DR PHILLIPS HIGH SCHOOL DANCE MAGNET

PRESENTS

JDC

JON LEHRER

Dance Company





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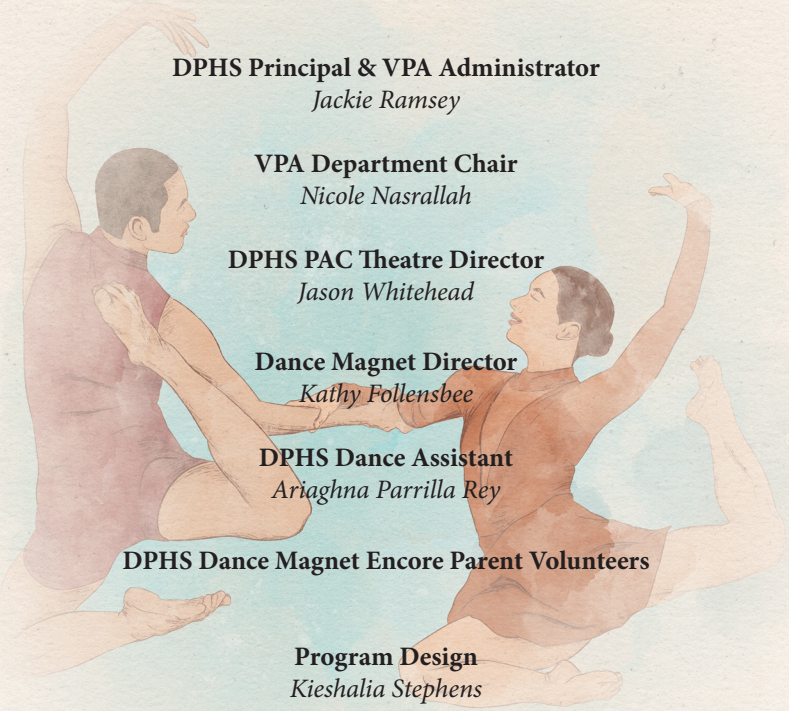
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DR PHILLIPS HIGH SCHOOL DANCE MAGNET

JON LEHRER DANCE COMPANY

Saturday, October 24, 2026

Dr. Phillips High School Performing Arts Center
6500 Turkey Lake Road, Orlando, Florida



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Dance Magnet Director
Kathy Follensbee

DPHS Dance Assistant
Ariaghna Parrilla Rey

DPHS Dance Magnet Encore Parent Volunteers

Program Design
Kieshalia Stephens

JLDC Company Images
Kieshalia Stephens

DPHS Technical Crew
Sydney Miller, Zach Ollendorff, Lea Santiago, Zoe James

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Welcome to the Jon Lehrer Dance Company!

The Dr. Phillips High School, "Dance in Motion" Travel Company, Company 2 and Elective Dancers welcome back the Jon Lehrer Dance Company (JLDC) under the direction of Jon Lehrer for our 18th year of an amazing collaboration! Normally we host the Lehrer company during September, but this year, JLDC is finishing their Florida tour with DPHS in October. None of us could have imagined how this original one-week residency would grow and flourish into a six-week tour in Florida in the fall. This is always a major highlight of the year for all of our dancers! As movers, we have been enthralled with the athletic and dynamic energy JLDC brings to the class and the stage. We feel fortunate and honored to learn and work with this amazing company and want to share a special shout out to Bella Crews, a DPHS alumnus, who is a performing Apprentice with JLDC! Congrats Bella!!!

The JLDC members have encouraged joy and a love of physics in our dance community and throughout the State of Florida expanding their outreach during September/October working with 16 different schools/studios: Amanda's Dance Center, Art Stage Performing Arts, Dance Dynamix, Howard Middle School, Not Just Dance, Osceola School of the Arts, Timber Creek High School, University High School, Bak Middle School, Dreyfoos High School, Oxbridge Academy, Palm Beach Academy of Dance Arts, Palm Beach Atlantic University, The Villages Middle & High School, Palm Beach Atlantic University and Valencia College. Jon and his company members also worked with our own DPHS Dance Magnet & Elective students throughout this week sharing their style and repertory work, as well as setting their new work, 'Good Times,' on the DPHS Dance in Motion Travel Company. What a thrill it has been to learn alongside the professionals each day!

