

2017 FACULTY

Tentative - subject to change based on professional obligations

Ade Obayomi

Ade is best known for his work on So You Think You Can Dance Season, Dance Family (2017), A Diva's Christmas Carol (2000) and his early tour with Les Grands Ballet Canadiens de Montreal. He began dancing at the age of 6. After graduating from Corona Del Sol High School, he earned a scholarship to Chapman University in Southern California, where in addition to dance, he studied sound engineering. Early on in his dance career, competed in contemporary, jazz and African dance competitions nationwide. He is also trained in ballet, tap, and hip hop. Ade has continued to earn spots as a dancer for Beyonce and Alicia Keys. He participated in the SYTYCD National Tour and Alicia Keys' World Tour and can be seen currently in Rihanna's "Hard" music video.



Bridget Wilson

Bridget is a versatile dancer, who is technically trained in ballet, jazz, tap, lyrical, modern, hip hop, and Bollywood. As a youth, she trained in a demanding 40 hour per week environment to compete with the nationally renowned Priscilla and Dana's School of Dance. She has trained with the likes of Sonya Tayeh, Brooke Pierotti, Chris Judd, Chuck Maldonado, Sakinah LeStage, Joni Hall, Tovariz Wilson, Andi Abernathy, and many more. Bridget has performed in the renowned Carnival dance showcase in California, been a featured dancer on numerous television shows, and worked with Chris Judd at the Pulse Convention. She has taught for the Dance Conservatory of Pasadena, and is currently a teacher at Debbie Reynolds Dance Studio in Hollywood, CA.



Mercedes Bolden

Born and raised in NC, Mercedes is trained in Tap, Jazz, Hip Hop, Contemporary, Lyrical, Musical Theatre, and Cecchetti Ballet. She began her professional career with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. She then moved to LA to work professionally, touring with the likes of Bobby Newberry and JUMP. She is back in NC and sharing her unique style and enthusiasm, which make her a favorite in the classroom!



THE EDGE

Workshop

Marcus Payne

Marcus was born in Lincoln, NE and graduated from the University of Nebraska Lincoln with a degree in communications. He began his dance career at the age of 18 and has worked with top choreographers in Denver, Chicago and Los Angeles, from such choreographers as Nappy Tabs, Wildabeast, Ian Eastwood, Brain Friedman and more.

Through his experience Marcus has been teaching workshops and competition pieces all over the world. Marcus was awarded the Millennium Dance Complex scholarship at the Monsters of Hip Hop convention. He works as the hip-hop choreographer for the National Talent Showcase, as well as Hall of Fame Dance Challenge. Marcus had the privilege of training Ben Chung of the Jabbawockeez and Brandon Harrell of IAMME crew, both past winners of Americas Best Dance Crew. As a performer, Marcus has opened for female pop group the OMG Girls, as well as performing for the Special Olympics opening ceremony. He thrives on bringing the new and fresh styles of hip-hop he learns in Los Angeles to his classes.



Kentrell Newton

Originally from Greensboro, NC, Kentrell discovered dance at a young age while watching videos of Michael Jackson and Usher. In college he was introduced to B-Boying by friends and soon after joined a college dance team called Couture Productions and a local team called 102 Jamz dancers. During his time with those teams, he performed and helped choreograph numerous events including NC A&T State University homecoming and Super Jam Concerts. Kentrell has performed his hip hop styles from Atlanta, to Los Angeles, and internationally in Shanghai, China. During his professional career he joined Swagger Crew, which were on Season 5 of MTV's America's Best Dance Crew, while teaching at Dancers Edge in North Carolina. He moved to Hollywood, CA to work professionally in film and television, and travels the nation doing choreography and teaching master classes and conventions. He has worked as a dancer and choreographer with various artists including T-Pain, Roscoe Dash, B5(AUDIO), Fivel Stewart, Cody Longo and Tyrone Emanuel. He currently teaches at the world famous Debbie Reynolds Dance Studio in Hollywood, CA and at Dance Studio 84 in Valencia, CA.



