


OSSDF 2025 Workshops Artists/Bios/Workshop Descriptions

Workshop Artist	Headshot	Bio	Workshop Description
<p>Allan Goetten</p>		<p>Meet Alan Goetten, a Brazilian dancer and choreographer with over 20 years of experience in the dance industry. Alan's passion for dance has been a driving force throughout his career, leading him to excel in various styles including jazz, hip-hop, Reggaeton, and lyrical/contemporary.</p> <p>Having studied and taught dance to students ranging from ages 6 to 18, as well as adult classes, Alan brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to his teaching. He spent 15 years with his previous dance team in Brazil, competing in numerous dance conventions across the country and even internationally in the United States.</p> <p>Alan's talent and dedication were further showcased when his dance team had the opportunity to choreograph and perform shows at Disneyland Orlando in 2016 and Disneyland Paris in 2019. These experiences not only highlighted his choreographic skills but also allowed him to share his passion for dance on a global stage.</p> <p>In the past three years, Alan has been teaching in Canada, where he has made a significant impact on the local dance community. At a studio in Toronto, he has guided approximately 130 children through his dance programs, instilling in them not only technical skills but also a love for the art form.</p> <p>Alan's ultimate goal is to inspire the younger generation and provide them with the tools they need to shine on stage. His commitment to sharing his knowledge and fostering a supportive learning environment reflects his dedication to nurturing the next generation of dancers.</p>	<p>Reggaeton: Be ready for this exciting Reggaeton workshop led by Alan Goetten, an instructor and performer with over 20 years of experience in the dance world. Known for his engaging teaching style, Alan brings a unique energy to every class, blending urban Latin rhythms with hip-hop influences to create an electrifying dance experience. In this workshop, you'll explore reggaeton movements, emphasizing body isolation, musicality, and creating a powerful stage presence. You'll learn dynamic choreography that brings the energy of reggaeton. Whether you're an experienced dancer or just starting your journey, this workshop will give you the tools to feel confident and powerful on the dance floor. Alan's guidance will inspire you to connect deeply with the music, express yourself, and have fun while pushing your limits. Don't miss the chance to experience the vibrant energy of reggaeton and take your dance skills to the next level at this exciting workshop!</p>

**Allen Kaeja
(from Kaeja
d'Dance)**



Allen Kaeja is an internationally recognized and award-winning Choreographer and Dance Film Director. The child of a refugee and Holocaust survivor, Allen has created over 30 years of Holocaust inspired stage and film works, with over 210 stage works and has Choreographed/Directed 35 films. Co-Artistic Director of Kaeja d'Dance with Karen Kaeja, Allen's works have been featured in commercials, films and festivals around the world. He has received numerous national and international commissions, teaches Kaeja Elevations and Dance Film master classes worldwide and continues to tour, with Karen, their lifeDUETs program throughout the world. Karen and Allen received the DanceOntario Lifetime Achievement Award. The Kaeja's are touring to the USA and Canada. www.kaeja.org

Kaeja Elevations: This workshop will focus on the technique and aesthetic of Kaeja Elevations with Contact Improvisation as the foundation of the warm-ups. This workshop is accessible to all genders equally and is practically based to use both sensorial and choreographically. The skills to be developed include: learning Kaeja Elevation techniques; articulate and sophisticated response to the point of contact, multi-level movement, escalating the opportunities for momentum through anchoring, flying, gravity and breath, accentuate the elements of Elevation techniques, lofting through propulsion, weight transfer, and 'dancing the impulse with your partner', unpredictability of the moment, to be comfortable in and out of contact, composition and performance presence.

