

Keen Dance Theatre

Arts Programming Overview + Teaching Artist(s) Bio

Programming

I have taught in several organizations and schools throughout Louisville. Some for an extended period of time and some just a workshop. Please see the examples below.

KDKids-8-16yrs-for 3yrs

Cabbage Patch Settlement House-8-18yrs old for 5yrs

Lanita Rockettes Dance School-3-16yrs old for 5yrs

Noe Middle School Step Team-11-13yrs old for 2yrs

Western Middle School-Masterclass-11-13 yrs

Grace James Academy-Masterclass-11-13 yrs

Youth Performing Arts School-Artist Residency-14-16yrs old-Set work on students in the dance department-2 months

Sacred Heart Dance Department-Afterschool program-3 months-9-12yrs

Teaching Artist(s) Bios(s)

John Keen is a native of Louisville, KY. Along with being the Artistic Director for Keen Dance Theatre, he also serves as the Recreation and Youth Development Specialist for the Cabbage Patch Settlement House. He has studied dance at the Ailey School, Steps on Broadway, and Broadway Dance Center (New York, NY), Gus Giordano Dance Center (Evanston, IL), Louisville Ballet, Louisville Dance Academy (Louisville, KY). John has danced with several modern dance companies: Art Art Barking Dog Dance Company (Louisville, KY), Heavens Radical Contemporary Company (Brooklyn, NY) and Seasons Dance Theater (New York, NY) In 2021 John starred in and choreographed Faithworks studio production of the "The Color Purple" as well as an Off-Broadway musical called Miyorka: A Different Kind of Love Story, where he played a sassy, back talking butler while living in New York City. In addition to his performance credits, John has taught classes and choreographed for various dance companies, dance studios and theater productions. John's choreographic style blends contemporary/modern dance technique with movements from the African Diaspora.

Artistic Content of Programming

I teach different genres of dance and through these styles of dance I look for the dancer's innate ability to tap into oneself by learning how to use your body and how to emotionally connect with the movement. Not only how to move but to engage with the space that the dancer is given.

Educational Content of Programming

I teach styles and techniques such as Vaganova (Ballet), Horton and Graham (Modern) Contemporary dance as a free-flowing technique to use their own mind.

Process for hiring, training, and evaluating performance/effectiveness.

There is an audition process that the dancer goes through every spring. If selected, the dancer trains with the company before the new year. This training gets the dancer ready for the performance in the summer.

How are participants of all backgrounds and abilities included in programming?

In my mission statement I state that KDT welcomes company members of any race/ethnicity. KDT is also diverse in regard to age, gender, LGBTQ, occupation, body shape, education level, and socioeconomic status.

How do we engage teachers and community center staff before, during, and after programming?

I engage with them by communicating, asking them how they feel about their class. Do they feel like there is anything they can improve or do better? I motivate them to push the dancers and not let up. Asking them to show me what they plan to do with the dancers.

How do we engage participants in the creative and learning process?

I engage the participants by being excited about what I'm bringing to the table. I'm eager to give them new information they can absorb and share with others.