

Notable Alumni in the Arts

Actors



Actor/comedian **Anthony Anderson** headlined Parlor Live Comedy Club in August 2010. He was a long-time cast member on NBC's hit *Law and Order*. Anderson has appeared in more than 20 films, including *Transformers*, *The Departed*, *Me, Myself, and Irene* and *Barbershop*.

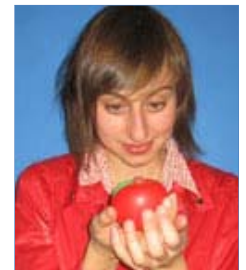


On television, **Shondrella Avery** had a recurring role as Candy on the situation comedy *One on One* and later became a cast member on the spinoff *Cuts*, playing the same role. Previously, she had been a cast member on the reality/prank television series *Girls Behaving Badly*. In movies, Avery appeared in *Napoleon Dynamite*, *Domino*, *Deja Vue* and *The Secret Lives of Bees*.



Starting at the age of two, **Corbin Bleu** followed his father's footsteps and began appearing in television commercials like Life cereal, Bounty, Hasbro, and Nabisco. He is best known for playing the role of Chad Danforth in the Disney Channel original movie, "High School Musical". He starred as Isadore, "Izzy" in Disney Channel movie called, *Jump In!*. From January to April 2010 Corbin appeared in the Broadway musical *In the Heights*. In July 2011 he appeared in *Hairspray* at the Hollywood Bowl.

Lauren Blumenfeld is an actor, performer, comedian, writer and visual artist currently residing in Brooklyn, NY. She also teaches Movement, Drama, Clowning and Superhero Club to children all over Manhattan. Since graduating from Tisch, Lauren has had quite the eclectic acting career, playing everyone from Barack Obama to Jesus to Olive Oyl in the award winning Off-Broadway production of *Sailor Man*. She is a frequent performer at Ars Nova, The Williamstown Theatre Festival and a proud volunteer with the 52nd Street Project and Story Pirates in NYC.



Monica Calhoun appeared in several sitcoms including *Bagdad Cafe*, *The Wayans Bros.*, *A Different World* and *The Jamie Foxx Show*. Her film work includes Ice Cube's directorial debut *The Players Club*, *The Best Man*, *Love & Basketball* and *The Salon* with Vivica Fox. In 2009 Robert Townsend directed her in *A Dairy of A Single Mom*, Season I, II and III (2008–2010) with Richard Roundtree and *Shaft* with Billy Dee Williams and Diahann Carroll. She was the protagonist in the HBO special called *Daddy's Girl*. She was also the protagonist in the CBS Schoolbreak Special *What About Your Friends*.

Clea DuVall breakthrough role was in *The Faculty* in 1998. Roles in *Girl Interrupted*, *The Astronaut's Wife*, *She's All That*, *But I'm a Cheerleader*, *Ghosts of Mars* and *Thirteen Conversations About One Thing* followed. After appearing in *The Laramie Project*, *Identity* and *21 Grams*, DuVall starred on HBO's Emmy Award-winning



Carnivàle, which ran from 2003–2005. During that time, she also starred in *Helter Skelter* (which earned her a Satellite Award nomination) and in *The Grudge*. She also appeared in an episode of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. In 2008 she appeared in *Passengers*. Recent projects have included *Itty Bitty Titty Committee*, *Zodiac* and a recurring role on NBC's hit series *Heroes*. In 2009-2010 she appeared in *Saving Grace*, *Lie to Me*, *Private Practice*, *Bones*, *Numb3rs*, *Law & Order* and *The Event*. In addition, DuVall has directed a film called *It's Not Easy Being Green*.



Jenna Elfman began her career appearing in commercials. She studied with Milton Katselas, the renowned acting teacher. She appeared in TV shows including *Two and a Half Men*, *Brothers and Sisters* and *My Name is Earl* and the films *Looney Tunes*, *Krippendorf's Tribe*, *Keeping the Faith* and *Eatv*. She played the leading role of Dharma in the ABC show *Dharma & Greg*, which ran for five years and which earned her a Golden Globe. She starred in the CBS comedy *Accidentally on Purpose* in the 2009-2010 season. She recently completed shooting on the feature film *Friends With Benefits* which will be released in 2011.

Stacy Ann Ferguson better known by her stage name **Fergie**, is a singer-songwriter, rapper, fashion designer and actress. She was a member of the children's television series *Kids Incorporated*, and the girl group *Wild Orchid*. She is the female vocalist for the hip hop group the *The Black Eyed Peas* with whom she has attained much charting success worldwide. Her own debut album spawned four Billboard Hot 100 top five singles, three of which went to number one.



Spencer Grammer played the role of Casey Cartwright in the television series *Greek*. She has also appeared in *Robot Chicken*, *Descent*, *As the World Turns*, the pilot of *Six Degrees*, *The Bedford Diaries*, *Law & Order Special Victims Unit*, and *Clubhouse*, *Jonny Watch*, *Cheers* and *Third Watch*. She has also appeared in a few independent movies such as 2006's *The Path of Most Resistance*. Spencer has also been featured in commercials for MTV and Kodak.

Among **Leonard Earl Howze**'s first film/tv appearances you will find: *Barbershop* (2002), *Antwone Fisher* (2002), and *VH1 Goes Inside: Barbershop*. Other appearances include: *Blood River* (2007), *School for Scoundrels* (2006) and *My Name Is Earl* (2006) and *Memphis Beat* (2010).