**Ashley
Cole-Daley**



Ashley is a 25-year-old dancer/teacher residing in Toronto. With 17 years of experience, Ashley began dancing a variety of street styles like hip-hop, clowning, and stepping. In high school, Ashley was introduced to technical styles like contemporary, jazz and ballet. This assisted Ashley's transition into college where she was able to expand and grasp a greater understanding of dance and performance. As a result, she has danced in music videos and a variety of stage performances. In addition to being a dancer, Ashley teaches beg/int commercial choreography classes at Dance Life X, and is currently a faculty member with the Movmnt Collecting. Ashley continues to prioritize training by taking classes and engaging in dance battles, she looks forward to opportunities like these to share her love for dance with others.

Hip Hop: Geared towards intermediate to advanced level dancers. This class will focus on retention, freestyle, musicality and performance. Influenced by multiple disciplines like hip-hop, afro, house, varying street styles and other technical forms. This class intends to aid you in gaining insight into personalizing your movement and style while simultaneously exploring your own individualism.

Briana Knowlton



My name is Briana and I am a Modo Yoga instructor. Teaching yoga has been a hobby of mine since 2013 and I did my trainings in Los Angeles, California (Modo - Level 1) and Portland, Oregon (Modo Flow). Most recently I was part of a studio downtown Toronto, but have taught all over southern Ontario and even helped open a Modo Yoga studio in Stoney Creek in 2015!

Outside of yoga, I am a Senior Director at a Toronto-based healthtech startup and have been working in the tech/startup industry for 8 years. I live in Waterloo with my husband, 2 children and golden retriever.

Yoga Flow: Our class will be a flow-style practice that will provide strengthening and stretching elements for the entire body. Flow classes often weave together multiple poses and focus on connecting the breath with the physical elements of the class. I will offer modifications throughout class to tailor it to all levels and allow participants to choose the practice that's right for them. Participants should feel challenged but calm throughout and will leave feeling relaxed, centered and happy :)

Dhruv Naik



Dhruv Naik is a Toronto-based Bollywood fusion dancer with over 20 years of experience. As the Co-Owner and Artistic Director of Jadoo Entertainment—GTA's premier Bollywood fusion dance company—Dhruv, alongside his brother, has been instrumental in transforming the company from performing at cultural festivals to offering dance classes across the Greater Toronto Area. Under his choreography and creative direction, Jadoo Entertainment has earned critical acclaim for its sold-out Bollywood Dance Musical Productions.

A respected judge for various dance competitions, Dhruv is deeply committed to giving back to the community by nurturing the next generation of dancers. He has collaborated with celebrities like Teshar, Raghav, Raja Kumari, and more. Beyond Bollywood, Dhruv is proficient in a diverse range of dance styles, including hip hop, jazz funk, Indian classical, Indian folk (Bhangra and Garba), reggaeton, and dancehall. He is also a CFL dancer, performing as part of the Argonauts A-Team and the 905 Raptors.

As a sought-after guest teacher for both the Dufferin-Peel and Peel District School Boards, and a faculty member at top dance studios such as City Centre Dance and Underground Dance Centre, Dhruv has made a significant impact on the local dance community. He has also conducted Bollywood workshops at

Bollywood: In this Bollywood dance workshop, students will immerse themselves in the dynamic fusion of traditional and contemporary dance styles that define Bollywood choreography. The class will break down the fundamentals of Bollywood movement, including footwork, hand gestures, and facial expressions, while incorporating rhythmic patterns and storytelling elements. Students will learn how to express emotions through dance and build confidence in their performance. The workshop will introduce a variety of dance styles, from classical Indian to modern Bollywood, giving students a well-rounded experience of this energetic and colorful genre. The class is designed to accommodate all levels, with opportunities for everyone to learn at their own pace.

prestigious conventions like the Desi Dance Convention for two consecutive years.

Driven by a relentless pursuit of expanding his skill set, Dhruv’s dedication to the art form is evident in his continuous efforts to push creative boundaries.

