



Jonathan van Arneman

Dancer, choreographer, and musician trained in traditional and contemporary styles

AJ is the 2019 recipient of the Momentum New Dance Works grant for emerging choreographers in Minneapolis and is the current Artist in Residence at the National Institute of Arts (NIA) in Soualiga. AJ is a previous company member of Ananya Dance Theatre and Afoutayi where he trained in Yorchha under the leadership of Dr. Ananya Chatterjee and traditional Haitian dance under Djenane Saint-Juste, respectively. His training also includes West African dance forms, Ballet, Modern, Caribbean Social and Traditional Dances, and Capoeira. His past work includes Atlantis Rebirth—a nod to the defiant history of Black peoples in the Caribbean as well as an imagination of a post-colonial Caribbean utopia; and Atlantis13—a work choreographed in collaboration with Peace Madimutsa and a cast of brilliant dancers in Minneapolis that explores diasporic connections and Black liberation. AJ's current project, Atlantis Origins, is the third installation of the Atlantis Universe series and will premiere on November 5 and 6 at the Cowles' Center in Minneapolis. In the realm of music, AJ trained and performed with Souliga's Ebony Steel Orchestra for 10 years under the leadership of steelpan legend Isidore York aka The Mighty Dow.



Afoutayi

Dance, Music and Arts

Afoutayi Haitian Dance, Music and Arts company produces high quality events dedicated to promoting knowledge and understanding of Haitian culture, history and traditional arts. Dance connects the Haitian people to their spiritual and cultural heritage, having been passed down through lineages of African and Indigenous ancestry.

www.afoutayidmaco.com



Krista Beier

Mandalas, Sculpture, Puppetry, Textiles and more

Krista Beier is a creative who uses art as a voice for social change and a means of self-exploration through altering space. Librarian by day, artist by night, her work focuses on her relationship both with the community and the earth. Her cultural heritage inspires her and draws deeply upon the imagery of her ancestors.



Denzel Belin

Writer, director, actor, producer, and improviser

Belin is a longstanding cast member and writer at The Brave New Workshop and a staff writer for *AWF* magazine. He serves as the Artistic Director for Threshold Theater, whose mission is to “produce fresh LGBTQ works.” He currently writes and performs for “Queer Window,” an all-queer sketch show based in New York City.

Denzel has appeared on *TPT Almanac* and created work for the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus and Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce. He presented a longform collection of solo sketches and storytelling, “With Love, From Washington” for the Blackness Is... Festival in Minneapolis. With Threshold Theater, he is currently leading a play reading series that will provide playwrights the opportunity to workshop their play with a director and team of actors that concludes with a staged reading that is open to the public.

FEATURED ON THE ORDWAY EDUCATION YOUTUBE: **WATCH NOW**

www.denzelbelin.com | www.instagram.com/from_washington



Tiffany Cooper

Broadway actress, singer, dancer and arts educator

Tiffany is a Minneapolis-based and Broadway actress, singer, dancer and arts educator with a career in the entertainment industry spanning more than two decades. In addition, she is a certified Life Coach practitioner and Executive Speech Coach.

She has performed at major venues across the US and in fifteen countries with extended European residencies in Switzerland, Austria, Germany and Italy. Tiffany was in the original cast of Andrew Lloyd Webber's Tony-nominated musical *Bombay Dreams* on Broadway. Other performance highlights include *Mamma Mia*, *In The Next Room*; *The Vibrator Play*, *The Audition* (world premiere), *Clybourne Park*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Tempest*, *When Shakespeare's Ladies Meet*, *Fences*, *Cinderella*, *South Pacific*, *The Buddy Holly Story*, *Porgy and Bess*, and *Sisters of the Sixties*. She appears on the cast recordings of *Grease Das Musical*, and *Guys and Dolls* (50th anniversary). Her debut solo recording *Satin Mood, A Tribute to Julie London* was self-produced. Her multi-media solo piece "Black Thread" premiered at the Blackness Is... Arts Festival, which was produced by the Guthrie Theater and MN Black Circle Theater.

As an arts educator, she has created workshops and artist masterclasses for universities and arts organizations. She received certification in arts education from The Actors Fund in New York City. In addition, she regularly adjudicates regional and national talent and dance competitions. Tiffany holds, a BS degree in Speech Communications, Theatre, and Dance from Murray State University.

