



# WELCOME! JUDGES AND MASTER DANCE INSTRUCTORS



## FIONA JOHNSON KOCJANČIČ

*International Dance Organization (IDO) Vice-President  
IDO Sport Director  
IDO Competition Director  
IDO Educational Director*



### REPRESENTING I.D.O

Fiona Johnson Kocjančič was born in Ljubljana, Slovenia where she started her dancing career with one of Slovenian most recognized IDO awarded choreographers, Mojca Horvat. Along with competing in IDO and collecting European and World championship titles in show dance and tap, she was trained in the Ljubljana Ballet Conservatorium.

During her young age of 10 she was dancing on hit TV shows, theatres and different dance projects for more than 15 years. This experience later lead her to work with a professional dance company »Slovenian dance project« managed by one of Europe's specialists in Horton technique, Fred Lasserre (Paris, France).

In 2003 she started to work as choreographer:

- of Slovenian national state celebrations for several years,
  - in theatres, where she choreographed and produced 2 very successful full-length shows ("Back to the roots" and "Welcome to the future") that played full 3 years,
  - TV shows on National TV and private Broadcasting networks,
  - in several children and full-length musicals in Slovenia and Italy,
- and finally founded her own dancing school in 2007 that has been very successful in street disciplines for years (junior and adult European and World championship titles). Worked and organized several World and Continental IDO Championships.

Since year 2005 Fiona is running a private event managing company that combines her love of dance and organizing events.

Ms Fiona was also president for 8 years of the IDO Slovenia at Plesna Zveza Slovenije, one of the few National Dance Federations recognized by the National Olympic Committee (NOC).

All her experience helps in her current professional work as IDO Sport Director including the tasks of the IDO Competition- and Education director.

Fiona is married to Aljoša Kocjančič and is the proud mother of two girls, Katjuša and Chiara.

## JORDAN CLARK



### CANADA

Jordan Clark is a Canadian actress/dancer from Tottenham, Ontario. She is best known for her starring role as Gisele on Family Channel's hit series "The Next Step," as well, she was winner of CTV's *So You Think You Can Dance*.

Ms. Jordan grew up in the Dance World as a competitive dancer in all genres. She has judged across North America, as well she has taught at many conventions. She has trained in all the Performing Arts genres as well as Hip Hop and Couple dances.

Ms. Clark will be teaching one day of workshops and will be a celebrity judge for the finals.

## SHELDON PERRY



### AUSTRALIA

Sheldon began his tap career at the age of four and was the Sydney Tap Champion by the age of ten. Stage career highlights include member of the original Australian cast of [42nd Street](#); participation in Dein Perry's All Tap Company project funded by the Australian Council; member of the original cast of Hot Shoe Shuffle, touring to London's West End as Assistant Director and Choreographer, throughout Australia and Japan in the principal role, and as Dance Captain and Choreographer for the UK regional tour.

Sheldon also appeared alongside Dire Straights' Mark Knopfler for the UK's Leukemia Foundation at Grosvenor House, and performed with Stevie Wonder in the tribute Quincy Jones' The First Fifty Years. Sheldon has toured extensively throughout the United States and Europe as lead performer and dance director with the award-winning production Tap Dogs and has performed with the company at the 2000 Olympics Opening Ceremony in Sydney. Film and video highlights include a performance in the original award-winning video of Tap Dogs and a performance in the 2001 Mumbia film fare awards for Bootmen.

Television credits include appearances on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno", "MTV", "The Midday Show", "Hey Hey It's Saturday", "The Logie Awards", "The Olivier Awards Ceremony" (West End) and "The Big Breakfast" (London).

Sheldon has been a performer and toured with Tap Dogs around the globe for over 17 years and is thrilled to be back touring Australia.

## MATTHEW CLARK



### NORTH AMERICA

**Matthew Clark** provides students an opportunity to benefit from his highly acclaimed, innovative style of instruction. He has repeatedly led dancers to championship titles. Including the World Jazz Congress, Numerous World Tap Dance Championship titles and International Dance Organization's World Jazz Champions. His dancers performed for the late Gregory Hines by invitation in New York City ..

