

# GIORDANO DANCE CHICAGO

*COKER UNIVERSITY*



**GIORDANO** EST. 1963  
DANCE CHICAGO



**C O K E R**  
UNIVERSITY

# LETTER FROM THE DEAN

On behalf of the McCall School of Visual and Performing Arts faculty, staff and students, we are so excited that you have joined us for our exciting performing and visual art series. In addition to the wonderful faculty and student productions that we offer, we will be sharing our stages and galleries with some excellent internationally renowned guest artists this year.

We know you will enjoy the variety in the works that you will see. Our season features John Holiday, Griffin Theater Company, and Giordano Dance Chicago, along with our own productions of opera, choir and instrumental performances, dance concerts, theatrical productions and musicals. We also will be featuring the work of Michaela Pilar Brown, along with faculty, student and other guest artist exhibitions in our Cecelia Coker Bell Gallery.

We are so happy that you will 'Heart the Arts' along with us and discover how vibrant and creative the arts are in the McCall School of Visual and Performing Arts.

Best wishes,

Angela M. Gallo, Dean  
McCall School of Visual and Performing Arts

*P.S. - This is the inaugural year of our Partners for the Arts program. We hope you will help us keep vibrant arts programming alive here in Hartsville by becoming a partner today. Visit [coker.edu/partners](http://coker.edu/partners) to learn more about the membership benefits.*

## AUDIENCE ETIQUETTE AND EXPECTATIONS

Anyone who cannot follow these rules will be asked to leave the theater immediately.

1. Please make sure all cell phones, watch alarms and any other electronic devices are turned to SILENT or OFF - not on VIBRATE. Nothing can destroy a moment in a live performance like an ill-timed electronic jingle.
2. Please do not text during a performance. Even if your phone is on silent, the light from the screen is very distracting and can be seen by other spectators and performers.
3. Recording devices of any kind are strictly prohibited.
4. Please do not bring in or consume any food or drink during the performance.
5. Please unwrap cough drops, gum, lozenges etc. BEFORE the performance begins.
6. Please do not talk during the performance.
7. Kindly wait for a pause or intermission before rifling through a purse, backpack or shopping bag.
8. Please keep feet off the backs of seats or theater walls.
9. Finally, remember this is a live performance. The students (guest artists/performers) have worked very hard to get to this moment. Please be courteous and respectful of their work.

The old standby: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

**ENJOY THE SHOW!**



**GIORDANO DANCE CHICAGO**

Season 61 | UNLIMITED

January 25, 2024

Gus Giordano Founder

Nan Giordano Artistic Director

**THE ENSEMBLE**

Ryan Galloway  
Amanda Hickey  
Adam Houston

Sasha Lazarus  
Talia Luzzo\*  
Skyler Newcom  
Fernando Rodriguez

Erina Ueda  
Analyse Vance\*  
Eduardo Zambrana\*

*\*Giordano II*

**STAFF**

Founder.....Gus Giordano  
Artistic Director.....Nan Giordano  
Executive Director.....Erica Lynette Edwards  
Associate Artistic Director.....Cesar G. Salinas  
Director of Development.....Diana Nielander  
Operations Manager.....Caitlyn Ottenheimer  
Grants Manager.....Maggy Fouche  
Director of Giordano II, Rehearsal Captain & Costume Manager.....Katie Rafferty  
Rehearsal Captain & Costume Manager.....Adam Houston  
Production Stage Manager.....Julie Ballard  
Assistant Production Manager.....Elyjah Kleinsmith  
Marketing Coordinator.....Victoria Wesloh  
Social Media & Video Coordinator.....Erina Ueda

**PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS**

Financial Services & IT Provider.....Lightway Solutions  
Photography.....Todd Rosenberg  
Videography.....HMS Media  
Booking Agent.....Cathy Pruzan, Pruzan Dance Arts  
Official Provider of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy.....Athletico  
Official Rehearsal Space.....Ruth Page Center for the Arts  
Public Relations and Marketing Agency.....Carol Fox & Associates