FEATURED ON THE ORDWAY EDUCATION YOUTUBE: **WATCH NOW**

@tiffanycooper7 on Instagram | www.tiffanycooper.com



Desdamona

An international, award-winning poet & hip hop artist

She has traveled the US & abroad delivering her lyrics and spoken word, also spending her time in traditional and non-traditional classrooms spaces, working in over 300 schools, prisons and community centers in the US and France. She co-founded B-Girl Be, a first of its kind celebration of women's contributions to hip hop culture. Desdamona's most recent release is entitled "No Man's Land" and features an all woman cast of singers, poets and emcees from the Twin Cities.

TEACHING STUDENTS THROUGH ORDWAY'S ARTISTS IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

desdamona.bandcamp.com | @art_by_desdamona on Instagram | @desdamona.rox on Facebook



Meg Erke

Mixed-media Artist

Meg's work is inspired by the natural world (most often the woods, water, and trees of the midwest) and how we look for and find ways to connect with each other through art and nature. She graduated from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa with a BA in Studio Art. She received her M.Ed in Curriculum and Instruction with a specialization in Integrated Teaching Through the Arts from Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She began her career as a secondary art teacher. Today her work is a mix of teaching through residencies, workshops, camps, and events, and her personal painting and collage practice.

TEACHING STUDENTS THROUGH ORDWAY'S ARTISTS IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

megerke.com | @megerkeart on Instagram



Troy Florent

Dancer, Singer, Model, Actor, and Teacher

He was trained at the National Institute of Arts (NIA) in St Martin. In 2020, Troy played the part of Aaron Burr in NIA's abridged version of the Broadway musical *Hamilton*. In 2021, he was featured as a model in *Vogue Italia* as part of Lisandro Surriel's Ghost Island Photography Project. During this same year, he was also a principal character in Jonathan van Arneman's internationally acclaimed dance film documentary *Atlantis Rebirth*. In 2022, Troy had the privilege to perform for International Afropop artist Ckay as well as several local artists like Kenyo Baly, Clara Reyes, and Arlene Halley. Troy has trained with artists like Ryan Miller, Alicia Graf Mac, Vivian Nixon, Nikeva Marie, Jaquelyn Allsopp, and Darian Parker in styles such as Ballet, Lyrical Jazz, Afro Caribbean, Soca, Dancehall, Hip Hop, Acro, Contemporary, Improv, and West African Dance. Troy currently works as an educator at several local primary schools on St Martin teaching a dance outreach program that gives K-12 kids skills in Afro Caribbean, Hip Hop, Lyrical jazz, and Improv.

TEACHING STUDENTS THROUGH ORDWAY'S ARTISTS IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

@troyflorent on Instagram



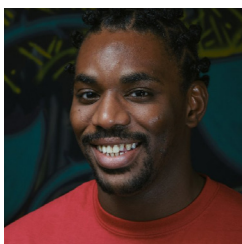
Nic Hahn

Visual Arts teacher for 19 years

Nic Hahn has taught students pre-school through adult learners and every level in between. She received her undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin-Stout and her Masters of Education from the University of Minnesota- St. Mary's. Nic was awarded the Minnesota Art Educator of the Year 2018 Award. Nic is currently taking a sabbatical from the classroom to pursue her passion of illustration and watercolor. Nic has three IG accounts to share the happening in both her education and artist world.

TEACHING STUDENTS THROUGH ORDWAY'S ARTISTS IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

linktr.ee/MiniMatisse



Joseph Mathew "Godsent" James

Dedicated and motivated by his passion for creativity to continue providing education in dance to the next generation of artists in the Twin Cities

Joseph got his start in dancing through musical theater as a sophomore in high school. He moved to social styles such as Latin and Swing, and from there found Breaking which got him connected with the Funkstyles scene. Over the years Joseph has represented local crews including 4got10 Elementz, YML (Yesterday's Missing Life) and ALL DAY.