After graduating from UCLA's School of Theatre, Film, and Television, **Tamara Hunter** dove head first into the "real world" as an aspiring theatre actress. After realizing there will never be enough theatre in LA to pay the bills, she started a casting internship with Mali Finn, which parlayed into an internship with Sarah Finn and Randi Hiller, where she knew she had stumbled upon a career that blended her two loves the most: being in the room with great actors and never having to sweat in front of a camera again. She has been working as an associate with Finn Hiller Casting for 4 years working on such features as *Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps*, *Coach Carter*, *The Guardian*, *Fast and Furious: Tokyo Drift*, *Gridiron Gang*, *She's The Man*, *In The Valley of Elah*, *Battle in Seattle* and most recently, *Iron Man*, *Vantage Point*, and *Hotel for Dogs*.

As a casting director, she done two AFI Master Thesis films, *Caroline's Crossing* and *Still Life*, for director Mahesh Pailoor, and the LA premiere of *Headless* by Lea Floden and directed by Don Bonnell at the Electric Lodge Theatre.

Taran Killam started his career by appearing in 1994 movie *Naked Gun 33-1/3: The Final Insult*. He showed his singing expertise in *Stuck in the Suburbs*. He formally joined the cast of "MADtv" in 2001 as a performer in the seventh season. Taran then appeared in *How I Met Your Mother*. His other achievements include *Jake in Progress*, *Still Standing*, *Boston Public*, *The Amanda Show*, *Drake & Josh*, *Do Over*, *Roswell* and *Judging Amy*. He appeared in the comedy sitcom *Scrubs* and *Scrubs: Interns*. His movie career includes *Just Married*, *Big Fat Liar*, *Anderson's Cross*, *Stuck in the Suburbs*, *Epic Movie* and *My Best Friend's Girl*.



Janice Kawaye provided the voice of Jenny XJ-9Wakeman on *My Life as a Teenage Robot*, Ami on *Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi*, Sarah on *Invader Zim*, Gi on *Captain Planet and the Planeteers*, Kioko and Julia on *All Grown Up!* and Yuzu Kurosaki on *Bleach*. She also provided the voices for the twins Kim and Kam Chin on the Cartoon Network animated series *Class of 3000*.

Michael Longoria was last seen starring as Frankie Valli in the critically acclaimed *Jersey Boys* on Broadway. He graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. He made his Broadway debut in the smash hit musical *Hairspray*, later creating the role of Joey in the original Broadway cast of *Jersey Boys*. Other credits include: *Peter Pan & Wendy* (Peter Pan), *West Side Story* (Chino), *A Chorus Line* (Mark) at Helen Hayes PAC, *Avenue X*. As a singer/songwriter, Longoria has performed at *CB's Gallery*, *Cutting Room*, *Joe's Pub*, *The Knitting Factory* and *Caroline's* on Broadway.



Marla Sokoloff began acting at the age of twelve, when she was cast as Gia Mahan in the sitcom *Full House*. In 1998, her breakthrough role came when she was cast in the drama *The Practice* as Lucy Hatcher. Sokoloff also had a three-episode stint as a nanny in *Desperate Housewives*. Other popular appearances include the role of Joey's pregnant sister Dina in season 8 of *Friends*, and episodes of *Home Improvement* (1991), *Party of Five* (1994), *Third Rock from the Sun* (1996), and *Seventh Heaven* (1996). She also played Imogene O'Neill in the mini series *Meteor*. In 2006, she starred in the ABC series *Big Day*. Sokoloff has also starred in many movies, including *Whatever It Takes*, *The Climb*, *The Tollbooth*, *Dude*, *Where's My Car?*, *Sugar & Spice*, *Love On The Side*, *The Baby-Sitters Club*, *True Crime* and *Play the Game*. She also voices the Glatorian Kiina in *Bionicle: The Legend Reborn*.



Tammy Townsend spent most of her career guest starring and playing the occasional recurring roles on television shows. She was a regular on the short-lived series *Divas*. Her television credits include appearances on *Family Matters*, *Living Single*, *In the Heat of the Night*, and *Quantum Leap*. She made her film debut with a small role in Robert Townsend's *The Five Heartbeats* and had her first major role in the John Leguizamo showcase *The Pest* (1996).



Omi Vaidya, an Indian American actor is best known for his performance as Chatur Ramalingam or The Silencer in the 2009 Bollywood film, *3 Idiots*. In addition, Vaidya has directed two short films and worked as an editor on others. He has also appeared in a number of television programs including *Life*, *Bones* and *Arrested Development* and commercials. For his work in that film he was awarded 2010 Star Screen Award for Best Comedian and Star Screen Award for Most Promising Newcomer – Male.

As an actress **McKenzie Westmore** started early at the age of three when she was cast in *Raging Bull* as Robert De Niro's daughter. She later went on to guest star in *Weird Science*, *Star Trek:TNG*, and *Star Trek Voyager* as well as the Star Trek movie *Insurrection*. Shortly following that McKenzie booked a 10-year run as one of the leading characters on the soap opera *Passions*. After *Passions* ended in '08 she moved over to the primetime world for a bit and guest starred on *Dexter*, *Surviving Suburbia* and then a recurring role on ABC's *All My Children*. McKenzie recently completed the HBO Lab series *Apocalypse Wow!* as well as the feature film *Vile* due out next year.

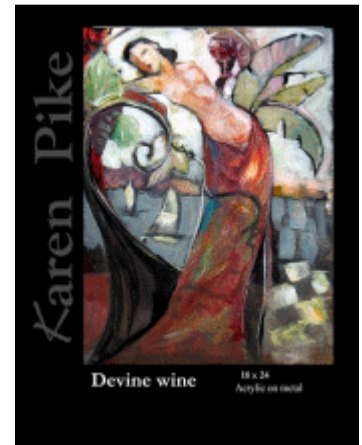


Visual Artists



Sam Gehry, the youngest of Frank Gehry's four children, was born in Los Angeles in 1979. After studying at the Maryland Institute College of Art, he returned to Los Angeles and began work in his father's architecture studio, where he currently is involved in the development of several of the studio's most significant commissions, with his father including the Serpentine Gallery Pavilion in London pictured to the left.

