

2025 Faculty



Dominic Antonucci

Ballet

Born in Athens, Ohio, and brought up in Akron, Dominic Antonucci, Assistant Director, attended the Nan Klinger School of Dance and the School of American Ballet. He performed with American Ballet Theatre from 1991 to 1994, joined Birmingham Royal Ballet in 1994 as a Soloist and was promoted to Principal in 2003. He was appointed to Ballet Master in 2009. Dominic danced all of the leading male repertoire and was particularly prominent in the ballets of Sir Peter Wright and Sir David Bintley. He has staged Sir David Bintley's Take 5 on the National Ballet of Japan as well as teaching and rehearsing that company in Ashton's Cinderella.



Tom Shilcock

Commercial

Tom trained professionally at Laine Theatre Arts. Since graduating, he has danced for several international artists including Jason Derulo, Rita Ora, Meghan Trainor, Take That, Cheryl Cole, Tulisa Constostavlos, Rihanna, Elton John, Gary Barlow, MeatLoaf, John Barrowman, Mariah Carey, Annie Lennox, Jessie J, Ant & Dec, Jamelia and many more. Tom is the Co-Founder of Can You Dance? The UK's Biggest Touring Dance Convention, alongside his close friend Matt Flint. Tom is proud to have created so many opportunities for young dancers through Can You Dance? including scholarships, artist & ambassador awards and the CYD? Dance Star Company.



Matt Flint

Choreography

Matt is a Creative Director / Choreographer based in London. In 2011, Matt won series 2 of 'So You Think You Can Dance' on the BBC. During his performing career he appeared in 12 West End shows & has numerous TV, Film & Advert appearances on his CV. TV credits include: Queens Jubilee Platinum Party (Creative Dir. BBC Studios/ Events), Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway 2020-23 (Creative Dir. ITV), Strictly Come Dancing – Series 9 – 20 (BBC), National Television Awards 2019-21 (Creative Dir. ITV). Matt is the co-creator of Can You Dance? Live, a series of 14 nationwide dance conventions seeing 30,000 attendees in 2019, with a headline event at the M&S Bank Arena & ACC, Liverpool. His choreography has 100+ million views on YouTube.



Cris Penfold

Jazz

Chris trained at London Studio Centre. As well as appearing in many Musical Theatre Shows, Cris has been responsible for choreographing many others. He has appeared in many films and television productions and runs Workshops around the country. Cris has choreographed various shows for Elmhurst Ballet School, London Studio Centre, the Urdang Academy and the MTA shows. Cris also runs the professional Saturday Programmes at London Studio Centre with LSC Associates and LSC International Outreach. As well as performing, Cris also currently teaches jazz and tap classes for London Studio Centre, Elmhurst Ballet School, Mountview, Central School of Speech & Drama, BBO Dance and he guest teaches at various other venues nationally and internationally. Cris is also an adjudicator and masterclass teacher for the Dance World Cup.



Nathan James

Tap

Nathan trained in the Midlands in all musical theatre and dance disciplines along with his initial teaching qualifications. Following his first passion, teaching, Nathan established himself as a successful jazz and tap tutor and choreographer working a several vocational schools including Arts Ed, Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, Bodywork Dance Studios and Sylvia Young Theatre School. An experienced adjudicator, Nathan represents the British Federation of Festivals and is a trustee and Artistic Director for All England Dance where he chairs the Artistic Committee. He currently teaches tap at Performers College in Birmingham.



Joseph Prouse

Musical Theatre

Joseph trained at Performers College and has performed extensively in the West End and other theatres including for the National: Hex, Hadestown, The Suicide. In London's West End: Forbidden Broadway, I Can't Sing!, The X Factor Musical, Oliver!, Singin' in the Rain, Beautiful The Carol King Musical, Jersey Boys, Footloose, Shrek the Musical, Evita, Mamma Mia! Other theatre includes: The View Upstairs, Jesus Christ Superstar, Mack and Mabel, Babes in Arms, Sweeney Todd, She Loves Me, My Family, Thoroughly Modern Millie. He has also appeared on television and film including Death On The Nile (20th Century Fox) Grinch Who Stole Christmas (NBC), James Corden's Crosswalk The Musical (CBS), The Olivier Awards 2017 (ITV), Children In Need, Alan Titchmarsh Show.