**GIORDANO DANCE CHICAGO**

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**FOR BOOKING INFORMATION**

Cathy Pruzan, Booking Agent  
cpruzan@aol.com

**FOR INTEREST IN OUR INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

Caitlyn Ottenheimer, Operations Manager  
caitlynottenheimer@giordanodance.org

# PROGRAM

## **Sing, Sing, Sing (1983)**

**Choreography:** Gus Giordano

**Music:** Louis Prima

**Lighting Design:** Jacob Snodgrass

**Costume Design:** Nina G.

**Dancers:** Ryan Galloway, Adam Houston, Sasha Lazarus, Erina Ueda

**Video:** This is Giordano!

## **Le Grand Futur is Here! (1999)**

**Choreography:** Mia Michaels

**Music:** Amon Tobin

**Lighting Design:** Julie Ballard

**Costume Design:** Branimira Ivanova

**Dancers:** Ryan Galloway, Eduardo Zambrana, Amanda Hickey, Adam Houston, Sasha Lazarus, Talia Luzzo, Skyler Newcom, Fernando Rodriguez, Erina Ueda, Analyse Vance

## **All For You (2022)**

**Choreography:** Adam Houston

**Music:** Ólafur Arnalds

**Lighting Design:** Jacob Snodgrass

**Costume Design:** Nina G.

**Dancers:** Amanda Hickey & Skyler Newcom

## **SOUL (2018)**

**Choreography:** Ray Leeper

**Music:** Gladys Knight and the Pips, Al Green, Tina Turner

**Lighting Design:** Jacob Snodgrass

**Costume Design:** Jordan Ross

**Dancers:** Ryan Galloway, Eduardo Zambrana, Amanda Hickey, Adam Houston, Sasha Lazarus, Talia Luzzo, Skyler Newcom, Fernando Rodriguez, Erina Ueda, Analyse Vance

*SOUL was created in honor of Chicago philanthropist Candace Jordan, whose spirit, passion, and advocacy for the performing arts are without bounds. The was made possible, in part, by contributions to the Susan Carlins "Make It Happen" Initiative.*

## INTERMISSION

### **Video Introduction**

### **Special Preview Performance (2024)**

**Choreography:** Al Blackstone

**Music:** George Gershwin, Benny Goodman Quartet, The BBC Big Band Orchestra, Oscar Peterson, Peter Breiner/Juray Bartos, Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band, Zubin Mehta, New York Philharmonic, Peter Breiner and Juray Bartos, Don Ralke

**Original Soundscapes:** Marc Cardarelli featuring Alec Funciello

**Lighting Design:** Julie Ballard

**Costume Design:** Branimira Ivanova

**Soloists:** Ryan Galloway & Erina Ueda

**Ensemble:** Eduardo Zambrana, Amanda Hickey, Adam Houston, Sasha Lazarus, Talia Luzzo, Skyler Newcom, Fernando Rodriguez, Analyse Vance

Giordano Dance Chicago (GDC) America's original jazz dance company soars into their 61st season with energy and momentum. Giordano Dance Chicago (GDC) is an iconic cultural institution with deep roots in Chicago with partnerships around the globe. From its origins in founder Gus Giordano's original school in Evanston, IL, to its current incarnation as a Chicago-based world-class dance company, GDC boasts more than a half century of worldwide performances (28 countries, 47 states, more than 1300 cities). Entering her 39th season, Nan Giordano has led the company as Artistic Director, responsible for commissioning innovative choreographic works and mentoring thousands of aspiring dancers. The company is one of few in the world that has a foundational technique (NGCP©) with certified teachers in 36 states and 8 countries. This season, GDC's robust schedule will include touring performances around the US including Naples, Dallas, and Santa Fe. GDC's educational mission includes workshops and mentorship programs at home and on tour. Their Jazz Dance/Science & Health initiative is a robust arts integration program in which GDC company dancers use a dance-centric framework to teach state-mandated elementary school anatomy and nutrition curriculum within the science classroom. Offered in the Spring of each year since 2006, this seven-week, no-cost program has served more than 5,500 Chicago Public School students.

## LEADERSHIP



### **Gus Giordano**

Founder  
(1923 – 2008)

Gus Giordano's dedication to jazz dance exhibited itself in all facets of his extraordinary life: dancer, master teacher, choreographer, author, and founder of the Giordano Dance School (GDS) in Evanston, Illinois, founder of the dance company Giordano Dance Chicago and founder of Jazz Dance World Congress. Mr. Giordano created and taught the Giordano Technique at venues across the United States and around the world. He choreographed in all areas of performance including television, film, stage, commercials, industrials, and concert dance. In 1976 Giordano wrote the highly acclaimed Anthology of American Jazz Dance. In August 1990, Giordano organized the first Jazz Dance World Congress, which gathered renowned jazz dance master teachers and companies. The Congress has been held at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Northwestern University, the University at Buffalo, Point Park University, as well as in Phoenix, Chicago, Japan, Germany, Mexico, and Costa Rica. Gus Giordano received many awards including the 1984 Dance Educators of America Award for his outstanding contribution to the world of jazz dance, the 1988 Mayor's Award for the Arts, the 1989 Governor's Award for the Arts for exemplary individual artistic achievement, the 1991 Dance Teacher Now Circle Award, the 1993 Ruth Page Lifetime Service to the Field Award, and the 1996 University of Missouri Distinguished Alumni Award and William Francis English Scholar-in-Residence Award. In 1985, Governor James Thompson declared April 25 Gus Giordano Day. In 1995 he received the Honorable Artist Award from Chukyo University in Nagoya, Japan. In 1997 Gus served as National Spokesperson for National Dance Week. In 1999, he received the Third Annual Katherine Dunham Award for excellence and great contributions to the Arts, and in 2003, Chicago's Mayor Daley presented Gus with the Chicago Senior of the Year Award. In 2005 the National Dance Association presented Mr. Giordano with its Heritage Award, and the same year he received an Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts Degree from Shenandoah University.



