MAD Festival 2013

Instructor Bios

BRANDON "Peace" ALBRIGHT**, aka "Peace," is the Artistic Director of Illstyle & Peace Productions. He is well versed in the various styles of hip-hop dance. Brandon lives, eats and breathes hip-hop as a dancer, choreographer & actor. His style brings a lot of energy to the stage, which presents a cogent voice in theater. He was an original member of the Philly based crew Scanner Boyz. He has danced for major recording artists such as Schooly D, Will Smith, LL Cool J, Run DMC, Boyz II Men and Beach Boys to name a few. Brandon "peace" Albright has toured nationally and internationally in productions such as Dance Africa, Memphis Ballet, Rome & Jewels and Hip Hop Legends. With Illstyle & Peace Productions, Brandon continues to share his dance ministry with diverse audiences. ***"Same Spirit Different Movement I & II "IMpossible,IZZpossible," the most recent work he has choreographed for the company which entails Locking, Popping, Breaking, Beat boxing, Hip Hop, Tap, Modern Jazz, African Dance, Belly Dance, Singing & DJing, has been touring nationally & internationally to critical acclaim and has performed in Russia, Poland, Canada, London, Italy, France, China, Japan, Denmark, Scotland, Sweden and many more. Also Brandon "Peace" Albright offers amazing & outstanding high energy workshops, master classes and educational program shows such as ***"Become Your Dreams",*** A History of Hip Hop, ***"Hip Hop add it up"*** a math lecture demonstration program and ***"NO-Bullying STOP-Bullying, and let's be friends :)*** a stop the violence and eat healthy show! Brandon is intrigued by the universality of hip-hop and continues to seek inspiration from other dance forms and arts as well. Brandon "Peace" Albright will be doing a solo project 2013 called ***"TRANS4mational."***

FALON BALTZELL received her BFA in Dance Education and NCATE K-12 Certification from the University of Southern Mississippi. Baltzell is currently a third year MFA Candidate in Performance and Choreography at The College at Brockport, SUNY, where she serves as Graduate Teaching Assistant and is earning certification in the *Bill Evans Method of Teaching Laban-Based Modern Dance Technique*. Baltzell is founder and artistic director of *Levels Dance*, a newly formed Western New York based modern dance collaboration, with the mission to explore space within a spectrum of levels through movement restrictions. Baltzell's curiosity about movement exclusively on one level with movement limitations altered her choreographic intuition for movement design, influencing her works for the concert stage. Baltzell's professional credits include performances for James Hansen Dance, commissioned to choreograph for Vision of Sound, and will premiere new work at Movement Research in New York City.

***RUTH CHILDS** is an associate professor at The College of Brockport. She teaches voice, acting, improv, politics of theatre and movement, and is a certified Fitzmaurice Voice teacher. Ruth has directed multiple productions at The College at Brockport. Her acting credits include performances at GEVA Theatre Center in Rochester, the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis (Professional Regional Theatres), as well as multiple productions at other local and regional theatres. She continues to do voiceover and industrial film work. Ruth also works as a voice and dialect coach. Ruth served as the regional chair of the National Playwriting Program for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, and continues to be a respondent and reader for the national and regional playwriting awards. In January of 2011 she was awarded the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Gold Medallion.

SARAH COOLIDGE: Originally from Northern New York, Sarah Coolidge is a dance artist and educator whose interdisciplinary work draws from a range of traditions including jazz, modern, ballet, and everyday movement. Sarah holds an M.F.A. in Interdisciplinary Arts from Goddard College and B.A. in Dance from Marymount Manhattan College. She also studied at the Garth Fagan Dance School and The Timothy M. Draper Center for Dance Education. Her most recent performance credits include Dancescapes with the Rochester Contemporary Dance Collective and Alteration #2, an excerpt from the installation piece, The LeWitt Project / Requiem for Droz, by Mark O'Malley. Sarah has also performed works by Anthony Ferro, Joao Carvalho, Ellen Sinopoli, and with the Ajkun Ballet Theatre. Choreographer of dance and theatre since childhood, Sarah has had her work presented at numerous venues in the Northeast including St. Lawrence University, Edwards Opera House, Rochester Contemporary Art Center, and Goddard College. During her tenure as a faculty member at St. Lawrence University, Sarah served as the Dance Program and Artistic Director for the Performance and Communication Arts Department.

