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GIORDANO DANCE CHICAGO





Welcome!

On behalf of the entire staff, I welcome you to the McAninch Arts Center. We are so happy you are here and welcome you to our MAC family and hope you feel at home. We want this to be your home to unplug and connect to an evening filled with laughter, music, dance, or theatre. We strive to inspire you through unique and inspiring theater experiences. We hope to transcend your expectations with excellent service and special pre and post-show engagement opportunities that help you connect to the artists and art forms more deeply. While you are here, don't forget to take some time to visit the Cleve Carney Museum of Art in the Lobby to experience cutting-edge contemporary art or enjoy our full-service concession area.

When you leave, please stay connected to us by joining us on Facebook (AtTheMAC) or by joining our e-newsletter to find out about added shows, events, and special offers (www.AtTheMAC.org). This year we challenge you to try something new at the MAC and expand your cultural palate. We invite you to join us for our free Global Flicks Film Series in February, to attend one of our student productions, or to join us this summer for the Andy Warhol Portfolios: A Life in Pop Exhibition.

We are thrilled that you have joined us, and if you should need anything during your visit, please don't hesitate to ask any of the staff, and we will do our best to accommodate you. We know you have many choices, and we are grateful you chose us. We sincerely hope you have a wonderful time and look forward to entertaining you.

Enjoy the show!

Diana Martinez
Director, McAninch Arts Center

McAninch Arts Center
at College of DuPage
presents

60 YEARS GIORDANO
DANCE CHICAGO



The McAninch Arts Center acknowledges support from
the Illinois Arts Council Agency.



Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022, 7:30 p.m.
Belushi Performance Hall

GIORDANO DANCE CHICAGO

Season 60 | *Catch the Light. Feel the Radiance. Celebrate Giordano!*
October 15, 2022, 7:30PM

Gus Giordano *Founder*
Nan Giordano *Artistic Director*
Michael McStraw *Executive Director*

THE ENSEMBLE

Brittany Brown
Ryan Galloway
Adam Houston
Zach Morris
Katie Rafferty
Eduardo Zambrana

Joseph Cyranski
Rosario Guillen
Emma Kempson*
Skyler Newcom
Fernando Rodriguez

Ashley Downs
Amanda Hickey
Sasha Lazarus
Onjélee Phomthirath
Erina Ueda
**not performing*

STAFF:

Founder..... Gus Giordano
Artistic Director..... Nan Giordano
Executive Director..... Michael McStraw
Associate Artistic Director..... Cesar G. Salinas
Operations Manager, Director Giordano II..... Joshua Blake Carter
Development Director Diana Nielander
Administrative Manager Gavin Harper
Technical Director Jacob Snodgrass
Marketing Assistant Victoria Wesloh
Marketing & Design Consultant..... Beth Wojdyla
Financial Services & IT Provider Chicago Transom Partners
Rehearsal Captains..... Adam Houston, Katie Rafferty
Costume Managers..... Adam Houston, Katie Rafferty
PhotographyGorman Cook Photography
& Todd Rosenberg Photography
Videography..... HMS Media, Erina Ueda
Booking Agent..... Cathy Pruzan, Pruzan Dance Arts
Official Provider of Physical & Occupational TherapyAthletico
Official Health Club Fitness Formula Clubs
Official Rehearsal Space..... Page Center for the Arts
Public Relations and Marketing Agency..... Carol Fox & Associates

GIORDANO DANCE CHICAGO

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info@giordanodance.org | giordanodance.org

FOR BOOKING INFORMATION

Cathy Pruzan, Booking Agent
cpruzan@aol.com
FOR INTEREST IN OUR INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
Gavin Harper, Administrative Manager
gavinharper@giordanodance.org

Giordano Moves (2005 – reconstructed 2022)

Choreography: Gus Giordano

Original Structure and Staging: Nan Giordano and Jon Lehrer

Restructure and Staging: Nan Giordano and Cesar G. Salinas

Original Music: George McRae

Lighting Design: Kevin Dreyer

Costume Design: Nina G.

Dancers: Brittany Brown, Joseph Cyranski, Ashley Downs, Ryan Galloway,
Amanda Hickey, Adam Houston, Sasha Lazarus, Zach Morris, Skyler Newcom,

Onjélee Phomthirath, Katie Rafferty, Fernando Rodriguez,

Erina Ueda, Eduardo Zambrana

Gus Giordano's classic style of jazz dance is timeless. IT is grounded and regal, earthbound and proud. We have taken movement from decades of his work, collaborated on a new jazz score, and created Giordano Moves. With this work, we honor and pay tribute to our Founder, the legendary Gus Giordano. Original funding generously provided by The Chicago Community Trust.

commonthread (2009)

Choreography: Autumn Eckman

Original Music Score: Dan Myers and John Ovnik

Lighting Design: Kam Hobbs

Costume Design: Branimira Ivanova

Dancers: Ashley Downs, Amanda Hickey, Adam Houston,

Skyler Newcom, Katie Rafferty

Impulse (2006)

Choreography: Tony Powell

Reconstruction (2022): Cesar G. Salinas

Music: Thom Willems, Ethos Percussion Group,

Carlos Stasi, Kodo Drummers of Japan

Music Edit/Arrangement: Tony Powell

Lighting Design: Kevin Dreyer

Costume Design: Nan Zabriskie

Costume Construction (2022): Nathan Rohrer

Dancers: Ashley Downs, Ryan Galloway, Rosario Guillen, Amanda Hickey,

Adam Houston, Skyler Newcom, Onjélee Phomthirath, Katie Rafferty,

Fernando Rodriguez, Erina Ueda

INTERMISSION

Groove, in formed (2019)

Choreography: Peter Chu

Choreography Assistant: Jenni Gordon

Original Music Score: Jake Kelberman

Music Performance: Khary Abdul-Shaheed (drums), Tim Brey (organ),
Anthony Decarlo (bass), Noah Halpern (trumpet),
Nathan Pence (bass), Gusten Rudolph (drums)

Lighting Design: Jacob Snodgrass

Costume Design: Nathan Rohrer

Dancers: Ashley Downs, Ryan Galloway, Amanda Hickey, Adam Houston,
Skyler Newcom, Onjélee Phomthirath, Katie Rafferty,
Fernando Rodriguez, Erina Ueda, Eduardo Zambrana

Jazz dance was one of the primary techniques I studied during my training years. It was then I began to appreciate the polyrhythms and the history that helped shape this American art form.

