

Early Arts Performing Artists



TANESHA PAYNE
Art Form: Dance

Tanesha Payne is a performer, choreographer and educator who resides in San Antonio, Texas. She holds a BFA in Dance from Texas State University and is currently working on her MFA in Choreography at Jacksonville University. In 2003, Mrs. Payne became a member of Danceworks, the repertory company at Florida State College of Jacksonville. While on a full talent grant, her schedule for the following three years was inundated with training, performance work, and directing FSC's Ensemble, the junior company. Seeking more experience, Tanesha moved to New York City. Although accepted into the certificate and fellowship programs at The Ailey School, her heart led her to join Arch Dance Company under Jennifer Archibald where she served as rehearsal director. During her three years with the company, she taught master classes and performed across the United States. During the off-season, Tanesha made appearances in music videos, fashion shows, and performed as a backup dancer for local artists. Tanesha has had the privilege of working with and/or performing the works of Alonzo King, Paul Taylor, Michael Foley, KT Nelson, and Lula Washington to name a few. In 2019, Tanesha was selected to perform with Rennie Harris's Pure Movement in the presentation of "Lifted" at the Jo Long Theatre in San Antonio. Most recently, Mrs. Payne was the featured dancer in Musical Bridges Around the World's documentary "The Quilt" and San Antonio's Poet Laureate Andrea "Vocab" Sanderson's video "Nouveaux". Tanesha Payne's choreography has been recognized at American College Dance Festival, Bates Dance Festival, and San Antonio Dances.



TAMMY FRAZIER
Art Form: Theatre

Tami Kai Frazier is an experienced speech and theatre teacher as well as a professional performing artist. She has served as artistic director for The Vexler Children's Theatre in San Antonio, Texas and has co-produced the Sheldon Vexler Theatre in San Antonio with her husband Ken Frazier. Together they were awarded the Jasmina Wellinghoff Award for Artistic Contribution for Theatre. Tami has also received numerous Globe Awards for excellence in direction and costuming design. If you ask her, though, she will tell you her two wonderful sons, Kailry and Konnor, are her greatest accomplishments.



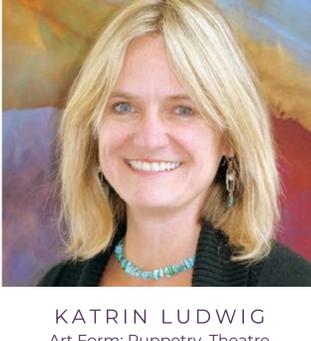
SARAH DAVIS
Art Form: Dance

Sarah Davis is a dance and acting instructor for multiple dance studios in San Antonio, in addition to running a consulting practice in parenting and social/emotional regulation. Grounded in a strong training of human development as well as social and emotional skills, Sarah brings a unique expertise to the San Antonio arts community as a Certified Child Life Specialist. As a Resident Teaching Artist for Wolf Trap here in San Antonio, Sarah educates children on how to combine theater, dance, and music. With over 20 years of performance experience, including 8 years as a member of the Appalachian Ballet Company, Sarah now works to develop the next generation of performers. Her favorite dance styles to teach and perform include Ballet, Modern, and Musical Theatre. Choreographing and dancing for San Antonio Dance Fringe is a current passion for Sarah, as well as performing at The Woodlawn Theater. Sarah is the resident choreographer for the JCC Starz program and has choreographed for other performance groups in the area. Sarah holds a Masters degree in Family and Child Studies as well as a Bachelors degree in Psychology and Theater.



GEORGE GAYTAN
Art Form: Music

George Gaytan is a professional classical acoustic guitarist. He has provided music for PBS documentaries, the University of Texas at Austin, and Texas A&M Educational DVD. He's recorded and toured with Tish Hinojosa and toured with Amy Grant and most recently performed with her at a benefit for Austin City Limits. Gaytan also played for King Philippe VI Queen Letizia of Spain on their recent visit to San Antonio. He has five recordings out with a new one All Roads lead to Home out this year. He is on the Music Faculty at Saint Mary's Hall college Prep School.



KATRIN LUDWIG
Art Form: Puppetry, Theatre

With a degree in Theater from Northwestern University, and further education at the Drama Studio London-Berkeley, the Henson Group and Madcap Puppets, Katrin has served as an artistic director, stage manager, co-producer of award winning one acts, stage, tech, as well as performer from Ohio to California. In Illinois, she co-founded a touring puppet theater company: Walkabout Puppets. This company used creative drama and audience participation with their K-8 audience. Walkabout Puppets had an arts-in-education component and provided residencies to underserved communities in the Midwest. These residencies incorporated visual arts, music, drama, writing and the class curriculum designed to support Illinois Stat Standards. In San Antonio, in addition to 4 years with SA Wolf Trap, she has worked with Classic Theatre in their education program and with Magik Theatre as Puppet Designer and Choreographer as well as actor. In teaching, Katrin encourages integrating different art forms with other subjects demonstrating that art, history, science etc. interrelate. "The arts are part of a lifelong education; informing us of other cultures and perspectives thereby broadening a life view, life thinking and life paths. Everyone should have the opportunity to experience and/or create art, whether visual, written, musical or dramatic."