He has performed in many spaces including, but not limited to: The Guthrie, Ordway Center for Performing Arts, and the Minnesota State Fair. Joseph has also appeared in shows such ROOTED and Being Brothas, Sistah Solo, as well as productions at Main Street Theatre. He was the choreographer for High School Musical for Morris Park Players, previously taught at Moore than Dance studio, and currently is an instructor at House of Dance Twin Cities Studios and Saint Paul Conservatory for the Performing Arts. Beyond his own performances and achievements, Joseph has been a judge for a number of competitive dance competitions.

IN COMMUNITIES WITH THE ORDWAY

FEATURED ON THE ORDWAY EDUCATION YOUTUBE: **WATCH NOW**

@godsent545 on Instagram



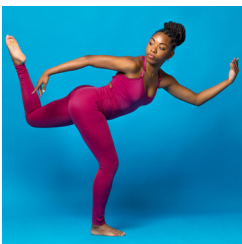
Herb Johnson III

McKnight Fellow

McKnight Fellow, Herb Johnson III graduated from Perpich Center for the Performing Arts in 2010 and studied 3 years at the Lundstrum Center for Arts. Herb is now at the University of Minnesota as an Urban & Street dance instructor. He currently choreographs and performs solo and in groups 612 Crew, DeadPool, and Mixtape. Professional work includes iLuminate from *America's Got Talent*, Choreographing G-Easy's halftime show 2018, and SuperBowl 52 halftime show 2018 with Justin Timberlake.

FEATURED ON THE ORDWAY EDUCATION YOUTUBE: **WATCH NOW**

@herbisdaword on Instagram



Naomi Janelle

Jamaica-born, Saint Maarten-grown dancer, singer, choreographer, and teacher

She has been in performing arts ever since she was 9 years old at the Motiance Dance School now known as The National Institute of Arts since merging with Imbali Dance School. She rooted herself in many art forms to fulfill her artistic desires including representing her home country in international dance competitions. In 2015, she competed in an international dance competition in France called 'concours de confederation de danse' where she received two silver medals (2nd place) in Jazz and African Dance. She also received a scholarship to Anthony Burrell's 'Breaking Barriers' Summer Intensive. In 2018, she was awarded a scholarship from Arts Saves Lives Foundation to partake in a week-long intensive in New York where she danced at BDC, Steps on Broadway and The Ailey Studios. She has been a St. Maarten Heineken Regatta Dancer since 2018. In 2020, she auditioned for St. Maarten's Abridged Version of *Hamilton* and she was casted as Angelica Schuyler. Her role consisted of singing, rapping, dancing and acting. She also auditioned for a dance and cultural film called 'Atlantis Rebirth'. She was casted as a main dancer for this film and it is now one of St. Maarten's Historic Films, touring the Dutch Caribbean and Minnesota. In 2022, she performed for International Afro-beats artist Ckay and International Hip Hop artist Kalash.

TEACHING STUDENTS THROUGH ORDWAY'S ARTISTS IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM



Tish Jones

Poet, educator, organizer and cultural producer

Tish Jones is the Founder & Executive Director of TruArtSpeaks — an arts & culture nonprofit based in Saint Paul — and is the Former Director of the Brave New Voices international youth poetry slam festival. Her work explores the ways in which art can function as a tool for social transformation, liberation, and education.

TEACHING STUDENTS THROUGH ORDWAY'S ARTISTS IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

@thetishjones on Instagram | @thetishjones on X



Sarah Larsson

vocalist, songwriter, and folklorist

Sarah is devoted to learning and sharing music from women's traditions from her own roots: Eastern European, Irish, Scottish, and Swedish diaspora. Sarah has performed with The Nightingale Trio and is the founder of Folk Will Save Us and the Twin Cities klezmer jam community the Longfellow Village Band. Drawing from deep roots of vocal folk music from Eastern Europe and North America, Larsson infuses her interpretations of traditional music with a harmony sensibility rooted in and liberated from years as a classical choral singer. Sarah's new project, Red Thread, further unspools the line of folk tradition, merging original song with rich textures and vocal harmony from the Balkans, Yiddish, and Americana tradition.

