

HINTON BATTLE'S



2017 CONVENTION COMPETITION

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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3x TONY AWARD WINNER HINTON BATTLE

in association with YOSHIMOTO

PRESENT

DANZEOFF 2017 CONVENTION COMPETITION

Dance Faculty and Judges include Debbie Allen, Savion Glover, Danielle Polanco, Alexandre Proia, Mme. Adrienne Dellas Thornton, Janelle Ginestra, Djuan Ballinger

PERFORMANCES & MASTER CLASSES in

BALLET | CONTEMPORARY | HIP HOP | JAZZ | LYRICAL |

MODERN | MUSICAL THEATER | STEP | TAP

WASHINGTON, D.C. – From nationally acclaimed three-time Tony Award winner [HINTON BATTLE](#), in association with YOSHIMOTO comes the *1st Annual DANZEOFF 2017 CONVENTION COMPETITION*. DANZEOFF “*the newest dance convention competition on the circuit*,” takes place Friday, February 3 – Sunday, February 5, 2017 at the Gaylord National Hotel, Washington, D.C. A spectacular dance event that features more than forty (40) top dance studios, collegiate teams, and dance artists from all over the United States competing in one of the largest annual dance competitions in the Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia (DMV) area.

[DANZEOFF](#) will reveal the talents of both local and visiting dance artists in events in all genres of dance. It is designed to support young aspiring dancers, pre-professionals performing artists, honor them for their accomplishments in the exciting world of dance, and provide a positive dance competition experience. There will be five (5) different levels of competition, ranging from minis (age 6-8) to pre-professionals (age 18-up). Winning performances receive cash prizes and awards, while obtaining instant critical feedback from expert judges, making DANZEOFF a learning tool for performers and a showcase of talent.

DANZEOFF is a leader in the dance workshop industry bringing together master teachers from around the world in ballet, contemporary, hip hop, jazz, lyrical, modern, musical theater, step, and tap. DANZEOFF will be the catalyst and training ground for many dancers who seek professional careers in dance from New York Theatre to Las Vegas stages, Television, Touring Circuit, to the Motion Picture Industry. Our vision is to provide a wealth of opportunities that will enable dancers to reach the “next level” and attain their highest achievements.

The celebrity judging panel, whose members are among the most celebrated in dance worldwide include Hinton Battle, Debbie Allen, Savion Glover, Danielle Polanco, Alexandre Proia, Mme. Adrienne Dellas Thornton, and Djuan Ballinger.

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“DANZEOFF values dedication, hard work and committed dancers that devote time to their craft. I am extremely excited and proud to present DANZEOFF 2017 Convention Competition to the Washington, D.C. area. This unique convention competition brings my friends, the best faculty from around the world to teach and inspire those studying dance. DANZEOFF provides that rare opportunity, to be seen by professional theatrical agents. The convention competition provides an excellent opportunity for families, teachers, and the public to watch and experience first hand. Amateur and pre-professional dancers of all levels will bring their best, to compete for amazing scholarships, cash prizes and awards.”

DANZEOFF invites the general public to attend the competition. A warm invitation is extended to the DMV dance community and general public. Online registration for discounted rates is through December 31. For more information on the convention competition, please visit the website at www.danzeoff.com or call (888) 275-7870.