For this second creation for Giordano Dance Chicago, I wanted to connect to the steps and rhythms infused in jazz dance and the Giordano Technique. Smooth and syncopated moves in the body emphasize individuality but are united by the pulsing history of this art form. Fad dances like the Charleston and Roger Rabbit have an understated presence in this work as well as a few exercises from the Giordano Technique as a way to build and “in form” this communal experience.

In this work, we celebrate individuality, which is a crucial component to jazz dance & being ‘in the groove.’ The vibrations and sounds generated from music connects humans at a profound level as rhythms can heal and bring communities together during times of sadness, grief, love, and joy.

—Peter Chu

lub-dub (Special Preview Performance)

Choreography: Cesar G. Salinas

Music: Travis Lake, Medwyn Goodall

Lighting Design: Jacob Snodgrass

Costume Design: Jordan Ross

Dancers: Ryan Galloway, Rosario Guillen, Onjélee Phomthirath, Fernando Rodriguez, Erina Ueda

Used to represent the normal rhythms of the heart on auscultation, comprising the first and second heart sounds. The low-pitched, longer first heart sound forms lub. The higher-pitched, shorter second heart sound forms dub.

PROGRAM

SOUL (2018)

Choreography: Ray Leeper

Choreography Assistant: Kristen Gorski Wergeles

Music: Gladys Knight and the Pips, Al Green, Tina Turner

Lighting Design: Jacob Snodgrass

Costume Design: Jordan Ross

Dancers: Brittany Brown, Ashley Downs, Ryan Galloway, Rosario Guillen, Amanda Hickey, Adam Houston, Skyler Newcom, Onjélee Phomthirath, Katie Rafferty, Fernando Rodriguez, Erina Ueda

SOUL was created in honor of Chicago philanthropist Candace Jordan, whose spirit, passion, and advocacy for the performing arts are without bounds. This was made possible, in part, by contributions to the Susan Carlins "Make It Happen" Initiative.

Join us on stage after the show for a disco-inspired dance class with Cesar G. Salinas! The class is free for all patrons who attended the show and all skill levels are welcome.



Featuring
Andy Warhol Portfolios: A Life in Pop
Works from the Bank of America Collection

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**College of DuPage
FOUNDATION**



**Bjarne R. Ullsvik
G. Carl Ball Family Foundation**

ABOUT

Giordano Dance Chicago (GDC) America's original jazz dance company is celebrating 60 years of expanding jazz dance! Giordano Dance Chicago is an iconic cultural organization and an integral part of Chicago's vibrant performing arts community. From our origins in founder Gus Giordano's original school in Evanston, IL, to our current incarnation as a world-class dance company, GDC boasts over a half-century of worldwide performances (28 countries, 47 states, and more than 1,300 cities) with an imprint on the art form of jazz dance that is far-reaching and significant. For 38 years GDC has been under the Artistic Leadership of Nan Giordano who is responsible for commissioning numerous groundbreaking works, the mentoring of hundreds of young dancers and choreographers, and the development of the Nan Giordano Certification Program®. The Program, which offers multi-level instruction and certification in the proprietary Giordano Technique, has certified dance educators in 36 states and 7 countries, all integrating the Technique into their college, high school, and studio programs. Each Spring, GDC's *Jazz Dance/Science & Health* program teaches elementary school anatomy and nutrition through a dance-centric program in CPS science classrooms. In 2022 the program brought 250 classes to 350 students in four under-resourced schools, all taught by GDC dancers. With the leadership of Nan, Executive Director Michael McStaw, and the support of our Board of Directors, Giordano Dance Chicago is stronger than ever. Join us for **Season 60** *Catch the Light, Feel the Radiance, Celebrate Giordano!*
www.giordanodance.org

Giordano II (GII) is dedicated to the nurturing and elevation of young professional dancers under the artistic leadership of Nan Giordano and directed by Joshua Blake Carter. The dancers of GII are provided the unique opportunity to be mentored by Giordano Dance Chicago dancers with the goal of advancement to the main company. Through the company's *Giordano on Giordano* program, GII premieres new works each season created by GDC's artistic team and main company dancers. GII performs at venues throughout the Midwest, preparing dancers with on-stage experience necessary for a career in concert dance and allowing them to broaden their technical and artistic range.

