



Rasta Thomas' Bad Boys of Dance

Rasta Thomas, Founder/Artistic Director
Adrienne Canterna, Artistic Director/Choreographer
Sean Kelly, Associate Director
Phillip Carman, Resident Director/Ballet Master

Tony Marques, Production-Stage Manager/ Lighting Designer
Sally Canterna, Costume Designer
Brandon Perry-Russell, Operations Manager

Dancers: **Kevin Mylrea, Adrienne Canterna, Kaitlynn Edgar (Swing), Marquis Cunningham, Lee Gumbs, Rocky Smith, Joshua Alexander, Henry Rivera**

PROGRAM

Act One: "Don't Stop Believin'"

-Intermission-

Act Two: "We Are The Champions"

Thursday, February 20 at 7:30 PM
Friday, February 21 at 8 PM
Saturday, February 22 at 2 PM & 8 PM

PROGRAM NOTES

Act One: "Don't Stop Believin'"

1. "Stronger"-Kanye West
2. "My Sharona"-The Knack
3. "Simply Irresistible"-Robert Palmer
4. "The Space Between"-Dave Matthews Band
5. "Every Teardrop is a Waterfall"-Coldplay
6. "I Don't Wanna Miss a Thing"-Aerosmith
7. "The Scientist"-Coldplay
8. "A Song For You"-Donny Hathaway
9. "Fallin'"-Alicia Keys
10. "Don't Stop Believin'"-Journey

-Intermission-

Act Two: "We Are The Champions"

1. "Brotsjor"-Olafur Arnalds
2. "They Don't Really Care About Us"-Michael Jackson
3. "Moves Like Jagger"-Maroon 5
4. "Stayin' Alive"-The Bee Gees
5. "Sexyback"-Justin Timberlake
6. "Lost Without You"-Robin Thicke
7. "Hey Ya"-Outkast
8. "Yeah!!!"-Usher
9. "Come Together"-The Beatles
10. "Under Pressure"-David Bowie featuring Queen
11. "Bittersweet Symphony"-The Verve
12. "Unbelievable"-EMF
13. "I Need You Tonight"-INXS
14. "Dangerous"-Michael Jackson
15. "Faith"-George Michael
16. "Wanna Love You Girl"-Robin Thicke
17. "We Are The Champions"-Queen
18. "Bad"-Michael Jackson
19. "Yeah x3"-Chris Brown

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Bad Boys of Dance (BBD) was founded by dance superstar Rasta Thomas in 2007. BBD debuted at the 75th anniversary season of the world renowned American dance festival, Jacob's Pillow. Today, the company brings their magic to the masses with performances in over 25 countries and gives more than 200 shows a year. The Bad Boys are a hit with every crowd, whether they are dancing on the catwalk at New York Fashion Week or appearing on the famous Swiss TV show *Benissimo*, these amazing dancers' versatility and talent push the bounds of dance with athletic jumps, endless turns and endearing individuality. BBD dancers have performed on Broadway, appeared in feature films and have been adored by millions on hit TV shows like *Dancing with the Stars*. In 2010, the Bad Boys performed at Carnegie Hall in NYC with Sir Elton John for a charity event also starring Lady Gaga, Sting and Bruce Springsteen. They also had the distinct honor of performing at the 2010 opening ceremonies of the USA International Ballet Competition. In 2011, BBD performed at the prestigious Dance Open International in St. Petersburg, Russia and made a special guest performance on Fox TV's *So You Think You Can Dance*. Moreover, BBD was one of the select companies to be featured in the Jacob's Pillow's award-winning PBS documentary *Never Stand Still*. In 2012, they were cultural ambassadors to India, sharing in an exchange program sponsored by the U.S. State Department where they performed in over eight cities to thousands of fans. Currently, the Bad Boys are touring the world with their hit shows *Rock the Ballet* and *Romeo & Juliet*.
www.badboysofdance.com

Rasta Thomas (Founder/Director) was born in San Francisco, California in 1981 and raised in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Thomas studied at the world-renowned Kirov Academy in Washington D.C. As a teenager, Thomas made dance competition history through multiple honors including the Special Jury Prize from the 1994 Paris International Dance Competition, the Gold Medal in the Junior Men's Division from the 1996 Varna International Ballet Competition and the Gold Medal in the Senior Men's Division from the Jackson, Mississippi USA-IBC. In 1995, he became a member of Le Jeune Ballet de France and in 1997, he was invited to be a Principal Dancer with the Hartford Ballet. Some of his guest credits include American Ballet Theatre, Victor Ullate Ballet of Spain, National Ballet of China, Joffrey Ballet, Lines Contemporary Ballet, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Lar Lubovitch Dance Company and Pacific Northwest Ballet. In 2001, Thomas was the first American to become a member of the Kirov Ballet in St. Petersburg, Russia and then in 2003, he joined Dance Theatre of Harlem as a Principal.