For the ninth year, Jon set an Opening Act piece on community dancers. This year, dancers from four different schools/studios took part in a Thursday night master class to collaborate with Jon & the Company to set 'Solstice.' Many thanks to Amanda's Dance Center, Not Just Dance, University High School, and DPHS. This opportunity gives dancers from different studios & schools a memorable opportunity to be a part of a professional show. Along with the opening Community piece, several area schools/studios are sharing Lehrer works during the show tonight. I cannot state how important this process is to young dancers! To work alongside the professionals, learn and be trusted with professional work is such a rewarding experience for each of them. Please enjoy the passion these dancers bring to the stage tonight.

We are honored to be sharing this gifted group of artistic athletes with the dance community throughout the state of Florida. We hope that you enjoy their performance as much as we have loved learning from them. May each of you be touched by their passion and boundless energy! Most important ~ we hope this gets you excited for a new season of dance!

Please feel free to meet and greet the cast after the show for autographs and pictures in the lobby.

ENJOY!!!

Kathy Follensbee
Dr. Phillips High School Dance Magnet, Dance Director

JON LEHRER DANCE COMPANY

Founder/Artistic Director/Choreographer	*Jon Lehrer*
Associate Director	*Cristiana Cavallo*
Rehearsal Director	*Michael Miller*
Technical Director	*Eli Medina*
Costume Designer	*Laura Vanner*
Social Media Manager	*Mahalia Brookes*

Jon Lehrer Dance Company (JLDC) began in 2007 in Buffalo, NY and has received critical acclaim nationally and internationally. Jon moved the company to his hometown of New York City in 2019, where they have become a vibrant addition to the city's dance community. Under Jon Lehrer's artistic direction, the company showcases his unique choreography and definitive style. His extensive background in both the modern and jazz dance idioms fosters choreography that is organic, athletic, artistic, entertaining, and often humorous, reflecting human experiences.

JLDC's expressive style is based on three main elements of movement - Circularity, 3-Dimensionality, and Momentum - which combine to create a form that is best described as "Organically Athletic". With creativity, athleticism, and the ability to make new and innovative modern and jazz dance accessible to all audiences, the company has made quite a name for themselves in the dance world. Striking the elusive balance between art and entertainment, JLDC showcases a dynamic, fun, and distinctive style which fuses jazz and modern dance, creating a true spectacle onstage which can be enjoyed by dance experts and novices alike.

JLDC tours extensively, receiving critical acclaim worldwide. Dance Magazine praised "the company took the house not so much by storm as by quantum physics," and Galerie Ortenau in Offenburg, Germany declared, "Dynamic, Powerful, Elegant – brings an absolute passion for the dance." From 2012-2016, JLDC had the honor of touring to Russia, sponsored by the US State Department in order to, as they said, "bring the best in American modern dance to the people of Russia." These cultural diplomacy tours brought the company to Vladivostok, Anadyr, Perm, Yekaterinburg, Chukotka, and Berezniki. JLDC has been touring to Europe since 2014, having just completed their 5th tour in March 2026. For their 2022 tour, they premiered "Bernstein Celebration" - a full evening set to the music of Leonard Bernstein. JLDC was honored and privileged to be one of only a handful of dance companies worldwide given the rights to use Bernstein's music.