DANZEOFF FACULTY BIOS

HINTON BATTLE, a native Washingtonian, has enjoyed tremendous successes as an actor, singer, dancer, choreographer and producer. He is considered a creative genius and is a highly sought after master teacher and choreographer and producer. In addition to Broadway credits that include leading roles in *THE WIZ*, *MISS SAIGON*, *CHICAGO*, *DREAMSGIRLS*, *Bob Fosse's DANCIN'*, and *THE TAP KID*, Mr. Battle was also principal dancer with the DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM and CHICAGO LYRIC OPERA BALLET. His television appearances include *BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER*, *ONCE MORE WITH FEELING*, *THESE OLD BROADS*, *FOREIGN STUDENT*, *THE GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS*, *DANCE IN AMERICA*, ABC smash-hit show *DANCING WITH THE STARS*, *TONY AWARDS*, and the *ACADEMY AWARDS*. He has choreographed for theater, television and films: *IDLEWILD* and was featured in *DREAMGIRLS*; joined Wynton Marsalis on the film *The Buddy Bolden Story*. Hinton's choreography promos include *Warner Brothers*, *Coca-Cola*, Associate Choreographer *65th and 66th Annual Academy Awards* to Debbie Allen; co-director/choreographer *EVIL DEAD: THE MUSICAL* and associate director to Debbie Allen on the *2016 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS* program. As a producer he has enjoyed success with *ROAD TO BROADWAY* for Japanese television, Hinton Battle's *AMERICAN VARIETY BANG!*, *SISTAS*, The Musical, St. Luke's Theater in NYC which was televised on BET. Hinton released his 2nd Jazz CD *Hinton Battle Something New*. April 2017 Hinton is very excited to be opening Hinton Battle Dance Academy - a dance academy for professionals and pre-professionals from around the world.

DEBBIE ALLEN In a career that spans three decades, the name Debbie Allen is synonymous with dynamic energy, creative talent and innovation. For her vast body of work, Ms. Allen has earned three Emmy Awards, a Golden Globe, five NAACP Image Awards, a Drama Desk, an Astaire Award (for Best Dancer), and the Olivier Award. She holds four honorary Doctorate degrees and has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

She was appointed by President George W. Bush to represent the United States as a Cultural Ambassador of Dance. She has been artist in residence at the Kennedy Center for over 15 years, creating original works with the legendary Arturo Sandoval and James Ingram, such as: *Pepito's Story*, *Brothers of the Knight*, *Dreams*, *Alex in Wonderland*, *Soul Possessed*, *Pearl*, *Dancing in the Wings* and *Oman O Man*.

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DEBBIE ALLEN (cont'd) Her long list of directing and producing credits include television classics such as *FAME*, *Grey's Anatomy* (where she is the Directing Executive Producer and also recurs as Dr. Catherine Avery), *Scandal*, *How To Get Away With Murder*, *Jane the Virgin*, *Empire*, *A Different World*, *Everybody Hates Chris*, *Stompin' At The Savoy*, *Polly*, *That's So Raven*, *Cool Women*, *Quantum Leap*, *The Fantasia Barrino Story*, and on stage, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (on Broadway and London's West End.)

Ms. Allen was the creative force behind Steven Spielberg's Oscar nominated epic, *Amistad*. She holds the distinction of choreographing the Academy Awards ten times.

She is influenced by the legendary artists who directed and trained her, among them: Katherine Dunham, Alvin Ailey, Bob Fosse, Jerome Robbins, Donald McKayle, Gil Cates, Alan Johnson, Derek Walcott, Twyla Tharp, Tatiana Semenova, Louis Johnson, Jo Jo Smith, Mike Malone, Henry LeTang, Willie Covan, Patsy Swayze and George Faison.

Ms. Allen has directed and choreographed such legendary artists as Lena Horne, Sammy Davis Jr. Michael Jackson, Whitney Houston, Janet Jackson, Will Smith, James Earl Jones, Phylicia Rashad, Gregory Peck, Mariah Carey and Queen Latifah.

With her keen eye for talent, Ms. Allen discovered entertainers such as Jada Pinkett Smith, Gary Dourdan, and Jasmine Guy. She was responsible for giving Mia Michaels her first job choreographing for television.

A true devotee of Arts Education for young people, she has trained some of the most dynamic young talent on the scene today - Vivian Nixon, William Wingfield, Jada Grace Gordy, Taylour Page, Dion Watson, Danny Tidwell, Corbin Bleu, and Hannah Schnieder.

