

# INSTRUCTOR & MUSICIAN BIOS

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**ROBIN CRIST** has passed on her love of dance to many students during years of teaching for the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Dance Club, EBA, Robin's Academy of Dance, The National Museum of Dance, Albany Dance & Fitness, and the Dance Experience. Her choreography has appeared at EBA's Brave New Dances, the Choreographer's Asylum, EMPAC at RPI, Capital Rep's production of Time Warner Cable's Miss/ter Television Pageant, the Tisch Dance Festival, the New York State ARC Convention at the Crowne Plaza in Albany, and the Troy Music Hall. She also teaches Adaptive Dance and Theater for Schenectady ARC.

**SARAH DIPASQUALE, PT, DPT** is an Assistant Professor at Skidmore College. Sarah earned her Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Sage Graduate School and a B.S. in Health and Exercise Science from Syracuse University. As a dancer, she trained at The Center for Ballet and Dance Arts (Syracuse, NY), the Boston Conservatory, and danced professionally with the Ellen Sinopoli Dance Company.

**ELLEN EHRlich** is a nationally certified fitness instructor in barre, yoga, Pilates (mat & reformer), kickboxing, personal training, group fitness, and Silver Sneakers. She teaches fitness at Total Body Trifecta, Hudson Valley Community College, and My Gym. Ellen is also a master trainer for the Exercise Safety Association in yoga and Pilates.

**CARL LANDA** is a dance musician and composer at Skidmore College. He has accompanied classes at the Martha Graham School, the Merce Cunningham Studio, the Julliard School and SUNY Purchase. He has composed numerous scores for dance

companies, videos, and audio books. He also leads a band that performs his compositions.

**LISA MORAN** is a senior at Skidmore College, studying Visual Anthropology and Spanish with other focuses in Studio Art and Latin American Studies. She has been doing photography and video projects in professional, personal, and academic settings for over ten years, and is very excited to expand her experience with the Dance Alliance Dance+ Festival.

**JASON OHLBERG** attended the State University of New York at Purchase in the early 1990s. Following an eighteen-year professional dance career, he graduated summa cum laude with his B.F.A. in dance from Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, Washington. In 2015 he earned his M.F.A. from the University of Washington. Professionally, Jason has danced with numerous companies including Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Dance Kaleidoscope, and Chamber Dance Company. In 1997, he founded Same Planet Different World Dance Theatre in Chicago, Illinois and over the years has created a body of work on companies and festivals throughout the country. Jason has served on the faculties of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Spectrum Dance Theatre, the Pacific Northwest Ballet, Barat College, the University of Washington, and Cornish College of the Arts. In 2016 he was appointed Assistant Professor at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY.

**GABRIELLA PONZINI** is a student at Skidmore College, who will graduate in 2018 with a major in psychology and a minor in dance. As a previous competitive dancer in her home state of New Jersey, she has won

numerous regional and national competitions in various dance styles. She has choreographed and taught master classes for Gloria Frances School of Performing Arts in New Jersey and MOVE dance at Saratoga Springs High School. She is a teaching assistant at Skidmore College for both tap and jazz courses and has performed in multiple dance concerts at Skidmore. She is a member and a choreographer for Stompin' Soles, Skidmore's only tap dance troupe.

**ANDRE ROBLES** is now in his sixth season with the Ellen Sinopoli Dance Company (ESDC). Prior to joining ESDC he danced with the Joffrey Ballet as well as apprenticed with Complexions Contemporary Ballet. His training includes the School of American Ballet, San Francisco Ballet School, Boston Ballet School, Joffrey Ballet School, Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, Broadway Dance Center, and Steps on Broadway. Andre currently teaches at several local dance studios.

**CARLA SCHLIST** has been dancing for over 30 years. She taught dance throughout the Capital District to children, teens and adults for approximately 20 years and then discovered Zumba® Fitness at, coincidentally, the Dance+ Festival several years ago. Carla has now been a licensed Zumba® Fitness instructor for 8 years and enjoys utilizing her dance background to bring dance fitness to her classes at Danceland in Latham, NY.

**SUDHARSANA SRINIVASAN** is an accomplished Bharatanatyam dancer, who is also trained in the South Indian Classical Music style of Carnatic Music. Sudharsana had the honor of learning this graceful

dance form from the renowned, Natya Choodamani, Rajeswari Sainath of Hyderabad India. Since moving to the US in 1995, Sudharsana continued her passion for the art form as a teacher, creative artist, and choreographer. Sudharsana has worked with different art forms (Kuchipudi, Odissi, Kathak, Modern). In each of these collaborations, Sudharsana was able to highlight the beauty of Bharata Natyam in its traditional glory.

**MIRANDA WEESE** became an apprentice with New York City Ballet in 1991 and a member of the corps de ballet in 1993. She was promoted to soloist in 1994 and principal in 1996. In 2007, she left New York City Ballet and performed as a guest artist with Pacific Northwest Ballet before joining as a principal. Ms. Weese was also the recipient of the Princess Grace Foundation - USA Dance Fellowship for 1995-1996. Now retired from dance, Ms. Weese is a certified Zumba instructor and continues to teach ballet as well as dance and group fitness in the Saratoga area.

**ADITYA KANAKASABAPATHY**, a 9th grader from Niskayuna, started his initial training in mridangam at age 7 from Ganesh Sankaranarayanan. He is receiving advanced training from Dr. Rohan Krishnamurthy, is studying Carnatic Vocal, and is a member of the renowned Rohan Rhythm Percussion Studio. In addition to his love for classical Carnatic music, Aditya is passionate about bringing together different styles of music from around the world.