



# ROD RODGERS DANCE COMPANY

## VIRTUAL SUMMER YOUTH INTENSIVE PROGRAM 2020

### Schedule

**Orientation Date:** Saturday, July 11th at 10:00am

**Classes in Session:** Monday, July 13th through Friday, July 31st

1st Class 10:00am– 11:15am  
 Break 11:15am– 11:30am  
 2nd Class 11:30am– 12:45pm  
 Q & A 12:45pm– 1:00pm

**Rehearsal Session:** Saturday, August 1st at 10:00am

**Presentation Sharing:** Saturday, August 1st at 11:30am

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
BALLET	JAZZ	MODERN	BALLET	JAZZ
MODERN	WEST AFRICAN	BROADWAY DANCE	WEST AFRICAN	BROADWAY DANCE

### About Youth Program

The Rod Rodgers Youth Dance Program charges the lowest class fees in the city. No one is turned away for lack of funds. Additionally, components of the program are taught at public schools throughout the five boroughs of New York City. As a result of their training through the Rod Rodgers Youth Dance Program, students have been accepted to performing arts high schools and colleges and have achieved awards and national recognition for their scholarship, service and leadership.

The studio has acted as a second home to students where they've developed strong bonds with their peers and adults, as well as taken away life lessons. They spend hours talking about what Ms. Kim said, what Ms. Kim did and what Ms. Kim has taught them! For Ms. Kim, it's about more than dance. It's about connecting with youth to reach them at multiple levels and using dance to support their hopes and dreams

# Zoom Session Protocols

- **Zoom session Link**

Be sure to check your email as we will be sending the invitation links via email from [rrdcnyc@gmail.com](mailto:rrdcnyc@gmail.com) weekly.

- **Arrival**

Try to arrive to class on time. If possible, log on a few minutes early. Technology can be tricky.

- **Dance Attire**

Dressing the part will help us take class seriously. Do wear proper dance attire, hair neat and your water bottle nearby.

- **Charger**

Keep a charger on hand just in case your battery runs low.

- **Video**

Do keep your video on. Your instructor will see you dancing and able to give you corrections.

- **Audio**

Muting your audio during class will help to prevent any background noises and minimize distractions in class. If your instructor asks you a question that requires more than a yes or no answer, unmute yourself to respond.

- **Nonverbal Communication**

We are always figuring out the usefulness of communicating via nonverbal cues, using gestures. (So, a Thumbs-up if you understand and your instructor can move on. A Thumbs-down if you want your instructor to go over that again).

- **Virtual Background**

Virtual backgrounds can be distracting, making it difficult for your instructors to properly see and correct you. Also, as you move around the screen, you and the background can cut in and out.

- **Feedback**

As we work in this ever-changing landscape, it is helpful for your instructors to know what is and is not working so they can adjust. If you are having difficulties with an element of your Zoom education, i.e., the sound quality is not good, or the instructor keeps moving out of frame while demonstrating, politely communicate your concerns with your instructor.

- **Chat Feature**

Let us keep the Chat feature to communicate directly with your instructor. You will only be given permission to use this feature, if arrival to class is early and your instructors allow the Chat feature to be active prior to class starting.

- **Like Being in The Dance Studio**

What we all put into the experience, is what we will get out of it. "Let's make it work by staying focused and present in the now".

- **Take Notes**

Not only taking mental notes, but it's a good idea to write notes as well. Always have a notebook and a pencil ready.

- **Community**

Let us enjoy working with our friends through maintaining a sense of community and to work with your instructors who know you, will get to know you and your individual needs.

- **Kindness**

As we navigate through this process, know we are all in it together. If or when glitches or miscommunications occur, be compassionate and patient.

- **HAVE FUN!**

# Dance Dress Code

## BASIC ATTIRE FOR ALL CLASSES

Basic Attire is strongly recommended for all the dancers as it applies to most of classes dress code; otherwise listed.

**Girls - Black leotard of any kind & Flesh Tone Convertible Tights, Black Leggings or Black Dance Shorts**

**Boys- White fitted T-shirt & Black Biking Shorts, Black Sweat Pants or Leggings**

Additional items (Only if available at home):

- Ballet Slippers or White Socks
- Jazz Shoes/ Sneakers
- Lappa or Large Scarf (Only for Girls)

# Class Description

## Modern

This class utilizes technique developed by Lester Horton. The technique uses linear movements to strengthen and stretch all parts of the body. This class will also incorporate the styles and forms that are unique to the Rod Rodgers Dance Company. The dancers will experience a series of exercises and combinations that will allow them to become familiar with anatomy and alignment. Also acquiring the idea of individual dancer's preparation for performance while enhancing self-esteem via his/her performance or artistic creation. Through expressive theatrical movement, this class will help dancers articulate and link vocabulary words with actual movements, and/or choreographed combinations and related concepts (i.e., spatial, time, dynamics, culture and become more aware of social issues) while expressing their own ideas and feelings. Dancers will also acquire positive attitudes needed for creative self-expression.