At home in New York City, JLDC is a three time recipient of the prestigious CUNY Dance Initiative Award (2022, 2023, and 2025), has performed in prestigious festivals including Hudson Valley Dance Festival, Battery Dance Festival, Gold Coast Dance Festival, and Westhampton Beach Project. JLDC offers two intensive programs per year, where dancers from around the world have the opportunity to study the JLDC technique and style in New York City. Additionally, the company holds educational residencies, teaches master classes, and restages JLDC repertory for dozens of high schools, universities, and dance programs across the country each year. In September 2026, they launched the first Lehrer Technique Teaching Certifi cation program, in partnership with Amelia Island Dance Festival, as the first step toward codifying Jon Lehrer's signature approach to movement and dance that has impacted thousands of dancers and audience members since 2007. Jon Lehrer Dance Company's mission is to share and spread the joy of dance through performance, education, community engagement, and artistic collaboration.

www.jonlehrerdance.com

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

JON LEHRER



Jon Lehrer, who was raised in Queens, New York, took his very first dance class at age 19 at the University at Buffalo. While dating a dancer, Jon teased her about how easy it must be to get an A in a dance class. The girl dared Jon to try a beginning level modern dance class and his life was changed. Jon ultimately received his BFA in Dance from the University at Buffalo.

As a professional, Jon has danced with the Erick Hawkins Dance Company, Paul Sanasardo, John Passafiume Dancers, in Merv Griffin's "Funderful" in Atlantic City, NJ, and the Radio City Rockettes Christmas Spectacular. In 1997, Jon was hired by Giordano Dance Chicago, the world's preeminent jazz dance company. After only three years he was promoted to Rehearsal Director and then became the Associate Director two years later. During his ten years with Giordano, Jon also became the resident choreographer, creating seven original works for the company that received rave reviews all around the world.

Jon has choreographed for several professional dance companies and universities all over the country. He teaches master classes throughout the U.S. and around the world, having been on faculty at Dance Masters of America, Jazz Dance World Congress, Dance Teacher Summer Conference, Chicago National Association of Dance Masters (CNADM), Chautauqua Institution, Florida Dance Educators Organization, and Florida Dance Masters to name a few. Jon has received many awards and honors, including the University at Buffalo Zodiaque Dance Company Distinguished Alumni Award, CNADM's Artistic Achievement Award, University at Buffalo College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award, and the "Rising Star" SPARK Award for being an integral part of Buffalo's thriving arts and cultural community. Currently, Jon is also collaborating on multiple residency shows with Broadway Director Neil Goldberg as the Choreographer and Co-Director of POMP, SNOW, & CIRQUEumstance.

THE COMPANY



MAHALIA BROOKES

Mahalia is originally from the US Virgin Islands where she started her training at Caribbean Dance School. After moving to Tampa, FL she continued her training at All American Dance Factory, All American Classical Ballet School, and at Blake High School. She has competed in the NAACP ACT-SO national convention where she worked closely with choreographer Anthony Burrell. She went on to receive her Bachelor of Fine Arts at Marymount Manhattan College, where she performed works by Earl Mosley, Jessica Lang, Anthony Morigerato, John Heginbotham, Sidra Bell, and Pascal Rioult. This is Mahalia's fifth season with JLDC.



CRISTIANA CAVALLO

Cristiana is from Utica, NY and began dancing at the age of 3. She received her training at the Dancenter and at Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute School of Dance. Cristiana graduated in 2014 from the University at Buffalo with a BFA in Dance and a BA in Sociology. It was at UB that Cristiana's journey with Jon Lehrer Dance Company began. She began with an Observership with the company during her senior year, and was hired as a full company member upon graduating in 2014. In 2018 she was promoted to Rehearsal Director alongside the company's move to New York City, and in 2021 became the Associate Director. Outside of her work with JLDC, Cristiana is the Executive Director of JUNTOS Collective, a nonprofit that cultivates, empowers, and uplifts international communities through shared dance experiences. Cristiana has become an integral part of JLDC's success both on and off the stage, and is proud to be in her 13th season.