LEADERSHIP PROFILES



Gus Giordano (Founder) (1923 – 2008)

Gus Giordano's dedication to jazz dance exhibited itself in all facets of his extraordinary life: dancer, master teacher, choreographer, author, and founder of the Giordano Dance School (GDS) in Evanston, Illinois, founder of the dance company Giordano Dance Chicago and founder of Jazz Dance World Congress. Mr. Giordano created and taught the

Giordano Technique at venues across the United States and around the world. He choreographed in all areas of performance including television, film, stage, commercials, industrials, and concert dance. In 1976 Giordano wrote the highly acclaimed *Anthology of American Jazz Dance*. In August 1990, Giordano organized the first Jazz Dance World Congress, which gathered renowned jazz dance master teachers and companies. The Congress has been held at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Northwestern University, the University at Buffalo, Point Park University, as well as in Phoenix, Chicago, Japan, Germany, Mexico, and Costa Rica. Gus Giordano received many awards including the 1984 Dance Educators of America Award for his outstanding contribution to the world of jazz dance, the 1988 Mayor's Award for the Arts, the 1989 Governor's Award for the Arts for exemplary individual artistic achievement, the 1991 Dance Teacher Now Circle Award, the 1993 Ruth Page Lifetime Service to the Field Award, and the 1996 University of Missouri Distinguished Alumni Award and William Francis English Scholar-in-Residence Award. In 1985, Governor James Thompson declared April 25 Gus Giordano Day. In 1995 he received the Honorable Artist Award from Chukyo University in Nagoya, Japan. In 1997 Giordano served as National Spokesperson for National Dance Week. In 1999, he received the Third Annual Katherine Dunham Award for excellence and great contributions to the Arts, and in 2003, Chicago's Mayor Daley presented Giordano with the Chicago Senior of the Year Award. In 2005 the National Dance Association presented Mr. Giordano with its Heritage Award, and the same year he received an Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts Degree from Shenandoah University.



Nan Giordano (Artistic Director). At the helm for 38 years, Ms. Giordano's leadership of Giordano Dance Chicago began in 1985 as Associate Director, and in 1993 was appointed the title of Artistic Director. Ms. Giordano was trained by her father and mentor, Gus Giordano, who created the world-renowned Giordano Technique. Developer of the Nan Giordano Certification Program®, Ms. Giordano is the world's

preeminent authority on the essence, discipline, progression and continuance of the Giordano Technique; the vision of NGCP® 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. Before taking the reins on the artistic side, her concert dance

LEADERSHIP PROFILES

experience began with Giordano Dance Theatre, apprenticing and then joining GDC. With her father leading 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 in 1985, Ms. Giordano 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 38 years, under Ms. Giordano's direction, GDC has established a high-profile reputation for excellence in the Chicago dance community, as well as in the national and international dance worlds.

Ms. Giordano has guided the development of a large and diverse repertoire. Her concert choreography credits include five works in GDC's repertoire. On the commercial side Ms. Giordano has choreographed several television commercials. Ms. Giordano 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, Mexico, and Israel. She is also the driving force behind *Jazz Dance/Science & Health*, GDC's outreach program in three under-resourced Chicago Public Schools. Ms. Giordano received the Manford Byrd Jr. Wizard of Oz Award for Outstanding Service from Howland School of the Arts. Ms. Giordano is Artistic Director of Jazz Dance World Congress (JDWC), an event that draws dancers, choreographers, and teachers from more than 30 countries. Ms. Giordano served three years on the Illinois Arts Council Dance Panel as well as on the Community Arts Assistance Program Dance Panel for the City of Chicago, Department of Cultural Affairs. She currently serves on the International Ballet Competition, National Honorary Committee, and the Advisory Board for *Dance Magazine & Dance Teacher Magazine*. She was recognized as a cover story in *Dance Teacher Magazine's* January 2018 issue. Ms. Giordano was also honored by Mayor Rahm Emanuel, who declared June 9, 2018, Nan Giordano Day for her leadership and contributions to the Chicago community. In August 2018, Chicago Dancers United honored Ms. Giordano (along with Lou Conte) with the Dance for Life Impact Award, recognizing her contributions to the Chicago dance community and Dance for Life. In celebration of Ms. Giordano's landmark year, the *Chicago Tribune* released their "2018 Chicagoans of the Year", of which she was spotlighted as the city's "Dance" honoree. In summer of 2019, Ms. Giordano was honored with the Grace Wakefield Lifetime Achievement Award by Star Dance Alliance at the Circle of Excellence Gala. During the dim lit world, Ms. Giordano launched a virtual project in Latin America, *Illuminate the Possibilities*. In October 2022, Ms. Giordano will be the Keynote Speaker at the Women in Dance Leadership Conference in Chicago.

LEADERSHIP PROFILES



Michael McStaw (Executive Director) is a member of and outstanding advocate for the Chicago performing arts community. As a professional dancer, semi-professional musician, arts administrator, dance educator, board member, and arts patron, McStaw has been a positive and constant influence in the community for the past 38 years. Raised in Western Pennsylvania, his life includes a BS degree in Geology from Allegheny College, a Master of Fine Arts degree in Modern Dance from the University of Michigan, and a stint as an agricultural extension agent in the Peace Corps in Sierra Leone, West Africa. He danced extensively with the area's premier contemporary dance companies, including Mordine & Company Dance Theater, an organization he also managed, Jan Erkert & Dancers, and DanszLoop Chicago, of which he was a founding member. McStaw was a member of and soloist with Chicago Master Singers for over 12 years and has performed extensively at numerous area churches and synagogues. McStaw's return to full-time arts administration ended a successful 17-year career in the pharmaceutical industry, most notably with G.D. Searle and Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America. He is an experienced marketing, operations, and project management professional with special skill in developing strategic long-term solutions for complex business issues. McStaw is Executive Director of Jazz Dance World Congress, has twice served three-year terms on the Illinois Arts Council Dance Panel, is past President and Board Member for See Chicago Dance, Chicago's dance marketing and advocacy organization, and has mentored young artists/administrators within Pentacle's Help Desk program. McStaw is a member of the Harris Theater Board of Trustees.



