

Choreographer's Bios - Ignite 2019

Annie Valle (Anne Mercy Morabito) started dancing at 6 years old in Santa Cruz, California. She danced on scholarship at Pacific Northwest Ballet School, San Francisco Ballet School, School of American Ballet in New York City, and with Suzanne Farrell at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Annie dances and choreographs for Raison d'Etre Dance Project, Yellowstone Ballet, and School of Classical Ballet in Billings. She also directs the Martinsdale Ballet, a free dance school and performance group in rural Montana. Annie has a degree in Agroecology from the University of Wyoming. She loves living on her husband's family ranch with their two children and an assortment of dogs, horses, cows, chickens, etc.

Darrien Henning has toured the world as a professional choreographer and dancer. His cutting-edge urban groove style continues to captivate audiences in the United States and abroad. Having worked with several Warner Bros recording artists such as BEBE RHEXA on her hit song "HEY MAMA" in Las Vegas alongside NIKKI MINAJ and AFRO JACK. He choreographed international tours for Atlantic Records pop sensation CODY SIMPSON "WAITING FOR U TOUR" (USA, Australia), and two of Simpson's hit music videos "ON MY MIND" and "ALL DAY". His work has been notably seen in Capitol Records recording artists TRACIE SPENCER "ALL ABOUT YOU TOUR" (USA, Canada, Europe, Japan, Netherlands) and EBONY FOSTER promotional tour (USA). Darrien caught the interest of pop star BRITNEY SPEARS where he was singled out by Spears to train in Hip Hop.

Darrien is no stranger to television having had two national commercials including BURGER KING and DISCOVER CARD. He was also hired as Assistant Choreographer for the VH1 movie premiere "TOO LEGIT: THE MC HAMMER STORY".

Darrien has been featured in PEOPLE MAGAZINE, Us WEEKLY MAGAZINE, OK! WEEKLY MAGAZINE, as well as featured interviews on "E! ENTERTAINMENT" and "TELEMUNDO".

Darrien Henning is currently in development working with several new Artists on their live performances and music videos projected to be released late 2019.

Jesse Johnson started his dance training at the age of 10 in Pittsburgh PA, at the now famous Abby Lee Dance Company. Shortly after graduating high school, he picked up and moved to Los Angeles, California, to pursue his dance career. Since moving to LA, he has appeared in music videos with Katy Perry, Florence + The Machine, movies such as Ted 2 and Love Struck The Musical. He was also part of the popular TV shows Glee and My Crazy Ex Girlfriend and has worked for worldwide cosmetic company MAC Cosmetics, touring and promoting their 2016 "Nutcracker Sweet" Holiday ad campaign. You can also catch some of his choreography throughout seasons 1-6 of Lifetime's "Dance Moms". While continuing to grow as a dancer and artist, he has a burning passion for choreographing, teaching, dance and movement, that has inspired him to be the artist he is today.

Katie Kitzenberg was born and raised in Billings, Montana where she trained at Diversity Dance Studio and The Studio of Classical Ballet. Some of her teachers/mentors include Lisa Oppegaard, Amantha Vandiviere, Betty Loos, Tessandra Chavez, Theo Ivey, and Kirsten Cooper. She grew up competing and attending workshops where she received many awards and scholarships. She also received unique and prestigious awards such as being named a 2013 'Dance Spirit Magazine' Future Star recipient and winning the 2014 Discount Dance Supply "Life in Motion" Video Contest. She has danced behind musical artists such as Pia Toscano, Midnight Red, and Becky G through Velocity Dance Competition opportunities. She started choreographing and teaching when she was just 14 years old and has received choreography awards from Spotlight Dance Cup, Dance Talent, Celebration Dance and Thunderstruck Dance Competition. She recently graduated with honors from Marymount Manhattan College with a Bachelor's of Arts in Dance. While attending MMC on both dance and academic scholarship, she received incredible daily technique training

in classical ballet, modern (Horton, Graham, Taylor and O'Donnell techniques), jazz, contemporary, tap, improvisation, and composition. She was also selected to create four full length pieces of choreography for the dance department's fall and spring concerts. She has done two short tours, one to Mexico and one to Guatemala, with JUNTOS Dance Company in January 2017 and June 2017. She is excited to see where the future takes her after college!

Kelsey Williams is a graduate from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in Public Relations. She has danced professionally for the NBA, representing the Oklahoma City Thunder as a Thunder Girl, Dare to Be Soul Dance Company, The Sparrow Dance Company and with Shows in Box performance company. Currently she is the choreographer for Southmoore Varsity Pom, a member of the choreography team for the Miss USA and Miss Universe pageants, Tribe 99 choreo-connect choreographer and travels across the country teaching at studios, high schools and universities. She is on faculty for NTG Dance convention and has had her choreography shown on ESPN and the Ellen Show.

Will Bell began his formal training at the age of 15 and received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Dance Performance. During his collegiate years, Will had opportunities to train in prestigious programs such as the Ailey School located in New York and the Lines Ballet School located in San Francisco, CA. Right after college, Will moved to Los Angeles, CA to pursue his career in commercial dance where he has worked with incredible television and movie choreographers. Over the past year, some of Bell's choreographic contemporary ballet work has gone viral and has been recognized internationally on many major platforms. Will had the opportunity for a few years, performing with Japanese pop icon, Koichi Domoto, in "Endless Shock," the musical, in Tokyo. He was also seen dancing and acting in "Hairspray Live" on NBC along side stars like Derek Hough, Ariana Grande, and Jennifer Hudson. Currently Will is on faculty at Millennium Dance Complex and is teaching at Edge Performing Arts Center, Movement Life-style, Debbie Reynold's Legacy Studios, and internationally teaching jazz, contemporary, contemporary ballet, and modern.