



July 24-30 | Hyatt Regency—Schaumburg

# cnadm summer workshop

## *meet the faculty*



**Hanna Brictson** is a renowned dancer, choreographer, and fitness trainer. She began her career in River North Dance Chicago after graduating high school in 2004, where she danced for 12 years and became rehearsal director and choreographer. In 2016, she joined Visceral Dance Chicago as a dancer and rehearsal director. Hanna has taught and choreographed all over the world, her work can be seen in professional dance companies nationwide, on television, in universities, and in competitive dance studios. Her recognition includes features in Dance Magazine and a Princess Grace Dancer and Choreographic Nominee. Hanna has also created a dance and fitness program called BalleX, which fuses ballet, yoga, and personal training. She continues to grow and share her passion for dance through choreography and fitness training.



**Linda Cunningham** is the founder and former artistic director of State Street Dance Studio, where she taught ballet and character dance for over 40 years. She has trained with renowned institutions such as Zaki Labovsky, the Ruth Page Center, and the Arizona Dance Company. Linda has choreographed full-length musicals and produced the annual holiday classic, The Nutcracker, since 2003. She also directed the Chicago Ballet Conservatory's Nutcracker at Hemmens Theatre from 2017-2019. Linda appeared on local television programs, including ABC Channel 7 and WGN, and in 2013, one of her students became the first American guest dancer at the Bolshoi Ballet in Brazil. She continues to share her love for dance and has showcased her work at numerous venues throughout Chicago.



**Jean-Hugues Feray** is a renowned French dancer and dance educator. He trained at the Paris Opera Ballet School and later worked with the National Ballet of Marseille and the French National Ballet of Nancy. In 1998, he moved to the United States to join Ballet Florida, where he performed in many exciting roles and taught at the Academy of Ballet Florida and the Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts in West Palm Beach, FL. He is now Paris Ballet and Dance's founder and artistic director in Jupiter, Florida. He is passionate about passing on what he has learned over the years and has brought internationally renowned French Master Teachers to the United States for his Magnifique Ballet Intensive. He continues to inspire and educate the next generation of dancers.



**Annie Jo Fischer** is a Chicago-based teaching artist, choreographer, and actor specializing in tap and musical theatre. She has choreographed over 100 musicals in the Midwest, including Paramount Theatre's "Rock of Ages" with Amber Mak. Annie Jo is a member of Actor's Equity and has performed with Marriott, Paramount, Drury Lane, Ordway, and Fireside theatres. She teaches master classes and workshops nationwide at colleges, studios, and high schools. Annie Jo is currently on faculty at Columbia College Chicago, Visceral, Lincolnshire Academy of Dance, Extensions, and Dance Images. In her free time, she performs as a Honey Tap.



**Vernard J Gilmore** is a Chicago-based choreographer, teacher, and dancer. As a member of the Alvin Ailey Company for the past 25 years, he has brought the art of dance to future generations through extensive outreach and teaching. Vernard is also the founder of La Verdad, a male concept, and co-founder and producer of Dance of Light. He has choreographed for several organizations, including Opus Dance Theatre, Jazz Foundation of America, and Chicago Academy of the Arts. Vernard's work "La Mulette" premiered during the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater 2017 City Center season. He was awarded the Jersey City Dance Artist Relief Fund Grant Award from Nimbus Arts Center in 2021. Currently, Vernard is performing with the Ailey company and has served as a consultant with David Monn event planning company.





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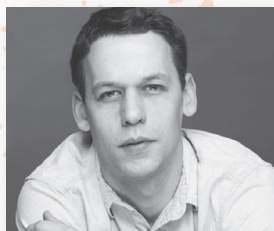
**Kate Jablonski** trained in New York City as part of Broadway Dance Center's Professional Program before founding Beyond Words Dance Company in 2009. Her youth company has been praised by prestigious teachers and choreographers, and her professional company, The Kate Jablonski Statement, has allowed dancers to train in a professional atmosphere and perform in Chicago events and Kate's full-length productions. Kate's summer intensive has expanded to international cities such as Italy and Liverpool, with teaching opportunities in several countries. Her work has earned her numerous accolades, including the prestigious Gold Leo's Award through Jazz Dance World Congress and a finalist spot in the Capezio A.C.E. Awards for Choreographic Excellence. In 2022, KJS performed at the Šibenik Dance Festival in Croatia, receiving rave reviews for their performance of Dream State.