CHAYITO CHAMPION
Art Form: Dance

Chayito was born into a family of Flamenco artists, Teresa and Curro Champion, the pioneers of Flamenco in Texas. Chayito began singing and dancing at an early age carrying the legacy of her family all over the world. Chayito is a sought-after performer who captivates her audiences with her heartfelt and passionate performances. She has toured the world with such artists as Jose Greco, Antonio Vargas, Teo Morco, Pilar Riojas. While in San Antonio, she sings and dances at local theaters including The Majestic, The Tobin, Woodlawn, Josephine and Arneson River Theater. Chayito has been awarded H.O.L.A and A.C.E. awards. She has collaborated with Calo Flamenco on the album "Levanto" and with the late Rubens Romero and Lydia Torrea on "Flamenco Fantasy." As Director of Los Flamenco de SA, she keeps Flamenco in the traditional form that her family has maintained for 5 decades. Chayito has taught the Flamenco and Folklorico Dance since she was a young girl. Her goal is to continue passing the Flamenco Art preserving and promoting it in traditional form.



GREGORY MESSA
Art Form: Music

Gregory Messa has played percussion as a soloist and with groups across the USA. As a freelancer he has performed regularly with many groups including Symphony Silicon Valley, Opera San Jose, Monterey County Symphony Orchestra, Santa Cruz Symphony, The Oakland Municipal Band, and the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, and more. Locally in San Antonio, he can be heard on percussion with Xichano-fusion band "Los Nahuatlitos", and as a member of the Trinity Baptist Church Worship Team most Sundays.



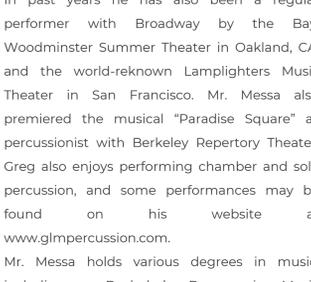
PRINCESO SANTAMARIA
Art Form: Poetry

Princeso is a Xicanx poet known for their playful, interlingual, and multicultural poetics. Their longstanding passion for empowering youth voices is demonstrated through years of empowering young leaders while working with system-impacted advocates. Recently, Princeso worked with Gemini Ink to coordinate creative writing programs for over 100 students, many of them from San Antonio's underserved communities. Princeso is a contributing author for Ofrenda Magazine and Gemini Ink's Writer's Desk. Their work has been featured by El Comalito Collective, the Gender Equity Resource Center at UC Berkeley, the Puentes Program at Laney College, the Ethnic Studies Department at Cal State Fullerton, and foolsFURY SF Theatre.



CANDICE PREAU
Art Form: PUPPETRY

Candice Preau has a Bachelor's degree in communications and is currently enrolled in a Master's program where she hopes to obtain her Master's in education. Shortly after college, she to New York City to pursue a career in television, where she found the fashion world. She has assisted fashion designers like Adrian Alica, Korto Momolu, and Gabriela Pires with show production. She has also worked behind the scenes during New York Fashion week helping with set design and managing guest lists for various shows. She has multiple years of experience and trained in creative writing, education, visual arts, puppet arts, and performances. She is passionate about community education and cultural awareness and she displays that passion through story telling. She has found the best way to exhibit story telling is through puppetry where all of her creative interests come to life.



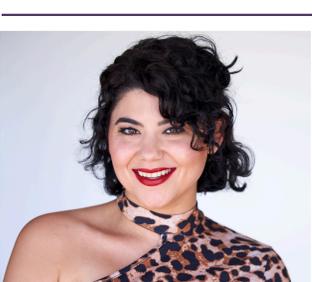
GREGORY MESSA
Art Form: Music

Mr. Messa holds various degrees in music, including a Bachelor's Degree in Music Performance from San Jose State University, and a Master Degree from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. His teachers include Principal Percussionist with Symphony Silicon Valley Galen Lemmon, John Tafuya of Detroit Symphony Orchestra and former timpanist with the National Symphony in Washington DC, and virtuoso marimbist/composer Kevin Bobo. Other teachers include Craig Hetrick and Braham Dembar of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, and Anthony Cirone (San Francisco Symphony-Ret.). In addition to orchestral percussion, he also was a member and teacher in the Santa Clara Vanguard Cadets Drum and Bugle Corp organization.