Thomas has danced diverse roles from Albrecht in *Giselle*, Basilio in *Don Quixote* and Ali in *Le Corsaire*, to classic works by Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, Debbie Allen, Ulysses Dove and Jerry Mitchell. Thomas has been in several TV documentaries and has performed at the Academy Awards®. He was also a featured dancer in an international ad campaign for Gap and appeared in the feature film *One Last Dance*, starring Patrick Swayze. He has performed at the White House for the President of the United States and opened for Aretha Franklin at Harlem's famous Apollo Theater. In 2005, Thomas starred on Broadway in Twyla Tharp's hit musical, *Movin' Out*. In 2007, Thomas performed as a guest artist in the title role in *Othello* with American Ballet Theatre for their Met season. Thomas is the founding director of Bad Boys of Dance, and in 2008, he created Rasta Thomas' *Rock The Ballet* with his wife Adrienne Canterna. Following up their international hit *Rock the Ballet*, they launched *Tap Stars*. In 2011, Thomas held the position of Resident Director at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy in Los Angeles, California. In addition to touring the world with his company BBD, Thomas is the Artistic Director/CEO of Showbiz and Primetime Talent Competitions.

Adrienne Canterna (Artistic Director/Resident Choreographer)

Kirov Academy of Ballet scholarship graduate Adrienne Canterna is the recipient of numerous national and international awards including the 1998 Women's Junior Gold Medal at the USA International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Mississippi. Other prestigious awards include winning the title of Teen Miss Dance of America and the Grishko Award of Excellence in Ballet. Canterna has traveled extensively throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, Australia, Canada and the Caribbean. As a principal guest ballerina she danced the roles of Gamzatti in *La Bayadere*, the Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker* and Kitri in *Don Quixote* with the Universal Ballet in Seoul, Korea. She has also danced with the Washington Ballet and Complexions Contemporary Ballet in New York City. She has appeared in numerous galas including the prestigious Les Gala des Etoiles, where she performed "Le Corsaire" pas de deux with international ballet star Carlos Acosta. She appeared as a soloist in *Placido Domingo, Tribute to the Washington Opera*, performing to "Stars and Stripes" in a segment directed and choreographed by Debbie Allen, which aired on PBS.

In 2002, she formed American Dance Artists, a company of nationally and internationally acclaimed young dancers. Canterna travels the world as a dancer, master teacher, choreographer and judge. She can be seen as a ballet soloist in the motion picture *Step Up*. Canterna is a "messenger" for Mondetta Performance Gear and is featured in its international ad campaign. She is the choreographer and co-creator of the international hit dance show *Rock the Ballet* and was a special guest performer with the Bad Boys of Dance on Fox TV's *So You Think You Can Dance*. In 2013, she created and choreographed the world premiere of Rasta Thomas' *Romeo and Juliet* in Europe to rave reviews from critics and audiences alike.

Tony Marques (Lighting Supervisor/Production Stage Manager) recently toured with the Kirov Ballet as lighting supervisor and designed two world premiere productions for Ardani Artists' *Beauty In Motion* and *The Kings of Dance*. In 2010, he designed New York seasons for Elisa Monte Dance, Youth America Grand Prix Ballet, Rebecca Kelly Ballet, Kim Gibilisco & Dancers, Thomas/Ortiz Dance and C. Eule Dance. Marques has created lighting designs for some of the world's top dance companies and choreographers.

The Company

Joshua Alexander (Dancer) was born and raised in Columbia, SC where he began dancing at his local elementary school. To further his education and passion for dance, he auditioned for Columbia City Jazz Dance Company at the age of seven and was accepted with open arms. At age 17, he began choreographing for his studio and became a regular part of the teaching staff as Assistant Choreographer. Alexander graduated from Dreher High in 2011 and received a full scholarship to the University of South Carolina's dance program.