Joshua Blake Carter (Operations Manager, Director Giordano II) has created works for dance companies, theater companies and events across the nation. Originally from Atlanta, GA, he was selected as the 2009 winner of Wonderbound's (formerly Ballet Nouveau Colorado) national choreography competition, *dancemakers2.0*. In 2013, he was one of six winners commissioned to create a new work for DanceWorks Chicago's *DanceMoves* choreography competition and was awarded the Producers' Panel Prize by the Ruth Page Foundation for his work, "Ripen." Carter has created three original works for Giordano Dance Chicago, where he danced for seven seasons and currently serves as Operations Manager, and nine original works for Giordano II, where he currently serves as Director. Carter's choreography for Disney's *NEWSIES* at the Paramount Theatre was nominated for a Joseph Jefferson Award and Regional Broadway World Award. Other commissions include Missouri Contemporary Ballet, Nomi Dance Company, Visceral Dance Chicago, and Artifact Dance Project as well as an original work for Embarq with Joffrey Ballet. In 2016, he created the finale for the event *Sing! featuring Elton John*. Carter has been an Artist in Residence with Brenau University, Glendale

LEADERSHIP PROFILES

Community College, Illinois State University, Salve Regina University and Southeast Missouri State University.



Cesar G. Salinas (Associate Artistic Director), originally from Portland, OR, was named Associate Artistic Director for Giordano Dance Chicago at the start of their 60th Anniversary Season. He began his formal studies in dance with Zohar School of Dance, under the direction of Ehud Krauss in Palo Alto, CA. There he was introduced to the classic jazz styles of Gus Giordano, Luigi, and Matt Mattox. He moved to Oregon where he studied at Willamette Ballet Academy under Deborah Higginbotham. Salinas went on to further his training at the University at Buffalo, where he graduated with a BFA in Dance. He received a scholarship to Giordano Dance School in Chicago, IL, in 2004 and 2005. From 2006 until 2011, Salinas joined Giordano Dance Chicago as a full company member performing throughout the United States and Europe. Salinas was honored to be on the cover of *Dance Magazine* (August 2007) and to teach at the Jazz Dance World Congress in 2007, 2009, and 2012. In 2013, he was chosen as a soloist for BalaSole Dance Company performing “Hunted” in New York City’s Alvin Ailey Citigroup where he received rave reviews: “richly physical performance that drew the audience’s unfettered enthusiasm” – Philip Gordon. Salinas toured the world with Royal Caribbean cruise lines as a performer in the Broadway production of *Saturday Night Fever* as well as an aerialist. In the January 2018 issue of *Dance Teacher Magazine*, Salinas demonstrates the Giordano Technique alongside Nan Giordano in honor of the company’s 55th Anniversary Season. Salinas is a certified teacher in the Giordano Technique at the Basic, Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, and Professional Levels of the Nan Giordano Certification Program® (NGCP®). Most recently Salinas returned to the stage at the Auditorium Theatre to perform Gus Giordano’s 1978 iconic solo *Wings* in honor of Nan Giordano’s 33 years at the helm and 25th Anniversary as Artistic Director for GDC. Lauren Warnecke of *See Chicago Dance* wrote, “...you could almost imagine Gus himself up there performing the piece he made 40 years ago.” He currently teaches master classes for workshops and festivals, as well as choreographs for universities and studios across the country.



Jacob Snodgrass (Technical Director) has been designing lights and working within the performing arts community since 2000, both domestically and abroad. Some of the artists he has worked with are Aerial Dance Chicago, BONEdance, The Dance COLlective, Khecar Dance Theater, Breakbone Dance Company, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Peter Carpenter Performance Project, instruments of movement, Same Planet Different World, james morrow/the movement, Chamber Opera Chicago, Cuba’s Escuela Nacional de Ballet, REIDance, Havana Cuba’s DanzAbierta, Soham Dance,

Cerqua Rivera Dance Theater, Concert Dance Inc./CDi, Joel Hall Dancers, Hedwig Dances, the Other Dance Festival, the Ruth Page Foundation, the Space Movement Project, Canada's lbs/sq", NEIU Repertory Dance, Thodos Dance Chicago's New Dances, Shaw Chicago, WNEP Theater, 16th Street Theater, The Neofuturists, City Lit Theater, and Free Street Theater. He has been technical director at the Ruth Page Theater, Links Hall and Hamlin Park Dance Theater, and has recently taken the position of Lighting Director at the Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago.



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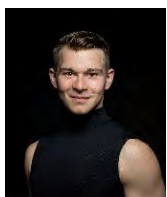
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COMPANY PROFILES



Brittany Brown from Baltimore, MD recently graduated from the Boston Conservatory at Berkley, and is in her second season with Giordano Dance Chicago as a member of Giordano II. While at the Boston Conservatory, she choreographed works on fellow students for multiple showcases. Brown was a Movement Artist with SoundXpressed Dance Company from 2019-2021 and has had the opportunity to perform works by

Margo Sappington, Roderick George, Gregory Dawson, Ron Brown, and Tommie Waheed Evans. Brown is certified through the intermediate level for Nan Giordano Certification Program and holds a Royal Academy of Dance teaching certification for levels primary through intermediate. She has also enjoyed choreographing in the Giordano Choreography project and being a part of the Giordano's Jazz Dance/Science and Health program.



Joseph Cyranski, from New Baltimore, MI joined Giordano Dance Chicago for their 60th season as a new member in Giordano II. He graduated from Marymount Manhattan College in 2020 with a BFA in dance and a concentration in ballet. During his time there he performed works by Jessica Lang, Angelica Stiskin, Jenn Freeman, Earl Mosley, and Larry Keigwin. He attended Springboard Danse Montreal in 2019

and had the opportunity to perform works by Shannon Guillen while training with other choreographers and creators such as Bobbi Jean Smith, Victor Quijada, and Johannes Wieland. Cyranski is looking forward to celebrating an incredible year with America's original jazz dance company.