Edz Gyamfi



Edmund “Edz” Gyamfi better known by his stage name Edz Gyamfi, is a Ghanaian-Canadian dancer and choreographer from Ottawa, Ontario Canada. His main dance styles consist of Hip Hop, Dancehall & Afro Dance. Edz is currently a part of TDSB Partnership program, Peel district school board along with OLI (Outside Looking In) which has him traveling and teaching youth in remote northern indigenous communities. All in part of focusing on the importance of dance education through movement, history and culture.

Edz has devoted his studies and travel to places like Jamaica, New York & L.A along with taking virtual programs. He has trained and studied with Commercial Industry Leaders such as world renowned Commercial Choreographers Rhapsody James, Luam Kyflegy and Galen Hooks. He’s also trained with Street Dance OGs & creators in Buddha Stretch, Popping Pete, Chrybaby, HypeGirl & Mr.YouTube.

Furthermore, Edz has had the opportunity to also learn and train from Professor Orville (Danceexpressionz), DHevolution by BlingEvo, Dancehall Vybz Spirit and Zidan- from Xqlusiv Dance Crew.

Edz has been a member of Toronto’s renowned Afro Dance Collective led by Esie Mensah called Black Stars who have performed at The following: Maple Leafs BHM Halftime, Toronto Raptors - Giants of African, TiffNigeria, Good Morning America w/Ryan Seacrest and Kelly Ripa to name a few.

With over 17 years of teaching experience, Edz continues to find new ways to learn, share and cultivate minds in a fun, safe and interactive environment.

Check out his website

www.edzgyamfi.com

Dancehall: Let’s hold a vibe!
Letting go of all of life’s stresses by celebrating free spirited movements from Jamaica. This session will acknowledge Jamaican Dance Creators that have made contributions to the evolution of Dancehall culture.

Intro
Brief description of Dancehall Culture & Historical Significances. Focus will be on Party Moves from Individual Creators & Unique Steps from Popular Dancehall Street Crews.

Warmup
Follow along- Vibe segment

Using Hip Hop Techniques
transferable to Dancehall Grooves (introduce key moves)

Choreographic Sequence
Fun interactive Choreography using key moves.

Jenna Shortt



Jenna Shortt grew up in a small northern town with big city dreams. She has had the amazing opportunity to train and dance with some of the industry's leading choreographers such as Rhapsody James, Kevin Frey, Katy Tate, Luther Brown to name a few. Her commercial dance journey began when she moved to Toronto at the age of 18 and began training under Toronto's best and brightest. Some of her experiences include Pulse Elite Alumni, M.E Season 8, Raptors Northside Dance Crew, and Shawn Desman Live Tour. Jenna is looking forward to sharing her knowledge and experience, and her love for dance with all the dancers at OSSDF!

Commercial Dance

Have you ever dreamt of dancing beside your favourite music artist? Of dancing on stage in front of thousands of people screaming your name? Well in this class you're going to embody just that! This high energy, commercial inspired choreography class will have you dancing your heart out and embodying everything you love about the dance and music industry.