ANNA CORVERA grew up in St. Louis, MO where she started dancing at age three. She studied dance at University of Missouri-Kansas City, The Ailey School, and University of Illinois, from which she received a BFA in 2005. She then moved to New York City where she enjoyed five years choreographing, performing, and teaching. Career highlights include: teaching dance at New York University Department of Recreation, choreographing commercials for Coca Cola, choreographing and performing in a music video for Atlantic Records, and performing with the Lucky Artist Theater Company. She also coached nationally ranked cheerleading and dance teams and adjudicated dance and cheerleading competitions. Currently Anna is an MFA candidate at The College at Brockport: SUNY and a guest teacher for Missouri State Thespians and at colleges in the upstate New York area.

JODY C. DELORIA is currently on faculty as an adjunct dance instructor at SUNY Geneseo. Additionally, for the last 10 years she has been owner/ director at her own studio located in the Rochester area. She studied dance and psychology at SUNY Brockport from where she received a BA degree. Jody enjoys and places a priority on, continuing her dance and dance teacher education whenever her schedule allows. Most often this means summers, when she is able to travel to New York City and attend Broadway Dance Center's Teacher Workshop.

KATHY DIEHL began her professional dance career as a founding company member of Rochester City Ballet. She has danced with Bill Evans Dance Company, Present Tense Dance, Biodance, and Anne Burnidge and Dancers. Diehl has performed in works by Larry Keigwin, Mariah Maloney, Mark Morris, Doug Varone, Jose Limon, Marina Mascarell, and Paul Selwyn Norton. She has also been a guest artist for Heather Roffe (FuturPointe and Garth Fagan) and Jenny Showalter/Lyndsey Vader (Treeline Dance Works). She holds an MFA from The College at Brockport and an MSW from Case Western Reserve University and is currently a Visiting Professor at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Diehl has presented work at the American Dance Guild Festival, WAXworks, Rochester Contemporary Dance Collective, and Brockport Alumni Showcase. She is the artistic director of the newly formed K Diehl Dance Group and the Rochester Dance Project.

STAFFAN ELGELID, PT, PhD, GCFP, CYT is an Associate Professor of Physical Therapy at Nazareth College. At Nazareth College he teaches a wide variety of courses and is in charge of the Nazareth College Wellness initiative. Dr Elgelid has been a Physical Therapist for 20+ years. A native of Sweden and graduate of the University of Central Arkansas, Dr Elgelid has worked in a wide variety of settings, including owning his own clinics, and has presented at conferences on a wide variety of topics such as Complementary Approaches to Health, Guided Imagery, Healthy Aging, Mentoring, Awareness, Core Strengthening, and Feldenkrais, both in the US and in Europe. Dr. Elgelid has held several positions within the North America and International Feldenkrais Community. He is currently on the advisory board of the International Association of Yoga Therapists, and on the editorial board of several journals. Dr Elgelid has also produced videos on different approaches to strengthening.

***STEPHANIE FITTRO** (director/choreographer/teaching artist) moved to New York to study at Alvin Ailey, as a student in the Certificate Program, now a part of Fordham University. Her ballet, modern and theatre dance background include: The Boston Ballet School, The National School of Gdansk (Poland), Toronto Dance Theatre, The Limon Institute, The Ailey School, Steps On Broadway, and Broadway Dance Center. Other training: Shakespeare and Company (Acting, Clown, Renaissance Dance). She has been honored to study with master teachers such as S&C Resident Choreographer Susan Dibble and Limon teacher Jim May (Peridance). Her mentors in theatre dance worked closely with Jerome Robbins ("West Side Story"original cast) Bob Fosse (National Tour of "Dancin'") and Agnes DeMille (Oklahoma" Broadway revival, "Brigadoon"). Ms. Fittro's character dance teacher, the late great James Jamieson, was Agnes DeMille's beloved sword dancer, dance captain, and advisor on Scottish Highland dancing in the original production of "Brigadoon". Ms. Fittro's professional performing credits include: The National Tour of "Carousel", "The Merry Widow" at Met Opera with Placido Domingo, the "Hairspray" National tour, "Legally Blonde" on Broadway, three tours of "West Side Story" under the direction of Alan Johnson and performances at Irish Rep, City Center, The New York Musical Theatre Festival, Movement Research at the Judson, Jazz Club Smoke, and more . With special insight into the dancer as both musician and actor and committed to passing on the inherent freedom and joy of expressive movement, Ms. Fittro has taught guest workshops all across the United States and is currently on faculty at Broadway Workshop(theatre training for young actors) and MTCA (college audition prep)in New York City. Ms. Fittro is also Associate Artistic Director of The Yip Harburg Foundation (lyricist of Over the Rainbow).