FEATURED ON THE ORDWAY EDUCATION YOUTUBE: **WATCH NOW**

@jagoda_larsson on Instagram | @folkwillsaveus on Instagram | nightingaletrio.com



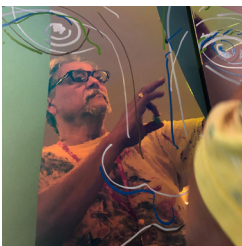
Erinn Liebhard

Dance artist

Erinn Liebhard is a dance artist making opportunities for people to experience the reflective and connective power of groove through performance and education. Guided by this inspiration and a fondness for jazz and American social dance ideas, she's worked with creatives as varied as hip-hop dance theater artists Rennie Harris and the Wild Goose Chase Cloggers Appalachian clogging company. Currently, in performance, she makes and performs new staged works and presents those of others through her company Rhythmically Speaking and plays as "Nerdette" for St. Paul Saints Baseball, in addition to making new works for professional companies, colleges and high schools. In education, she works as a Teaching Artist for the Cowles Center and serves as a member of their Advisory Council, is on faculty at several area art high schools and universities, conducts educational outreach through her company and is an active writer and conference presenter. She is driven to connect with people and help them connect to themselves, one another and the moment through rooted and innovative embodiment of groove.

FEATURED ON THE ORDWAY EDUCATION YOUTUBE: **WATCH NOW**

@erinnliebhard.danceartist on Instagram | erinnliebhard.com



Jimmy Longoria

Chicano, Artist Fellowship

Jimmy Longoria is a Chicano artist who has made a significant impact on the art world. He is the only Chicano artist whose work is displayed at 3M's Global Innovation Center. Jimmy received a Bush Foundation Artist Fellowship in Fine Art and is the only Minnesotan to have art on permanent display at the National Museum of Mexican Art. He has been recognized for his commitment to the community, and Target Corporation labeled him "Someone We'd Like You to Meet" in a national campaign.

IN COMMUNITIES WITH THE ORDWAY, TEACHING STUDENTS THROUGH ORDWAY'S ARTISTS IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

jimmylongoria.com | @jimmylongoriaartist on Instagram



Jinjer Markley

Illustrator in Minneapolis

Jinjer Markley primarily works in watercolor, ink, and digital drawing, and considers a 6B pencil to be the ultimate drawing tool. With a formal training in science experience as a science teacher, it is no wonder that she is also a nerd. A nerd who draws. If you must know, her best time in solving a Rubik's cube is 2.6 minutes i.e. not super fast, but hey, not bad. She loves illustrating anything that is somehow educational, including the children's book "This Thing Has A Name." In addition to drawing, she loves bicycling, ice skating, cooking overly complicated meals, anything Japanese, hanging out with family, and the magic of making things by hand.

TEACHING STUDENTS THROUGH ORDWAY'S ARTISTS IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

www.jinjermarkley.com | [jinjermarkley](#) on Instagram



TaikoArts Midwest

Music, Dance, Culture

Ensō Daiko offers loud, energetic performances that combine music, dance, culture, and pure athleticism. The group regularly premieres new work adding their unique voice to the expanding canon and innovation of North American taiko. Through performances, studio classes and school residencies, Ensō Daiko has taught thousands of students of all ages and abilities.

IN COMMUNITIES WITH THE ORDWAY, TEACHING STUDENTS THROUGH ORDWAY'S ARTISTS IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

www.taikoartsmidwest.org | [@taikoarts](#) on Instagram



Marie Olofsdotter

Artist and Poet

Marie Olofsdotter is a Swedish-born artist & poet who lives in Minneapolis where she paints, writes poetry, creates picture books, and works in mixed media. She has shared her love of creativity with young and old alike as a teaching artist for over 30 years. Marie's accolades include a Minnesota Book Award, a Loft Mentor Series Award in Poetry, and grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board, the Jerome Foundation, and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council. Besides studies in art history, fine arts, and writing, Marie went to clown school for two years, first in Stockholm, then California, and she swears by the Steve Linsner quote that says, "a clown is a poet who is also an orangutang."