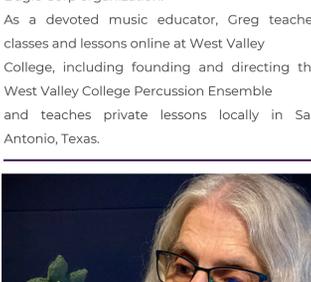
GEORGETTE MARÍA MESSA
Art Form: Theatre

Georgette María Messa is an actor, writer, and teacher from San Antonio, Texas. She earned her B.F.A. in Theatre Arts/Acting from Boston University's College of Fine Arts in conjunction with the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. She is a certified educator Acting & Theatre Arts. She has appeared onstage, and on-camera in original and published work. She is currently producing her one-woman show, La Flaca Calaca. under the City of San Antonio Individual Artist Grant.



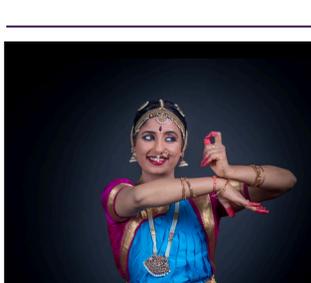
VICTORIA ROSS
Art Form: Dance, Theatre, Music

My name is Victoria Ross (yes, that's really how it's spelled). At the very core of who I am is an artist who comes alive in all areas of performance. From dancing and singing, to acting, I've loved to entertain from a very young age. I started performing publicly at the age of 10, which often consisted of singing for the locals and tourists who'd flood downtown San Antonio. I am a proud Chicana, who's been singing a variety of music, and dancing for over a decade. I graduated from an acting conservatory, where I studied voice, film and theatre, and have been a part of multiple productions. I'm a licensed cosmetologist, and am working as a part-time barista and teaching artist, when I'm not performing with my cover band, Jackie Not Marilyn.



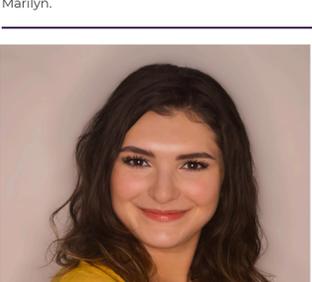
MOBI WARREN
Art Form: Puppetry

Mobi Warren has loved engaging with puppets since childhood. Her hand built puppets have performed in classrooms and neighborhood parks, at art exhibits, poetry readings and community gatherings. They make regular appearances at the Storytelling in Nature program for young children and families at Phil Hardberger Park, a creative extension of Warren's Master Naturalist training. As a Board member of the National Puppetry Guild, Warren is active on the Education and Eco-puppetry Committees. She is also a retired teacher who has taught every level from prekindergarten to seniors in high school to adults.



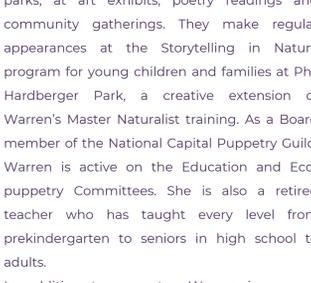
USHA BULUSU
Art Form: Dance

Usha has trained under Guru Dr. Sreedhara Akkibhebbalu -Founder President of Kaveri Natya Yoga, San Antonio, USA. She has also trained under Guru Rama Vaidyanathan for an intense summer workshop in India. Usha has attended many workshops conducted by renowned dancers - the Late Guru Khandumati, Swapna Sundarai, Indira Bhadambai, Janaki Rangarajan, Lavanya Ananth.



DANIELLE ANDRADE
Art Form: Dance

Dani Andrade is a San Antonio native. She began dancing as a toddler and has had over fifteen years of training in ballet, tap, jazz, modern, contemporary, and hip-hop. She graduated from Texas A&M University in 2021 with a BS in Anthropology and got her Masters degree in Forensic Science from Arizona State University in 2023. While at Texas A&M, she was part of the school's competitive ballroom team where she was professionally trained in American, International, Country-Western, and Social styles of ballroom dance. Currently she works as a dance teacher and choreographer at Jen's Dance Spot, a part-time science teacher at St. Anthony's Catholic High School, and as a seasonal performer at Six Flags Fiesta Texas. Dani Andrade has performed in local productions with The Harlequin Theater, Danrie Productions, the CurtainUp Cancer Foundation and The Wonder Theatre.



