



BGHS Dance Program Teachers 2020

Ana Welsh (BGHS Staff) - Dance Company

Ana completed her HSC at Newtown High School of the Performing Arts and graduated from UNSW in 2006 with a Bachelor of Arts (Dance/Theatre) and Bachelor of Education. Outside of her teaching career, Ana had the privilege of being a member of two youth contemporary dance companies, Pulse8 (2008) and youMove (2009-2010) with which she performed in works by Sarah-Vyne Vassallo, Martin Del Amo, Fiona Malone, Narelle Benjamin, Anton and the Artistic Director of both companies, Kay Armstrong. Ana was also awarded a choreographic residency with youMove in 2010.

Her work within the performing arts industry includes being a featured dancer with the St George Banks 'Huddle' video and more recently as a Teaching and Performing artist for Murmuration (2015 - 2017), Sydney's first professional integrated performance company. While with Murmuration, Ana performed in the No Offense But, Comedy Show as part of the featured event for the Don't Dis My Ability Campaign 2015 and Sydney Comedy Festival 'Comedy for Kids!' program 2016.

Shannon Fisher - Acrobatics



Shannon Fisher was introduced to acrobatic gymnastics by a friend at the age of 11 and instantly found success competing in a trio at Regional and State levels. With further coaching and more training, Shannon was able to compete at a National and International standard, winning both State and National Championships. Shannon's passion and enthusiasm led to an invitation to begin her coaching career, mentoring, and training primary school boys and girls in the fundamentals of acrobatics (eg. handstands, cartwheels, walkovers, and tumbling).

Shannon formalised her experience as a competitor and coach by gaining accreditation from Australian Gymnastics in both theory and practice. Today Shannon has over seven years of coaching experience with gymnastics clubs and dance schools across Sydney.

Shannon's approach to coaching is based on finding the best in every student, working with them to understand their goals, then tailoring programs to meet their needs as an individual and group in order to allow growth and development whilst having fun and building lasting friendships.



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Debbie Keenan (Dance Zone Productions)- Hip Hop



Debbie Keenan is originally from New Zealand and moved to Melbourne to further her dance training in 2011. Here, she completed 2 years full-time dance training at The Space Dance and Arts Centre. Since then, Debbie has flourished in the Melbourne dance industry both as a performer and teacher.

Debbie has worked across a multitude of mediums with artists and organisations both locally and internationally. Her credits include working as a dancer for the global brand SOL REPUBLIC, performing in video clips for OKENYO, Dustin Tebbutt and choreographing for EMBER. She has

also taught internationally in Hamburg, Germany and for The Artist League dance camp in Delhi, India.

Debbie is also a part of Lion Heart Dance Company. She performed in the company's inaugural work, Table of Eight. Since then she has maintained a deep connection, training, performing and choreographing in the company. Debbie performed and choreographed her first full-length work, Your Story as part of Lion Heart Dance Company's season of Still Frame. She also performed in the company's latest show CLASH at Chapel off Chapel in September 2019.

Debbie strives to continue sharing and passing on the knowledge she has gained in all her experiences to her students in class every day.

Isaac Clark - Ballet & Dance Ensemble



Isaac started dancing at the age of 6 after a childhood fascination with the popular children's TV show, 'HI-5' and the first Barbie animated film, 'Barbie and the Nutcracker'. At age 11, Isaac met the principal dancer of the Scottish Ballet Company, Tama Barry, who coached him for a full week in his country home of Armidale. Tama encouraged Isaac to travel to Sydney on a monthly basis to attend classical lessons at one of Sydney's most acclaimed schools, Ecole Ballet and Dance Theatre.

Thus, began his dance journey in Sydney, which opened the doors to several opportunities. Isaac worked as an extra in Dance Academy the Movie at age 16, modelled for Dance Train Magazine, performed as a principal dancer for the Schools Spectacular and later successfully auditioned for Sydney Dance Company's Pre-Professional Year where he would solidify his training and professional development over two years.



