



HASSAN BLANDFORD (Master class guest teacher)

Hassan is a recipient of the 1985 NYS Martin Luther King Jr Award for Excellence in Arts and Sciences, under Gov. Mario M. Cuomo. Years later, L. Hassan Blandford began his dance training at the age of 13 at Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts (The Fame School). Throughout his sophomore and junior years, Mr. Blandford also studied at the School of American Ballet. While at S.A.B., he served as assistant to the children's Ballet Mistress for the New York City Ballet in George Balanchine's production of The Nutcracker, and was thrilled by the rare opportunity to attend NYCB rehearsals and watch the company at work. During high school Mr. Blandford also performed lead roles regional ballet companies' productions of The Nutcracker, and performed alongside Mr. Donlin Foreman with Jacques D'Ambois' National Dance Institute (NDI). Mr. Blandford attended The Juilliard School, under the direction of the late Mr. Benjamin Harkarvy. Mr. Blandford went on to dance professionally with the Atlanta Ballet, Georgia Ballet, Donald Byrd the Group, and Pennsylvania Ballet performing in such ballets as Michael Pink's Dracula and Hunchback of Notre Dame; George Balanchine's Serenade (lead role, Elegy) and A Midsummer's Night's Dream; The Nutcracker; and The Sleeping Beauty. The above-mentioned experiences have influenced Mr. Blandford's development into the highly regarded Instructor, Choreographer and Artist he is today. In 2002, Mr. Blandford began teaching as an independent contractor for the NYC's Department of Education. From this platform, he was provided with the opportunity to teach ballet at the Bronx Dance Academy (BDA) and numerous other public and private schools throughout New York City and New Jersey. In 2005, Mr. Blandford joined the faculty of Kansas City's Friend's of Alvin Ailey (KCFAA) as a ballet instructor for KCK and KCMO Ailey Camp. Upon relocation, Mr. Blandford progressed to principal dancer and rehearsal director for the Company of Dance Arts (CODA) in Red Bank, New Jersey under the direction of Mrs. Jennifer J. Church. Most recently, Mr. Blandford served as Administrative and Artistic Program Coordinator for the Ailey/Professional Performing Arts High School Dance Program from 2009-2013, whilst also teaching ballet in The Ailey School's Professional and Junior Division Programs. First to Fifth was created to bring concert-style dance to inner-city youth. Mr. Blandford's mission is to supplement scholastic education with a dance program that provides a balance of discipline, overall dance technique, mentorship and guidance. As a result, students are better equipped to gain access to elite dance Institutions and Conservatories in the future, as well as become active and participating citizens in their communities.



LEAH BRANDSTETTER

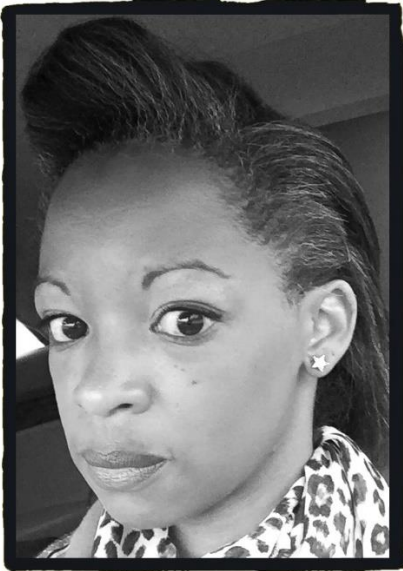
Leah started ballet at a young age with instructor Viorica Stampfel. In 2009 she began training at the Academy of Dance Arts under the guidance of Nick & Shayne Mishoe, Sori Gottdenker, Elaenee Nowell, and Viorica Stampfel. At the Academy, Leah has had the opportunity to participate in Master classes with dancers from Pennsylvania Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, and New York City Ballet. In 2017, she went to the SLK Ballet Summer Intensive to train with Sara Knight to gain a deeper understanding of Vaganova technique--which she continues to study. Her performance experience has included original works choreographed by multiple choreographers--including Peter Leung, scenes from *Don Quixote*, and other classical works. Leah has been an intern at The Whole Dancer under the guidance of founder Jess Spinner. She is also more than half-way through in earning a MS in Integrative and Functional Nutrition through Saybrook University. Leah is using her knowledge and experience of nutrition, health, and fitness to help dancers be as healthy as they can be while learning ways to cope with the many body image issues dancers face. She has also started her own online nutrition & fitness coaching business. Leah continues to train in classical ballet, character, contemporary, & pilates so that she can continue to learn and grow as a dancer, artist, and teacher. She seeks to inspire her students to have a love of the discipline and art form that is dance.