N'JELLE GAGE: As soloist with Les Ballet Dimensions (Jamaica), N'Jelle began her career under thetutelage of Norma Spence & Tatjana Sedunova (Artistic Director, Lithuanian Opera & Ballet Theater). She attended Academia Ballet Clasico de Nina Novak (Caracas,Venezuela) as a scholarship student, graduated from Escuela Nacional de Artes & interned with Danza Contemporanea (Havana, Cuba). During her career, N'Jelle has travelled to over 16 international cities in various capacities including senior dancer & assistant director to Dr. L'Antoinette Stines- L'Acadco Dance (Jamaica). In 2001 she directed & choreographed for Caribbean Performing Arts Ensemble (Florida), & has gained a wide range of expertise from work in music video production & ad campaigns with international artists (ex. Sean Paul, Mutabaruka, Damian Marley, Third World). She has also worked as a cultural consultant for film in the UK. N'Jelle teaches Caribbean Contemporary dance techniques- Tecnica Cubana & L'Antech™, choreographs & directs FUTURPOINTE dance rehearsals.

BRITTANY GRIMM, originally from Wabash, Indiana, is currently a dance instructor at 25 North Dance Academy in Rochester, NY. At 25 North, Brittany teaches ballet, jazz, contemporary, and tap to all age levels, toddlers through adults. In May of 2012, she graduated with her Master of Fine Arts degree in Choreography and Performance from Florida State University's School of Dance. While at FSU she taught a variety of dance courses for the non-major population, as well as master classes for the Suzanne Farrell Workshop for Young Dancers and the FSU Summer Intensive Dance Workshop. Beyond teaching, Brittany is extremely passionate about choreographing. Her work has been presented at the DUMBO Dance Festival in Brooklyn, The Citigroup Theater at The Ailey Studios, and the Indiana Dance Festival. Before attending FSU, she received her Bachelor's degree in Dance Performance from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana.

SARAH GULLO holds an MFA in Choreography and Performance from SUNY College at Brockport, and a Bachelor of Arts in Humanistic Studies from McGill University. Training in gymnastics, Iyengar Yoga, and graduate work in contemporary dance technique have informed her current movement style. Gullo's solo work has been presented in Rochester and New York City, and she has performed with regional dance companies BIODANCE, Kista Tucker Dance, Geomantics Dance Theatre, and Melanie Aceto Contemporary Dance as well as New York City based Treeline Dance Works and KICK STAND Dance. Gullo is certified in the Bill Evans Method of teaching modern dance, and is also completing certification as a Somatic Movement Educator with EastWest Somatics. She currently serves as adjunct professor at Keuka and Roberts Wesleyan Colleges and as Assistant Dean of Students and dance faculty member at the Hochstein School of Music and Dance in Rochester, New York.

ERAN DAVID P. HANLON is a freelance artist located in Rochester, NY. He holds an MFA in dance from The Ohio State University. He currently performs professionally with nationally renowned dance company BIODANCE and held faculty appointments at the University of Rochester and the College at Brockport. Hanlon previously taught in the department of dance at Dartmouth College under the Direction of Ford Evans, simultaneously performing and choreographing for seven years with their modern dance troupe – the Dartmouth Dance Ensemble. Over the years he has performed for other dance artists such as Bebe Miller, Bill Evans, James Hansen, Ellen Cornfield, Terry Creach, Heidi Henderson, Mariah Maloney and Amy Marshall. His most recent works have featured at the Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester, Rochester Contemporary Art Center, the Dryden Theatre, Hochstein School of Music, RIT and SUNY Geneseo. His video projects have been screened nationally and internationally. He is featured on the cover and in the most recent issue of *Metropolitan*.