Based out of Los Angeles, **Karen Pike** is described as "a prolific painter who quickly made a name for herself within the highly competitive West Coast art scene with a catalogue of work that is both confident and vulnerable. That dichotomy, and the underlying emotion behind it, is what truly sets apart her body of work already striking in its bold strokes and rich color. Her collections have been featured in galleries and festivals from California to New York, and as far away as Japan. Some of her most popular pieces include "New Orleans", "Topsy", and "A Night to Remember." She's also been featured in several live performance painting events, where she tells a story with paints and canvas for the audience, unfolding in real time, and seasoned by the energy of the event music, and the viewers. Her recent work shows that Pike has truly matured as an artist. Using a bold palate of vibrant colors, she renders an air of exuberant nonchalance, demonstrating a sophisticated awareness of contemporary art, but with a clearly communicated joy of both the art and the medium." She earned her B.F.A at the University of Arizona.



Sonia Romero is a full time artist living and working out of North East Los Angeles in a studio called She Rides The Lion. Public works include mural commissions for the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, the Los Angeles Metro (Macarthur Park Station) and the Metro Neighborhood Poster Award. Exhibition highlights include her debut solo show at Avenue 50 Gallery and a printmaking retrospective at Self Help Graphics, Los Angeles. She received her formal education from the Rhode

Island School of Design.

After graduating from LACHSA, **Eduardo Sarabia** earned his BFA from Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles. He lives and works in Los

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Angeles, Guadalajara and Berlin. Solo exhibitions include: Tokyo Wonder Site, Tokyo, Japan; *There Will Be Better Days*, Galerie Anne de Villepoix, Paris, France; *Eduardo Sarabia: History of the World*, LA Louver, Los Angeles; Art Nova, Art Basel Miami Beach, Miami, Florida (I-20). Selected group exhibitions that have featured his works include: *A.D.D. Attention Deficit Disorder*, curated by Benjamin Godsell, Centro d'Arte Contemporanea Palazzo Lucarini Contemporary, Trevi, Italy; Arena Mexico at Pinta London; *There Are False Problems More Than There Are False Solutions*, curated by Victor Zamudio-Taylor. La Galería en el Taller Mecánico, Monterrey; Art Basel Miami Beach; Art Nova *An Expanded Field of Possibilities*, Santa Barbara Contemporary Art Forum, Santa Barbara, California; and *NCA Selection*, NCA/Nichido Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan.

Anna Ura earned her BFA at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her works have been exhibited in Chicago, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Telluride, Ljubiana, Slovenia and Florence, Italy. She was featured in *Ten by Ten* magazine and in the on-line gallery Beholder. She currently resides in San Francisco.



Photorealist painter **Kehinde Wiley** received his BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute and his MFA from Yale University. Shortly after he became an Artist-in-Residence at the Studio Museum in Harlem. His works has been exhibited internationally and are in the permanent collection of Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, TX, Mint Museum of Art, NC, Hammer Museum, CA, Milwaukee Art Museum, WI, Brooklyn Museum of Art, NY, Denver Art Museum, CO, Columbus Museum of Art, OH, Oak Park Public Library, Chicago, IL, The Studio Museum of Harlem, NY, Walker Art Center, MN, Virginia Museum of Fine Art, VA, The Sender Collection, NY, Nasher Museum of Art at Duke, Miami Art Museum and the Detroit Institute of Art. He lives and works in New York City.

Dancers

Yesenia Adame has created a multi-faceted career as a dancer, model and actress. She has appeared on television in *Dancing with the Stars*, *CSI Miami*, *Brothers and Sisters*, as Co-Host of *National Bingo Night*, *Days of Our Lives*, *Show me the Money*, *The Young and the Restless*, *Fatal Femmes*, and in *Benise Concert* as a dancer/aerialist. She has appeared as a model in *Maxim/Stuff*, on cover of *Stars Dance Wear* and *Casino Player Magazine*, in Sears Print and in a Disney calendar. She was the host of *Wild On* on E! Entertainment and appeared as the lead actress in Cool Blue Productions' film *Mano*



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Shedrack Anderson III attended the Juilliard School in New York, where he majored in dance. He was a member of Ballet Hispanico of New York and became an assistant choreographer for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre. He appeared in the hit teen series *Just Deal* as the lovable Jermaine Green. He starred as Tommy in Lifetime's *Gracie's Choice* alongside Diane Ladd and Anne Heche. He made his film debut as one of the Lost Boys in Steven Spielberg's *Hook*. He then starred in *Warriors of Virtue 2*, and guest starred on the television series *Boston Public*, *The Parkers*, *Hollywood Lives*, *Hip Hop Massive* and *The Division*. He was a lead in the third series of *The Rookie*, a spin-off of *24*. Shedrack began his own production company in 1999 to produce his own films.



Alanna Archibald studied at the Yuri Grigoriev School of Ballet in California. While studying at the Rudra Bejart School in Switzerland she performed around the world. She recently signed as a soloist with the Bejart Ballet Company in Lausanne, Switzerland.



Philip Attmore began his performance career at the age of three. Broadway workshops included *Beehive*. He toured with Fosse Int'l Tour, Fosse National Tour. She performed in *42nd Street* in Moscow (Andy Lee). Television appearances include: *Judging Amy*, *Sisters*, *General Hospital*, and *Days of Our Lives*. He has performed in plays including *Fosse* with Ben Vereen, *White Christmas* and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. Locals might have seen him perform in *Stormy Weather* with Leslie Uggams as Lena Horne when it was at the Pasadena Playhouse. Attmore was one of 3 tap dancers to make it into the Top Twenty in the 6th season of *So*

You Think You Can Dance.