## Ballet

Ballet is a form of theatrical dance that uses formal, set movements and poses characterized by elegance and grace. This class is structured with basic, but essential elements of ballet techniques. Emphasizing students learning to stand in correct form, while developing body control and expressing movements through Music and Dance Theater. The class begins with basic barré exercises to help students develop strength and endurance.

Ballet terminology will be given during the class as well. Discipline plays an important role because students are required to learn and retain information as the class gradually becomes more advanced. Center work is given, based on similar barré techniques to test the ability to control the body. Students are required to demonstrate the elements in ballet and to transfer all the given information into choreography.

## Jazz

This class will teach technique in the area of Classical, Theater and Street style Jazz. The dancers will also focus on character and performance training and how it relates to self-expression and self-esteem. Students can expect a lot of teamwork, sweating, FUN and an exciting performance presentation.

## Broadway Dance

This class will explore the connection between dance and theater through "themes" and "music" such as Broadway tunes and other music eras to add another layer to students performance technique learning experience.

## West African

This class will allow students to gain knowledge of West African Culture through dance, song and rhythm. Class will start off with a warm-up followed by a quick dance routine. The dance routine will be continued across the floor with various steps and rhythms. The students will then return to center floor to learn a dance to be presented at the summer program performance. From there the class will have an open circle where students will have a chance to show what they know or have learned by themselves. The dance circle is a very important part of African Dance because it shows how well a student interacts with the drum. Students are encouraged to join the dance circle and it is mandatory that each student take part at least three times before the program ends. Students will need a notebook to write down lyrics to songs taught in class. Also they need to write names of dances and rhythms as well as their meanings.

# Meet Your Instructors

## **Kim Grier- Martinez** **Artistic Director/ Youth Program Founding Director**



A native New Yorker, Ms. Grier-Martinez received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from the prestigious Philadelphia College of Performing Arts, now the University of the Arts, one of the top undergraduate dance programs in the United States. She is a dancer, performance artist, master teacher, educator and choreographer. Ms. Grier-Martinez is presently Artistic Director of Rod Rodgers Dance Company and proceeded to step into the role after Mr. Rodgers' passing in 2002.

As a young adult Ms. Grier-Martinez started out as track runner and found herself participating in community events that called for dance activities. It wasn't until she took her first technique class in high school where she decided that she wanted to become a professional dancer and use dance as a tool to work with young people.

This special passion for teaching young people has manifested by using dance to mentor and guide them from childhood to young adulthood. In 2002, she established the Rod Rodgers Youth Program and Ensemble, which teaches the traditional study of Ballet, Modern, Jazz, Dance-Theater, Hip-Hop, Tap, Composition, Conga Drumming and West African in a school year program and summer intensive.

Ms. Grier-Martinez served as the Director of Dance Programs at the Harlem School of the Arts as well as Rehearsal Director and Choreographer for three of the school's resident dance companies. Additionally, she has worked as a dance specialist with children through the Bronx Arts Ensemble, Alvin Ailey Summer Outreach Programs/Mach Ailey Camp, Hudson Repertory Dance Theater, and Jacksonville School of The Arts. She continues her work with ArtsConnection where she incorporates poetry, music and elements of media in the classroom.

Ms. Grier-Martinez's teaching credits include Oswego State University, Parents Promoting Dance & Community Folk Arts in Syracuse, New York, New Orleans, Des Moines and Iowa. She taught Master Classes at California State University in Humboldt, Long Beach, Dominguez Hills and Arcata, Metropolitan School for the Arts, Long Island University in Brooklyn, Black College Dance Exchange (various locations), Florida A&M University, Howard University, Adelphi University and SUNY Plattsburgh, Syracuse University and Arts-In-Education residency programs in the Tri-State Area.

## **Nami Kagami** **Assistant Director/ Ballet Class Instructor**

Nami Kagami is a native of Japan and was trained under Masako Kaji. Nami is a graduate of Hofstra University with BA in Dance with honors and continued to study at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center and Peridance Center. Ms. Kagami is currently a principle dancer and Assistant Director with the Rod Rodgers Dance Company.