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Kelsey Rose

Kelsey is a performer, teacher and choreographer based in Detroit, Michigan. She is on faculty with Showstopper conventions, Fuzion dance camp, and Motor City Tap Fest, and is the director and lead choreographer for the pre-professional tap company – Detroit Tap Repertory, as well as a member of Shelby Kaufman’s tap company, G.L.Y.D.E., and Detroit’s Jordan Mac hip hop crew. In 2015, she was a contestant on the FOX Network’s So You Think You Can Dance - Season 12. She has had the privilege of studying under and performing alongside many of today’s most respected tap dancers and legends including Arthur Duncan, Ardie Bryant, Bill Irwin, Gregg Russell, Chloe Arnold, Sarah Reich, Chris Broughton, Jenefer Miller, and Suzy Guarino. As a choreographer, she creates a style that is intricate, gritty, passionate, and entertaining. Kelsey is a member of Cecchetti Council of America and is branching out into the ballroom arena completing her first season of amateur competition. She is currently working as a competitive tap instructor at two Metro Detroit studios and works independently as a choreographer for students throughout Michigan. Over the years, Kelsey has worked with the Jonas Brothers, Debbie Gibson, and Radio Disney and has performed in the Macy’s and Chicago Thanksgiving Day Parades, at the Detroit Jazz Festival, and at TedX Detroit.



Lori Crump

Lori Crump grew up in the dance world, training and competing at a local studio. She is a graduate of East Carolina University with a BFA in Dance Education. While at East Carolina, Lori received scholarships from the ECU Friends of Dance and her choreography was selected to represent ECU School of Dance at the 2012 ACFDA Mid-Atlantic Conference. Lori has 20 years of dance experience including extensive training in Modern, Jazz and Ballet from artists like Galina Panova, Tommi Galaska, Teal Darkenwald, Mark Haim, John Dixon and many others. Lori has taught dancers of every age in both a dance studio and public education settings. She currently teaches dance at Davie High School, where she is also over the school’s performance dance team. Recently, Lori was one of a select group of dance educators to be certified by the Ultra Barre creator/designer. It is a fusion of ballet barre, dance conditioning and Pilates designed to lengthen and tone muscles and create stronger core, better balance, joint stabilization and alignment, muscular strength, and an overall more toned body.

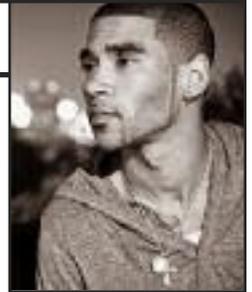


THE EDGE

Workshop

Dres Reid

Born in Fort Walton Beach, FL and raised in Charlotte, NC, Dres Reid has twenty years of professional dance experience. His impressive resume includes work in the music videos “So Excited” with Janet Jackson, “Candyman” with Christina Aguilera, “Push” with Enrique Iglesias, and “Pocketful of Sunshine” with Natasha Bedingfield. He has toured with industry giants including Christina Aguilera, Ricky Martin, Vanessa Hudgens, Keyshia Cole, and Whitney Houston. Dres was hired to be a back-up dancer for Michael Jackson’s “This Is It” Tour and was in the movie by the same name. He can also be seen, along with Travis Payne and Daniel Celebre, as one of the lead dancers in the now viral “dancing inmates” video tribute to Michael Jackson. Dres is a force in the LA dance world and professional dance scene and his unique teaching style and choreography have put him in demand at top studios across the country.



Lia Malcolm

Originally from Great Britain’s Royal Ballet, Lia Malcolm went on to have a 30 year, globe spanning professional performing career. After arriving in America, she was the principal dancer for Les Folies Bergere in Las Vegas. While in Las Vegas she was Guest Ballet Mistress to Cirque du Soleil’s Mystere, and appeared as Guest Artist with Cirque du Soleil at The House of Blues Mandalay Bay. Other credits include an adagio act for the New Year’s Eve production at Caesar’s Palace as well as a soloist for Risque at the Paris Hotel and Casino. She later joined the cast of Midnight Fantasy at the Luxor and was featured in Dick Foster’s production of Spellbound at Harrah’s casino in both Atlantic City and Lake Tahoe. Before coming to America, Lia enjoyed an extensive professional career in Great Britain, Europe and Asia. She was a regular special guest artist on a weekly, nationally televised BBC variety show in Great Britain as well as guest starring alongside and partnered by some very famous names such as Wayne Eagling - Principal of The Royal Ballet, Director of The Dutch National Ballet, Director Of The English National Ballet; Stephen Beagley Principal of The Royal Ballet; Matz Skoog - Principal/Director of The English National Ballet; Jay Jolley - Principal of The Royal Ballet, Principal of The Royal Winnipeg Ballet to name but a few.