She has worked tirelessly to enlighten, inspire and engage young people around the world through dance and theater arts. Currently, her most recent work entitled *FREEZE FRAME... Stop The Madness*, a dance-driven narrative about gun violence in America, is traveling to Washington, D.C., and will make its East Coast debut at John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

In 2001, she founded the non-profit Debbie Allen Dance Academy in Los Angeles. The school's mission is to fill a void for youth who have an interest in learning dance and performance technique.

A native of Houston, Texas, she is the daughter of Vivian Ayers and Dr. Andrew A. Allen. She is the wife of NBA All-Star Norman Nixon and mother of Vivian Nichole and Thump. She is the sister of Tex, Phylicia, and Hugh.

SAVION GLOVER Tony Award-winning, Tap Dancer, Choreographer, and Producer, is celebrating his 32nd year as a Performing Artist in show business. Broadway and Film credits include *The Tap Dance Kid*, *Black & Blue*, *Jelly's Last Jam*, *Bring in 'da Noise Bring in 'da Funk*, the movie *Tap* with Gregory Hines and Sammy Davis, Jr., Spike Lee's *Bamboozled*, and the acclaimed Academy Award Winning 2006 Warner Brothers release of *Happy Feet* and *Happy Feet 2*, both choreographed by Savion Glover. Most recently recognized for his award winning choreography in the acclaimed Broadway musical, *Shuffle Along*, Mr. Glover continues to focus on bringing attention to the art form of Tap Dance as an instrumental component as well as maintaining a highly entertaining visual.

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SAVION GLOVER (cont'd) Mr. Glover has also enjoyed dancing on concert stages throughout the world with legendary jazz musicians such as Jack DeJohnette, Roy Haynes, and McCoy Tyner. In his hometown of Newark New Jersey, Savion Glover holds the honor of being on the board of directors at the NJPAC where he also serves as NJPAC's Dance Ambassador. Also in his hometown of Newark, New Jersey, Savion Glover established The HooFeRzCLuB School For Tap as well as Savion Glover Productions- a production entity highlighting the tradition of tap dancing and sound, and also serves as a team-based organization that seeks to provide quality production and project management services for tap dancers. Production credits for Savion Glover Productions include *Classical Savion*®, Savion Glover's Bare Soundz, *Visions of a Bible*, Savion Glover's SOLO IN TiME, Savion Glover's SoLE Sanctuary, *Invitations to a Dancer*, Savion Glover's STePz, Savion Glover and The Otherz, and assistant segment producer of Savion Glover's Bare Soundz appearance on Dancing With the Stars.

Savion Glover is thankful for and wishes to forever acknowledge Jimmy Slyde, Gregory Hines, Isaiah Lon Chaney, Buster Brown, Dianne Walker, Chuck Green, Sir Slyde, Ralph Brown, Ivery Dan, Henry LeTang, George Hillman, and John Coltrane, some of the greatest entertaining Hooperz and musicians to date.

DANIELLE POLANCO is known to be one of the most versatile performers of her time. Born and raised in the Bronx, New York of Puerto Rican and Dominican descent, dance was an integral part of her life. Her development in dance began at the age of 4 and continues to this day. While receiving the disciplined art form of Ballet, Modern and Jazz at Middle School 180 in the Bronx, Danielle acquired dance training at Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club in Salsa, Hip Hop, Jazz, Cha Cha, West African and Samba becoming an elite member of KCompany and coming to the realization the drive and passion she possessed to learn the true essence of all styles. Yearning for more intense training to get on a more advanced level, Danielle commuted to Manhattan for two consecutive summers attending Ballet Hispanico learning dance stylings in Ballet, Pointe, Jazz, Horton, Flamenco, and Mexican Folk Dance. That prepared her for high school where she trained at the prestigious and one of the most elite schools of dance, Alvin Ailey. While at Ailey from 1999-2003, Danielle received aggressive dance training in Ballet, Graham, Horton, Jazz, West African, Pointe, Limon, Dunham and in her senior year Popping. Outside of school, Danielle took additional classes in African at Larocque Bey and Hip-Hop, Street Jazz and House at Broadway Dance Center.