NICOLE KAPLAN: Originally from Detroit, MI, Nicole Kaplan is pursuing an MFA in Dance: Choreography and Performance from The College at Brockport SUNY, and holds a BA in Communications and Public Relations from Michigan State University. While at Brockport, she has performed work for esteemed faculty Darwin Prioleau, Maura Keefe, and James Hansen, as well as guest artists including Telly Fowler. Since moving to New York, Nicole has had the honor of dancing with Mariah Maloney Dance at Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out, ACDFA, and at the Rochester Fringe Festival, and was selected to serve as a performance apprentice for Monica Bill Barnes and Company in the fall of 2012. Nicole is scheduled to perform with Red Dirt Dance under Artistic Director, Karl Rogers in February of 2013. Her work combining the aesthetics of hip-hop and modern technique has been selected to perform at ACDFA, and was featured at the 2012 Rochester Fringe Festival.

LEN MACKEY (musician) is currently a member of w. African ensembles Mounafanyi and BushMango Drum and Dance. He also works as an accompanist and YogaDance teacher at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Len is the recent recipient of an Art $tart Grant provided by NY State, via St. Lawrence Arts council, and is the founder of Song of the Spirit, and Song of the Spheres, Inc. (songofthespheres.com) a multimedia company specializing in education and entertainment for children of all ages. Len has recorded and produced three albums of world music inspired by the w. African djembe orchestra, Australian didjeridoo, and Native American chanting.

***SUZANNE OLIVER** holds the MFA degree in dance and the Ph. D in Kinesiology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. After early years doing acrobatics, competitive ballroom dance, and cheerleading, she imagined dance as the perfect coalescing of inclinations. Opposing parental wishes, Suzanne chose to major in dance in college. Since that time her curiosity about the body, being human, and the role dance plays in that equation is un-abated. Oliver is currently an Assistant Professor of dance at The College at Brockport where she continues to flourish as a teacher, dancer, choreographer, kinesiologist, and somatics practitioner.

ELIZABETH OSBORN is a dance educator originally from the Rochester area. She is a 2013 Master of Fine Arts candidate at the College at Brockport, and is currently working on original choreography for her final thesis presentation. As a dance historian, Elizabeth is primarily interested in the postmodern dance movement of the 1960s, but loves all things historical. A modern dancer, her background is in the styles of Limon, Graham, Horton, release, and she has been studying with Bill Evans for the past three years in Laban-Bartinieff technique. She is a writer, who has presented locally at conferences at the College at Brockport and at St. John Fisher College. Elizabeth also serves as Stage Manager for Rochester-based dance companies, including Futurpointe Dance, Heather Roffe Dance, and Bill Evans Dance Company.

MELINDA PHILLIPS was raised in Rochester, NY & attended the School of the Arts High School majoring in dance and drama. She graduated from SUNY Brockport with a BA in Dance. She is a founding member of FuturPointe Dance. Melinda's focus has been in Modern dance, West African, Tap, Hispanic dance, and Afro House & has performed as a member of Voices Dance Ensemble, Sankofa African Dance Ensemble and Akoma Ntoaso Dance. She currently teaches and performs throughout Rochester City schools & for Garth Fagan School of Dance.

DARIN PRICE: A New York native with Caribbean roots, Darin Price has been dancing his entire life. His formative training began with hip hop, martial arts and percussion, which has greatly influenced his true passion: Latin dance. Darin has dedicated countless years of study at the national and international level with many acclaimed Latin dance professionals. Darin has performed on local, national and international stages, and has become well known throughout the dance community as a highly sought after teacher and performer. Darin's distinct teaching method strongly emphasizes musicality, technique and artistic expression. By fusing Latin dance with other dance and movement mediums, Darin's choreography has a flavor that is truly distinct and innovative. Darin is the Founder and Co-Artistic Director of Essence of Rhythm Latin Dance Company, and also serves as Owner & Executive Director of Rhythm Society Urban Wellness Studios in Rochester. Darin also serves as Chairman of the Beechwood Community Arts Council (*BCAC) and is the Founder of the D.R.E.A.M (Dance Rules Everything Around Me) Project.*