**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 age 6 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.



**Ramona Kelley** began her training at Berkeley Ballet Theater and went on to earn a BFA in dance from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. She danced the principal role of 'Betsy' in Twyla Tharp's *Come Fly Away*, and with the Tharp company she created new roles as well as performing repertory works. She is a principal guest artist with Oakland Ballet and has also performed in Christopher Wheeldon's *An American in Paris*, Dance Lab New York, Minnesota Dance Theatre, Isaac Mizrahi's "The Third Bird," Sidra Bell Dance NY, and *Phantom of the Opera* (25th Anniversary Tour) among others. Ramona has taught for Pacific Northwest Ballet, Joffrey Ballet School, NYU's Tisch Dance, Peridance NYC, among many others. She has taught company class for Twyla Tharp Dance, *An American in Paris*, and Paul Taylor Dance Company. Ramona teaches master classes in ballet and Tharp technique across the country in addition to setting her own choreography.



**Brandon Koepsell** is a Detroit native and graduate of the Walnut Hill School in Natick, MA. He has performed with various dance companies and appeared in productions like "Aida" and "The Merry Widow" with the Michigan Opera Theater. Brandon has also worked as a choreographic assistant on Disney's "Oz, the Great and Powerful" and as a credited dancer in "A Very Harold and Kumar Christmas." He has presented work at festivals and served as a faculty member with dance organizations including CNADM, SADM, and universities like Wayne State University. Brandon currently dances with Take Root dance company and teaches weekly Dance for Parkinson's classes at the Henry Ford Health Systems in Detroit.



**Jon Lehrer** is a renowned choreographer and artistic director of the Jon Lehrer Dance Company. He discovered his passion for dance at the age of 19 and went on to earn his BFA in Dance from the University at Buffalo. Jon has danced with several companies, including the Erick Hawkins Dance Company and the Radio City Rockettes Christmas Spectacular. He was also the resident choreographer and associate director of Giordano Dance Chicago, where he created seven original works. Jon has taught master classes at several institutions and received numerous awards, including the University at Buffalo Zodiaque Dance Company Distinguished Alumni Award and the CNADM's Artistic Achievement Award. JLDG, founded in 2007, showcases Jon's unique choreography that blends modern and jazz dance idioms, resulting in artistic and accessible performances.



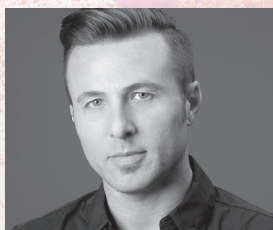


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**Lizzie Mackenzie** is a Chicago-based dancer, teacher, coach, and choreographer. She co-founded Extensions Dance Company, now in its 15th year, and Extensions Dance Center, currently in its 10th year. Lizzie has danced with various companies including River North Dance Company, Giordano Dance Chicago, and Elements Contemporary Ballet, and has taught and coached dance worldwide. She has been an artist in residence at several universities, including Northwestern and the University of Illinois. Lizzie is known for her intense teaching style and high expectations while fostering a loving and supportive learning environment. She is passionate about seeing her students gain confidence as people and artists through their work in the dance studio. Lizzie's feature with Chicago Dance Supply, "Dance and Confidence," has inspired executives, dance educators, and young artists.



**Jeremy Plummer** is a director, choreographer, and aerial creator known for his unique blend of aerial artistry and live performance. His company, C5, has been featured in six world premieres as part of Chicago's Dance for Life event. He danced with River North Chicago Dance Company, appeared in films, and received the CNADM Artistic Achievement Award. As a creative director and choreographer, he has worked with top talent worldwide, creating aerial shows, living art installations, and directing musical reviews, product launches, and national sales meetings for Fortune 500 companies. Jeremy directed the first-ever aquatic show at sea and the first all-aerial show for a cruise line, helping Royal Caribbean become the top cruise entertainment industry. He is a highly sought-after dance educator, teaching across the US. His creative thought process brings creativity and uniqueness to everything he creates.



**Nick Pupillo** is the Founder and Artistic Director of Visceral Dance Chicago. As an award-winning choreographer, he focused on training and mentoring young talent, which led him to develop the pre-professional company, Visceral Studio Company, in 2006. The following year, he founded Visceral Dance Center, which continues to be a Chicago dance landmark. In 2013, he established Visceral Dance Chicago, a repertory company known for its technique, passion, and athleticism. Pupillo has created fifteen signature works for the company and has collaborated with The Chicago Philharmonic. He has taught master classes in the U.S. and worldwide and received the CNADM Artistic Achievement Award in 2018. Visceral Dance Chicago has been named one of Dance Magazine's 25 to Watch.