**Gregory Hines regarded Clark's work as "Fabulous choreography".**

He is a member of National Dance Council of America, Dance Masters of America, Dance Educators of America, World Dance Organization, New York State Dance Association of Higher Education, Judge with the International Dance Organization and World Jazz Congress Master Instructor. His teaching, competing and judging have earned him recognition as a viable member of the dance world in the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, South Africa and Australia.

Clark is also a performer of stage and commercials for Reebok, Toyota and Calvin Klein. The Mary B. Talbert Civic and Cultural Club recently honored Matthew Clark in their effort to spotlight teachers, instructors and mentors in the community who have demonstrated sincere dedication and compassion in their teaching. He has also been honored by N.Y. Governor Pataki who presented him with the **Living Legend Award** "Life as an Artist."

Matthew has led many dancers to professional careers in the world of arts and entertainment. He has enjoyed nurturing several to the Broadway stage in productions of Grease, Ragtime, Footloose, My Fair Lady, Chorus Line, Chicago, Music Man, 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, and also as part of the performing cast of "The Lion King" in Toronto. Others have been cast in movies with Gregory Hines, selected as part of Michael Jackson's dance ensemble, and performed as members of the Rockettes, entertained with Disney Tokyo, on a variety of cruise lines and even performed by invitation for Prince Charles, all illustrations of Clark's ability to help students attain exceptional levels in dance talent.

## Paul Nqambule



### SOUTH AFRICA

Paul is a proudly South African. Street dance trainer, choreographer, judge and competitor.

He strives to protect and develop the street dance culture in South Africa. His Accolade include being placed 1st & 2nd at IDO world championships in Germany, Poland, Austria, Netherlands, Italy. Paul is respectfully recognised for his youth

development programmes in South Africa

## RUDI SMIT



South Africa

Rudi Smit is a Jazz Funk/Hip Hop/Waacking choreographer as well as a creative director from Cape Town. He was one of the choreographers on the recently released Honey 3 film starring Cassie Ventura and Kenny Wormald.

He was also an assistant-choreographer on the new 'Bring It On' film, set to release at the end of this month. He has taught, performed and judged competitions in over 20 countries that span over Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and Australasia and is the choreographer of the Meghan Trainor "Me Too" dance video that went viral globally in September 2016.

## HOPE MAIMANE

### **SOUTH AFRICA**



Hope Maimane, from Cape Town as a choreographer for the past 4 years. His dance styles include Modern, Jazz, Musical Theatre & Hip Hop. He has danced and presented workshops in over 15 Countries in Europe, Africa, New Zealand and Asia. Hope has choreographed and danced in Music Videos, Musicals, Live Performances, Movies, TV commercials & recently he choreographed and danced for 2 iconic ContoPop artists while he was in Hong Kong. His choreography can be seen in many international competitions. In 2016 his choreography won 1st Place in the IDO Best of the best Gala Event. Hope has a

passion for training dancers in becoming versatile and reaching their full potential.

## ROBYN TEDESCO



### CANADA

Robyn is a seasoned veteran of the performance industry with over 30 years of professional experience in both teaching and stage. Classically educated in ballet, modern, contemporary, jazz & tap she attended both Ryerson University and the University of Waterloo attaining a BA (Dance) Her training has included studying the Cecchetti Method at the National Ballet of Canada, Royal Academy of Dance, CDTA Ballet, ADAPT Jazz and Tap; and recently both levels 1 & 2 Acrobatic Arts Certification.

Her performance, acting and choreographic credits include roles in plays such as "Grease the Musical," "The Bacchae," the movie "One Magic Christmas," "Music Box Dancer" with Frank Mills and many more. She has been twice recognized by the Government of Canada for Contribution to the Arts in a cultural exchange with The New York School of the Performing Arts and her participation representing Canada in the 1988 Louisiana World's Fair.