Marquis Cunningham (Dancer) began dancing at the age of 14, training in ballet, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, acrobatics and tap under Robin Dawn Ryan and her staff at Robin Dawn Academy of Performing Arts in Cape Coral, FL. He is a graduate of North Fort Mayer High School Center for the Performing Arts, where he performed various leading roles including Lumiere in *Beauty and the Beast* and Jo Jo in *Seussical the Musical*. Upon graduation, Cunningham moved to the New York City metropolitan area to begin his professional career. Cunningham has made national TV appearances on *Dance Wars Bruno Vs. Carrie Ann* where he made the top 30, and on Season 4 of *So You Think You Can Dance*, where he made the top 18. Cunningham was part of the original cast of Cirque du Soleil's *Viva Elvis* from 2009-2011. Cunningham enjoys traveling, guest performing, teaching and judging dance competitions all over the world.

Kaitlynn Edgar (Dancer, Swing) grew up dancing at Spotlight Dance Works in Chesterfield, Michigan. At a young age, Edgar won many regional and national dance titles and awards. In 2011, she became New York City Dance Alliance's National Senior Outstanding Dancer. After receiving that honor, Edgar has gone on to tour with the convention as an assistant, along with many other conventions such as Jump, Adrenaline and Shock. Edgar was the Dance Spirit Cover Model Search Winner and made it to the top 30 dancers on seasons 8 and 9 of *So You Think You Can Dance*. After graduating high school, she moved to LA to begin her professional dance career. She is part of Shaping Sound and Oxygen's *All The Right Moves* reality series. She has danced for Nicki Minaj at the American Music Awards and was a dancer in *The Secret Life of an American Teenager* on ABC Family.

Lee Gumbs (Dancer) started dancing at age five, and at age seven, received scholarships for ballet and jazz classes. Shortly after, he started signing himself up for more classes without permission. This is when his mother realized that his passion for dance was more than a hobby. Gumbs won numerous regional and national dance competitions and at age 15, started traveling solo to LA, New York, Las Vegas and Virginia Beach to take advantage of scholarships he had won. At 16, he was the first boy chosen by Dance Spirit Magazine as one of the top three cover models out of thousands of entries. He was featured in the magazine for four months. As a senior, Gumbs became an alumnus of the Young Arts and attended Marymount Manhattan College in NYC.

Kevin Mylrea (Dancer) is best recognized as a Top 20 finalist on Season 1 of the hit TV show *So You Think You Can Dance* Canada on CTV. Mylrea was born in Saskatoon and is a native of Saskatchewan. He began his dance training at his mother's dance studio and later moved to Vancouver, British Columbia to pursue his passion for dance. Since then, he has trained throughout Europe, Japan and the United States. He has worked and studied with companies such as Pushing Progress, Spellbound Dance Company and MOVE Vancouver. Mylrea's film/TV credits include *The Lizzie McGuire Movie*, *Eureka*, *Dr. Doolittle 3*, *Hellcats* and *Breakfast Television*. He has most recently completed a contract in Tokyo, Japan dancing as a tap soloist in a Broadway style review called *Big Band Beat!* Mylrea now resides in Las Vegas, Nevada where he dances as a contemporary soloist and primary pas de deux for the Cirque Du Soleil production *LOVE*.

Henry Rivera (Dancer) was born in New York and raised in Miami, FL. Inspired to dance after attending his sister's recitals, Rivera received a scholarship at the age of 14 to study at Dance Attack of Miami. Under the tutelage of owners John Culbertson and Cookie Ramos, Rivera trained in a variety of techniques and styles to become a versatile dancer. While at Dance Attack, Rivera competed internationally and won several national titles. He is a member of the renowned agency McDonald Selznick Associates and his professional credits include Royal Caribbean and C&J Productions. He has also performed with Natalia Jimenez on *Pa' Lante con Cristina*.

Rocky Smith (Dancer) has been dancing since the age of three. He comes from a family that shares the love of dance. Smith has had extensive training in all styles of dance including ballet, jazz, lyrical, contemporary and hip hop. After studying with the School of American Ballet in New York, Smith moved to New Jersey and joined the competitive dance team at Studio L. From the age of 12, he has been instructed primarily by Kelley and Danielle Larkin. They have helped him win numerous regional and national titles. After graduating high school in 2010, Smith began teaching and choreographing for the company dancers at Studio L. He also performed in the off-Broadway show *iLuminate: Artist of Light*.