



Nov 4-5 | Hyatt Regency—Schaumburg

cnadm fall weekend workshop *meet the faculty*



Gina Badone, hailing from Yuma, AZ, has left an indelible mark on the dance world during her two-decade journey in Los Angeles, CA. She began as a scholarship student at Retter's Dance Academy in Agoura Hills, rising to a senior faculty position, imparting her expertise in ballet, jazz, and contemporary dance. Co-directing the Rhythm Machine company, Gina's influence extends globally through teaching at esteemed events like DanceMakers Inc and TurnItUp Dance convention. Her choreography has earned recognition both nationally and internationally, gracing prestigious platforms like The Carney Awards, Nickelodeon's The Thundermans, and the revival of Reading Rainbow with Levar Burton. Gina's performances span live billboards and charitable events.



Nicole Messina Billow boasts over 25 years of teaching experience in tap and jazz dance. Her professional journey as a dancer commenced after her impressive performance in the 1999 Miss America pageant, where she secured a top 10 finalist spot and won the preliminary talent category with her tap dancing prowess. Subsequently, Nicole embarked on a journey as a professional dancer and actress, gracing renowned venues like the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, Broadway's Marquis Theater, and Atlantic City's Harris and Showboat Casinos. She also toured nationally with "Absolut Tap" and appeared in commercials, TV, and film. Eventually, Nicole shifted her focus to choreography and teaching.



Jessica Deahr recently concluded her 11-year tenure as Artistic Director of Chicago Dance Crash. Deahr's choreography has graced Crash's primary season and national tours, earning local recognition with Chicago Tribune's Best in Dance awards and national acclaim with Dance Magazine's Most Inventive New Work accolade. Her influence extends to college residencies and collaborations with peer dance companies like Visceral Dance Chicago and Chicago Tap Theatre. Deahr's work has also illuminated Chicago's top festivals and events, including Dance For Life, Chicago Summer Dance, Millennium Park Theatre Series, Chicago Ideas Week, and Chicago Live. Her commercial direction credits encompass Uniqlo, Cheerios, the World Wildlife Fund, and the Chicago Department of Aviation.



Angel Kaba is an award-winning choreographer and international artistic director in Brooklyn, New York. She is a professor at Rider University and a faculty member at Broadway Dance Center, Alvin Ailey Extension, and Steps on Broadway. Angel began her career in ballet at six and has since shared the stage with notable artists such as Kanye West, Rihanna, and Burna Boy and performed for major brands including Coca-Cola, Levi's, and MTV. She has also danced on television and in commercials and performed at events like Essence Festival and Madison Square Garden.



Robert McKee, a Point Park University alumnus and former Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago company member, has become a sought-after guest dancer and choreographer in Chicago's dance scene. With a lifelong passion for teaching and choreography, he draws inspiration from percussive rhythms and dynamic shapes. Robert's teaching experience includes positions at the Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago and as an instructor for the Chicago National Association of Dance Masters. He has collaborated with Rockford Dance Company, Giordano Project, Giordano Juniors, McDonald Dance Academy, Barrington High School, Northshore School of Dance Performing Ensemble, Giordano on Giordano choreography showcase, Riverside Brookfield High School, Northern Illinois University, and Framework Dance Chicago.



With 15+ years in the dance world, **Lianna Norris'** training spans ballet, jazz, hip-hop, and contemporary styles. She has coached award-winning Varsity dance teams and contributed four years to the Jackson State University Dance Ensemble, specializing in regional hip-hop dance styles. Lianna's approach emphasizes providing precise information on various dance styles and techniques, crafting innovative and visually captivating choreography, and sharing the historical context behind dance steps and cultures for a comprehensive learning experience. Lianna Norris, has seven years of experience attending dance conventions and workshops, including the Rhapsody James Motivating Excellence DII Workshop in 2018, where she passionately mentors and shapes the next generation of dancers.



John Streit, an Assistant Professor of Dance and Summer Dance Director at Brenau University in Gainesville, GA, possesses a diverse background encompassing ballet, ballroom, musical theatre dance, dance pedagogy, and dance business. His expertise lies in teaching and choreography. John has performed with renowned companies like the Georgia Ballet and Atlanta Ballet as a guest artist, featuring in productions such as Spamalot, The Producers, Cats, Damn Yankees, Anything Goes, and The Addams Family. In Atlanta, he's mentored four YAGP Top 12 finalists and created commissioned pieces. John holds the esteemed ABT NTC Certification, spanning Pre-Primary through Level 7 and Partnering in the ABT National Training Curriculum.



Michael Waldrop's dance journey has graced prestigious stages at Ballett des Theater Koblenz, State Street Ballet, and Pasadena Dance Theatre. His talent shines in guest performances with Odyssey Dance Theatre, Seamless Dance Theater, and the Covent Garden Dance Company's international gala, Ballet in the Park. Michael's repertoire showcases classical and contemporary pieces choreographed by luminaries like Peter Chu, Andreas Heise, Daniel Ezralow, Bella Lewitzky, and Cathy Marston. He's graced iconic venues such as the Radio City Christmas Spectacular and the Getty Museum, and his creative prowess shines in internationally showcased original choreography. Currently he holds roles of Marketing Director at the Joffrey Ballet School, Associate Artistic Director of the Jazz & Contemporary Trainee Program, and Universal Ballet Competition judge.



Chris Wendorff is a professional dancer, choreographer, and teacher. He began dancing at the age of 9 and later received a BFA in Dance from Point Park University. Chris has worked as a dancer for Walt Disney World and various cruise lines and has taught master classes and conventions in the US and UK. He works as a guest teacher, choreographer, and adjudicator for dance competitions and conventions, including Groove and Beyond The Stars. Chris recently co-founded a new dance training program called The Power of 3 and is excited to continue his journey in the dance world. He plans to pursue an MFA in Dance to expand his knowledge and experiences further.