JENNIFER M. GERKEN

Jennifer began her dance training at age six. Her love for dance began at the dance studio called Dance Du Coeur where she performed and competed at various dance competitions. In 2016, she was accepted into Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. In 2019, Ms. Gerken received the Mary Martha Lappe Dance Scholarship, and performed in an excerpt of Appalachian Spring by Martha Graham in the roles of the Bride and Follower. She was a student in the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program where she graduated in 2023. In May 2023, she joined Ailey II as an apprentice and was promoted to an official company member. Ms. Gerken has performed works by Alvin Ailey, Paul Taylor, Jose Limón, William Forsythe, Baye and Asa, Houston Thomas, Rena Butler, Ethan Colangelo, and Chavlar Monteiro. Jennifer is thrilled to be in her first season with JLDC.



KRISTEN HEDBERG

Kristen was born and raised in Richmond, VA. She graduated with a BFA in Contemporary Dance from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, where she was dual-enrolled with The Martha Graham School during her senior year. Additional performance credits include Susie McHugh + Dancers, Bo Pressly, and Faustine Lavie Dance Project, among others. Kristen is also the Development Coordinator with Queensboro Dance Festival and a Grant Writer with Fran Kirmser, LLC. Kristen is thrilled to be in her fifth season with JLDC.



MICHAEL MILLER

Michael is from Long Island, New York, and began dancing at the age of eight. He trained at Peconic Ballet Theatre primarily in Modern and Ballet before earning a Bachelor of Arts in Dance from James Madison University. During his studies, he danced in both student- and faculty-choreographed works and was a member of the Virginia Repertory Dance Company. In his senior year, he received the Excellence in Performance Award. He has performed works by Kyle Abraham, Omar Román De Jesús, Rubén Graciani, Ryan Corriston, Ricky Ruiz and Xiang Xu. This is Michael's fifth season as a JLDC Company Member, and second season as Rehearsal Director.



RICCARDO PASSERA

Riccardo is an Italian-born dancer based in New York City whose artistic identity is deeply influenced by a heritage that bridges Italy and the Caribbean. He began his dance journey at the age of 10 with Caribbean styles, before expanding into ballet, modern, and contemporary techniques at renowned institutions including The Ballet School, AreaDance Nuova, and New Style Dance. As a young performer in Italy, Riccardo danced in works by Lino Villa with the New Style Project Dance Company and joined MAADE Ensemble as an apprentice, performing choreography by Mattia Cuda. At 18, he moved to New York to train at The Ailey School, where he was a member of the Ailey Student Performance Group from 2022 to 2024 under the direction of Freddie Moore. At The Ailey School, Riccardo performed Bird Lives and Memoria, by Alvin Ailey, as well as an excerpt from Mauro Bigonzetti's Festa Barocca. These works were featured during Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's 2021-2023 seasons at New York City Center and 2024 season at BAM. Riccardo currently dances with Alpha Omega Theatrical Dance Company, and serves as a Teaching Artist with Notes In Motion's Education Ensemble. His cross-continental career has led him to work with celebrated choreographers such as Clifton Brown, Amy Hall Garner, Ronald K. Brown, Darell Moultrie, Brice Mousset. Norbert De La Cruz III, Branndi Lewis, and Johan King Silverhult. This is Riccardo's third season with JLDC.



AUSTIN SHAFFER

Austin, an Ohio native, received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from Slippery Rock University with a concentration in Performance and Choreography. He has performed works by Bill T. Jones, Brian Brooks, Helen Simoneau, Joshua Manculich, Hanna Brictson, Cameron McKinney, Ursula Payne, and Bill Evans. He has performed and presented his works at the Koresh Artist Showcase, American College Dance Association Conference Gala, Cleveland Dance Festival, Whirlwind Dance Company, El Colegio del Cuerpo (Cartagena, Colombia), and Columbus Arts Festival. Austin completed two seasons as a main company dancer for Whirlwind Dance, a contemporary dance company in Columbus, Ohio. This is Austin's second season with JLDC.