Hope Keelan

Ballet

Hope Keelan recently retired from her full-time role as the Artistic Manager of the Royal Ballet School, White Lodge. A Canadian, she came to England in 1973 to study at the Royal Ballet School on their Teachers' Training Course, and on graduating in 1976 she joined the staff full time until the birth of her first son. Hope was the 3rd year boys' tutor at the Ballet Rambert School, and taught at The English National Ballet School where she was in charge of the RAD girls work. She worked continuously for the Royal Ballet School's Teachers Course until its closure in July 2000 and has enjoyed guest teaching around the world. Since 2014 Hope has returned to teach the Year 7 Boys at White Lodge, her dream job. She is married, with three sons and two grandsons and now lives in Surrey.



Natalie Ettingshausen

Ready Set Dance

Natalie Ettingshausen is the owner of Ettingshausens which is one of Sydney's largest and most successful dance studios with a 12 studio complex and over 1000 students. Ready Set Dance, an innovative programme designed specifically to introduce young children to the world of dance, began in 2015 when experienced dance educators and Studio Owners; Natalie, Belinda and Priscilla came together to create a fun and fresh preschool dance curriculum for their own dance studios. They now have over 400+ studios globally offering their preschool dance programmes encouraging a passion for movement, music and dance.



Melanie Hadfield

Acrobatic Arts

Melanie began her dance & acrobatics journey at the age of 2 at her Mum's dance school and hasn't stopped dancing since. She trained at Northern Dance & MDDC loving all genres of dance & competitive gymnastics. She enjoyed a successful career as a professional dancer & travelled the world performing on stage & screen working with top industry choreographers. She has since gained Fellowship qualifications with the I.S.T.D and A.B.D; is a dual examiner for A.B.D. and is a TDCI and Acro Certified Adjudicator. As a studio owner she loves to work with children of all ages, nurturing their talent & passion for AcroDance.



Nahum McLean

Ballet/African

Nahum McLean, based in London, is a choreographer, and dancer, with a career expanding across dance, theatre, and film. After training at The Hammond School, he advanced his skills in Havana with Ballet Laura Alonso and in New York at The Ailey School, receiving The Alvin Ailey Scholarship Award. McLean's significant achievements include performances with, Ailey, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, working under Dr. George Faison, and participating in the International Company of West Side Story. His acclaim grew with his contributions to the West End in "Inala - A Zulu Ballet" and other international stages, notably as a member of the Richard Alston Dance Company., McLean founded the African Diaspora Dance Association (ADDA), dedicated to enriching dance education in the UK with the rich narratives and perspectives of the African Diaspora.



Sophia Hurdley

New Adventures

Sophia trained at Staples School, Northern Ballet School, York Scholar – Louise Browne and joined New Adventures in 2002 making her debut with New Adventures in Matthew Bourne's Nutcracker! Other Career Highlights: Phantom of the Opera, Apache dancer in Joseph, creating the role of the Swallow in a new musical called The Happy Prince written by Hal Cazalet, Michael Barry and directed by Maria Friedman. Leading workshops and inspiring the next generation with New Adventures. Choreographing and Playing the role of the Swallow/Ellie in The Happy Prince musical by Hal Cazalet and Michael Barry. A project dear to my heart which I've invested many years creating.



Deborah Laws

Business

Following a successful career as a performer, multiple dance school owner, dance shop proprietor, franchisee, and ISTD modern and tap examiner and DDE tutor, Deborah began studying business for the dance and performing arts industry in 2016 when she realised that dance school owners simply didn't seem to make much money! She now works full time as a business coach and strategist in her company Dance Business Lab and has created 3 x tiers of business coaching programmes, with different levels of support and guidance for dance school owners, managing different needs and stages of business. Her purpose is to guide and facilitate the learning of others based on her own commitment to learn so that dance school owners can create successful schools on their own terms without creating burn out or overwhelm.