Stephanie Batten Bland grew up in Soho, a Manhattan neighborhood, with her mother, a white French-speaking writer, and her father, a black composer of jazz and classical music. After locating to LA and graduating from LACHSA, she danced for choreographers that included Bill T. Jones, Pina Bausch, Lar Lubovitch, and Angelin Preljocaj. With bases in Paris and New York, she founded the Stefanie Batten Bland Company. At the 2009 Saratoga Arts Fest her company performed three of her ballets: *Apart One Word or Two* (2005); *I've Read the Right Book to Interpret Your Look* (2009); *The Polished Hoes* (2008); as well as two films: *Shoplift* (2008) and *Playground Love* (2006). The New York Times hailed her as "an exuberant dancer" after she premiered her solo *Terra Firma* with music from an American-French-Creole song. The work addressed the themes of immigration and integration in the United States.



Thang Dao was born in Danang, Vietnam. He currently resides in New York City as a dancer and choreographer. Thang received his formal dance education from the Juilliard School and the Boston Conservatory. Thang holds a BFA in dance from The Boston Conservatory and an MA from New York University. He danced for the Stephen Petronio Company from 2001-2006, leaving to focus on his choreographic career. He has also worked for the Metropolitan Opera and Little Orchestra Society. Thang has presented his works in Boston, New York City, and Austin, with acclaimed reviews by *The Boston Globe*, *Austin 360* and *The New York Times*. In 2006, his ballet *Stepping Ground*, choreographed on Ballet Austin for the 1st Biennial *New American Talent/Dance*, received the Audience Choice Award on all four

nights. Thang is also the recipient of the 2008 Princess Grace Choreography Fellowship.



Challyce Brogdon-LACHSA Dance 2007—is featured both at Lines Ballet Company website and the school's Dominican University/Lines BFA as one of three American students to perform and compete at an international ballet competition in Monaco in July 2011. Alonso King choreographed a ballet specifically for Challyce.

Norbert L. De La Cruz III was born in Bayombong, Nueva Viscaya, Philippines and was raised in Los Angeles, CA. He embarked on his artistic journey as a dancer when he was 13 years old. He trained at the Gabriella Axelrad Education Foundation in LA, American Ballet Theatre NYC, San Francisco Ballet, Miami City Ballet, Lines Ballet, and was scholarship

recipient for the 2009 summer of Netherlands Dans Theatre Maximum Dans Course.

In May of 2010, Norbert graduated from The Juilliard School with a BFA.. His

professional experience includes performing with the Metropolitan Opera

House(ballet) in their fall production of *Aida* and creating and learning repertoire from choreographers such as Adam Hougland, David Parker, Johannes Wieland, Ohad Naharin, Jill Johnson and Aszure

Barton. Last year, Norbert was on tour with Aszure Barton & Artists in Vienna, Austria and Neuss,

Germany. Today, Norbert resides in Italy; starting his professional career as a soloist in Balletto Teatro di Torino.



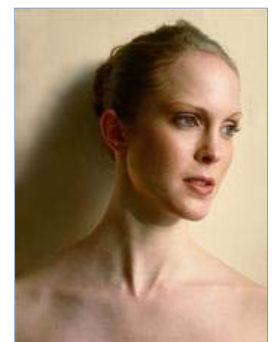
Natasha Diamond Walker states “I dance for those who are afraid to feel what I can feel for them, onstage—somehow ridding themselves of restraint and entertaining the fact that they too can be free...just use me: I am an instrument for experience.” She received scholarships to Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre School, Alonzo King Lines Ballet School, and, Dance International Spain with Kazuko Hirabayashi. In May 2007 she graduated from the Alvin Ailey/Fordham University Program, earning her BFA in Dance. She has had the pleasure of dancing the works of Lester Horton, Martha Graham, Alvin Ailey, Paul Taylor, Francesca Harper, and Nacho Duato. She can be

seen dancing with Buglisi Dance Theatre, Hunter Dance Company, Lester Horton Dance Theatre, and most recently 360° Dance Company. A lover of travel she has had the opportunity to dance and choreograph throughout Canada, Germany, Spain, and Korea.

Ashleigh Doede is a member of the Nevada Ballet Theatre. From 2009-2010 she was a company member with Pasadena Dance Theatre, dancing under the direction of Cynthia Young, Associate Director Laurence Blake, Richard Bradley, Jean-Marie Martz, and Julia Ortega. From 2007-2009 she was a member of the Nancy Einhorn Milwaukee Ballet II Program. She also had the opportunity to perform with the Milwaukee Ballet in Michael Pink’s *Sleeping Beauty*, Marius Petipa’s *La Bayadere*, *Kingdom of the Shades* and Antony Tudor’s *Offenbach in the Underworld*. Ms. Doede received the majority of her early training from Le Studio

Dance under the direction of Philip and Charles Fuller.

Following LACHSA, Ms. Doede worked with Glenn Edgerton while also joining the Anaheim Ballet.