## **Nan Giordano**

Artistic Director

At the helm for 39 years, Nan's leadership of Giordano Dance Chicago began in 1985 as Associate Director; and in 1993 was appointed the title of Artistic Director. Nan was trained by her father and mentor, Gus Giordano, who created the world-renowned Giordano Technique. Developer of the Nan Giordano Certification Program®, Nan is the world's preeminent authority on the essence, discipline, progression and continuance of the Giordano Technique; the vision of NGCP® is to provide worldwide, ongoing, and in-depth access to this ground-breaking dance form. She had an extensive performing career in concert dance, as well as in the industrial and fashion worlds. Before taking the reins on the artistic side, her concert dance experience began with Giordano Dance Theatre, apprenticing and then joining GDC. With her father leading the company, she traveled and performed extensively around the world; she also had the opportunity to perform in numerous WTTW dance television specials choreographed by her father including the Emmy Award winning *The Rehearsal*. When an injury ended her performing career in 1985, Nan became Associate Director of the company and was instrumental in establishing a working Board of Directors, which has evolved into today's three separate boards. In the last 38 years, under Nan's direction, GDC has established a high-profile reputation for excellence in the Chicago dance community, as well as in the national and international dance worlds. Nan has guided the development of a large and diverse repertoire. Nan's concert choreography credits include five works in GDC's repertoire. On the commercial side, Nan has choreographed several television commercials. Nan teaches master classes throughout the United States and has toured internationally as guest teacher in many countries including Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, El Salvador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Mexico, and Israel. She is also the driving force behind Jazz Dance/Science & Health, GDC's outreach program in three under-resourced Chicago Public Schools. Nan received the Manford Byrd Jr. Wizard of Oz Award for Outstanding Service from Howland School of the Arts. Nan is Artistic Director of Jazz Dance World Congress (JDWC), an event that draws dancers, choreographers, and teachers from more than 30 countries. Nan served three years on the Illinois Arts Council Dance Panel as well as on the Community Arts Assistance Program Dance Panel for the City of Chicago, Department of Cultural Affairs. She currently serves on the International Ballet Competition, National Honorary Committee, and the Advisory Board for Dance Magazine. She was recognized as a cover story in *Dance Teacher Magazine's* January 2018 issue. Nan was also honored by Mayor Rahm Emanuel, who declared June 9, 2018, Nan Giordano Day for her leadership and contributions to the Chicago community. In August 2018, Chicago Dancers United honored Nan (along with Lou Conte) with the Dance for Life Impact Award, recognizing her contributions to the Chicago dance community and Dance for Life. In celebration of Nan's landmark year, the Chicago Tribune released their "2018 Chicagoans of the Year", of which she was spotlighted as the city's "Dance" honoree. In summer of 2019, Nan was honored with the Grace Wakefield Lifetime Achievement Award by Star Dance Alliance at the Circle of Excellence Gala. During the dim lit world of covid, Nan launched a virtual project in Latin America, *Illuminate the Possibilities*. Most recently, she was honored to be a guest judge at The Dance Awards presented by Break The Floor and the keynote speaker at the Women & Leadership Conference.

# THE COMPANY



**Ryan Galloway**, from New Richmond, Indiana, returns to the stage for a 9th season. He grew up learning tap, jazz, and hip hop. He is a graduate of Indiana University, where he won the Provost's Award for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity in the category of Performing and Creative Arts. He has performed works by choreographers including Paul Taylor, David Parson, Larry Keigwin, and Ishan Rustem, and performed at the National College Dance Festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. While with GDC, he has performed all around the country and the world including Hawaii, Israel, and Latvia. He would like to thank his wife, Kim, and his family for their endless love and support.



