

Nick Pupillo

Nick Pupillo, Founder and Artistic Director of Visceral Dance Chicago, is an award-winning choreographer recognized for the power and versatility in his work.

A graduate of Indiana University and former dancer with Giordano Dance Chicago, Pupillo's focus quickly became concentrated on teaching and creating.

In 2006, he decided to focus on training and mentoring young talent by developing the now reputable, pre professional company, Visceral Studio Company. In 2007, he founded Visceral Dance Center to provide the Chicago community with a new venue for artistic and technical growth. This facility continues to be a Chicago dance landmark. TimeOut Chicago lists Visceral Dance Center as "A bustling, well-appointed facility...with instructors from top companies and in-demand guest teachers." Utilized by a number of Chicago-based companies, Visceral Dance Center is home to its resident company, Visceral Dance Chicago.

Pupillo founded Visceral Dance Chicago in the fall of 2013. This repertory company presents his daring vision to explore the infinite possibilities of contemporary movement. The dancers of Visceral demonstrate this choreographic invention and are recognized for their technique, passion, and athleticism. Since inception, the company has developed a diverse and respected repertoire by new emerging voices and distinguished, world-renowned choreographers. Visceral Dance Chicago has been named one of Dance Magazine's 25 to Watch, recognizing the company's accomplishments and potential in the national community. Pupillo has led the company in a forthright direction, establishing a repertoire described as "expertly devised and stylish as they come." (Chicago Tribune) He has created sixteen signature works for the company, as well as four collaborations with The Chicago Philharmonic.

Pupillo teaches master classes in the U.S. and around the world and has taught for the Jazz Dance World Congress, Culver Academies, Chicago Dance Connection and Chicago National Association of Dance Masters, where he received the 2018 Artistic Achievement Award.

Gustavo Ramirez Sansano

Gustavo Ramírez Sansano (1978 San Fulgencio, Spain) has been Artistic Director of Luna Negra Dance Theater (2009-2013), and now he combines his work as a choreographer freelance with the direction of TITTOYAYA, the company he founded on 2006 in Spain with Veronica Garcia Moscardo. Sansano has been the recipient of numerous awards for his choreography, including first prize at the Ricard Moragas Competition in Barcelona (1997), Prix Dom Perignon Choreographic Competition in Hamburg (2001), and Valencian performing arts awards for best dance show and choreographer (2005 and 2019). Gustavo was chosen by the magazine POR LA DANZA for its 15th anniversary as one of the 'Fifteen Choreographers to Watch' (2004). Dance Magazine featured Luna Negra's Artistic Director, Gustavo Ramírez Sansano, '25 to Watch' (2011). He was named a 'Chicagoan of the Year in Arts & Entertainment' by the Chicago Tribune (2012), and in June 2017 was chosen by the APDCV for its 30th anniversary as 'Outstanding Valencian choreographer.'

He has been commissioned to create works for many companies such as Alvin Ailey, Nederlands Dans Theater, Compania Nacional de Danza, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Luzerner tanz Theater, Introdans, Gibney Dance Company, Ballet BC, Atlanta Ballet, Ballet Hispánico among others. As a dancer, Sansano was part of the most prestigious companies such as Ballet de la Comunidad de Madrid/Victor Ullate, Nederlands Dans Theater II and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago doing some original works by Jacopo Godani, Hans Van Manen, Jiří Kylián, Ohad Naharin, Johan Inger, Paul Lightfoot, Asun Noales, Victor Ullate and many more. Also has created a few operas with Chicago Opera Theater (Andreas Mitisek), Opera Omaha and Opera Philadelphia (James Darrah), Bard SummerScape (James Darrah) Along his time creating he has work with Luis Crespo as Set Design for most of his productions and also has collaborated with other artist such as David Delfin, Angel Sanchez, Nicolas Fischtel, Bregje van Balen, Branimira Ivanova, Gelson Amaran to name a few.

He has been invited to teach and choreograph at numerous schools , universities and companies like Centro Coreográfico Gallego (Spain), Scottish Dance Theatre (Scotland), Conservatorio superior y profesional de danza de Valencia (Spain), Springboard Danse Montréal (Montreal-Canada), The Juilliard School (New York City-USA), Escuela Municipal de Música y danza de Torre Vieja (Spain), Institut del Teatre de Barcelona (Spain), the school of the Jacob's Pillow (Boston-USA), Daf Dance Arts Faculty (Rome- Italy) CalArts-California Institute of the Arts (Los Angeles-USA), Dansa per a tots (Elche -Spain), Butler University (Indianapolis, U.S.A.), Escuela Moderna de Música y Danza (Santiago-Chile), Ballet de Santiago (Santiago Chile) , Oriol Martorell Barcelona , Copenhagen Contemporary Dance School, Dart Berlin, among other.