She has provided expert instruction at conferences and conventions for Performing Arts Educators of Canada, British Association of Teachers of Dance and the Canadian Dance Teachers Association.

Adjudication credits include over 50 different festivals and events for major competitions across Canada. Robyn is a certified member of the International Association of Dance Adjudicators and a partner and instructor for A.C.E. Certification of dance judges.

## ETIENNE KHOO



### AUSTRALIA

Over the past 10+ years, Etienne Khoo has enjoyed a diverse career as a dancer and choreographer, working in all facets of the entertainment industry.

One of the chosen choreographers for Australia's So You think You Can Dance and performing in TV shows and at high profile events, Etienne has toured Australasia (including Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia etc.) conducting and teaching numerous workshops, events and shows. Etienne is well known for his work as the artistic director of DVP (Dance Virus Productions). In addition to winning 2 years back-to-back Australian Hip Hop Championships,

DVP represented Australia in San Diego in 2009, coming 5th place in the world. Etienne has also judged several dance competitions such as Step Off, Battlegrounds, UDO Australia, Australian Hip Hop Championship and Fire Up.

Finally, Etienne was commissioned by ATOD (Australian Teachers of Dance) to create Australia's most comprehensive dance syllabus in Hip Hop. These tutorials are available on DVD and are used to train teachers and students internationally.

Today, Etienne is based in Melbourne, Australia, where he has co-founded O2 Dance Studios. He also teaches Hip Hop and Performing Arts at colleges and dance studios such as The Space Dance & Arts Centre, Passion Dance Studio, Kelly Ayker's Full Time Dance, Jason Coleman's Ministry of Dance, VCA (Victorian College of the Arts), and Ballarat College of Art. Etienne also created a new full time intensive urban course, which runs for 6 months of the year.

# MICHAEL PRESCOTT



## GIBRALTAR

### Michael Prescott MBE

Michael Prescott is the founder of the Gibraltar National Dance Organization; Organization which he founded in 1981.

Together with Italy, France and Switzerland he also founded the International Dance Organization, a world-renowned Organization which organizes international world dance championships. Since then, the Organization has grown from strength to strength.

It is now the greatest Dance Organization in the Dance World with a membership of over 90 nations representing more than 250,000 dancers from six continents.

Michael is a qualified IDO International Judge. He has judged in many different World and European Dance competitions in various dance modalities.

In 2003 Michael was awarded the IDO Golden Award for his pioneering efforts in making Gibraltar a great dance nation. This award is only presented to people who have made a significant change within the IDO.

In 2011, Michael led the team responsible for the Organization of the very successful European Show Dance Championships held in Gibraltar.

In 2012, in recognition of all his hard work, Michael was awarded an MBE by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for services to Dance and the Arts in Gibraltar.

# DEBBIE RAKUSIN

## SOUTH AFRICA



Award winning Choreographer Debbie Rakusin has established herself as one of the leading Choreographers in South Africa. Over the years she has successfully explored the fusion of varied jazz, contemporary, African and tap styles. She established the well known Vusa Dance Company in 1994 which toured to Australia by invitation, she taught at the Batdor Dance Company in Israel and at the Dallas performing Arts School in Dallas. Taught at The Pretoria Technicon for 14 years in the Jazz and Tap department. Her Awards include: Standard Bank Young Artist Award, FNB Vita for Most Outstanding Choreographer, Breaking Barriers Award and Naledi Awards.

Debbie has choreographed for major South African Musicals such as Ipi Tombi, The Wiz, The Boyfriend, Little Shop of Horrors and Big Band Blast. One of her biggest achievements being AFRICAN FOOTPRINT having run for 16 years.

Other highlights include: World Cup Rugby 1995 Closing Ceremony, World Cup- Cricket 2003 opening Ceremony, Madiba's 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party, Robben Island Millennium Function, worked with Tina Turner on her Wildest Dreams Tour and is proud to have Co Choreographed African Footprint and followed its success Internationally for the past 12 years.