TEACHING STUDENTS THROUGH ORDWAY'S ARTISTS IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

www.marieolofsdotter.com



See More Perspective

MC, Producer/Composer, Spoken Word Poet, Visual Artist, Filmmaker, and Educator

Their work explores identity, culture, social justice, mythology, science fiction, spirituality, and the paranormal. See More has received the VERVE grant for spoken word for a spoken word album about dreams, freedom fighters and mythology; the Artist Initiative grant from the MN State Arts Board for a music video suite about healthy sexuality, sex positivity, consent, and rape culture; and a Cedar Commission from the Cedar Cultural Center to premiere new work about new mythologies and cultural justice work. They worked as a member of the Night Light cohort grant project from Public Arts Saint Paul to create 3D digital projection-mapping in 2021 to premiere, 'Jaws of Life After Death', a psychedelic Death trip of hip hop, poetry, synth, and soaring ethereal vocals. See More is currently helping Teatro de Pueblo develop a cultural adaptation of 'Romeo and Juliet', writing rap and spoken word for a new character that kicks the Chorus off stage. They are currently producing Kat Parent's powerful upcoming album 'Swampling', which premiered at the Cedar Cultural Center at the top of 2022. His most recent release 'Edgar Allen Poe Dameron' is an action packed, classicist boom bap, tour de force of MCing and Beat-making. Learn more at www.seemoreperspective.com

FEATURED ON THE ORDWAY EDUCATION YOUTUBE

TEACHING STUDENTS THROUGH ORDWAY'S ARTISTS IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM: **WATCH NOW**

www.seemoreperspective.com | www.facebook.com/seemoreperspective



Danez Smith

Arts and Cultural Education Lead

Danez Smith is the author of 3 awarding winning collections, including "Homie." Currently finishing a fellowship at Princeton, they are the new Arts and Cultural Education Lead for TruArtSpeaks.

TEACHING STUDENTS THROUGH ORDWAY'S ARTISTS IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

www.danezsmithpoet.com | @danez_smif on Instagram



TruArtSpeaks

Arts & culture organization based in Saint Paul, Minnesota

We provide development opportunities for artists and arts leaders through direct mentorship, workshops, residencies, public events, conferences, statewide initiatives and more. Our primary audience consists of people with multiple marginalized identities and artists— with a special focus on youth and young adults. We believe that art & culture - especially Hip Hop - inspire connection, growth, and social transformation.

Our mission is to cultivate literacy, leadership, and social justice through the study & application of spoken word and hip hop culture. Our vision is to foster a global community of diverse voices committed to advancing justice and equity.

There are five core beliefs that guide our work: We believe in story, we believe in community, we believe in Hip Hop as a tool for personal & social transformation, we believe in intergenerational spaces and mentorship, and we believe in quality & craft.

TEACHING STUDENTS THROUGH ORDWAY'S ARTISTS IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

www.truartspeaks.org | TruArtSpeaks on Instagram



Dallas and Siam

Feel-good music from the heart of Africa

Back in Africa, award-winning Congolese musician Siam Matuzungidi (see-AH-ma ma-too-zoon-GEE-dee) was shaped by the evenings he spent sitting outside with his family, telling stories and singing together under a canopy of stars. He went on to earn the moniker, “Soukous Legend” as he recorded hundreds of songs and traveled the world with popular artists. Now based in Minneapolis, Siam’s known for his intricate guitar, spirited singing, catchy songs and traditional instruments like balafon and thumb piano. His right-hand musical partner and storyteller, Dallas Johnson, adds cool harmonies and encourages everyone to sing along to fun songs in Lingala, Kikongo and Swahili and they both love sharing stories that bring Siam’s happy rural childhood to life.

IN COMMUNITIES WITH THE ORDWAY

siamamusic.com



Dominique Winders

Collage, Painting, and Assemblage

Dominique is a multi-disciplinary artist who combines collage, painting, and assemblage to create detailed artwork which is rich in symbolism and cultural references. Working in acrylic and intricate hand cut collage on wood panel with resin, Dominique creates colorful scenes which incorporate tiny details and humor to re-envision history in her allegorical artwork. In 2014, she became a contributing member of Tres Leches Art Gallery, located in the Northrup King Building in NE Minneapolis, and has received several Honorable Mentions in group shows throughout the region. Her most recent efforts include a solo show entitled “Marie Antoinette et les Femmes Fatales” exhibited at the Alliance Francaise in September 2022. She currently works as an Associate Librarian for Hennepin County Library and curates the art exhibitions at Ridgedale Library.

TEACHING STUDENTS THROUGH ORDWAY’S ARTISTS IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

@dom.wind on Instagram