**Adam Houston**, a main company member of Boone, Iowa has been with GDC for eleven seasons. In addition to dancing Adam serves as one of the co-Rehearsal Captains and co-Costume Managers. He graduated Magna Cum Laude with the "Outstanding Senior" award from the School of Dance at University of Arizona, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance. In his time with GDC Adam has toured regionally, nationally, and internationally. He has many performances under his belt, but some of the most fulfilling in his career include being cast as the male soloist in signature GDC work and personal Gus Giordano favorite, "Can't Take This Away", choreographed by Randy Duncan. Adam is a sought-after teacher and choreographer. He has completed all five levels of the Nan Giordano Certification Program® and is heavily involved in GDC's outreach program, Jazz Dance/Science & Health, in Chicago Public Schools. He has choreographed on several award-winning schools as well as five pieces for Giordano II, and in the Fall of 2021, Giordano Dance Chicago premiered his first work, "All For You" on the main company. Adam is honored to be in his eleventh season with Giordano Dance Chicago, continuously fulfilling his dream.



**Amanda Hickey** discovered a passion for dance at the age of ten. She began her serious training at Faubourg School of Ballet under Watmora Casey, Tatyana Mazur, and Ernesto Quenedit. She graduated from Butler University in 2014, where she studied on both academic and talent scholarships earning her BFA with honors in Dance Performance. While at Butler, she had the opportunity to spend a month studying abroad in Europe where she trained and performed in Warsaw and Krakow, Poland, and St. Petersburg, Russia. As a senior, she was asked to choreograph for the study abroad program, exposing her choreography to venues across Eastern Europe. Throughout the years, Amanda has had the pleasure of performing as a guest artist for Élan Artists, The Schaumburg Dance Ensemble, and more. Upon moving to Chicago after graduation, Amanda joined Nomi Dance Company, where she danced for four years. Her professional choreography credits include works on Nomi Dance Company, The Ballet Theatre of Indiana, The Ballet Initiative, The LAUNCH, and Giordano II. In 2018, she joined Giordano II, and is currently in her sixth season with Giordano Dance Chicago. Besides performing and choreographing, Amanda is passionate about teaching.



**Sasha Lazarus**, from Delray Beach, Florida, is entering her third year with GDC as a main company member. Growing up, she trained at Boca Ballet Theatre, under the direction of Jane Tyree and Dan Guin, and at Performance Edge 2, under Ricardo Pena. In 2017, Sasha graduated from The Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts, having performed in works by Margo Sappington, Christopher Huggins, Jennifer Archibald, Meredith Dincolo, Krista Ellensohn, Jan Hanniford, Jennifer Kronenberg, and more. Sasha completed Complexions Contemporary Ballet's Pre-Professional Program in 2018, then kicked off her professional career by joining Menlowe Ballet from 2018-2020. There, she performed principal roles in works by Michael Lowe, Dennis Nahat, and Donald McKayle. Sasha has been recognized as a National Young Arts Winner in Ballet and Modern Dance. She is certified in all 5 levels of the Nan Giordano Certification Program®.



**Talia Luzzo**, from Paxton, Massachusetts native, began her dance training at The Charlotte Klein Dance Centers in 2000. There, she trained in a variety of styles and danced competitively. Talia continued to pursue her passion for dance at the University of Arizona, receiving her BFA in Dance as well as a BA in Communications. She graduated cum laude in the spring of 2020. During Covid-19, Talia took a year off of dancing and performing and found her deep passion for teaching and shaping the next generation of dancers. She was fortunate enough to share her knowledge and passion at her home studio, Charlotte Klein Dance Centers. She began judging for World Class Talent Experience in 2022. In October of 2021, she began her professional performance career dancing for the NBA, representing the Boston Celtics. Talia is thrilled to be a new member of Giordano II with Giordano Dance Chicago.



**Skyler Newcom** embarked on his journey through dance in his hometown of Lawrenceville, GA under the guidance of Jeff Boss and Jamie Wardrop. After many years in the competition circuits of the southeast, he fostered extensive training in ballet, tap, jazz, modern, and hip-hop. In 2015, Skyler accepted a scholarship to continue his training at the University of Arizona School of Dance. In pursuit of furthering his studies in all areas, Skyler had the privilege of performing works by Autumn Eckman, Nacho Duato, Jessica Lang, George Balanchine, Michael Williams, Sam Watson, James Clouser, Tamara Dyke-Compton, and Amy Ernst among many. Skyler was also gifted the chance of performing with Hawkinsdance, a contemporary company out of Tucson, AZ, impacting and furthering the growth of the arts community. Since graduating with a BFA in dance in May of 2019, He joined the second company as a Junior Performing Associate in 2019. Skyler is now entering his fifth season with Giordano Dance Chicago.