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In 2019, Isaac accomplished more than he thought possible - modelling for Sydney Dance Company's merchandise line and the Sofitel Hotel, joining the professional company of SDC as an understudy while working with artistic director Rafael Bonachela, performing as a soloist in a music video for artist 'Dan Romeo and the Lone Strangers', choreographing and performing in the corporate event Miss Pole Dance Australia and winning his second award for contemporary choreography from Sharp Short Dance Festival. All of this while completing an Advanced Diploma in Dance and teaching in schools around Sydney.

Daniel Dolling (Dollinger Entertainment) - Tap and Musical Theatre



Having begun teaching and Performing at a very early age Daniel has over 25 years of teaching and performing experience. He has held positions on the Faculty at The Australian College of Theatre and Television and Federation University as well as a guest position at the University of Sydney and has continued to teach classes at the reputable Sydney Dance Company for the past 15 years. Daniel's reputation as an extremely knowledgeable and passionate teacher has led him to conduct workshops internationally with the R.A.D in Singapore as well as at home here with the Department of Education Arts Unit NSW and Ausdance ACT.

As a performer Daniel has appeared in numerous commercials, stage shows, industrial conventions and television. Starting off his career as a Singer Dancer at Australia's Wonderland, Daniel has performed in theme parks all over the world including Movie World on the Gold Coast and Tokyo Disney resort, Japan. Daniel has also been contracted to perform on many cruise ships and companies he has worked for include; Princess, Carnival, Royal Caribbean and Celebrity cruises.

In 2009 Daniel was involved with the making of the feature film "Mao's Last Dancer" And has also been seen performing on national TV and numerous corporate events with the iconic Tap Dogs. Other TV credits include So You Think You Can Dance and The Love Boat series (U.S.).

Daniel has performed in numerous National tours including The N.Z. tour of "Grease" the Arena spectacular and 5 Australian Tours with the acclaimed Glenn Miller band performing as a featured artist and choreographer. Other stage/theatre credits include Las Vegas the musical, Valentino the Latin lover, Rugrats LIVE and the 100% Kylie Show. Artists Daniel has performed with include Olivia Newton John, Cindy Lauper, Delta Goodrem, Guy Sebastian, Kylie & Danni Minogue, John Paul Young, Christine Anu and Rhonda Burchmore.



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Daniel's time as a commercial dancer has seen him perform and choreograph for numerous corporate shows and events for companies such as AUDI, Amani, Estee Lauder and Honda to name a few.

Daniel has just returned from a self-funded educational tour of the US, where he attended teacher conferences and classes at the Broadway Dance Centre and STEPS on Broadway as well as completing a 3-day intensive of the Luigi Technique at Luigi's Jazz dance centre.

Joel Peisley (Dollinger Entertainment)- Jazz



Joel Peisley is a dancer and choreographer with a career spanning 20 years. During this time, he has worked extensively across television, corporate events, tours, fashion parades and award shows with a range of artists including Rhonda Burchmore, Chris Isaak, Natalie Bassingthwaite, INXS, Human Nature and many acts from The Voice, Idol, and X Factor. Having performed for heads of state and British royalty, his résumé also includes So You Think You Can Dance National Tour, 2000 Olympics gala launches - Sydney Town Hall and Parliament House,

multiple NBL and NRL Grand Finals, Midday Show, Today, Sunrise, Footy Show, MTV, the MO Awards, Carols In The Domain, and corporate events for BMW, Disney, Myer and American Express.

As an educator, Joel has taught at a long list of private schools including many years at McDonald College and workshops for ATOD and BAL. Many of his long-term students have been cast in film, theatre and stage shows in every corner of the world. Furthering his influence on the next generation of dancers, Joel choreographed a Jazz syllabus that is taught throughout Australia and NZ.

For over a decade, Joel has also been a critic and columnist for Dancetrain magazine, where he chats with leading international choreographers and creative talent. As a dance judge, he regularly travels across Australia and NZ adjudicating events such as DanceLife Unite, Groove Urban Dance Battle and Brisbane Eisteddfod. Internationally, he has served on the voting academy for the American Choreography Awards - evaluating work from the world's leading choreographers.