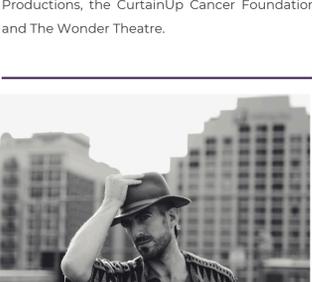
MOBI WARREN
Art Form: Puppetry

In addition to puppetry, Warren is a poet, translator, and fiction writer. She is a storyteller from Vietnamese of The Dragon Prince: Stories and Legends from Vietnam by Thich Nhat Hanh and author of a Middle Grade novel The Bee Maker. Warren is co-founder of a regional collective of writers and artists committed to environmental awareness and protection, Stone in the Stream/Roca en el Rio, and has taught both writing and puppetry workshops at Gemini Ink.



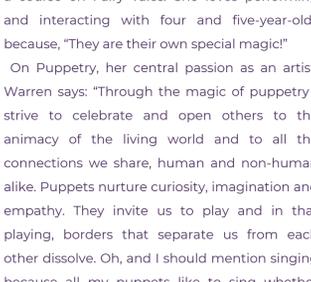
USHA BULUSU
Art Form: Dance

Usha has been mentoring students of Kaveri Natya Yoga for a decade. In 2017, she started teaching her own students in Corpus Christi and San Antonio, she is the founder/director of Rasa School of Indian Performing Arts. She has performed widely in Texas. Usha conducts and performs lecture demonstrations in the San Antonio-Austin area and brings Bharatanatyam to new communities, such as public libraries, senior centers, retirement centers and schools. She has participated in all Annual Productions of Kaveri Natya Yoga such as- Shakti, Vikramorvashiyam, RadhaMadhava, Shivagamiyan Shabdham, Purandara Dasa and Yoga Vibhuti. In 2023, She played the lead role Krishna in Production Geeta Govindham. She has a wide range of students ranging from kindergarteners to adults who perform for fundraising events, community outreach programs, and cultural and educational forums in Texas.



STEPHAN GAETH
Art Form: Dance, Theatre, Puppetry, Poetry

Stephan Gaeth is a gifted and multi-talented artist. Teaching and performing for more than 10 years professionally, Stephan works with dance, theater, puppetry, and poetry to create unique stories while using methods that allow for anyone to perform in space.



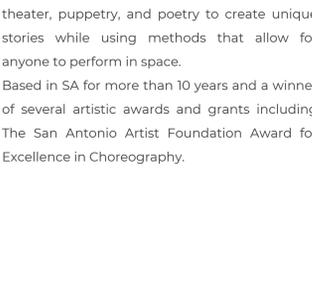
MOBI WARREN
Art Form: Puppetry

Warren recently presented her puppet show In the Shadow of a Moth's Wing at The National Puppetry Festival in Maryland, and currently collaborates with a UTSA professor who teaches a course on Fairy Tales. She loves performing and interacting with four and five-year-olds because, "They are their own special magic!" On Puppetry, her central passion as an artist, Warren says: "Through the magic of puppetry I strive to celebrate and open others to the animacy of the living world and to all the connections we share, human and non-human alike. Puppets nurture curiosity, imagination and empathy. They invite us to play and in that playing, borders that separate us from each other dissolve. Oh, and I should mention singing because all my puppets like to sing whether they are a fairy tale character, a bee, or a rock."



USHA BULUSU
Art Form: Dance

Apart from dance Usha is an experienced and certified Zumba teacher for Gold's Gym and LA Fitness. She has collaborated for events for Diwali San Antonio for Sister city collaboration with Chennai, India Dance Temple, Hindu Temple of San Antonio, Hindu Temple of Corpus Christi and various other cultural organizations in South Texas.



STEPHAN GAETH
Art Form: Dance, Theatre, Puppetry, Poetry

Based in SA for more than 10 years and a winner of several artistic awards and grants including The San Antonio Artist Foundation Award for Excellence in Choreography.



ALLISON HAYES
Art Form: Music

Allison Hayes is a violinist and graduate of The University of Texas as San Antonio, where she studied violin under Dr. Stephanie Westney and viola under Allyson Dawkins, earning a Bachelor's degree in Music Education as well as her violin performance certificate.

In addition to having given various chamber music performances, Allison has sat concertmaster in pit orchestra for musicals and operas, and has performed with the Lone Star Philharmonic, Symphony Viva, and with Sonido Barroco. She has premiered new compositions, and has participated in masterclasses given by William Hagen, Dr. Nicole Cherry, Dr. Alex Shizaki, and Marisa Ishikawa. Allison teaches violin and viola lessons, her private studio comprised of students ages 5-18, and additionally teaches lessons and strings clinic at Alamo Heights Junior School, Alamo Heights High School, and Saint Mary's Hall.