## **Jendaya Dash** **Jazz Class Instructor**



Jendaya Dash is a freelance dancer, teaching artist, and choreographer based in Brooklyn, NY. She has worked professionally as a modern/contemporary dancer in the concert dance realm, as well as the commercial dance arena for the past 6 years. While working as a freelance artist Jendaya has also been a company member with Rod Rodgers Dance Company for the past 6 years under the artistic direction of Kim Grier-Martinez, and has been a soloist with the company for the past 4 years. Jendaya's primary interest as an independent artist and choreographer lay in projects that highlight, and give voice to marginalized peoples, especially those who are considered children of the African diaspora. In December of 2017 she put on her first stage production, "Dimensions Within" which consisted of various dance solos and poetry to tell the stories of 3 different woman of color.

A native of Guadeloupe (Caribbean), Cécilia Daninthe's professional career as a dancer, dance instructor and choreographer began with her formal dance training at Center of Dance and Choreographic Studies (CDEC Lena Blou) in Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe. She is a versatile dancer who trained in Jazz, Modern, Techni'Ka, Contemporary and Ballet.

**Cécilia Daninthe**  
**Modern Dance Instructor**



After graduating from the school, she went on to being a featured artist with Compagnie Entre-Deux and had the opportunity to be around choreographers like Léna Blou, Jean-Luc Mégange, James Carlès, Jeanguy Saintus, Carolyn Carlson... and has performed in many venues and festivals in Guadeloupe and France. In 2007 she participated on a touring of the musical "La Rue Zabym" and performed with them around the Caribbean. She also joined Compagnie Trilogie Léna Blou where she is still invited to perform as a guest artist. Cécilia then moved to New York to study at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. She has worked and performed

with Liberata Dance Theater, Borona Arts Dance, Estensiona Dance Company and some Gospel Musicals.

After graduation she joined Rod Rodgers Dance Company and is currently on their Teaching Faculty (Jazz and Modern).

Her career as a dance educator has brought her to teach in New York (New York City Public Schools, Rod Rodgers Dance Studios...), the Caribbean and Europe (France, Slovenia...) just to name some. In New York, Cécilia had the amazing opportunity to work with directors Tjaša Kenda, Kaja Pogačar and Maruša Širok. She appeared in their Slovenian documentary "Horton Movie" as a dancer and consultant.

Ms. Daninthe's choreography has also been gaining recognition by presenting her own work through such opportunities as "Destination Guadeloupe" festival and by producing her own full-evening length concerts in New York (Joria Productions) and Europe. Her career has travelled her across the United States, Europe, and the Caribbean. Ms. Daninthe has amassed credits in musicals, music videos, and documentaries.

**Lauren Sion**  
**Broadway Dance Instructor**



Dancing since the age of four, Lauren has been performing, choreographing, and teaching throughout the tri-state area for over ten years. She received her BA in Dance from

Muhlenberg College in 2008 with Magna Cum Laude Honors,

having trained in various styles and techniques such as ballet, pointe, jazz, lyrical, modern, contemporary, hip hop, and tap.

She has danced and performed professionally with DanceLink, coEXISTdance Company, FireRock Productions, Eng and Friends Dance Company, hersouldances modern dance project, Serendipity Dance Ensemble, Annex Dance Comany, Morgan Chambers (Pink Hair Affair), REXDANCE, Jenkintown Dance Company, danceETHOS Performance Company, Underground DanceWorks, and ContempraDance Theatre Company. She was also chosen to participate and perform repertoire in dance residencies with San Francisco-based choreographer Alyce Finwall (Alyce Finwall Dance Theater) and NYC-based choreographer Keith

Thompson (danceTactics Performance Group).

In 2015, she followed her dream and permanently moved to Manhattan where she currently teaches and choreographs extensively in NJ & NYC. She is extremely excited to be dancing with Rod Rodgers Dance Company!

**Jamia Nicole Jordan**  
**W. African Dance Instructor**

Jamia Nicole Jordan received her BA in English from the University of Mary Washington in 2012 and most recently received her Masters of Arts and Certification in Dance Education K-12 at New York University as a 21st-century

scholarship awardee. Originally from northern Virginia, Jamia has studied dance with LillyVonn Dance and the Creative & Performing Arts Center (CAPAC). Since relocating to New York, Jamia has joined TeekVision Dance company, NYC Dance Arts, Elliot Dance, SKIN and has most recently become the newest member of the Rod Rodgers Dance company. Although she loves performing, one of her greatest joys is teaching. Jamia is the proud founder and artistic director of JNJ Dance Expressions, a Virginia based performing arts youth organization geared towards inspiring and educating the community through the arts with various outreach events and summer workshop programs.



Jamia has been blessed to perform in both small and large venues around New York City, including but not limited to Rockefeller Center & Madison Square Garden. Most recently Jamia was blessed with the opportunity of performing at the Apollo Theatre as a contestant on the show. She was overjoyed with this opportunity as she performed in front of a sold out arena. Jamia is delighted about life, tremendously loved and supported by her family and friends and looks forward to all of what God has planned for her in this lifetime.