As a teacher, Leah hopes to instill in her students a love for ballet, a desire for excellence and, more importantly, a love for their Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ, whom she seeks to glorify in everything she does.



FELICIA CATNEY

Felicia graduated Magna Cum Laude from Rider University earning her degree in Dance Performance with a minor in Popular Music Studies. Felicia has choreographed and performed in dance festivals such as the Biomorphic Festival and Philadelphia Fringe Festival. During her time at Rider, she choreographed and performed in many Rider Dance Ensemble productions as well as performed in all four of the dance department's mainstage Rider Dances shows. Felicia also helped produce, choreograph and perform for the First Annual Senior Showcase at Rider University. She was also an active member of Alpha Psi Omega Theatre Honors Fraternity. Felicia served as a Fine Arts mentor to the incoming freshman for two years, as well as participated as a Freshman Seminar Leader to the Fine and Performing Arts students for three years. She is beyond thrilled to step out into the real world and use her art to perform, choreograph, teach and share her passion! Felicia is excited to teach her passion as well as share her faith with the students at Adoration Dance Experience! "Then David DANCED before the Lord with all his might!" 2 Samuel 6:14a.



ANITA FERGUSON

Anita received her training and education at the Conservatoire Royal de Liege, Belgium :(Classic Jazz/Modern) 1992-1996, Bobby's: Jazz/Funk Liege, Belgium (1994-1996)) and Studio Jam Brussels, Belgium (2002-2011). She has taught in a wide variety of places starting in 1996 including Non-Profit Maison de Jeunes de Seraing in Belgium, artistic Director for the Positive Discrimination Program in Belgium, Studio Jam Brussels Belgium, Dancers Pointe Howell and Manasquan Music and Dance Academy. She has taught Hip Hop, Competition and Urban Contemporary. She was instrumental as the Hip Hop/Jazz Teacher/Choreographer, creating projects for the less fortunate kids to engage in artistic events such as making a music video, creating their own rap song, performing on stage in a theater and outside events. Collaboration with the Liege Philharmonic (music) and RTBF TV(radio and TV) to create the video. She has been instrumental in helping to introduce students to Urban contemporary, developing Hip Hop programs from 5 years – adults, and creating a style of contemporary that hip hop dancers with no ballet training felt comfortable to perform.

Her choreography and performance career is extensive and includes shows such as “Wicked Forest”, Alice and Wonderland guest choreographer, "World of Lights", "Cooks", and "Gifts around the World" Choreographer/ Artistic Director, Studio Jam Youth Division Royal Yacht club in Geneva, Switzerland, and “Peter Pan” assistant Artistic Director, choreographer. She was a Member of “Jam Troop “Tour Disneyland Paris, France and Disneyland Florida Tour, Orlando Florida

She has worked with world class dancers for Justin Timberland, Brandy, Janet Jackson for local events and dance conventions in Europe.