In 2003 at the age of 17, Danielle booked her first professional job with Beyonce but that wouldn't be her last. Danielle is best known for being the leading lady in Omarion's video 'Touch' and in 2008 for portraying the role of Missy Serrano in the hit movie 'Step Up 2 The Streets'. Polanco has an impressive resume; she has choreographed for Beyonce, Janet Jackson, Jennifer Lopez, Usher, Chris Brown, Eve and Estelle. She has also appeared as a dancer in over 20 music videos with top artists such as Lady Gaga, Beyonce, Janet, Usher, Jennifer Lopez, Chris Brown, Nayo, LL Cool J, Nelly, Amerie and Kat Deluna. Wanting a change from the music industry, she got the opportunity from Writer/Director Arthur Laurents to perform in the smash hit revival of 'West Side Story' on Broadway, in which she played the role of Consuela. Getting to sing, dance and act in one of the best musicals of all time was definitely a highlight of her career.

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DANIELLE POLANCO (cont'd) Aside from her professional career, Danielle is known to be one of the most versatile performers of this era. In 2003 she was exposed to the NYC Underground dance culture where she met many pioneers that later mentored her in the styles of House, Hip Hop, Popping and Locking. That same year she was introduced to the ballroom scene where she found her love for the art form of Vogue. Her passion for Vogue inspired a whole new generation, especially females, to move with more femininity. She now teaches worldwide the true art form of vogue and has also created a technique for women to dance in heels properly which she calls Femmology. Danielle always knew she had a gift but if it wasn't for family support, the brilliant guidance from her teachers in school, to her friends in the clubs, she would not have found the uncompromising secret of her talent and artistic expression.

ALEXANDRE PROIA trained at the School of Paris Opera Ballet, performed with Boston Ballet, and was a soloist with New York City Ballet. He worked with Martha Clarke for three years, he was featured on Broadway, and as a guest artist with Martha Graham. Alexandre has taught and choreographed for numerous companies across the globe including NYC Ballet, Paris Opera, Julliard, Teatro Colon, Capetown City Ballet, New York University, Adelphi University, Joffrey School NY, and Lines School in San Francisco. He served on the faculty at Steps on Broadway and Peridance Capezio Center for years before starting his own company, Proia Dance Project.

MME. ADRIENNE DELLAS THORNTON Born in Detroit, Michigan to parents who immigrated from Greece and Australia, Adrienne Dellas began ballet instruction at four years of age. She studied with an array of teachers, including Enid Ricardo, Robert Joffrey, Hector Zaraspe, Richard and Barbara Thomas, Alexandra Danilova, Perry Brunson, Birger Bartholin, Vera Volkova and Ludmila Morkovina. She turned to teaching at the age of 20, following a career-ending accident.

A master teacher for more than 40 years, Adrienne Dellas trained and coached dancers from all over the world. As her reputation grew, she was invited to South Korea to launch the new Ballet Department of the Little Angels Arts Middle and High School. Based on its success, she established the now internationally acclaimed Universal Ballet Company in Seoul. As the company's Founding Artistic Director, she choreographed numerous original full-length ballets, as well as restaging many of the classics.

Soon after the Universal Ballet Company began, Ms. Dellas choreographed an original full-length classical ballet "Shim Chung," which was performed for the Tenth Asian Games 1986 Arts Festival and at the XXIV Olympic Games Seoul Arts Festival in 1988. She was awarded the Gold Medal for Artistic Achievement in Teaching and Choreography by the Korean President in 1988. Returning to America, she taught for nearly ten years at the newly established Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington, DC, which was born out of the foundation of the Little Angels Arts Middle and High School and the Universal Ballet Company. As the only American teacher among the Russian faculty at the Kirov, she trained hundreds of dancers, many of whom are now principal dancers of major international ballet companies. During her tenure at the Kirov, she was invited to teach and choreograph at the world-renowned Vaganova Academy of Classical Ballet in St. Petersburg, Russia.