MICHELLE PRITCHARD spent six years dancing professionally in New York City before relocating to Southern California to pursue her M.F.A. in Dance from California State University, Long Beach. While in Los Angeles, Michelle performed with Keith Johnson/Dancers and the LA Contemporary Dance Company. She was nominated for a Lester Horton Award for her performance with Keith Johnson in 2006. In Los Angeles, Michelle also worked as an adjunct professor in dance at Orange Coast Community College and Loyola Marymount University. Michelle has had the privilege to work with many extraordinary choreographers such as Doug Varone in the Metropolitan Opera's production of *Les Troyens* and David Parsons in the Times Square Millennium Celebration, among others. Michelle is thrilled to be living in her hometown again and has taught at the Rochester City Ballet and in the dance department at SUNY Brockport. Michelle is the owner of Evolution Pilates studio in Pittsford.

ALLEN WRIGHT SHANNON: MFA in Scenic Design -- Minnesota State University, Mankato, is currently a Professor of Theatre/Resident Scenic Designer at Nazareth College. Shannon has **e**xtensive experience as an actor/singer/dancer in several national tours, industrials, cabarets, and stock theatre, and as a Director/Choreographer with Grandview College of Iowa, Normandale CC of Minnesota, Instructor of Ballet/Pointe and Choreographer with *The Dance Conservatory of Southern Minnesota***,** Instructor of Ballet/Pointe and Choreographer with *The Monique Dance Companie* of Minneapolis, MN**,** and as Choreographer/Guest Artist with *The North Dakota School of the Arts.*

GUY THORNE is known in Rochester & throughout the dance arena as a world-class contemporary dance artist who performed for numerous years with Garth Fagan Dance. He has been favorably reviewed & lauded for his commanding presence & his skillful choreographic interpretation on notable stages in Italy, Germany, Hawaii, France, the UK & Austria. A native of Guyana, & the student of dance pioneers from Jamaica & Cuba, Guy has a penchant for the confluence of modern/urban movement with Caribbean folkloric dances which he explores in a contemporary context. As Co-Founder & Artistic Director of FUTURPOINTE dance, a dynamic local coterie of dance artists, Thorne continues to create work that represent his Caribbean world-view through multi-genre, inter-media collaboration & spectacle. He is a graduate of SUNY Brockport, a 2012 Jubilation Fellow & on the dance faculty of SUNY Potsdam teaching Ballet, Modern Dance & Caribbean Urban & Folkloric Dance.

JULIANA UTZ is originally from Fredericksburg, Virginia and is currently a third year graduate student at The College at Brockport, State University of New York where she is pursuing a Masters of Fine Arts in Dance-Performance and Choreography. Juliana also received a BS in Dance Education from Radford University where she studied ballet under Inessa Plekhanova. She has had the privilege to perform the works of Vanessa Van Wormer, Mariah Maloney, Maura Keefe, Dana Bella, Alyce Finwall, and Sherone Price, among others. She has performed in various dance festivals along the east coast such as Jacob's Pillow, the Rochester Fringe Festival and the American College Dance Festival. Juliana is an avid choreographer in the Brockport and Rochester area and enjoys researching different aspects of solo work.

VANESSA VAN WORMER is a choreographer, instructor, and dancer based in western NY. She has danced with Ballet Spokane, Spokane Opera, Bill Evans Dance Company, and most recently as a featured guest artist and choreographer for the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra Pops series. Van Wormer has also performed and choreographed in London, England, at Roehampton University, and as a guest with Configurations Dance Theater, Treeline Dance Works, James Hansen Dance, Heather Roffe Dance, and Mariah Maloney Dance. Van Wormer's choreography has been showcased at venues including Ballet Spokane, Eastman School of Music, Dance New Amsterdam WIP, WAXworks, Movement Research Open Performance, American College Dance Festival Association Conferences and Rochester Contemporary Dance Collective performances. Van Wormer is presently a part-time instructor of dance at Nazareth College and SUNY, The College at Brockport.