Alex Escalante (performing his work *25th Frame* with Nancy Garcia) is now a Brooklyn-based choreographer and performer. His work employs various mediums including movement, theater, film and live music. Escalante's works delve into current socio-political issues, creating a performance space in which viewers are invited to examine and reflect upon their own beliefs. Born in Los Angeles, Escalante received a BFA in Dance from SUNY Purchase. In 1999, he moved to New York City and subsequently performed and toured with Donna Uchizono Company, Jennifer Monson/Birdbrain, Doug Varone, Doug Elkins, David Neumann, Gerald Casel and the Metropolitan Opera. Over the past five years, Escalante's choreography has been presented in the United States at venues such as Dance Theater Workshop, Danspace Project, La MaMa E.T.C., Dixon Place, DUO Theater, Here Arts Center, Movement Research at the Judson Church, Brooklyn Arts Exchange and Joe's Pub. Internationally he has been featured at festivals such as Barroquísimo-Performatica (Puebla, Mexico) and at Tanec Praha (Prague, Czech Republic). Escalante was a 2007-2008 Movement Research Artist-In-Residence, and was awarded a LEXDance Under the Radar 2007 residency. His 2008 evening-length work *Clandestino* was selected by Time Out New York as a Best of 2008 performance. Escalante has collaborated with the theater company Division 13 Productions, creating choreography for their productions of Samuel Beckett's *Cascando* and Eugene Ionesco's *Journeys among the Dead*. Escalante also works as a freelance dance and opera photographer and is a teaching artist in the NYC public schools working with at-risk youth.



Mary Kay Lee began her professional career with the Long Beach Ballet, performing in the *Rite of Spring*, *Song of Norway*, and *The Nutcracker*. She then moved to Chicago to join the Chicago Lyric Opera Ballet as a soloist performing in *Aida*, *La Sonnambula*, and *Faust*. MK has also danced with the Pennsylvania-Milwaukee Ballet, Ballet West, Tau Dance Theatre, Ballet Hawaii, Corpus Christi Ballet and Ballet Florida. She has danced major roles including Sugar Plum Fairy, Snow Queen, Dew Drop, Autumn, Giselle, Bluebird, La Bayadere Pas de Deux, Les Sylphides, Romeo & Juliet, Paquita, and L'Histoire du Soldat. Upon returning from the Long Beach Ballet Ambassador Tour to China in 2009, she currently teaches and choreographs at the Coffeemill Dance Studio in Key West, Florida and dances with the Key West Contemporary Dance Company.

Victor Quijada, the son of Mexican immigrants, was nicknamed "Rubberband" after he hit the pavement of his Baldwin Hills neighborhood as a pretzel-like break dancer at age 8, and he's come full circle. His journey has been an inspiring one -- from street kid to diligent student at L.A. County High School for the Arts to dancer with Twyla Tharp and others. Rudy Perez, part of the New York-based experimental Judson Dance Theater in the 1960s and an L.A. dance fixture since 1979, agrees about Quijada's commitment. After teaching Quijada in high school, Perez invited him to join his postmodern troupe. Two years later, Tharp beckoned. After three years with Tharp, Quijada went on to work with choreographer Eliot Feld. But in 2000, he moved to Canada and joined Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montreal, where he even managed to master choreography by ballet great George Balanchine. In 2002, he founded the Montreal-based Rubberbandance Group. The six-member troupe returned to his hometown, where it made its Los Angeles debut in September 2008 on two local stages, the Irvine Barclay Theatre and Cal State L.A.'s Luckman Theatre. With "Elastic Perspective Redux," a collection of works commissioned by an assortment of dance festivals, the company showcased Quijada's signature choreography: a fusion of hip-hop, ballet and contemporary movement. Quijada's experiments won two United Kingdom awards the following year--the Peter Darrell and the Bonnie Bird awards for choreography. Rubberbandance has since appeared in festivals in



Toronto, Washington, Brussels, London, Helsinki, and Aichi, Japan. Quijada choreographs for film and television and an adaptation of *Hasta La Proxima* was nominated for the 2004 American Choreography Awards in the short film category. He has made pieces for *Scottish Dance Theatre*.

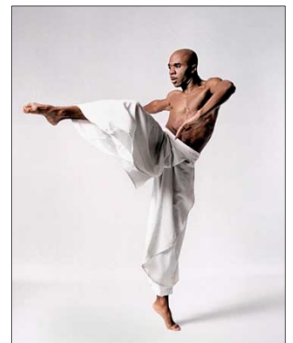


Erica Robson has been a working dancer, actress, teacher, director and choreographer in the field of performing arts for more than a decade. Her film credits include featured roles in *Ocean's Eleven*, *Looney Tunes: Back in Action*, *Monkeybone*, and *Bedazzled*. Erica was a series regular on *Ultimate Revenge* and can be seen on *The Drew Carey Show*, *Nikki*, *The Monk Show*, *Swingtown*, *Eli Stone*, and *How I Met Your Mother*. Her National and International Tours include *A Chorus Line*, *Jane's Addiction*, and *Chayanne*. Erica recently worked as an associate director/choreographer on the television show *So You Think You Can Dance*. Other directing and choreography credits include *America's Got Talent*, various musicals, industrials, music videos and dance concerts. Erica has also been commissioned to create dance programs for two high schools in the Montebello USD. Her directing and choreography credits include *Merrily We Roll Along*; *Les Misérables*; *Urinetown*; *Sweet Charity*; *Big River*; *Alice in Wonderland*; *On the Town*; *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*; *Hello, Dolly!*; *42nd Street*; *Dreamgirls*; *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*; *Fame*, *The Musical*; *Footloose*; *A Chorus Line*; *Chicago!*, *The Tale of the Tape*; *The Music Man*; *Oliver*, and various industrials and dance concerts.



