

Larchaud Dance Project Info

Company

Larchaud Dance Project

Founded in 2004, Larchaud Dance Project combines break dance aesthetics with contemporary technique to create repertoire based on strength, agility, and gravity-defying movement. Pioneers of this hybrid dance form; their highly stylized partnering is now recognized as Larchaud Technique. This Toronto based company guarantees to captivate audiences with high voltage athleticism, compelling presence, and a unique approach to dance art. Under the Artistic Direction of Jennifer Robichaud, a dynamic performer, choreographer, and educator, Larchaud Dance Project has been recognized for its vibrant workshops, cutting edge choreography, and multimedia performances.

Larchaud Dance Project is committed to creating dance art that pushes boundaries, that engages all audiences, and that exposes new audiences to dance through mainstream culture. We are dedicated to producing work that is accessible to everyone, and that is layered to appeal to all ages. Larchaud Dance Project delivers a preservation of the technique and standard of breaking from some of the city's originators with an array of contemporary styles. Through these combinations has evolved a hybrid form of dance and partnering that has become stylistically linked to the company. We are dedicated to creating art that questions the harsh realities of today's world, engages youth, and acts as a vehicle for social change. Larchaud is constantly strives to offer both dance forms to highly diverse audiences. We are consistently known for weaving a story through dance, theatre, and film, bridging the gaps between culture, class, and gender.

Larchaud Dance Project was created under the premise of creating a company which would expand the boundaries, appeal, and acceptance of contemporary choreography. They premiered their first work "*The Larchaud Project*" at fFIDA 2004 as a distillery site specific. Larchaud Dance Project produced their first full-length production, *Stript Bare*, in June 2005. *Stript Bare* combined dance, theatre and multimedia installation to take an in-depth look into a clinical experiment. Since then the company has produced *Game Over/10* the entertaining children's show performed on a jungle gym, *Back to X/09* (DanceWorks CoWorks Series) the highly athletic and provoking examination of interrogation techniques, *CAUTION/07* (DanceWorks CoWorks Series), and *SHINJIRU/07*. Most recently, Larchaud Dance Project has performed at Illuminite/10, Dance Ontario Dance Weekend/11/09, Beats, Breaks and Culture/09, Nuit Blanche/07/08, Junction Arts Festival/07/08, remounted excerpts of *SHINJIRU* for the Toronto International Dance Festival, and toured the production to China for the Shanghai International Fringe Festival. Performance credits also include TIDF Urban Matinees/Closing Night Party/06, Wintercity Festival/06, and fFIDA/05 Grande Scale Event.

Participant Biographies

Jennifer Robichaud

Larchaud Dance Project -Artistic Director (Choreographer/Performer)

Holding an Honours BFA from York University, Jennifer Robichaud has had extensive dance training in many disciplines, specializing in jazz and contemporary forms. Jennifer co-founded Larchaud Dance Project in 2004 and currently holds the position as

Artistic Director. Larchaud Dance Project combines breakdance aesthetics with contemporary technique to create repertoire based on strength, agility, and gravity-defying movement. Pioneers of this hybrid dance form; their highly stylized partnering is now recognized as Larchaud Technique. This Toronto based company guarantees to captivate audiences with high voltage athleticism, compelling presence, and a unique approach to dance art. They have been nationally and internationally recognized for its vibrant workshops, cutting edge choreography, and multimedia performances. Select choreographic and performance credits with Larchaud include LDP productions (*Game Over/10*, *Back to X/09*, *Caution/07*, *SHINJIRU/06*, *Stript Bare/05*), *Illuminite/10*, *GCDF/10*, *Beats Breaks and Culture/09*, *Nuit Blanche/07/08*, *Fringe Shanghai/06*, *TIDF/06*, *Wintercity Festival/06*. www.larchaud.com

Jennifer also works with Anandam Dance Theatre (*Precipice/11*, *Confluence/10*) and AKA Dance, and has a range of commercial and video work. She was a featured choreographer on the Gemini nominated documentary series *Freedom* which airs on Bravo. Presently, Jennifer teaches at Alyona Dance Studio, U4Change, I Had a Dream Project (Scarborough Arts Council), leads Larchaud workshops, and resides as the guest adjudicator on the entrance jury to St. Elizabeth Secondary School's Regional Arts Program. She leads countless workshops in the city as part of Larchaud Dance Project, and is involved with youth programming and initiatives. Jennifer is a member of the Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists, Dance Ontario, and currently acted as a juror for the 2010/11 Dora Awards.