Ashley Downs is a member of the main company from Lake Elmo, MN, is in her tenth season performing with Giordano Dance Chicago. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Point Park University with a Bachelor of Arts degree, and a concentration in Jazz. Downs has performed in the premieres of works by Ray Leeper, Ray Mercer, Peter Chu, Roni Koresh, and various prominent choreographers. She has loved being a part

of Giordano's Jazz Dance/Science & Health program since 2016 and is certified through the Advanced Level of the Nan Giordano Certification Program®.



Ryan Galloway from New Richmond, IN, returns to the stage and GDC for a 7th season. He is a graduate of Indiana University, where he won the Provost's Award for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity in the category of Performing and Creative Arts. He has performed works by choreographers including Paul Taylor, David Parson, Larry Keigwin, and Ishan Rustem, and performed at the National

College Dance Festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

COMPANY PROFILES

When he is not on stage, he can be found at Principle Dance in Forest Park, IL, which he co-owns with his wife Kim.



Rosario Guillen from Pharr, TX trained at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee. He is in his second year with Giordano Dance Chicago, his first as a main company member. He was a soloist with the San Jose Dance Theatre in the 2020-21 season and danced in Sony Pictures' *Little Women* (2019). He has also performed as Juan in a production of *West Side Story* by the Lexington Theatre Company, and as Rudolph in

Franklin Performing Arts Center's rendition of *Matilda*. Guillen has choreographed for the San Jose Dance Theatre, the Commonwealth Ballet Company, and the Boston Conservatory at Berklee.



Amanda Hickey main company member from Hanover Park, IL is in her fifth year with GDC. Hickey began her dance training at Faubourg School of Ballet and graduated with honors from Butler University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Performance. She spent four years dancing with Nomi Dance Company, and has performed principal roles in the Schaumburg Dance Ensemble's annual *Nutcracker*. Hickey has

had the opportunity to choreograph pieces for Nomi Dance Company, the Ballet Theatre of Indiana, The Ballet Initiative, and Giordano II. Beyond performing and choreographing, Hickey is passionate about teaching and is certified in all five levels of Nan Giordano Certification Program®.



Adam Houston is a main company member of Boone, IA has been with GDC for ten seasons. In addition to dancing Houston serves as one of the co-Rehearsal Captains and co-Costume Managers. He graduated Magna Cum Laude with the "Outstanding Senior" award from the School of Dance at University of Arizona, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance. In his time with GDC Houston has toured regionally, nationally,

and internationally. He has many performances under his belt, but some of the most fulfilling in his career include being cast as the male soloist in signature GDC work and personal Gus Giordano favorite, "Can't Take This Away", choreographed by Randy Duncan. Houston is a sought-after teacher and choreographer. He has completed all five levels of the Nan Giordano Certification Program® and is heavily involved in GDC's outreach program, Jazz Dance/Science & Health, in Chicago Public Schools. He has choreographed on several award-winning schools as well as three pieces for Giordano II, and in the Fall of 2021, Giordano Dance Chicago premiered his first work, "All For You" on the main company. Houston is honored to be in his tenth season with Giordano Dance Chicago, continuously fulfilling his dream.

COMPANY PROFILES



Emma Kempson, originally from Los Angeles, CA, is thrilled to be in her first season with Giordano Dance Chicago as a company member of Giordano II. Kempson attended the State University of New York at Purchase College and was selected to study abroad in Hong Kong at the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts. In 2021 she graduated Summa Cum Laude, receiving her BFA in Dance and Minor in Arts

Management. Over the years Kempson has choreographed many of her works and has been fortunate enough to train under the direction of/perform works by Olivia Ancona, Peter Chu, Francisco Gella, Ohad Naharin and several other well renowned artists. In addition, she has traveled worldwide for dance intensives including Joffrey (Chicago), Orsolina 28 (Italy), Share (Paris), and Alonzo King Lines (San Francisco). She is excited to celebrate the 60th season of Giordano Dance Chicago!



Sasha Lazarus from Delray Beach, FL is entering her second year with GDC as a member of Giordano II. Growing up, she trained at Boca Ballet Theatre, under the direction of Jane Tyree and Dan Guin, and at Performance Edge 2, under Ricardo Pena. In 2017, Lazarus graduated from The Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts, having performed in works by Margo Sappington, Christopher Huggins, Jennifer Archibald,

Meredith Dincolo, Krista Ellensohn, Jan Hanniford, Jennifer Kronenberg, and more. Lazarus completed Complexions Contemporary Ballet's Pre-Professional Program in 2018, then kicked off her professional career by joining Menlowe Ballet from 2018-2020. There, she performed principal roles in works by Michael Lowe, Dennis Nahat, and Donald McKayle. Lazarus has been recognized as a National Young Arts Winner in Ballet and Modern Dance. She is certified to the Advanced Level of the Nan Giordano Certification Program®.



Zachary Morris from Bay Area, CA joined Giordano II in the second half of the 59th Season and is beyond excited to be back for the company's 60th anniversary. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan (U of M) School of Music Theater and Dance with a BFA, in addition to his degree in Women and Gender Studies from the U of M School of Language, Science, and the Arts. He has performed in works choreographed by

Victor Quijada and Kara Davis, worked with Shannon Gillen and Vim Vigor at The University of Michigan, and performed with Alonzo King Lines Ballet. Morris danced with the Dance Legacy Project in Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 by Dorris Humphrey, as reset by Jillian Hopper for the Library of Congress. He has also received recognition for his portrayal of Action in The Mountain Plays 2016 production of *West Side Story*.