**Amy Rose** is a former American Ballet Theatre and Pacific Northwest Ballet soloist. She trained at the Ruth Page Foundation School of Dance, American Ballet Theatre School, and the Lyric Opera of Chicago before joining the Chicago Ballet and later ABT at age 16. While with ABT, she guested with the Universal Ballet and Stars of American Ballet and performed at Jacob's Pillow. With Pacific Northwest Ballet, she danced leading roles in several ballets, including creating roles in Kent Sowell's "Carmina Burana," "Cinderella," and Mark Dendy's "Les Biches." Amy has been on faculty for ABT Summer Intensives and in the Chicago area for over 20 years. She's also an ABT Certified Teacher and is currently on faculty for three schools.



**Dr. Carrie Skony** is a Certified Chiropractic Sports Physician® and Dance Medicine provider with over 15 years of experience treating pre-professional and professional dancers throughout Chicago. She owns PERFORM Active Wellness + Dance Medicine in Lisle, IL, where she provides personalized injury assessment and treatment, injury prevention education, teacher training, and dancer wellness consultation to companies and studios in the Midwest. Dr. Skony is an active member of the International Association of Dance Medicine & Science and a nominee for the "Dance Educator of the Year Award" in 2020. She is also a representative for Doctors for Dancers and a Founding Member of DanseMedica, a collaboration of dance specialists committed to dancers' health. Visit [www.drcarrieskony.com](http://www.drcarrieskony.com) or follow her on social media at @drcarrieskony for dancer wellness tips.





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**Suavé**, founder of Hip Hop ConnXion Family, a not-for-profit dance company with branches in Indiana, Michigan, and headquarters in Illinois, has won numerous awards, including 1st place in the USA and 2nd place in the world at the Hip Hop International Championships. As a professional dancer, Suavé has worked on Walt Disney's 'Just Visited' and the hit movie 'SAVE THE LAST DANCE', and he was also the dance coordinator for the movie 'DREAMS.' Besides his impressive dance career, Suavé is a performance coach and instructor, regularly guest choreographs at schools and universities in the USA, and teaches workshops world-wide. Suavé is committed to inspiring troubled and underprivileged youth and has worked with various organizations and charities. He also produces major dance shows and is a regular Manhattan Dance Project National/International Tour faculty member.



**Andrew Tamez-Hull**, also known as Drew, is a versatile artist who works as an actor, dancer, and musician. He has appeared in TV shows, movies, and commercials, including Clint Eastwood's "Gran Torino" and Season 2 of "Empire." He has also performed in several live shows at venues such as the House of Blues and Logan Theatre. Drew is the director of Phenom Dance Company, Inside Out Dance Crew, and Matix Dance Company in Chicago, where he also teaches dance classes at Visceral Dance Center and Joffrey. He has choreographed for various artists, and TV shows, including Ludacris, Silento, and The Jam. Drew's passion for teaching and giving back to communities is reflected in his motto, "nothing is given, and everything is earned." Currently, he is a resident singer and performer at SUITE lounge in Chicago, showcasing his triple-threat talents.



**Andrea Trench** is an experienced dance teacher and partner in a dance studio dedicated to providing research-based and developmentally appropriate early childhood dance education. With a focus on classroom management, foundational movement skills, and conceptual teaching, Andrea empowers educators to create effective and engaging classes for children under 6. Since launching DiscoverDance in 2017, Andrea has presented at events sponsored by Revolution Dancewear, Rhee Gold, and other organizations and is a contributor to various dance publications and blogs. She hosts the DiscoverDance podcast and created the Foundations Course for Early Childhood Dance Educators. Known for her energetic teaching style and advocacy for the importance of dance in a child's life, Andrea's structural frameworks and creative approach provide educators with the tools to teach effectively and confidently.



**Sam Weber** is an award-winning tap dancer, choreographer, and master teacher. He studied under tap master Stan Kahn in San Francisco and was a principal dancer and choreographer with the Jazz Tap Ensemble from 1986 to 2009. Sam has performed at international tap festivals and alongside legendary tap masters such as Gregory Hines and the Nicholas Brothers. He is one of the few tap dancers worldwide who performs Morton Gould's "Tap Dance Concerto." Sam has received numerous tap dance awards, including the Bessie and Juba awards. He teaches at several universities and regularly holds classes at City Dance School in San Francisco and Stagebridge in Oakland, California. Sam's dedication to the art of tap dance has cemented his reputation as one of the top performers and teachers in the world of tap. Sam's workshop participation is made possible by a grant from the Barbara Swanson Memorial Fund.



**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.