Sarah Gittins

Business

Sarah Gittins The Performance Business Mentor launched The Den (Previously The Dance Den) in 2016 to help empower Dance, Theatre, Music and Performing Arts Schools to build a thriving studio with 100's of happy students without sacrificing their personal well being. With a postgrad in mentoring, entrepreneurial practice and management she has helped thousands of studio owners to scale their business. Creator of The Start Scale Steer Evolve Legacy Studio System, whichever stage in your business journey you are, the strategic systems taught within her programmes are relevant to you. The CPD Accredited roadmap training within her membership is game changing. Her tailored financial strategies and efficient simple systems help you maximise profits while focusing on what matters most - inspiring your students and creating lasting impact.



Louise Brough

Business

The Dance Business Coach community offers Life Changing results to Dance Business Owners. Much more than just adding more students to your classes, the community will grow YOU as a person, giving you more confidence and clarity to build the business of your dreams. So if you're ready to transform your school, you're in the right place. Louise is a school owner herself, mum of 3 under 5, and has successfully grown and stepped back from her school of 500 students. She understands the struggles and juggles you face and has all the tools you need to succeed. The Dance Business Coach community offers innovative and relevant ways to grow your school and build a team, helping school owners hit incredible milestones with some even reaching £50k+ months, proving anything is possible with the right support and skillset!



Sohan Kailey

Bhangra

Sohan Kailey is a Performing Artist, Dance Practitioner and Bhangra Fusion Dancer, his motto, Dance for a healthier and happier lifestyle. With over 20 years' experience within the Bhangra music and dance fraternity, he has created his own style of Bhangra fusing the traditional with a modern street edge to keep up with the ever-changing styles. Sohan has performed at events including 2002 Commonwealth Games Manchester, Olympic and Paralympic Games London 2012 (Cultural Olympiad Programme), toured USA and Europe to take part in dance festivals and events. In 2019 Sohan launched his career as a Recording Artist with the release of his debut album called Let's Naach (Let's Dance).



Ryan Gover

Mary Poppins Workshop

Ryan graduated from the Arts Educational Schools, London in 2010 where he received a BA Honours Degree in Musical Theatre. Over the last decade, Ryan has been performing professionally in the West End, Internationally and around the UK. His first job was in the original production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Wizard of Oz at the London Palladium. Since then, other notable stage credits include We Will Rock You at the Dominion Theatre; CATS at the London Palladium. He has been a faculty member at the Royal Academy of Music teaching tap over the last five years and regularly guest teaches at Momentum PAA and other colleges in London. He is currently on tour with Cameron Mackintosh and Disney's spectacular production of Mary Poppins.



Mikael Pettersen

Accompanist

Mikael Pettersen is the Head of Accompanying and Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Pianist Placement Scheme Coordinator at Elmhurst Ballet School. He obtained a B Mus (Hons) degree at Birmingham Conservatoire in the year 2000 and has also attended Masterclasses with Prof. Hans Leygraf and has studied with Prof. Peter Feuchtwanger. Piano recitals have taken place in Sweden, Germany, France, Austria and the UK and has appeared on radio and television. He has also produced a CD with music by Chopin, Mozart and the Swedish composer Stenhammar. As an accompanist Mikael Pettersen has worked with Canoldir Male Voice Choir and German singer Eva Meier as well as cellist Richard Jenkinson from the CBSO. In 2000 he was a finalist in the Birmingham Accompanist of the Year Competition.



Lowri Evans

Latin

Lowri is a professional Latin and Ballroom dancer with specialised training in musical theatre jazz and commercial styles. She started as a latin and ballroom competitor before professionally training for the stage at London Studio Centre graduating with a 1st class BA Hons degree in Musical Theatre Dance. She now has a versatile career working in theatre, live events, tv & film. Some of her career highlights include:
-Principal Dancer on 'Anton Dubeke at the Musicals' 2025; 'Christmas with Anton Dubeke and Friends' 2024; 'Legends of the Dance Floor' U.K. tour 2024 with Ian Waite, Brendan Cole, Vincent Simone, James Jordan & Pasha Kovalev 2024. She regularly teaches Latin classes and workshops to both aspiring dancers & industry professionals looking to gain new skills in Latin and ballroom styles.