Julie Rose Friedrich grew up in Los Angeles, California. She began her professional career under the direction of Septime Webre at American Repertory Ballet. Julie was then invited by Lawrence Rhodes to join Les Grands Ballets Canadiens. During her time there, she danced works by Nacho Duato, Ohad Naharin and various European choreographers, as well as the classics by Balanchine and Tudor. She spent the next four years working in Europe. The first two years were in Switzerland where she developed her contemporary style with the Orma Dance Company under the direction of Enrico Musmeci. The following two years, she worked in Sicily with Compagnia Zappala Danza, and the dance theatre company MotoMimetico. From March 2005 through May 2005, Julie was fortunate enough to be invited to Bari to dance with the Compagnia Niccolo Piccini. Upon returning to the United States, Julie began working with the Thang Dao Dance Company. The same year Julie performed at the Grammy's with the company of "Strange and Elegant" directed by Holly Rothschild. In October 2007, Julie was part of a new creation by Thang Dao that premiered at the Ailey CitiGroup Theatre in New York. Julie is currently on the Classical Dance faculty of the Orange County High School for the Performing Arts. During the 2008 season Julie created a new work for Ballet Quad Cities in Illinois. Currently, Julie resides in Los Angeles and is honored to be a member of the newly formed Body Traffic directed by Lillian Bitkoff and Tina Finkelman Berkett. Body Traffic recently completed their first evening length piece choreographed by Israeli choreographer Guy Weitzman, which premiered at the Laguna Dance Festival to great success.

Matthew Rushing was born in Los Angeles, CA. He began his dance training with Kashmir Blake in Inglewood, CA, and later continued his training at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. He received a Spotlight Award and was named a Presidential Scholar in the Arts. He trained at The Ailey School and later became a member of Ailey II, where he danced for a year. During his career, Mr. Rushing has performed as a guest artist for galas in Vail, Colorado, as well as in France, Russia, Canada, Austria, and Italy. He has performed for former



presidents George H. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush and for President Barack Obama, as well as at the 2010 White House tribute to Judith Jamison. During his time with the Company he has choreographed two ballets: *Acceptance in Surrender* (2005), a collaboration with Company members Hope Boykin and Abdur Jackson, and *Uptown* (2009), a tribute to the Harlem Renaissance. He was recently named a 2010 recipient of the *Dance Magazine Award*. Mr. Rushing became Rehearsal Director in June 2010. He joined the Company

Musicians



Ai Carina Uemura was born in Los Angeles to a Japanese father and half-Japanese, half-Italian mother. Because of her father's work, Ai traveled between Los Angeles and Japan. She appeared as a dancer in Janet Jackson's music video *Go Deep*, and debuted with label BMG releasing three singles and one album. In 2003 she departed from BMG and moved on to Def Jam Japan making history in being the 1st female signed to the label. Ai's range in music stretches from hip hop to R&B. She is capable of both rap and song and has been dubbed THE QUEEN OF HIP-HOP & SOUL in Japan. In July 2007, Ai performed at the Japanese leg of the *Live Earth* tour in Tokyo.

Songwriter, producer, vocalist, and instrumentalist **Jon B.** brings a distinctive focus on smooth melodies to contemporary R&B. Proficient on keyboards, guitar, bass, and drums, he wrote and produced songs for such rap music legends as Toni Braxton, After 7, and Color Me Badd. Born in Rhode Island and raised in California, Jon B. was the son of a professor of music and a concert pianist. Influenced by music found in his grandparents' record store, he began combining '70s soul with '90s hip-hop on his 1995 debut album, *Bonafide*. It sold more than one million copies and went gold. His second album, 1997's *Cool Relax*, continued the emphasis on classic hip-hop soul. He continued entertaining audiences, with several concert tours throughout the world. Aside from personal performances, he writes for popular artists including Toni Braxton and the rap group Az Yet.



In the 2008/2009 season, **Angel Blue** made her debut with the San Francisco Opera Company as "Clara" in *Porgy and Bess*, she was the featured soloist with the Valdosta Symphony in Valdosta, Georgia where she sang the soprano role in Arthur Honegger's *King David* and also performed with the Korean Symphony Orchestra in Seoul and Busan, Korea. In the 2009/2010 season she was a featured soloist with the Riverside Philharmonic, the Adrian Symphony in Adrian, Michigan, Giro Italia tour with Rossini specialist Alberto Zedda throughout Italy, the Madrilenos por Haiti concert with La Orquesta Clasica de Espana in Madrid, Spain, A Gala Evening with Thomas Hampson in Budapest, Hungary and made her debut at the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia as Micaela in *Carmen* opposite Marcelo Alvarez and Elina Garanca conducted by Zubin Mehta. In the 2010/2011 season she will sing with the Palau de les Arts in Valencia, Spain, Los Angeles Opera, the American Youth Symphony, the Redlands Symphony, and Theatre an der Wien in Wien, Austria.

Katisse Buckingham Katisse graduated from the Grove School of Music where he studied with multi- Grammy winning jazz legend, Rob McConnell. He received an NEA Jazz Fellowship Grant to study with woodwind master, Bill Green, attended the National Music Camp at



Interlochen Michigan, and won the L.A. Jazz Society's New Talent Award. Upon hearing Katisse as a guest soloist with the LA Guitar Quartet Allan Kozinn of The New York Times described him as , "...a flutist whose ornate improvisations transformed this vocal score into a virtuosic instrumental work". Katisse plays Tenor, Alto & Soprano Saxophones, Flute, Alto Flute & Ethnic Flutes as well as spoken word. He has performed and/or recorded with Yellowjackets, Prince, Dr. Dre, Airtro & Flora Purim, Vanessa Paradis, Herbie Hancock, Dave Douglas, Andy Summers, Pete Yorn, Colin Hay, Brian Auger, John Patitucci, Ricky Lawson, Terri Lyne Carrington, Los Angeles Guitar Quartet, Strunz and Farah, Bill Summers, Jimmy Haslip, Russ Ferrante, Bob Hurst, Tom Brechtline, Munyungo Jackson, Gary Novak, Gary Thomas, Alphonso Johnson, B-Sharp Jazz Quartet, Don Grusin, Dean Parks, Greg Phillinganes, Harvey Mason, Abe Laboriel (Sr. and Jr.), Sandro Albert, Otmaro Ruiz, Wah, Amma, Gerry Gibbs, Janek Gwizdala, Monday Michiru, Jaz Klash, Raya Yarbrough, Down to the Bone, Sara Gazarek, Jimmy Johnson, Will Kennedy, Russ Kunkel, Robben Ford, Mike Elizando, Deepsky, The Angel, Patrice Rushen, DJ Quik, Non Ammiss, Xzibit and Kurupt. He has played on numerous films (including the "jazz flute" scene in the Will Ferrell film, *Anchorman*).