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MME. ADRIENNE DELLAS THORNTON (cont'd) From 2001-2008, she was the Academy Director at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy in Los Angeles, where she directed the master teachers of ten dance programs ranging from classical ballet to hip-hop. Adrienne Dellas is internationally known for her expertise in teaching and choreographing for ballet companies, television and cultural events, directing and teaching ballet intensives, judging competitions, creating and conducting specialized teacher seminars, and coaching professional dancers.

JANELLE GINESTRA began dancing in Santa Clara, CA at age 2. As a young child, she enjoyed dancing for local shows and competing in dance competitions, where she received highest honors and praise for her spunk, sassiness, personality, and of course being a powerhouse for her age. At age 7, Janelle and her family moved to Los Angeles where she pursued acting. Upon arrival in Los Angeles, some of Janelle's early jobs were related to dance.

As an actress, Janelle was a guest-star and co-star on many TV shows and also was a lead actor on two TV pilots. At age 12, Janelle moved to Modesto, CA where she began to choreograph and dance for a local rap artist named Jiggy. They would rehearse and practice in Janelle's garage for hours on end. This is where Janelle primarily trained from the ages of 12-18, training herself, and her friends. In addition to local shows and concerts with Jiggy, who opened for performers like Paul Wall and E-40, she also took up competitive cheerleading. Not only competing in cheer, and winning several national championships, she also did a competitive pom team, where she learned clean lines and sharp technique skills.

Janelle joined a company called JAMZ Cheer and Dance, and quickly became a head instructor, teaching kids and teenagers all over the United States, dance routines and cheer routines, in a positive, happy environment. At age 18, Janelle moved to North Hollywood, CA. She has worked as a successful dancer and has been in multiple dance shows from being a contestant on BRAVO reality TV show "Step It Up and Dance", to being a reoccurring dancer on FOX's hit show "Glee". She is very involved in the dance community, working on different jobs for dance shows, music videos, award shows, including dancing for Beyonce at the Billboard Awards. Janelle has been in several movies, the most recent film being Honey 2 where she plays the role of Juvey Dancer, and her biggest role being the lead chipmunk a.k.a chipette "Britney" in Alvin and the Chipmunks 2. Janelle has worked with many well-known and respected choreographers including, Adam Shankman, Brian Friedman, assisting NappyTabs on So You Think You Can Dance And America's Beat Dance Crew, and Zachary Woodlee of Glee. Janelle's most recent television appearances include Glee, Community, America's Got Talent, Bunheads, and X-Factor not only where she danced for multiple contestants, but also choreographed.

Her first world tour with P!NK that lasted over a year where she not only danced, but was P!NK's body double and flew her aerial tracks everyday. Just finished a Promo Tour with Jennifer Lopez, and being in the #1 video-record breaking video "Anaconda" with Nicki Minaj. She is living her ultimate dream. Janelle continues to also teach master dance classes world-wide. Sometimes alongside the creator and mastermind of Immabeast, William Adams, where there are referred to as "BeautyNdaBeast". They have a huge following and only continue to grow and expand. She is trying to touch and inspire anyone and everyone with her passion and love of this art.

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DJUAN BALLINGER is a musician actor, producer and step choreographer. Djuan has been in the acting industry for over 15 years. As a former acting coach, Djuan has booked various lead and supporting roles for film and tv commercials. Djuan has wrote, produced and directed indie, short and feature films. Some of these films has gone on to be a part of various film festivals. Mr. Ballinger has also toured and choreographed step pieces for Drumline Live International USA/Japan Tour. He has also choreographed and worked with various fraternity and sorority step teams providing dynamic routine and step compositions. Mr. Ballinger continues to produce Annual Greek Step Shows in the Southeastern Region involving multiple dorm and greek steps teams from across the country. Some of his choreography can be seen in “America Best Dance Crew” and “Americas Got Talent”. Djuan Ballinger continues to thrive in the performing arts arena through event production, acting, and dance.

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