MITCHELL TAKEDA

Mitchell was born in Taiwan and raised in Sacramento, CA. He graduated from Ball State University in May 2024 with a BFA in Musical Theatre and was part of the Honors College. Mitchell was introduced to JLDC during the Fall Semester of 2022 when the company visited Ball State for a three-day masterclass series. Since then, he has always dreamed to dance with the company and perform with them one day. He participated in the JLDC Winter Intensive in January 2024, and is excited to be in his second season with the company.



PERFORMING APPRENTICES

BELLA CREWS

Bella graduated from The Boston Conservatory May 2025, with her B.F.A. in commercial dance. She first found her passion for dance at the young age of three years old with her first ballet and tap class at her local dance studio in Orlando, Florida. Crews has performed at Universal Studios, Disney Springs, and other events in Florida, New York, and Massachusetts. Since attending the Conservatory, Crews has participated in multiple music videos, Berklee ensemble performances, and extracurricular activities within the community. Crews has trained in Ballet, Modern, Tap, Jazz, Hip Hop, Heels, Contemporary, etc. With a strong need to constantly learn more and grow, Crews is always looking for opportunities that are outside her comfort zone. From Broadway, to an artist tour, to a modern company. She wants to do it all. Bella Crews is eager to get started on this new journey of the industry and can't wait to see ya out there!

TOBI TWOMBLEY

Tobi is originally from Los Angeles, CA. She began dancing at the age of 7 at Pacific Dance Center Redondo Beach. There, she received intensive training in classical ballet, jazz, modern, hip hop, and acro. She danced principal roles in The Nutcracker and The Sleeping Beauty as well as competing at Youth America Grand Prix in 2019, 2021, and 2022. After graduating high school, Tobi moved to New York City to attend The Ailey School's Certificate Program class of 2026 where she completed two seasons as a member of the Ailey Student Performance Group under the direction of Freddie Moore. During her time at Ailey Tobi had the privilege of performing works by Alvin Ailey, Earl Mosley, Darrell Moultrie, Freddie Moore, Jennifer Archibald, Brice Mousset, Branndi Lewis, Avree Walker, and Pedro Ruiz. This is Tobi's first season as an apprentice with Jon Lehrer Dance Company.

JDC
JON LEHRER
Dance Company

OPENING PROGRAM

SOLSTICE

Music: Volker Bertelmann

CENTRAL FLORIDA COMMUNITY PIECE

Amanda's Dance Center: Caydon Bell, Lauren Wilkens, Braylen Moses

Not Just Dance: Nicole Cespedes, Jaida Gel

Dr Phillips High School: Sameenah Allen, Cameran Bailey, Caydon Bell, Selene Bogart, Emma Brady-Fitzpatrick, Maddy Brown, Mikinzie Brown, Nicole Cespedes, Lyric Chaffin, Kimani Cooper, Dante' Fernandez, Makayla Frazier, Jaida Gel, Marissa Gomez, Shammah Griffin, Valentina Grijalva Cruz, Nyah Hall, Chloe Leon, Kemarae Mayers, Braylen Moses, Lauren Wilkens

University High School: Kymorah McCain, Marissa Gomez

Independent: Dante' Fernandez

THROUGH THE STORM

Music: Zeno Pittarelli

HOWARD MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMY OF ARTS DANCE

Director: Jasmine Henry, Alissa Coombs

Dancers: Adelaide Bleakely, Avery Buck, Audrey Caparas, Blaire Caparas, Chanel Cobb, Juliett Comunale, Sam Cubbage, Angelyse Eng, Lailah Green, Kaylani Mojica, Dakarai Nesmith, Jocelyn Payne, Paola Perez, Luani Sawicki, Lexi Shaw, Tatum Sigman,Valentina Torres, Charlisse Viverette, Moriah Ward

LA FOLLIA

Music: Antonio Vivaldi

TIMBER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL ELITE DANCE TEAM

Director: Tara Wright

Dancers: Kendra Beals, Sanaa Carty, Amelia Ciuzio, Rory Foranoce, Kayleigh LaBuda, Mila Nathan, Paige Singer, McKenzie Swearengin, Ruby Thomson, Olivia Wright

MINGOS!

