

Choreographer's Bios - Ignite 2021

Kelsey Williams

Kelsey Williams is a teacher and choreographer from Oklahoma. She works with competitive dancers, dance studios and dance teams nationwide. Her goal is to show them just how hard they can push themselves to truly see their best ability. She coaches a NDA Grand National Champion dance team, Southmoore Varsity Pom and is a faculty member at Top Hat Talent. She has traveled worldwide as a former NBA Dancer for the Oklahoma City Thundergirls and as a member of the choreography team for the Miss Universe organization. A new role Kelsey has taken on is "Dance Mom " to her three daughters. She enjoys helping dancers use their technique, artistry and intensity to create memorable choreography they are excited to share on stage.

Maria Sascha Khan

Maria Sascha Khan is an international ballerina and former Principal Dancer of the Ekaterinburg State Ballet, Russia. She was trained under Luidmila Morkovina, at the Kirov Academy of Ballet, and at the Academie de Danse Classique de Princesse Grace, Monte Carlo, under the personal mentorship of Marika Besobrasova (coach to Nureyev and Fonteyn). She attended summers at The Royal Ballet School, San Francisco Ballet and American Ballet Theatre on scholarship. Graduating with honours from the Academie, Maria Sascha was invited by Vladimir Malakhov to join the Staatsballett Berlin, one of the top five companies in the world. Dancing a wide range of classical and contemporary repertoire she continued her career with the Bayerisches Staatsballett in Munich, the English National Ballet of London and as Principal dancer of the Ekaterinburg State Ballet, Russia.

Along with her performing career Maria Sascha is the Artistic Director of the Yellowstone International Arts Festival, and Ballet Legacy Master Class programs worldwide. She has adjudicated as a jury member for international ballet competitions, is a Mentor for non-profit arts organisation Youth Arts in Action, brand ambassador for Gaynor Minden and an ambassador for London based charity, Save Wild Tigers. Maria Sascha recently received her Masters Degree in Arts & Cultural Enterprise from Central Saint Martins, in London. Her resume includes commercials for Honda Acura and Löwve, cover girl for Malaysia Tatler, features in Elle magazine, HotBook Mexico, Singapore Tatler, and the Washington Post. Maria Sascha is an accomplished public speaker and produces an online video series called "Inspiring Artists". Her passion is to give back and inspire others through the beauty of the Arts.

Nate Poole

Nate Poole is a professional dancer, choreographer, and teacher from Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is trained in multiple styles of dance coming from the accomplished Larkin Dance Studio. From his youth, Nate went on to assist a number of conventions and was chosen as a Monsters of Hip Hop show finalist and performed in the Monsters Showcase in Los Angeles under the direction of Chonique Sneed and Lisette Bustamante; contributing choreographers included Marty Kudelka, Kevin Maher, Nick Demoura, Jaquel Knight, Tucker Barkley, Luam, and Luther Brown. The Monsters Show was a catalyst for Nate to go on to work professionally in many different realms of the industry such as live performances with Selena Gomez on the AMAs, music videos such as Jason Derulo's "Otherside", and television such as ABC's Dancing with the Stars or FOX's GLEE. Along with working in the industry, Nate has a genuine passion for teaching and choreographing, setting work and instructing all over the U.S., Canada,

and Europe. Currently, Nate is on faculty with Monsters A-List Convention and the emcee for Monsters of Hip Hop. Nate prides himself in being not only a versatile dancer, but a versatile human, who is constantly learning and growing as an artist. He strives to bring his knowledge, creativity, and passion to students around the world.

Ricci Milan

Ricci Milan attended Larkin Dance Studio for 12 years. He went to New York Thing for a year and in that time he performed tap dance for Mya, PBS, bat mitzvahs, and on subway platforms. He also taught competition kids in New Jersey and joined up with some guys to create the original cast of "Break the Floor". He then moved to L.A. where he street performed with 10 foot 5 to pay the bills while he was coming up short at 100's of industry auditions. Ricci fell out of love with LA. so he relocated to South Carolina where he performed at a family theater in Myrtle Beach (Gaylord Productions) for a short time and then spent a year in Tokyo (Tokyo Disney Sea). He then moved home to Minneapolis where he rejoined with "10 foot 5" and they recharged and rebranded with the 2004 debut of the internationally acclaimed "Buckets and Tap Shoes". In 2008 he turned his focus to the creation of a passion project titled, "Rhythmic Circus" in that same year he started his career as a dance competition choreographer and began hosting events for Hall of Fame dance Challenge. The Rhythmic Circus project toured the world for 10 years, rocked stages throughout the US, Europe, Asia, and did a Broadway run! Ricci has now turned his focus to his new company, Rhythm Street Movement. As well as his role as the director of ADRENALINE DANCE CONVENTION. He has recently co-written, produced and debuted 2 new full theatrical productions "WAKING UP" and the hit holiday show "Who Brought the HUMBUG?" He owes it all to faith, gratitude, his wife, Brittany, and his 2 sons, Leonardo and Raphael.