DOMINIQUE HENDERSON

Dominique was born in Bronx, New York and began dancing at the young age of seven years old. After relocating to New Jersey with her family in 2001, she began her technique training at plethora of performing arts schools. Dominique is now a dance instructor at an afterschool program and dance performing arts school, both located in Newark, New Jersey. Dominique has performed in musicals (as lead roles and ensemble), plays, showcases, fundraisers as well as ministry outreach events and has performed and choreographed as a dance instructor for Newark School of the Arts' winter and spring recital for the last two years. She is heavily involved with her church, Chosen Generation Ministry's praise dance ministry, which focuses on learning the Word of God to minister the Word of God, through dance. Dominique has studied and trained in ballet, modern (Graham Technique and Horton Technique), jazz, tap and contemporary at Newark School of the Arts, Whitney E. Houston Academy of Performing and Fine Arts, Cicely L. Tyson Community School of Performing and Fine Arts, Seiskya Ballet School, Princeton Ballet School and The Ailey School. As a believer and follower of Jesus Christ, her passion for God thrusts her passion in dance and Dominique is truly excited to be a part of the Agape family, spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ through life and dance.

“Showing the grace of God to the lost, winning souls for the Kingdom of God by introducing Jesus Christ and changing lives, one dance at a time.”



LARAINÉ KAUFFMAN (Master class guest teacher)

Laraine has had extensive training in many forms of dance since the age of 8 which include ballet (pointe), modern (Graham Technique), lyrical, and jazz. Under the direction of Bonni Gargano, she started out in a well-established dance studio in Brooklyn, NY. Her teacher's passion for pointe inspired her to continue training in the Arts to a more serious level. Moving on into her preteen years, she studied jazz at a studio that had been producing dancers for 40 years, Horizons Dance Center, located in Brooklyn, NY. It was there that she danced with famous choreographer Tyce Diorio from "So You Think You Can Dance." During that time, she pursued her study of ballet in depth at The Joffrey Ballet School in New York City for several years, where she trained and was mentored under the direction of Dorothy Lister (Co-author of Conversations with Choreographers). While dancing with The Joffrey Ballet School, Laraine was accepted into The Fiorello H. La Guardia High School of Performing Arts and it was there Laraine gained her experience in the Art of Graham technique, ballet, jazz, improvisation, and drama under the direction of Michelle Mathesuis, James Moody (the actor), Penny Frank, Elisa King, Michelle Benash, and Bob Heath. While attending high school, Laraine was recognized for her ballet solos at several competitions in places such as The Waldorf Astoria. She had also entered and won competitions in Brooklyn, taking first place in known dance clubs for her free style dancing. Her passion for dance and her love for children was the driving force that lead her into teaching. From 2007-2015, she choreographed many ballets and intense modern pieces for performances which took place at the Algonquin and Strand theaters. It is her desire to continue to grow her students in the Arts and to pass on her love of dance to them. Laraine Kauffman is a believer & follower of Jesus Christ. Her love for her Lord and Savior is at the very heart of why she dedicates her life to teaching dance to children of all ages. Laraine enjoys teaching all forms of dance to children but more importantly shares with them that our greater purpose is to Glorify God through the art and not ourselves! Her love for Christ has also led her to volunteer her time in a local non-profit dance studio to children & families who struggle financially. She enjoys this because it gives her the great opportunity to share the love of Christ with others. There is nothing more rewarding than doing the work of the Father to serve him by serving others! It is her hope to instill a passion for dance as well as to share with the children they are cherished & loved by God and He has a purpose for & plan for every one of their lives.



MAX and IRMA SANCHEZ

Irma and Max have been teaching the Art of Salsa Dancing since 2001. The two met at a Salsa dance club where Irma was teaching beginner Salsa. Max became one of her students. They began dancing together and a year later, irMax SALSA was born. To further their knowledge of Salsa dancing, they started attending classes with Eddie Torres in NYC. They taught at a local studio in Perth Amboy owned by Jamale Graves, choreographer for C&C Music Factory. Irma and Max have choreographed first wedding dances, sweet 16 court dances and a father and daughter dance. We hope to instill in our students, respect for their partner and a love for Salsa dancing for years to come.