Music: Banda Ionica, La Caravane Passe, Gogol Bordello

NOT JUST DANCE

Director: Amanda Mendoza

Dancers: Jessica Ascolese, Nichole Cespedes, Abrianna Commarota, Avery Flatt, Jaida Giehl, Isabelle Gruenzner, Lily Mangrum, Patrick McCoy, Zora Schenck, Delainey Silvestro

PANTHEON RISING

Music: Damien Simon

AMANDA'S DANCE STUDIO

Director: Amanda Bell

Dancers: Caydon Bell, Abigail Carter, Alicia Kakol, Avani Kasturi, Elizabeth Marion, Braylen Moses, Carmen Romero, Hailey Short, Kaylin Vitale, Lauren Wilkins



FUSED

Music: Joachim Horsely

UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL DANCE MAGNET

Director: Elise Mele

Dancers: Sophia Aspitia, Gabriele Bihag, Bailey Carlisi, Maliah Castillo-Canova, Lyric Chaffin, Charlotte Christiansen, Mikaela De La Rosa, Katherine Fehl, Alexis Fernandez, Anoyah Gonzalez, Arianna Jackson, Liana Jones, Jescelly Miranda-Silvagnoli, Alyssa Morales, Lena Nesmith, Cameron Powers, Ariana Restrepo, Angelys Ruiz, Zoey Sipka, Aaliyah Turpin

- INTERMISSION -

ACT 1

MURMUR (2012)

Music: Will Close and The Earth Harp Collective, Volker Bertelmann
Lighting: Kam Hobbs
Costumes: Laura Vanner
Dancers: Mahalia Brookes, Kristen Hedberg, Michael Miller, Riccardo Passera, Mitchell Takeda



VOLT (2024)

Music: James Asher, Pablo Samonta, Rhythm Scott, Baptiste Thiry, Damen Deshayes

VALENCIA COLLEGE DANCE

Director: Dr. Suzanne Salapa
Artistic Director: Eric Yow
Dancers: Tiara Cappello, Walter Espinoza, Abigail Hernandez, Ayanna Jordan, Clara Jordan, Khloe Lehoux, Maria Mejia, Angelina Pepe, Abby Santiago, Irelyn Silvestro, Sara Cano Suarez, Yariem Vasquez-Urena

PULP (2016)

What if Buster Keaton, Quentin Tarantino, and Scooby-Doo made a dance?

Music: Ennio Marricone, James Brown & 2Pac Shakur, Riziero Ortolani, Booker T. & The M.G.'s
Lighting: Kam Hobbs
Costumes: Laura Vanner
Dancers: The Company

- INTERMISSION -

ACT 2

TROIKA

Music: Goldmund, Michael Nyman
Lighting: Kam Hobbs
Costumes: Jessica Wegrzyn
Dancers: Michael Miller, Austin Shaffer, Mitchell Takeda

GOOD TIMES (2026)

Music: David Byrne

DR PHILLIPS HIGH SCHOOL DANCE MAGNET

Director: Kathy Follensbee
Dancers: Samarah Allen, Claire Atwell, Eva Baez, Mia Contreras, Faith Gant, Yelani Hill, NaKai Jessup, Makhari Lozeille, Kyleah McCary, Meila Moe, Nehemyah Morgan, Antonio Williams



A RITUAL DYNAMIC (2007)

The work that started it all! "A Ritual Dynamic" was the very first Company piece, created to define JLDC's signature combination of artistry, athleticism and entertainment.

Music: Hovannes K, DJ Disse
Lighting: Kam Hobbs
Costumes: Cindy Darling
Dancers: The Company


AJ Williams

Emma Brady Fitzpatrick

c/o 2027



Watching you grow has been our greatest joy. We are so proud of you and excited for everything ahead!

Emma

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1/16/2027

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ELEMENTS OF DANCE
3/25 & 27/2027

STUDENT SHOWCASE
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