Jocelyn Bell

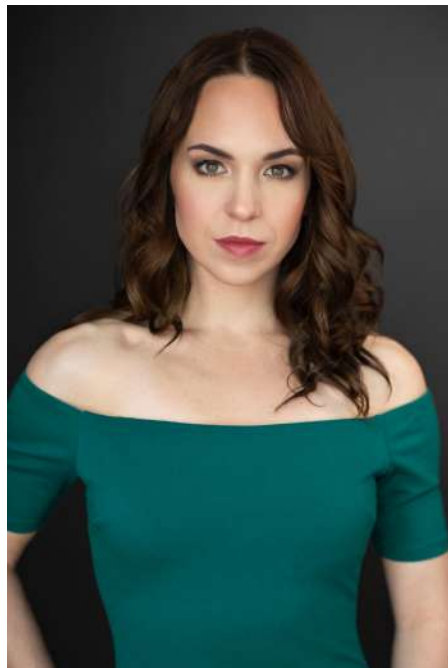


As an educator in the Near North District School Board for almost 30 years, I have been able to embrace the arts on a daily basis. I taught dance at Widdifield Secondary School for 25 years, 3 years at West Ferris Secondary School and most recently have been working at the Board Office as a Program Coordinator for SHSM and Experiential Learning. Don't let the stuffy job title fool you, I still continue to work in the community producing, directing and choreographing for theatre companies in North Bay and the Muskoka area. I also continue to work occasionally in background casting for Northern Ontario Film companies, and you can find my tapping feet in a movie entitled 'I'm Glad It's Christmas'. As a part of the founding members of DANCEFEST, I am beyond excited to be able to be part of this incredible initiative. My passion for the arts, particularly musical theatre, is one that I hope I can continue to share for many years to come.

Musical Theatre and Audition

Techniques: Get ready to rock a grapevine, double time your jazz square, and show off that electric smile through this energetic Musical Theatre workshop. You will have an opportunity to learn a routine to a current popular musical theatre selection, but also share in the understanding of the basis of where musical theatre came from. Working collaboratively with your peers you will also have an opportunity to improve your auditioning techniques so that you can do what you need to be noticed when you enter the audition space, and be remembered when you leave the audition.

Sarah Vance



A creative powerhouse, Sarah is a choreographer and triple threat performer from Waterloo Ontario. Her most recent credits include: choreographing the world premier of the musical Chris. Mrs, at the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Toronto and appearing in Season 2 of the hit tv show Reacher, on Amazon Prime.

With a love for theatre, Sarah has established herself as an industry elite in the musical theatre world. Select theatre credits include: Spamalot - Rehearsal Swing (Stratford Festival), Grease the Musical - Associate Choreographer (Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Toronto), Joseph, Hairspray, Grease, Elf the Musical, All Shook Up, Spamalot, High School Musical (Drayton Entertainment), Anne of Green Gables, Mamma Mia, Alice Through The Looking Glass, Canada Rocks! (Charlottetown Festival), Crazy For You (Theatre Calgary/Citadel Theatre), and Beauty and the Beast, Music Man (Capitol Theatre).

In between theatre contracts Sarah has also accumulated impressive credits in the film and television industry. FILM/TV credits include: American Gods (Starz) The Next Step (FAMILY), Assistant Choreographer The Moblees - Season 2 (CBC), Assistant Choreographer Ukulele U - Pilot Episode (CBC), Warrior (NBC), CARRIE (SONY), One Starry Christmas (CTV), Canadian Country Music Awards (CBC), Warehouse 13 (SYFY), Reign (CW), In the Tall Grass (Netflix), The Next Star (YTV), King of the Camp (YTV), SYTYCDC (CTV).

Along with working in the entertainment industry, Sarah graduated from York University with an Honours Science Kinesiology Degree and is a Registered Kinesiologist. During her studies she was a member of the NBA Toronto Raptors Dance Pak for four seasons, dancing in front of 20,000 fans.

When not performing, Sarah can be found spending time with her sons, husband and puppy. She continues to share her passion for dance while teaching and choreographing at studios across Canada.

Jazz: Get ready to go full out during this high energy and motivational jazz class. Class will include a technical warm-up, followed by a jazz combination incorporating style, technique and performance elements.

Robyn Michaud



Robyn Michaud is Anishinaabe Kwe from Sagamok Anishinawbek First Nation, now living in Woodstock. She is an Indigenous Studies professor at Conestoga College and also teaches Indigenous Studies in the Faculty of Education at Western University. Robyn is an old-style jingle dancer and enjoys sharing Indigenous history and culture with others.

Powwow Dance Fusion: In this introductory class, participants will learn all about the importance of powwows in Anishinaabe culture, and the different styles of dance one would see at a powwow. In the active portion of the workshop, participants will learn various powwow dance steps, then work together in groups to create dance routines in the genre of their choice that incorporate some of the powwow dance steps they have learned. The end result is a beautiful fusion of dance and culture!