**Fernando Rodriguez**, of Fort Gratiot, Michigan, is a main company member entering his fourth season with Giordano Dance Chicago. He graduated from Grand Valley State University and Lakewood School of Therapeutic Massage. He has danced with River North Dance Chicago, Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre, Paramount Theatre (West Side Story), DITP, Owen/Cox Dance, Grand Rapids Ballet Company and the Missouri Contemporary Ballet and became a Resident Choreographer for the Missouri Contemporary Ballet in 2016, dancing from South Korea to Lincoln Center in New York City. He won the 2019 Inside Chicago Dance Choreography Competition with his piece, "Pass Me By." Fernando also owns a photography business specializing in portrait and dance photography.



**Erina Ueda**, a dancer from Nagoya, Japan, and raised in Chandler, Arizona, is the first Asian female member of Giordano Dance Chicago. As a Main Company member, she not only connects with audiences on stage but also works behind the scenes as the company's videographer and social media coordinator. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BFA in Dance and a minor in Psychology from the University of Arizona in 2021. Erina also is certified in all 5 Levels of the Nan Giordano Certification Program®. In her young career, Erina has toured internationally, performing works by renowned choreographers, including Paul Taylor, Martha Graham, Nacho Duato, Alejandro Cerrudo, Crystal Pite, and Ohad Naharin. She is featured in a documentary by Emmy Award-winner Ryan Fitzgerald alongside choreographer Autumn Eckman, and appears in Netflix's "Driven to Dance". She has also choreographed works performed at YAGP, USAIBC, and Stevie Eller Dance Theatre. Erina hopes to continue telling stories through dance, bringing the audience on a journey with her.



**Analyse Vance** is originally from Springfield, IL and began her dance training with Dance Arts Studio and Springfield Ballet Company. Throughout the years, she danced many principal roles with her local company. Analyse also enjoyed performing in many musical theater productions, and was a competitive diver and state champion gymnast growing up. Recently, she graduated from the University of Arizona where she had the opportunity to perform in George Balanchine's "Four Temperaments" and various faculty work. Analyse's contemporary choreography, "Emergence of Light" was chosen by the dance faculty for the spring production.



**Eduardo Zambrana** (MFA Choreography and Performance, University of Arizona), from Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, joined Giordano II during the second half of the 59th Season and is thrilled to be back for the company's 61st Season. In 2020, Eduardo was awarded the Creative Achievement Award for his exceptional talent, creativity, and innovative artistry, and received 1st place in his category at the Red Rock Screen Dance Film Festival in 2021 for his work *It's Made of Thoughts*. His choreographic commissions include original works for the proscenium stage, film, and non-traditional spaces including Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West historical landmark in Scottsdale, Arizona and *Florence Dance on Screen* in Florence, Italy. At the University of Arizona, Eduardo has danced works by renowned faculty such as Sam Watson, Tamara Dyke-Compton, and Michael Williams as well as many masterworks, including those by Nacho Duato, Larry Keigwin, Paul Taylor, Frank Chavez, and Martha Graham. During his first year with GDC, he toured with the company to several cities in the country where he performed repertoire by Autumn Eckman, Kiesha Lalama, Ray Mercer, Jon Lehrer, Christopher Huggins, Ronen Koresh, and Ray Leeper, and he is the only Bolivian worldwide certified to the Professional Level of the Nan Giordano Certification Program®.

## **ARTISTIC FREEDOM STATEMENT**

Coker University upholds and defends the intellectual and artistic freedom of its faculty, students and guest artists as they study and create art through which they explore the full spectrum of human experience. The university considers such pursuits central to the spirit of inquiry and thoughtful discussion, which are at the heart of a liberal arts education.

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The **Lois Walters Coker Lecture Series** returns this year with **Juan Enriquez at the Watson Theatre on March 19 at 6 p.m.** Additionally, the University introduces the President's Distinguished Speaker Series with **Judge J. Michelle Childs from the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit** will speak to our community on **April 25.** We look forward to having you back on campus soon!

## UPCOMING MCCALL SCHOOL OF VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS

**February 16-17** | 3rd Annual Black History Month Celebration  
**February 22-24** | Faculty and Guest Artist Dance Concert  
**March 13** | Band Spring Masterworks Concert  
**April 4-6** | Legally Blonde  
**April 20** | Raison d'être Spring Choral Concert



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