COMPANY PROFILES



Skyler Newcom from Lawrenceville, GA is in his second year in the main company after a year as a Junior Performing Associate with GDC. Newcom graduated with a Certificate of Achievement from the School of Dance at the University of Arizona and is certified in the Beginning Level of the Nan Giordano Certification Program®. Through the Medici Scholarship, he was able to study at the Perry Mansfield

Summer Camp and perform with Stacy Tookie and her company. Newcom performed “Na Floresta” by Nacho Duato while in college and was honored to dance in what he considers his most challenging duet role to date, “All for You” by Adam Houston in the 2020 *Giordano on Giordano* show.



Onjélee Phomthirath, from Columbus, OH, is in her first season as a main company member with Giordano Dance Chicago after one year with Giordano II. She spent many years of her youth learning at Pinnell Dance Centre under Jeri Pinnell, and recently graduated from Ohio State University with a BFA in Dance. During her time at OSU, she collaborated with her peers and BalletMet, and performed in the Dance

Brazil Tour. She has danced with Bella Moxi Dance, and SALT 2 Contemporary Dance.



Katie Rafferty, a main company member from Oakford, PA, is entering her thirteenth season with Giordano Dance Chicago. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with the Outstanding Jazz Dance Performer Award from the UArts Jazz Faculty. Rafferty couldn't be prouder of her time with the company; in addition to dancing, she also holds responsibilities as co-Costume

Manager and co-Rehearsal Captain. She has been teaching for GDC Outreach programs, including Jazz Dance/Science & Health since 2010, and is certified to the Professional Level of the Nan Giordano Certification Program®. Rafferty had the honor of choreographing a pas de deux for Giordano on *Giordano* a few seasons ago entitled “Fly Me to The Moon.”



Fernando Rodriguez of Fort Gratiot, MI, is entering his second year as a main company member after one year as a performing associate with GDC. He graduated from Grand Valley State University and Lakewood School of Therapeutic Massage. He has danced with River North Dance Chicago, Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre, Paramount Theatre (*West Side Story*), DITP, Owen/Cox Dance, Grand Rapids Ballet Company

and the Missouri Contemporary Ballet and became a Resident Choreographer Lincoln Center in for the Missouri Contemporary Ballet in 2016, dancing from

COMPANY PROFILES

South Korea to New York City. Rodriguez won the 2019 Inaside Chicago Dance Choreography Competition with his piece, “Pass Me By.”



Erina Ueda, was born in Nagoya, Japan, and raised in Chandler, AZ. This season, she is entering her first year as a main company member after a year as a Giordano II dancer. She is also our videographer and social media consultant, and has completed the Professional Level of the Nan Giordano Certification Program® as the first Japanese certified worldwide. She attended the University of Arizona, where she graduated Summa Cum Laude with a major in Dance and a minor in Psychology in 2021. Already in her young career, Ueda has toured many states and countries, has been selected and premiered many of her choreographic works, and has accumulated many performances by renowned choreographers, including Paul Taylor, Martha Graham, Ohad Naharin, Crystal Pite, Ronen Koresh, Ray Mercer, Frank Chavez, Autumn Eckman, Alejandro Cerrudo, Christopher Huggins, Peter Chu, Ray Leeper, Kiesha Lalama, Jon Lehrer, Nacho Duato, and many various prominent choreographers. Ueda has been featured in Netflix’s 2018 film “Driven to Dance” by Tati and Anthony Vogt, and she will be featured alongside Autumn Eckman in a soon-to-be-released documentary filmed by Emmy Award-winner, Ryan Fitzgerald.



Eduardo Zambrana, MFA Choreography and Performance, University of Arizona, from Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, joined Giordano II during the second half of the 59th Season and is thrilled to be back for the company’s 60th anniversary. In 2020, Zambrana was awarded the Creative Achievement Award for his exceptional talent, creativity, and innovative artistry, and received first place in his category at the Red Rock

Screen Dance Film Festival in 2021 for his work *It’s Made of Thoughts*. His choreographic commissions include original works for the proscenium stage, film, and non-traditional spaces including Frank Lloyd Wright’s Taliesin West historical landmark in Scottsdale, Arizona and Florence Dance on Screen in Florence, Italy. At the University of Arizona, Zambrana has danced works by renowned faculty such as Sam Watson, Tamara Dyke-Compton, and Michael Williams as well as many masterworks, including those by Nacho Duato, Larry Keigwin, Paul Taylor, Frank Chavez, and Martha Graham. During his first year with GDC, he toured with the company to several cities in the country where he performed repertoire by Autumn Eckman, Kiesha Lalama, Ray Mercer, Jon Lehrer, Christopher Huggins, Ronen Koresh, and Ray Leeper, and he is the only Bolivian worldwide certified to the Professional Level of the Nan Giordano Certification Program®.