Born in Taiwan, Gwhyneth Chen emigrated to the United States with her family in 1980, where she continued her musical studies with Eduardo Delgado, Robert Turner, and Aube Tzerko. She received her Bachelors and Masters of Music degrees from the Juilliard School. At the age of nineteen, she was a laureate in the 1990 Tchaikovsky International Piano Competition. In 1992, she was once again a laureate, this time in the Prokofieff International Piano Competition. She was the grand prize winner of the International Web Concert Audition Competition in 1999,

and her first performance with orchestra was at age eleven when she performed Prokofieff's *Third Piano Concerto*. Ms Chen has appeared with an outstanding number of orchestras, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Moscow Radio Symphony, Greenville Symphony, Bergen Philharmonic, Kyushu Symphony of Japan, Taiwan National Orchestra, Shanghai Symphonic, Moscow State Philharmonic, Pasadena Symphony, Pacific Symphonic, Aspen Music Festival Orchestra, Taipei City Symphony, Fort Worth Symphony, Orchestre de Fresne, Zagreb Philharmonic, and Lake Placid Symphonietta. Ms. Chen received high honor from international musical and diplomatic circles when she was invited by the government of China (PRC) to perform a concert in the National Grand Theatre ("Steel Egg") in Beijing, China, to celebrate the 2008 Olympics. The concert in Beijing was preceded by a triumphant preview concert in Taiwan at the National Music Hall, where she was acclaimed nation-wide as "The Pride of Taiwan."

While at LACHSA, Gerald Clayton was the winner of the 2001 Music Center Spotlight Awards and received the 'Outstanding Soloist' Award during the Monterey High School Jazz Competition in 2001 and 2002. Gerald was presented with the "level 1" award by the National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts (NFAA) in January of 2002 and later was named Presidential Scholar in the Arts. He then performed at Steinway Hall in New York and was presented with a scholarship award by the Music for Youth Foundation. Later in 2002, he received the Shelley Manne Award for emerging young artists from the L.A. Jazz Society. In 2006, Gerald received Second Place in the prestigious Thelonious Monk Institute Jazz Piano Competition. Despite his young age, Gerald has already performed extensively with numerous outstanding musicians in a wide variety of venues. Notable engagements include the performance of a composition for piano and orchestra with the Henry Mancini Orchestra at Royce Hall (August 2002) and Disney Hall (May 2006). In 2005, Gerald was asked to join pianists Benny Green,



Mulgrew Miller and Kenny Barron for a series of duo concerts in Europe. He also performed with trumpeter Clark Terry in Switzerland. His solo on Cole Porter's *All of You* on his debut album *Two Shades* was nominated for a Grammy in 2009 for Best Improvised Jazz Solo. After a 2010 tour of Europe and the States with his trio (Justin Brown-drums and Joe Sanders-bass), he returned to LA to perform at the Iridium with the legendary drummer Al Foster, Chris Potter on tenor sax, and Doug Weiss on bass. Later that month he premiered some new music for his quintet featuring Ambrose Akinmusire on trumpet, Logan Richardson on alto sax, Joe Sanders bass, and Justin Brown drums at the Jazz Standard.



In late 1998, the 17-year-old **Josh Groban** was introduced by his vocal coach to Grammy-winning producer/arranger David Foster. In the 1999 Grammy Awards—as a stand-in for Andrea Bocelli— he rehearsed Foster's "The Prayer" with Céline Dion. Groban was offered a recording contract at Warner Bros. Records through Foster's 143 Records imprint. Groban performed *There For Me* with Sarah Brightman on her 2000–01 *La Luna World Tour*. The singer's self-titled debut album *Josh Groban* was released on November 20, 2001. Over the next year, it went from gold to double-platinum. On February 24, 2002, Groban performed *The Prayer* with Charlotte Church at the closing ceremonies of the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, and by November, he had his own PBS special, *Josh Groban In*

Concert (2002). After his second album, *Closer* was released, it rose on the Billboard charts from number 11 to number one. Groban and his recordings were nominated for more than a dozen awards in 2004, including the *American Music Award*, a *World Music Award*, an *Academy Award*, and a *Grammy*. His third studio album *Awake* was officially released on November 7, 2006. A world tour to 71 cities in 2007 followed. He also recorded a duet with Barbra Streisand of *All I Know of Love*. In October of 2007 he released his Christmas album *Noël* and by December it had gone Quintuple Platinum and ultimately sold more albums than the record holder for most Christmas albums sold, Elvis Presley. Currently, Groban is finishing work on his fifth studio album, entitled *Illuminations*. The album is set for release in November 2010. He will appear in his first film, a comedy, *Crazy, Stupid, Love* that is due to be released on April 22, 2011.