Debbie is currently involved with the Corporate Market Producing choreographing and Directing shows for Prestigious Companies such as Bidvest, Nedbank, Telkom, MTN, Vodacom, Standard Bank, Discovery, Coca Cola, ABSA, SAB, Microsoft, Liberty Life, Nokia, Shell, EOH, and many others. As well as Choreographing shows in New Orleans, and Milwaukee USA, she has choreographed Miss South Africa, Miss Teen South Africa, World Summit in South Africa, and 2008 Miss World Pageant. Has Choreographed SAMAs as well as Miss Teen and Miss South Africa.

Movies choreographed include, Wild at Heart, Mr Bones as well as Commercials For Edgars, Total, Chicken Licken, MTN' clapping Commercial, Jik, Nokia and Vodacom, Discovery, Virgin Insurance.

She was a Judge in the first season of So You Think You Can Dance South Africa and was involved in the 2010 emblem reveal in Germany as well as the Logo Reveal recently in South Africa. Has been on the panel of Judges for WTC Comps.

Has Choreographed the SAFTA, CAF in Ghana and SAMA award evenings, as well as choreographed the FIFA 2010 Congress, which was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

Has worked internationally with artists David Blaine, Appassionante from Italy. Nuttin But Stringz from New York. Tony Tillman from Las Vegas, Grounded Aerial from New York, Philobolus shadow Company from New York, Julianne and Derek Hough, as well as Edyta and Alec Mazo from Dancing with the Stars, Christina Bianco, the star of Chicago Amra Faye Wright and various artists from Cirque de Soleil companies around the world. One of the top 4 Nominees for Europ Car Woman in Leadership 2016

# CRAIG BULLOCK

## SOUTH AFRICA



One of the directors of the South African Body of Dance (SABOD) Craig has recently received his international dance adjudicators licence. He also regularly travels to all the provinces in SA teaching workshops. Along with his wife Mandy, Craig has worked on projects with the United Nations' Children's Education Fund and the Department of Education, using hip hop as an outreach tool to help the youth of South Africa deal with social issues.

Craig has produced dancers who have excelled on an international level. On a non-competitive level, he also teaches Latin and Ballroom dancing.

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## WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

### Tuesday Sept 5

11:00 – 12:00 Rudi – (Jr. 12& under) Commercial Hip Hop

12:30 – 1:30 Etienne – (Jr. 12& under) Hip Hop

2:00 – 3:30 Rudi – (Sr. 13& over) Commercial Hip Hop

4:00 – 5:30 Etienne – (Sr. 13 & over) – Hip Hop

### Wednesday Sept 6

9:30-10:30 – Sheldon – (Jr. 12& under) Tap

11:00 – 12:00 Matthew –(All ages) Jazz Technique

12:30 – 1:30 Hope – (Jr. 12& under) Commercial Jazz–

2:00 – 3:30 Sheldon – (Sr. 13 & over) – Tap

4:00 – 5:30 - Hope (Sr. 13 & over) – Jazz

6:00 – 7:30 – Jordan (Sr. 13 & over) Contemporary

### Thursday Sept 7

9:30-10:30 –Jordan – (Jr. 12& under) Lyrical Jazz

11:00 – 12:30 Matthew – (Sr. 13 & over) Tap

1:00-2:00 Etienne – (All ages) Hip Hop

2:00 – 3:30 Jordan – (All Ages) Open Class

### **Workshop Fees**

R 150 For one Class

R 100 per class for 3 or more classes

*Registration will take place at the Lupata Room located upstairs in the entertainment centre.*

*Dancers may register everyday for 7:00 am – 1:00 pm for the workshops they are attending.*

*You will receive a wristband that will allow you entrance to the classes you have registered for.*

*South African dancers may pre-register by sending an email with the dancers name and the classes they would like to register for. Please send this to Bev Wood with POP to Battle of the Giants*

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