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CHOREOGRAPHER PROFILES



Peter Chu originally from Cocoa Beach, FL, is a distinguished artist who strives to push the physical bounds of dance. He began his training as a competitive gymnast, later nurturing his artistry at Dussich Dance Studio where his evolution into dance began. As a BFA student at The Juilliard School (under the direction of Benjamin Harkarvy), Chu was pushed further as a technical mover and began an explosive journey into choreography. Upon graduation, he was awarded the Hector Zaraspe Prize for Choreography. Chu is a remarkable and multi-faceted artist. As a performer, he has danced with BJM_Danse and EZdanza, as the lead in Christina Perri's "Jar of Hearts" music video, in Celine Dion's Vegas spectacular "A New Day," and with Crystal Pite's company Kidd Pivot. In 2008, Chu formed a Las Vegas project-based company—chuthis. His multi-disciplinary dance company combines innovative lighting and sound with live contemporary movement. In 2018, chuthis. presented "paper cuts in an empty bag" at Zuiderstrandtheater in The Hague, Netherlands, as a part of the Shortcuts XL program, and was the company in residence at Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts School & Camp. A part of the mission of chuthis. is to provide movement education programs for the next generation of artists. Through the chuthis. Movement Intensive, an annual summer event, and chuthis. Moves, a 2-3 day custom workshop or both national and international dance schools, the chuthis. team fosters technical/artistic development and mind/body familiarity while igniting an adventurous side of dance. Chu has been an honored recipient of choreographic awards & commissions, including the Hector Zaraspe Prize, A.C.E. Capezio Award, & Hubbard Street Dance International Commission Project. He was also named a Blodgett Distinguished Artist by Harvard University for 2018. Additionally, Chu has served as the Rehearsal Director for Nederlands Dans Theater 2, and as a Guest Rehearsal Director for NDT1. Chu has created works for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Staatstheater Augsburg, Germany, Charlotte Ballet, Charlotte Ballet II, Orlando Ballet Theatre, Hubbard Street 2, Giordano Dance Chicago, So You Think You Can Dance, Naomi Stikeman's Çaturn, Houston MET Dance, New Dialect, SALT Contemporary Dance, The Juilliard School, Harvard University, Point Park University, Nederlands Dans Theater Summer Intensive, Springboard Danse Montreal, SUNY Purchase, Western Michigan University, & Brigham Young University Contemporary Dance Theatre, among others. Teaching highlights include Harvard University (Guest Lecturer), HSPRO, Springboard X | shift perspective, Axis Connect, Hubbard Street Studio Series, The Dance Teacher Summit, and Movement Invention Project. Most recently, Chu has premiered new works for Giordano Dance Chicago and Gibney Dance Company, and was the choreographer for Cirque du Soleil's Vitori in Malta. In 2021-22, Chu premiered a creation for Paul Taylor Dance Company, and developed a new work with his own company, chuthis.

CHOREOGRAPHER PROFILES



Born in Atlanta, GA, **Autumn Eckman** (MFA Choreography, University of Iowa) received her training from Tom Pazik, Susan Banks Beebee, Patricia Bromley, Kathryn MacBeth, Gary Harrison and Dean Williams prior to graduating on full scholarship from the Houston Ballet Academy. In her performance career, Eckman had the privilege to dance with Giordano Dance Chicago where she also served as Assistant

Artistic Director, Resident Choreographer and Director Giordano II, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Luna Negra Dance Theatre, Lucky Plush Productions, Ron De Jesus Dance, State Street Ballet and The Cambrians. Her choreographic commissions include original works for State Street Ballet (Artist-In-Residence), DanceWorks Chicago, Kit Modus, Big Muddy Dance Co., Wyllyams-Henry Dance Company, Missouri Contemporary Ballet, Washington & Lee University, Stephens College, Western Michigan University, Grand Valley State University, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and the University of Missouri- Kansas City. Her choreography has been presented at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Bates Dance Festival, Women In Dance Leadership Conference, Performática (Mexico), Solo Duo Dance Festival (NYC), Detroit Dance City Festival, Charlotte Dance Festival, Blackbox International Theatre & Dance Festival (Bulgaria), Dance Gallery Festival (TX), Men In Dance Festival (WA), the McCallum Choreography Competition (CA) and with JUNTOS Collective (Guatemala) where she served as the outreach choreographer in the summer of 2019. Eckman taught as Instructor of Dance at Northern Illinois University (2009-2015) and as Assistant Professor of Dance at the University of Arizona for four years. She teaches nationally for schools including the Atlanta Academy of Ballet and Dance, Vitacca Vocational School for Dance (Houston), Jacqueline's School of Ballet (Utah), State Street Ballet Summer Intensive/Professional Track, Open Doors Dance Festival and the Bates Dance Festival. Eckman is currently an inaugural faculty member of the School of the Arts at Gwinnett High School in Lawrenceville, GA.



Talented and creative, **Ray Leeper** has established himself as one of Hollywood's leading creative directors, producers, choreographers, and master educators. His provocative and powerful style, his innovative vision and outgoing character, makes him highly sought after in this field. Leeper's work spans the spectrum from television, movies, and commercials to off – Broadway and music videos. He has choreographed for some

of the most popular television shows, most recently on FOX's *So You Think You Can Dance*, where he managed to win the love of millions of viewers each week. He has worked past seasons of *Dancing with the Stars*, *American Idol*, *All My Children*, *One Life to Live*, *Big Bang Theory*, *X-Factor UK*, and *America's Got Talent*. His big screen credits include *They Shoot Divas*, *Don't They* starring Jennifer Beals, the short film *This Island*, as well as starring himself in the films *Move* and *I Dream of Dance*.

CHOREOGRAPHER PROFILES

Originally from Los Angeles, Leeper always knew he wanted to be a choreographer. At nine years old, he was cast as the Artful Dodger in the musical *Oliver!* and the choreographer suggested dance training to his mom. There weren't many boys training at that time, so he desperately tried to keep it a secret and continued to play sports. At 13, the kids found out and he was bullied, but preserved and started to focus on his dance training and love of choreography.