Anna Morgan

Ballet

Anna is a teacher, creative, adjudicator and researcher. Her choreography has been seen all over the world, including creating original work for Bailar Al Sol in the United States and enjoying choreographic residencies at Moulin Belle in France and Andanza in Puerto Rico. Most recently she has co-choreographed the critically acclaimed Black Beauty for United We Dance International at Sadler's Wells. Anna directs her own teacher training programme, Anna Morgan Dance, has taught for institutions such as the Royal Ballet School and Performers College, and has been on the Ballet Faculty at Bird College since 2016. She is an adjudicator for the British and International Federation of Festivals and All England Dance, and is on the Advisory Board for the TIRED Movement. She is currently studying for her Masters at Rambert School, with gender equity in Ballet as her research specialism.



Ess Green

Street

Ess has traveled around the world working with the industry's finest, learning and training the foundations of hiphop and street styles. Ess has worked with some of the UK's leading Street Dance professionals including in the 5 Star West End Hip Hop Theatre Show 'Some Like It HipHop' by ZooNation and is a member of the UK Dance Group Flawless. Currently, alongside running his Entertainment Agency, Dance Clothing Company, and Street Dance Training Company, Ess judges competitions, consults and teaches workshops across the UK aiming to bridge the gap between the mainstream and underground street dance world, helping teachers and students build confidence through systems that produce results.



Stacey Green

Guest Speaker

Stacey Green is the Co-Founder of both the TIRED Movement (Trying to Improve Racial Equality in Dance) and the UK's new inclusive dance brand, Shades Dancewear. She is also the principal of a well-established dance school with over 30yrs teaching experience. She currently delivers talks all over the UK, raising awareness about the importance of racial representation in dance education. Stacey is the brainchild of the RED (Representation and Equity in Dance) research project, which has developed a framework that teachers, schools, and colleges can use to enable them to become diverse and inclusive.



Nicola Thomson

Athletic Artist Method

Nicola's professional career took her around the world in shows like SWING! The Broadway Musical and onboard world-leading cruise ships. Upon retirement from the stage, Nicola went on to gain an MSc in Dance Science & Education and became a UKSCA-accredited Strength & Conditioning Trainer. While lecturing in injury prevention, anatomy, body conditioning and performance jazz at Dance Inc Studio Centre College in Scotland, Nicola is also the founder and director of Athletic Artist. Athletic Artist is an online platform designed to help professional dancers complement their dance training with strength and mindset training to minimise injury risks and maximise potential. She is also the founder of a brand new, nationally recognised SQA-accredited course for dance teachers, 'Certificate in Dancer's Injury Prevention & Well-Being' offered through The Dance Teachers Training Academy.



Caitlin Martin

Social Media

With over half a decade's experience in social media and digital content, Caitlin has worked across industries like technology, fitness, and L&D, helping businesses—from startups to global corporations—craft impactful content strategies. Caitlin has two master's degrees including an MSc in Media, Communications and International Journalism, giving her a deep understanding of audience engagement, market trends, and the power of clear, impactful messaging. In her role at ClassForKids, Caitlin works closely with activity business owners, including dance schools, to elevate their social media presence. Her expertise lies in helping brands tell their stories effectively, turning digital platforms into powerful tools for community-building and customer growth.



Giorgio Garrett

Contemporary

Giorgio was born in Palma de Mallorca, Spain. He trained at Palma's Conservatoire for Music and Dance and then at the Royal Ballet School in London. After graduation he joined The National Ballet of Canada in 2014 performing productions such as Christopher Wheeldon's *Alice in Wonderland*, John Neumeier's *Nijinsky*, *The Nutcracker*, he also performed the role of the Prince in Rudolf Nureyev's *Sleeping Beauty* during his time there. He later joined the English National Ballet in 2016. Giorgio has performed in many productions with English National Ballet, including *Swan Lake* at the Royal Albert Hall, Akram Khan's *Giselle* in London and many locations around the world, *the Nutcracker*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Song of the Earth*.