Gretchen Parlato An alumni of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, Parlato has been turning heads ever since she won its 2004 International Vocal Competition with which she displayed a musical individuality loaded with paradoxical powers. Her sultry, intriguing voice and unique, rhythmically agile phrasing came with inescapable centripetal force; the more intimate and understated she sang, the more she drew listeners in. Since then she has toured worldwide to sold out audiences with BBC Radio proclaiming, "Star over London...A star is born!" Her originality captivates musicians as well, prompting invitations to appear on over 50 recordings with the likes of Terence Blanchard, Kenny Barron, Terri Lynn Carrington and Esperanza Spalding. Her breathtaking performances have been captured on television in Europe and Japan and she has become a sought after clinician on vocal styling. She has produced two CD's—*In a Dream* in 2009 and *The Lost and Found* in 2011 that have won critical acclaim internationally. Michael West of the Washington City Paper said: "It's indisputable that she sounds like no one else working in jazz today. Parlato is, in fact, arguably the emblematic jazz vocalist of her generation, and perhaps the most visionary to come along in a generation."

Producers

Evan Astrowsky, a graduate of NYU, has film credits that include: *Ironclad* (executive producer) *The Lazarus Project* (co-producer), *Fanboys* (producer) , *Columbus Day* (producer), *The Tripper* (producer), *Mini's First Time* (producer), *Minotaur* (executive producer), *Disaster!* (producer), *Never Been Thawed* (executive producer), *Open House* (producer), *Sam & Joe* (producer), *The Rotten Fruit* (short) (producer), *Cabin Fever* (producer), *Dead in the Water* (producer), *The Colonel's Last Flight* (producer), *Chowdaheads* (TV series) (line producer), *Gary & Mike Show* (TV movie) (line producer).



Betsy Chasse freelanced as a Production Manager on over thirty films and produced eight movies before writing the book *What the Bleep Do We Know!?* with William Arntz and Mark Vicente. She then produced two documentaries, *What the Bleep!?* and *What the Bleep!?! Down the Rabbit Hole*. In 1996 Betsy started a production company, Rampant Feline Films, which has produced several features, cable specials, and music videos. In 2006 Betsy started her own media and publishing company, Elora Media (eloramedia.com), which offers spiritually oriented, motivational books, videos and music for children of all ages. She is a sought after speaker on subjects such as spirituality, the blending of science/spirituality, and marketing to the cultural/creative demographic.

Television News and Executives

Nicole Lapin joined CNBC in January 2010 as an anchor of CNBC's global business news program *Worldwide Exchange* (M-F, 4AM-6AM ET) based in the U.S. Previously, Lapin was an anchor at CNN where she reported breaking news coverage on national and international stories including the Virginia Tech shootings, the Israel-Hezbollah conflict, the Mumbai terror attacks, the Hudson River plane crash and the 2008 presidential election. Lapin also interviewed CEOs, celebrities and politicians including an interview with CA Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in the thick of the state's 2009 budget crisis. Additionally, Lapin wrote a weekly column for CNN.com. Prior to joining CNN, Lapin worked as a business/technology reporter for First Business Network on the floor of the stock exchanges in Chicago. Lapin began her career as a general assignment and investigative reporter at CBS affiliates in Palm Springs, CA, Lexington, KY and Sioux Falls, SD. Lapin studied European Union politics at L'Institut d'Études Politique de Paris. Lapin graduated summa cum laude and as valedictorian of her class from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, also earning honors for a second major in political science. Lapin also serves as a global ambassador for the children's charity Operation Smile.



Julie (Pinchuk) McNamara is Senior Vice President, Drama Development, CBS Television Studios. In her position, McNamara oversees the development and creation of all primetime drama series. Most recently she developed *The Good Wife* and CBS's series, *NCIS: Los Angeles* and was part of the team that developed the hit CBS series' *Numb3rs*, *Criminal Minds*, *Ghost Whisperer* and the CW's 90210. Prior to CBS TV Studios, McNamara served as Vice President, Drama Development for ABC, where she was involved with *Alias*, *Desperate Housewives* and *Lost*. She joined ABC in 1997 as an assistant in the drama series department. She rose through the ranks in drama development, she was named Manager in 1998, Director in 1999, Executive Director in 2000 and was promoted to Vice President in 2002. Prior



she served for three years as assistant to the president of The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in New York. She is a graduate of University of California, Berkley (B.A. Political Science).



Playwright/Screenwriter

At age five, Josefina Lopez emigrated with her family to the United States, where they settled in Boyle Heights. After graduating from LACHSA, she earned a BA in film and screenwriting from Columbia College Chicago, and an MFA in screenwriting from the School of Theater, Film and Television at UCLA. After having over 100 productions of her plays throughout the United States, Lopez is one of today's preeminent Chicana writers. She has written several plays such as *Simply Maria, Or the American Dream; Confessions of Women From East L.A.; Boyle Heights; Lola Goes To Roma; Food For The Dead;*

Unconquered Spirits; Queen of the Rumba and *Real Women Have Curves*. She is the co-screenwriter of the film version of her play *Real Women Have Curves*, starring America Ferrera (*Ugly Betty*) and Ingrid Oliu (*Stand and Deliver*). The movie garnered much acclaim, including at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival where the film won the "Audience Award" and a "Special Jury Award for Acting." Lopez has written several other screenplays including *Loteria* for Juarez about the mysterious murders of women in the Mexico/US border town of Ciudad Juárez. Lopez has won several awards including a Gabriel García Márquez award from Mayor of Los Angeles in 2003. She was also recognized by the WGA as the cover story for the December 2002/January 2003 issue of the prestigious Writers' Guild magazine *Written By*, entitled "Real Writers Have Courage." Lopez and cowriter George LaVoo won the "Humanitas Award for Screenwriting" for *Real Women Have Curves*. She was awarded a Screenwriting Fellowship by the California Arts Council for 2001 and in 1988 she was recognized by California Senator Barbara Boxer as a "woman who has made history in the entertainment industry". She was honored with an award of *Excellence in Theatre* from the National Hispanic Media Coalition on September 24, 2008. In September 2010 a new play protesting Arizona's controversial immigration law—"Detained in the Desert" was highlighted by the *LA Times*.