Jase Cozmic (Jason Yorke-Best)

Larchaud Dance Project -Choreographer/Performer

A founding member of Intrikit Break Dance Crew, Jase began what would become one of the country's premier dance crews and travel across the world putting Canada's dance scene on the map. Legendary Crazy Legs of the Rock Steady Crew from New York City, introduced Intrikit to the world by stating that they were one of the crews unbeknown to many in the world at the time and that they were going beyond the boundaries and taking b-boying to the next level. In fact, Jase has done just that. He is currently a performer, choreographer, and instructor with Larchaud Dance Project, a company that has become a pioneer in Larchaud Technique – breakdance/contemporary partnering. His unique talents complete the choreographic duo known for bringing the stage to the street, and the street to the stage.

Performance and choreographic credits include *Game Over: LDP*, *Back to X: LDP*, *Caution: LDP*, *GCDF/10*, *Beats, Breaks and Culture/09*, *Nuit Blanche/07/08*, *Fringe Shanghai*, *TIDF-Urban Matinee and Gala Event*, *Wintercity Festival/06*, *The ROOTS*, *Citizen Kane*, *Choclair*, *Beastie Boys*, *Tribe Called Quest*, *Raptors Half Time Show*, *Raptors Dance Pac (choreographer)*, and *Blues Brothers 2000 (film)* to name a few. Before becoming co-choreographer of Larchaud, Jase apprenticed with COBA in 2003/04, and toured the USA as a competitor of international break dance battles.

In addition to his workshop teaching with LDP, Jase instructs at many Toronto studios, and deejays/hosts G5 Canadian Urban, a hip hop radio show on indielove.ca. With his continuous contribution to urban culture, he also organizes Only for The Hip Hop (a performance showcase for emerging Toronto talent), and has created a podcast for promotional work, www.g5radio.podomatic.com.

Aaron Adkins

Aaron began dancing at the age of 14, and became proficient at jazz, acrobatics, and hip hop. From the charming sea voyages of **Disney Cruise Line**, to the millions of guests who visit **Hong Kong Disneyland** and Tokyo Disneyland, Aaron has delighted audience members around the world with his memorable portrayal of numerous Disney characters. His superb dancing, gymnastics, and aerial artistry inspires crowds daily.

Matthew

Matthew's dance training began at the age of 6 in Norfolk England. At the age of sixteen Matthew gained a scholarship to attend Millennium Dance 2000 LTD, where he trained in all styles of dance such as Jazz, Contemporary, Tap, Ballet and Musical Theatre. He also widened his performance levels by training in acting and singing. He graduated in 2005 with a National diploma in musical theatre and dance.

Matthew has professionally worked for:

Spirit Productions: "The Osmond's spirit of Christmas". Branson Missouri
Jean Ann Ryan production
Norwegian Cruise Lines
Opening cast of the P&O Ventura
Belinda King productions LTD
"Apassionata" Villa Moura Casino in Portugal

Not only being hired and working for Jean Ann Ryan Productions, Matthew had the honor of being asked to choreograph for the media events during the Set up and launching of the P&O Ventura. Also had the privilege of working with choreographers such as Liz Imperio, Jeff Amsden, Anthony Lyn, Stephen Mear and Raphael Bonachela.

Amanda Damaren

"Some people have thousands of reasons why they cannot do what they want to, when all they need is one reason why they can".

Martha Graham

Amanda is a passionate actor/dancer/singer rooted in Kitchener-Waterloo eager to expand her experience beyond her community. As a resident, she has been actively involved in community theatre by sharing her expertise and energy with young people in schools and non-profit organizations. Amanda Damaren is a graduate of the Eastwood Collegiate Integrated Arts Program under the direction of Janis Price. She graduated with an Arts diploma majoring in Dance as well as an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Eastwood Collegiate provided Amanda with a foundation for dance, theatre and vocal training as well as opportunities to perform lead roles such as Jan in the musical Grease, as well as dance along side professional modern companies including Ballet Jorgen, Toronto Dance Theatre and David Earl.

As a resident of Kitchener-Waterloo Amanda trained with Confidance Studio, Kitchener, Quinte Ballet School, Belleville, O.I.P, Toronto and Metro Movement, Toronto. As a competitive dancer, Amanda achieved several awards including Top Soloist, Overall

Highest Score and Dance Odyssey's Favourite Dancer. Furthermore, Amanda has received recognition for her choreography and creativity from several dance competitions.

Amanda's credits include Baxter, Being Erica, Camp Rock-The Final Jam, Get Up 'N Move and High School Musical Family Channel Promotional Video. She is proud to have worked with Luther Brown in his stage production On My Way Home, Leon Rubin in the Stratford Shakespeare Festival production of Measure for Measure and Amy Wright on the set of Being Erica and Get Up 'N Move.

Amanda continues to develop her art through commitment and study with Cindy Tanas and Michael Caruana for Acting, Fred Love for Vocal training and dance with Linda Garneau, Stelio Calagias, Siona Jackson and Faye Rauw. Amanda made it to the top 70 of "So You Think You Can Dance" Season 3 and feels blessed to have worked with the top choreographers and among so many talented dancers.