

# DANCE-OPOLY



**Presents:**

Today's Choreographers  
*Sound Off*  
on the *BEST* advice and  
audition tips for  
aspiring dancers



GREGG RUSSELL

"When you learn the choreography, study the assistant just as much as the choreographer. Especially if you are a female and it's a male choreographer with a female assistant. Most of the time, the choreographer likes watching the assistant, because he or she adds something unique or special to their choreography, but still keeps the integrity. PLUS: Always have all kinds of shoes and a change of clothes, even if you think you won't need them. Especially if you are a tap dancer. \*\*\*Look like your resume picture. Nothing is worse than not looking like your picture."

Once having taught private Tap lessons to Michael Jackson, Gregg Russell now tours around the world teaching, and choreographing, for Company Dance Conventions and *Global Dance*, which includes Mexico, Costa Rica, and Australia. Russell has just completed his 4th annual Tap Into the Network intensive and Dancers Unite Show, raising money for the Ella Project (money for food and health care in Africa), and is releasing his new mixed CD "tastes good" available online at [www.3ddn.net](http://www.3ddn.net).



Bijon Rythmik Williams

"Do your homework. When auditioning for a gig, doing a little bit of research goes a long way. Check out who the choreographer will be and look up their work. Know what style of dance to prepare for both mentally and physically. Also look up the client and artist and read the audition details CAREFULLY. See what the actual job will entail and then dress the part!"

*Good luck from Bijon Rythmik Williams*

Bijon's recent work includes a McDonald's National Commercial, as choreographer and dancer. The *MTV VMAs* Promo with Jermaine Dupri for Tag Records, and the Feature Film Bollywood Movie, "Drona" Filmed in India with Ms. World, Priyanka Chopra.



LUIS SALGADO

"Take your class as if you were auditioning; audition as if you were taking a class. Everyone wants to know the secret to auditions. The truth is, there is no secret -as in life- there is just a journey. YOUR JOURNEY. Be yourself and don't be afraid to shine. One of the problems we face is that we put so much focus and stress into "being good" or "impressive" at an audition that we forget to dance and to enjoy what we are doing. Take your class with devotion, awareness and commitment. DARE TO GO BEYOND!"

Luis Salgado is the Assistant Latin Choreographer of TONY Winning *In The Heights*, Founder and Director of *R.Evolucion Latina*, and starred in the feature film *Step Up 2 the Streets*.



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KARINE PLANTADIT

"Remember who you are...a storyteller using the body. And 5, 6, 7, 8! Tell your story. What does falling in love all over again with dancing look like? Use the audition to share that LOVE. During the audition, BE YOU. Everyone else is taken. Who do you need to be to nail all your auditions? Start being that person in class. If you were conducting that audition, who would you like to see in that audition? Now, EXPLORE being that person".

"A gale force onstage," according to *Dance Magazine*, Plantadit is "a dancer with astounding technique matched by a frank sexiness." Her theatre credits include: *Movin' Out* (Brenda/Jessica); *The Lion King* (The Cheetah and lioness); *Saturday Night Fever* (Shirley Charles). Her commercial portfolio includes: EBay, American Express, Visa, Subway, LensCrafters and McDonald's. Television appearances include: *Sex in the City* and *Starved*.

Finally, Plantadit's film credits include: *Frida* (Josephine Baker), *Stay*, *Chicago* and *Across the Universe*. Most recently, she performed in the one-woman show *La Voix* based on Jean Cocteau's "La Voix Humaine" (The Human Voice).



MAURICE BRANDON CURRY

"When you are auditioning, it is imperative that you remember you are applying for a JOB! Regardless of whether it is for a summer dance program, a college dance program, or a show, eventually, it is either preparation for a job or the job itself. Look the part. Be sure and dress like you already HAVE the job! Truly, there is nothing more disturbing than seeing someone at an audition with unkempt hair or dancewear that is not clean or attractive. Unfortunately, we are in a society that makes a judgement on you before you open your mouth or perform one step. Don't give anyone reason to cast negative aspersions on you because of your look. Give them something to look at . . . in a positive way!"

Maurice Brandon Curry has choreographed for numerous dance companies, commercials, and projects for artists like Prince, Diana Ross, Al B. Sure, and Paul LeKakis. Currently, he is directing and choreographing *LINES*, a new musical premiering at the NY Musical Theatre Festival, and directing the one-woman show for Broadway star Niki Scalera.



DWIGHT RHODEN



DESMOND RICHARDSON

"In an audition, it is imperative to remember your individuality. Usually it is your unique quality in relation to your technique and delivery that will set you apart".

Desmond Richardson danced with Prima Ballerina Diana Vishneva in her show *Beauty in Motion*. Desmond also recieved a *Dance Magazine Award*.

Dwight has choreographed *Beauty in Motion*, as well as the hit show "Zumanity"



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ANGEL FELICIANO

"You've got between 5-10 minutes to learn a whole combination. You're in the back and can't see the choreographer or the moves. What do you do? When taking different dance classes and styles, use that opportunity to treat that class as an actual audition where you have a short amount of time to learn the moves. It will help you tremendously in picking up routines much faster so you can stand out and get callbacks and or bookings."

Angel is the Artistic Director of Feliciano Dance Company and choreographer of exciting new dance theatrical show *The Movement- A Theatrical Experience*. An international tour is scheduled to open in the Netherlands on October 7th, 2008, with a live taping in Amsterdam on October 10th, 2008. Angel's latest projects include: the *Movement International* tour, *SoBe Life Water Takes Over Manhattan*, the *Joyce Soho Theatre* performance, and the movie version of *The Movement*.



KIMBERLY RHINELANDER

"You have heard it before...that catchy phrase "Dance like no one is watching". Well, do you know why? Here's the secret: it's easier to dance when you are emotionally available. It is so much harder to dance when you hold back or FIGHT the emotions. When you hold back, it means there is a conflict going on with your physical body and your soul. I like to say dance from the inside out, not the outside in. Technique and performance come easier when you FEEL IT IN THE MOMENT and you share your emotions with the audience. Don't hold back. Share and give something of yourself every time you dance, because there is no one else like YOU in the whole world. What you have to give is special and unique."

Kimberly is Director and Founder of one of today's ground breaking conventions, *Hollywood Connection*.



NAPOLEON & TABITHA

"Never look unsure. Always look confident even if you're not!"

Tabitha and Napoleon are a husband and wife team who express their incredible talent and passion together to choreograph and perform with artists like Celine Dion, Beyonce, Missy Elliot, Toni Braxton, Timbaland, and Destiny's Child. Currently, they are the supervising choreographers for "America's Best Dance Crew" and "Rock the Cradle", both on MTV. They are also hosts on TLC's new show "Rock the Reception", as well as judges and choreographers on the current season of "So You Think You Can Dance".



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