

Guest Faculty
MDAA 2024 Spring Workshop
April 6-7, Missoula, MT



Ballet

Michaela McGowan, a Virginia native, received her early dance training at The Loudoun School of Ballet, and went on to receive her BFA with honors from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, class of 2012. She is currently on faculty at Broadway Dance Center in New York City, and actively teaches and sets work in and around the tri-state area and nationwide. As part of DanceLab New York, Michaela has worked with Josh Prince (DLNY Artistic Director), Robbie Fairchild, Loni Landon, Ray Mercer, Kristen Carcone, John Carrafa, and Helen Simoneau. Additionally, she's worked with Mia Michaels (Mia Michaels LIVE), Kristen Carcone (*Dinner is Served*, 2019 Governor's Island Residency), Josh Bergasse (Tisch Gala 2010, Jazz at Lincoln Center), Greg Graham (Tisch Gala 2012), Lisa Shriver (PHISH at MSG, Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade), Katarzyna Skarpetowska (Jacob's Pillow with Periapsis Music and Dance), Ray Mercer (Hudson Valley Dance Festival), Aszure Barton (NYU SADC '12), and Larry Keigwin (If/Then). Michaela is

represented by CESD for Dance and Commercial Print and is also a NASM-certified personal trainer, teaching group fitness formats at Equinox locations throughout New York City.



Jazz

Chryssie Whitehead was born and raised in Columbia, South Carolina. She grew up dancing with the Columbia City Ballet and Southern Strutt dance studio competing nationally. Her love for musical theatre and the performing arts began at the age of 10 years old when she got cast as an orphan in ANNIE. Her training continued during the summers in Los Angeles and in New York at the Edge dance studio and Broadway Dance Center. During adolescence she also performed in A Chorus Line at Workshop Theatre. She pursued more theatre in her high school drama program at Richland Northeast, as well as modeled with Millie Lewis Modeling & Talent agency. She became a Rockette straight out of high school. She got her first start in film as a dance double in Save the Last Dance with Julia Stiles. Chryssie then went on to schooling in New York at The American Musical Dramatic Academy (AMDA) where she majored in musical theatre. After the Rockettes,

Chryssie began her first touring job in the first National tour of Fosse, followed by an international tour as one of Paul McCartney's dancers. Chryssie can be seen in the hit documentary, Every Little Step, where she was featured landing her Broadway Debut in the 2006 revival of A Chorus Line as Kristine. She can also be heard on the cast album in "Sing" with Tony nominated actor, Tony Yazbeck.



Tap

Ryan Maw is a professional dancer/choreographer that has been a part of choreography teams on movies for Netflix, Paramount Plus, and Disney Plus. Since the age of 13, Ryan has performed on The Ellen Show, and was a contestant on both So You Think You Can Dance and NBC's World of Dance. Ryan's versatility led to sponsorships and many industry dance jobs, including High School Musical: The Musical: The Series, Julie and The Phantoms, Descendant's Remix Dance Party, and Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist. For three months, he toured across America with the live jazz band Postmodern Jukebox as their solo tap dance artist. Some of Ryan's recent work includes- Bring It On: Cheer or Die, assistant choreography for Honor Society on Paramount Plus, assistant choreography for Prom Pact on Disney Plus, and Grease: Rise of the Pink Ladies on Paramount Plus. In between Ryan's work in the film industry, he enjoys teaching and choreographing

internationally and looks forward to sharing his passion for dance with the world.



Modern

Nicole Powell was born and raised in Carpinteria, CA is a dancer, choreographer, and studio owner/director. She graduated magna cum laude with a BFA in Dance and a BA in philosophy from SMU (2013). She also holds a high school diploma from Idyllwild Arts Academy with a dance performance major, where she received Senior Class Scholar and the Bella Lewitzky Dance Award. She experienced additional training at San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, Martha Graham School, Czech Republic Ballet, NW Dance Project, and Rubberband Dance. Since graduation, Nicole has danced professionally and taught all over the world. She has been dancing with Santa Barbara Dance Theatre for 7 seasons along with a flourishing freelance career. She recently guest performed with the Limon Dance Company. Nicole is excited to continue finding her own choreographic voice with upcoming choreographic commissions, as well as building and directing her school CSD School of Performing Arts in Carpinteria.