Shawn Byfield



Shawn Byfield
Award-Winning Choreographer, Expert Adjudicator and
Super-Fun Dance Authority

Shawn Byfield sets the bar as a highly respected coach, choreographer, and outstanding adjudicator for dance competitions and festivals. Shawn (www.ShawnByfield.com) is a DORA MAVOR MOORE AWARD™ winning choreographer (Canada's version of a TONY Award™,) a GEMINI AWARD™ nominee (the Canadian EMMY Award), a 2x BLACK CANADIANS AWARD™ nominee, and a leading force in show business. He's a veteran performer and energizing instructor, with over 40 years of experience to share!

As an educator trained in tap dance, hip hop, jazz, modern, ballet, musical theatre and variety, he

coaches thousands of dancers nationwide. Fun fact: Shawn created Byfield Dance Experience- Canada's first all-adult dance studio! As a mindset coach, and Author of his latest book: "You Came

To Slay!," Shawn's passion for inspiring dancers to reach their highest potential is valued by students, teachers and parents alike.

Shawn is a veteran of film and TV, and worked with celebs Adam Sandler, Gregory Hines, Twitch, Zac

Audition Secrets: Coach Shawn Byfield will run dancers through a mock audition, learning dance moves combining basic Jazz, Hip Hop, and Character work. Dancers will learn audition etiquette, unique tips to stand out, and will leave feeling energized! Students receive group feedback, with time for Q&A at the end.

Efron, Nasri, Andrea Martin, Derek Hough, Barry Lather, BoA, Jason Priestley, and others.
 Blockbuster credits include: Sneakerella (Disney+), My Spy (Amazon Prime), Self Made (Netflix), HAIRSPRAY, A Simple Favor, Working The Engels, Make Your Move, Turn The Beat Around, Blues Brothers 2000, Taal, Bojangles, Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen, The Music Man, Instant Star, even The Cheetah Girls! (Plus more.)
 Most importantly- he's a wired encourager and positive role model. As a Certified Maxwell Leadership Team Member™ Shawn motivates regularly on his Instagram @ShawnByfield, on The DanceBug Channel nationwide, and is a certified public speaker and presenter. Shawn's positive feedback and entertaining lessons leave dancers excited for the future!

Tonya LeDuc



Tonya Murray Leduc started dance at the age of three and went on to simultaneously enter the fields of dance and science. Despite entering the professional dance landscape at the age of 15, Tonya continued dancing through her school career as well while gathering titles and awards as a competitive dancer both in Canada and abroad.
 Tonya's professional career includes features in music videos, concert tours, national and international television commercial campaigns, and touring with several North American performance companies and cruise lines. She has also been featured in television shows and major motion pictures for Paramount Pictures, Netflix and HBO Entertainment.
 While furthering her dance career, Tonya attended the University of Toronto where she served as a resident dance instructor while completing a Specialist degree in Cell & Molecular Biology. She then continued on to The University of Western Ontario where she received her Bachelor of Education degree with Distinction, becoming a certified member of the Ontario College of Teachers for the Intermediate and Senior Science divisions. Whilst managing the role of Artistic Director of THE ACADEMY, Tonya completed a Master's Degree from Wilfrid Laurier University in Epidemiology and Health Science. She is also currently a senior mathematics teacher in Kitchener, Ontario.
 Tonya is also Member of the British Association of Teachers of Dancing and a Licentiate Member of the Cecchetti Council of America. Her students have gone on to win numerous titles and awards in both the United States and Canada, continue with their own dance careers, open studios of their own and most importantly, continue to grow and prosper in their adult lives.

Developing Contemporary Movement:
 "Developing Contemporary Movement" allows students to explore how to make use physical movements to help develop performance pieces that are more impactful and meaningful for both themselves and their audiences. Storytelling is an integral component of dance as a performance art, and by providing students with the tools and techniques to tell their individual stories or to help others bring their meaningful experiences to new audiences, we allow for more stories to be told on wider scale.