexico and the Charlottetown Festival Young Company. He is currently the Tap Director at Dimensions in Dance in Kitchener and Toronto's Metro Movement.

His professional choreographic credits include: *Singin In the Rain* (Rubarb), *The Fan* (Odyssey Theatre), *The Time of My Life* (Soulpepper), *The Haunted Hillbilly* (Sidemart Theatrical), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Magnus Theatre) & *Dads II* (Magnus Theatre).

As a performer, he continues to work in theatres across the continent. He has performed for The Stratford Shakespeare Festival, Mirvish Productions, Capitol Theatre, Charlottetown Festival, Stage West, Drayton Entertainment, Clearchannel Entertainment and dozens more. Some of his favourite roles include: Cosmo in *Singin in the Rain*, Bobby in *Crazy for You*, Skimbleshanks in *Cats*, Nana in *Peter Pan*, Pepper in *Mamma Mia*, Jimmy in *White Christmas*, Ethan in *The Full Monty*, Jinx in *Forever Plaid*, Cecil in *Anne of Green Gables*, Batboy in *Batboy the Musical*, Action in *West Side Story*, Barnaby in *Hello Dolly*.

An accomplished voice-over actor, Jay is the voice of Platy the Platypus on *Arthur* (PBS Kids), Data Bot, Build Bot & Garbage Bot on *Space Ranger Roger* (Family Jr), Mr. Security on *Inspector Gadget* (Teletoon/Netflix), Felix on *Trucktown* (Treehouse), Blinky on *Willa's Wild Life* (YTV / Discovery), Satoru Kakuta on *Slam Dunk* and Tad in the animated feature *Totally Spies-the Movie*. His voice has been used by Royal Bank, Microsoft, Pfizer, Subaru, CBC, Aleve, Cepacol, Air Transat, and Motorola. He's appeared on Discovery Channel's *Mayday*, Showcase's *Lost Girl*, CBC's *Getting Along Famously*, Showtime's *Queer As Folk* and the Gemini nominated film *From Time to Time*. He also provided the motion capture for the lead character Hadyn in the PS3 game *Dark Sector*.

Jay is one of North America's most prolific talent adjudicators and has judged and hosted over 100 talent competitions, pageants and festivals across the globe. He is a member and contributor to the Professional Adjudicator Alliance manual, has written articles for *The Agent's Book* and had a column in *Dance Canada Quarterly*. Jay is a recipient of a Tyrone Guthrie Award and a Maud Whitmore Scholarship.



MARQ FRERICHS

Marq Frerichs began training at the age of eleven at the George Brown School of Dance. He attended the Professional Program at Canada's National Ballet School (1982-1985). He then moved to Ulm Germany on offer to work in the Stadt Theatre Ulm under Pierre Wyss. For two seasons he worked with the ballet, opera and theater companies, honing his theatrical skills. Ulm incited his understanding of the diversity of the stage and the vast outreach of dance and the arts. Upon returning to Toronto he joined Desrosiers Dance Theater as a principal dancer. After 5 years he became the company's ballet master and fulfilled both positions to complete a decade long role in the company. Desrosiers toured extensively throughout Europe, North America and Asia. As ballet master he taught master classes for Desrosiers,

notably at the Aspen Dance Festival and at SUNY Purchase. Marq proceeded to pursue a career as an independent dancer and teacher working with Cas Public in Montreal and the Chimera Project in Toronto; with Cirque Du Soleil throughout North America and Japan, and partnering with Celine Dion on The Colour of My Love North American tour. He has also performed in various film and television productions. Throughout this, Marq sashayed at the Globe and Mail as the in-house wardrobe stylist where he brought his theatrical flare to the designs on the pages of the weekend Style section. In 2013 Marq obtained his teaching diploma and Cecchetti Associate from Canada's National Ballet School, both awarded with Distinction. From 2013-2014 Marq was the Head of Ballet at Gotta Dance Studio in Toronto. He is currently a member of the artistic staff at Canada's National Ballet School, Guest Teacher at the Quinte School of Ballet and a freelance dance teacher in Toronto.

MARISSA FALCONE-REINZO

Marisa was born and raised in Mississauga, Ontario where she recognized her talents as a performer at a young age. She started training in various dance disciplines at just four years old, obtaining certifications from the Cecchetti Association, R.A.D., and C.D.T.A. Marisa also studied piano and vocal lessons shortly thereafter, knowing that these talents would advance her career someday. She furthered her dance training at Cawthra Park Secondary School in the Regional Arts Program for Dance. In 2008 she graduated from Ryerson University's Theatre Dance Program under the direction of Nadia Potts, obtaining a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree with Honours. Upon graduating, Marisa set off to sail the high seas with Disney Cruise Line as Dance Captain, making magic and sharing the stage with some of the most famous Disney characters! Back on land, Marisa has had the opportunity to perform for a number of professional theatres all across Canada. Marisa has competed throughout Canada and the United States and won numerous scholarships and awards. She is also a guest teacher for the Canadian Dance Teachers' Association and has had the privilege to guest choreograph for Cawthra Park and other dance studios throughout the GTA. Marisa is an active member of Mississauga's Arts Scene as a dancer, musician, and singer, most recently being the recipient of the Meadowvale Theatre Award. She was also the recipient of the Theatre Dance Award from Ryerson University in 2006. Marisa loves spending time with her loud Italian family, and enjoys finding creative inspiration everyday from those around her.



TAYLOR ROPER



Taylor is a professional performer who has been dancing since the age of six. He is highly trained in jazz, tap, contemporary, ballet, acrobatics and hip hop. He also studied in the music theatre program at Wexford Collegiate Institute for the Arts. He has worked for

some of the industry's leading entertainment corporations. He was a dancer and acrobat for Royal Caribbean Cruiselines on the "Mariner Of The Seas" and the "Brilliance Of The Seas". He was also a featured dancer in the cirque inspired show "Mystic Rhythms" at Tokyo DisneySea. Taylor has also danced for Patti Wilcox from New York City and has also danced in contemporary festivals throughout Toronto. He has spent the past year living in Belgium dancing in a contemporary company and teaching workshops. As a competitive dancer, Taylor has captured numerous titles including Mr. Dance and Teen Mr. Dance of Canada ch.38, Dancer of the Year for American Dance Awards and was also the highest scoring male soloist for can dance in 2007 and had the opportunity to travel and perform in Spain. He has been a dance instructor at many studios throughout Durham, Belgium, and Toronto and also teaches dance for the Toronto and Durham district school board. Taylor is a certified member of the International Academy of Dance Adjudicators and has adjudicated in Ontario, British Columbia and the United States.

He is a firm believer that technique and creative style are extremely important in the development of a dancer. Taylor will be joining YDA faculty as a full time instructor.



MISS TEE

Tonya is a certified CDTA associate member. She is also the Co-owner and Artistic Director of A New DAEI Inc. /sge bagab ger dance career at the age of 4. Early dance years were focused on the study of jazz, tap, acrobatics, Lyrical, Musical theatre and Cecchetti based ballet. Competitively she dance in the United States and Canada. Her focus as a choreographer has been on Musical Theatre, Hip Hop and Lyrical. She has also reached a level of excellence in instructing in jazz funk, modern jazz and dancehall. Her live motto is "Live, Love, Dance!"