His long career has included working with such artists as Elton John, Snoop Dogg, Nick Cannon, Nile Rodgers, Kelly Rowland, Kathryn Jenkins and Geri Halliwell. His favorites include Cher because of her willingness to collaborate & humbleness and Matthew Morrison for his professionalism. Creative Director credits include Franco Dragone's *INDIA* and *One Love, So You Think You Can Dance*, Matthew Morrison's *Where It All Began* tour and NKOTB/BSD tour, IL DIVO World Tour, *X-Factor* European Tour.

All the components combined are what Leeper appreciates most about the creative process and has collected a vast number of commercial credits for international brands Pepsi and Levis, working with Hollywood notables like famed director Nigel Dick for Sierra Mist and BAFTA award-winning director Phil Heyes for *American Idol* & *X-Factor UK*.

Leeper has recently directed and choreographed the critically-acclaimed Off-Broadway musical, *One Day*, as well as the Off-Broadway show *Mental – the Musical* and other notable Off-Broadway shows, *Inappropriate* and *Nightlife*. He was awarded the esteemed "Best Choreography Award" for his work on *Common Grounds* in the New York Musical Theater Festival and the prestigious "Gold Leo Award" for Excellence in Choreography at the Kennedy Center. After 30 years of teaching worldwide and being one of the most sought-after choreographers and master teachers in the United States, Leeper now spends his time dedicated to his new creative endeavors, producing original content and choreographing for television and film.



Dubbed, "a 21st Century Renaissance Man" by *The Washington Post*, **Tony Powell** is a choreographer, composer, painter, sculptor, photographer, filmmaker, graphic designer, and writer. He is a 1995 graduate of The Juilliard School and directed his own dance company, Tony Powell/Music & Movement, for 10 years. Pulitzer Prize-winning *Washington Post* dance critic Alan Kriegsman proclaimed that Powell is, "a master of more artistic trades than one can shake a stick at...a fresh, brilliant, idealistic artist in our midst!"

A native Washingtonian, he has won numerous awards from the Maryland State Arts Council for his choreography, and his 4th String Quartet received the

CHOREOGRAPHER PROFILES

first-ever Metro DC Dance Award for Original Music. He has written three scores for the Internationally-renowned Parsons Dance Company, and he has created over 126 ballets for companies including The Joffrey Ballet, The Washington Ballet, Charleston Ballet Theatre, Baltimore Ballet, The Ailey School, PHILADANCO, Giordano Dance Chicago, Piel Morena Contemporary Dance, The Maryland Youth Ballet, Ballet Theatre of Maryland, The Manassas Dance Company, and Odyssey Dance Theater.

Support for the creation of his work has come from The Cafritz Foundation, The Washington Post Company, The Meyer Foundation, Verizon, Philip Morris, The Mead Family Foundation, Allesee Family Foundation, The Dreyfus Foundation, and The Philip L. Graham Fund, among others. He has taught ballet and modern dance techniques at The Washington School of Ballet, The Academy of the Maryland Youth Ballet, Towson University, Harrisburg Dance Conservatory, Manassas School of Dance, Joy of Motion, Feet First, The Duke Ellington School of the Arts, and Jones Haywood School of Ballet.

He regularly contributes to *Washington Life Magazine*, *VOGUE*, *Washingtonian Magazine*, *Capitol File Magazine* and *The Washington Post*. His photographic clients include Facebook, Google, Louis Vuitton, Tiffany & Co., Gucci, Tory Burch, Mulberry, Elie Tahari, Intermix, J. McLaughlin, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Rag & Bone, Discovery Communications, The Aspen Institute, The National Museum of Women in the Arts, The W Hotel, Cafe Milano, The Phillips Collection, Meridian International Center, The Washington Ballet, The Corcoran Gallery of Art, The Atlantic Council, Goldman Sachs, Neiman Marcus, Cartier, The Ricky Martin Foundation, and the embassies of Kuwait, Great Britain, Oman, Bahrain, Denmark, and Afghanistan.





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Edra Soto is a Puerto Rican-born artist, curator, educator, and co-director of the outdoor project space, The Franklin. Soto has exhibited extensively at venues including El Museo del Barrio, NY; Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art's satellite, The Momentary, AK; Albright-Knox Northland, NY; Museum of Contemporary Art of Chicago, IL; Smart Museum, IL and the Abrons Arts Center, NY. Recently, Soto completed a large-scale public art commission titled "Screenhouse", currently on view at Millennium Park in Chicago.



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- Cameras and recording devices are not allowed in the theater and are prohibited by our contracts with the artists.
- Smoking is not permitted in the theater or on campus.
- For your comfort and security, all backpacks and large bags must be checked.
- Please turn off all cell phones and any other alarms while in the theater.
- Emergency phone number at College of DuPage Police Department for after-hour calls is (630) 942-2000.
- Latecomers seated at discretion of the House Manager.
- Groups of 10 or more may contact Kat Donaldson at (630) 942-3026 or kazmierskik@cod.edu to arrange for group discounts.
- If you notice a spill in the theater, please notify an usher.
- McAninch Arts Center volunteers are people who assist the house staff in areas of ticket taking, ushering and general management during performances. To get involved, call (630) 942-3705.
- **For Americans With Disabilities Act** accommodations, call (630) 942-2141 (voice) or (630) 858-9692 (TDD).
- **Infrared Assistive Listening Devices:** For audience members who desire audio amplification of performances, headsets with individual volume controls are now available. You may check out the headsets at the Box Office with a driver's license. *Underwritten by a generous gift from The Knowles Foundation.*

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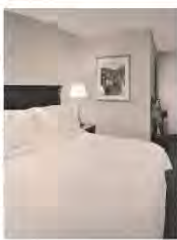
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