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Sam Jones

Sam Jones is master of technique specializing in jazz, musical theatre and acro... and is equally well-versed in lyrical, contemporary, and many other dance styles.

Immediately after high school, Sam worked as a performer on Carnival Cruise Lines. Sam has traveled the world over and performed professionally in over 21 shows including "Kids of the Kingdom" at Walt Disney World in Orlando as Peter Pan, and as Prince Phillip at Tokyo Disneyland (Japan). He performed in "IMAGINE...A Theatrical Odyssey" and "Les Folies Bergere" in Las Vegas. Sam also worked as both a principal dancer and Assistant Choreographer at Myrtle Beach's renowned Alabama Theatre. He has trained and choreographed for many of the best dance studios in the Nation.



Ashley Rogers

Ashley Rogers was a student of Dancers Edge for a number of years, where she was on our award-winning competition teams for several years. Soon after graduating from the University of North Carolina School of



the Arts, Ashley moved to Los Angeles to pursue her dream as a dancer and to gain experience working with some of the best choreographers, producers and directors in the business. Before long, she was signed by the renowned Bloc Talent Agency. Ashley appeared on the hit show "Make It or Break It," became a principal dancer for the Mash Up Contemporary Dance Company, and gained valuable experience in both movies and national commercials. Ashley recently returned to North Carolina to pursue her love of dance as a full time teacher and choreographer at Dancers Edge.

Robert Poe

Robert Poe began dancing at Crosby's School of Dance in Aiken, SC and later furthers his studies at the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities. Professionally, he has danced with classical companies including the Columbia City Ballet, the Nashville Ballet, and Missouri Ballet Theatre. He has also danced with contemporary companies like Cedar Lake II and The Big Muddy Theatre and has performed with the Nashville Opera. Robert's choreography has been seen on the Nashville Ballet, Missouri Ballet Theatre, The Big Muddy Dance Company, Texture Contemporary Ballet and multiple dance studios across the country. Robert has performed with the Big Muddy for five seasons now, and is a member of the Senior Outreach Committee and serves as the Rehearsal Assistant to the company.



THE EDGE

Workshop

Victoria Brown

Victoria has over 15 years of training in contemporary, jazz, hip-hop, and ballet. She holds a BA in Dance with a Minor in Business from San Jose State University, and she also graduated from the Broadway Dance Center Internship program and The Historic Jacobs Pillow Summer Dance Intensive. She was in Bow Wow's video feat. Omarion "Girlfriend", Nelly feat. Fergie "Party People", just to name a few. She is currently Co-Artist Director of MashUp Contemporary Dance Company in LA.



Drew Davis

Drew started dancing at the age of nine, with a focus on ballet, tap and modern. He danced competitively for several years, winning many overall awards. He studied the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, where he danced in many ballets including Sleeping Beauty, Stars & Stripes, Paquita, and Don Quixote, to name a few. He performed many roles such as Snow King, Arabian, Lead Russian, and Toy Soldier in more than 100 performances of The Nutcracker over his eight years at NCSA. Drew spent two summers with the Boston Ballet and performed professionally with the Schrader Youth Ballet, The Charleston Ballet, and most recently with Ballet Austin in Texas. He has modeled for Curtain Call Costumes and was featured in Pointe Magazine.



Harrison Culbreth

Harrison Culbreth is a performer, teacher, choreographer, entrepreneur, producer, and director based out of Charlotte, NC. He is a highly accomplished tap artist who has quickly developed his own up-beat, energetic, and distinctive tap style. With a unique blend of heart, drive and admiration for the art, Harrison has become a highly qualified tap instructor throughout the country. He has taught and choreographed top scoring routines at several of the nation's Top 50 studios. Most recently, Harrison joined the Applause Talent staff. He travels the south-eastern part of the country co-directing, announcing, teaching and creating choreography for the events.

