



USC GLORYA KAUFMAN
SCHOOL OF DANCE

10TH
ANNIVERSARY
GALA

HONORING FOUNDER
GLORYA KAUFMAN

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025

10

TEN YEARS

USC Kaufman



ZACHARY MANSKE

CLASS OF 2021

COVER PHOTO:

SHEA HANCOCK

CLASS OF 2025

Photo Credit: Rose Eichenbaum



HONORING **GLORIA KAUFMAN** *A VISIONARY PATRON OF DANCE*

We honor Gloria Kaufman for her extraordinary passion, vision, and generosity that have forever transformed the world of dance. Her journey began in childhood, dancing on her father's toes in their Detroit home—a moment that sparked a lifelong love for movement and expression.

Through the Gloria Kaufman Foundation, established in 1983, she has profoundly enriched the cultural fabric of Los Angeles and beyond. Her philanthropic legacy includes Gloria Kaufman Presents at The Music Center, a landmark gift to The Juilliard School, and the transformation of a synagogue into a theater and learning space for children with autism.

Her most groundbreaking achievement came with the founding of the USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance and the Gloria Kaufman International Dance Center—one of the nation's leading hubs for dance education. As *The Los Angeles Times* declared, "The new biggest name in dance is Gloria Kaufman."

More than a benefactor, she is a catalyst for change. Her unwavering belief in the power of dance to uplift, connect, and inspire is felt in every step her students take. We celebrate Gloria Kaufman's legacy—a beacon of generosity, creativity, and enduring impact.



BRIANNA MIMS

CLASS OF 2019

Photo Credit: Rose Eichenbaum

10TH

ANNIVERSARY

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Kenny Ortega
Jeff Thacker

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Briana Nicole Henry
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Misty Copeland
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Rennie Harris
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OBE
Wendy Whelan

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TEN YEARS

USC Kaufman



COCO ALVAREZ-MENA

CLASS OF 2019

Photo Credit: Rose Eichenbaum

GALA

PERFORMANCE AND TRIBUTE

BING THEATRE

PRODUCING ADVISORS

Anita Mann | Kenny Ortega | Jeff Thacker

EMCEE

Kenny Ortega

SPECIAL GUESTS

Kris Bowers | Wayne Brady

FEATURED CHOREOGRAPHERS

**Nicolas Blanc | Thomas Ford | Kenny Ortega
Robert Roldan | Doriana Sanchez | Tony Testa**

DANCERS

**Members of the Classes of 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023,
2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028**

10TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

PERFORMANCE AND TRIBUTE

KAUFMAN DANCE ON!

Director: **Mandy Moore**

Executive Producer: **Jeff Thacker**

Executive Producer: **Anita Mann**

Assistant Director + Supervising Choreographer: **Robert Roldan**

Cinematography and Editing: **Keyan Safyari**

USC Kaufman Faculty Choreographers

Jason Rodgers (Tap), Jennifer Lott (Contemporary), Jackie Kopcsak (Ballet)

Tiffany Bong (Locking / Punking) & Danté Rose (Breakin')

Music:

"I Wanna Dance With Somebody" (Whitney Houston / David Solomon Remix); *"Let's Dance"* (David Bowie); *"Dancing On My Own"* (ROBYN); *"Shut Up and Dance"* (Walk The Moon / Vitamin String Quartet);

"Canned Heat" (Jamiroquai); *"Canned Heat"* (District 78); *"Lights, Camera, Action"* (Kylie Minogue);

"Everybody Dance" (Deborah Cox / Tony Moran Mix Show)

Music Producers: **District 78**

Costume Design: **Kathryn Poppen**

Stage Lighting Design: **Nathan Scheuer**

USC Kaufman Producers: **Matt de la Peña, Callen Gosselin, Jackie Kopcsak**

USC Kaufman Faculty Director: **Betsy Struxness**

Assistants to Director + Producer: **Claire Ross, Marko Germar, Griffin Churchill,**

Kailyn Rogers, Dom Pierre-Louis

Special Thanks: **Torie Davies and USC Campus Filming, Bert Henert, Sophia Moritz**

Tap: **Finn Bassett-Kennedy, Ashley Choy, Emily Fluker, Shea Hancock,**

Caroline McAleavey, Bella Mills, Avery Zerr

Contemporary: **Catherine Cruise, Ellery Donlon, Lola Iglesias, Benjamin Jones, Julia Lowe, Megan Matthieu, Jalen Scriven, Mason Walker, Quincy Wilson, Daniel Young**

Ballet: **Travon Carter, Carolina Centenera, Chris Chun, Ashley Chung, Amara Duke, Emma Marcellana, Mia Snape, Landon Spurbeck, Covin Washington**

Locking / Punking / Breakin': **Emmy Berg, Jaelin Born, Tyler Chang, Emmy Cheung, Sam Fine, Kyson Kai, Emily Liu, Andrew Nash, Hannah Robertson, Andrea Rodriguez, Isaiah Villegas, Mikaela Zarsky**

10TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

PERFORMANCE AND TRIBUTE

'Plaza Parade' BFA Dancers:

Faith Aguilar, Ryan Amato, Finn Bassett-Kennedy, Emmy Berg, Jaelin Born, Travon Carter, Caroline Centenera, Tyler Chang, Chelsea Correa, Chris Chun, Ashley Chung, Catherine Cruise, Anthony Dessables, Austin Diaz, Ellery Donlon, Zuzu Duchon, Amara Duke, Sam Fine, Emily Fluker, Shea Hancock, Lola Iglesias, Avery Jerome, Kyson Kai, Kali Knewitz, Ava La France, Belly Laird, Emily Liu, Julia Lowe, Kamryn Maddox, Emma Marcellana, Rhaine Marquardt, Megan Matthieu, Caroline McAleavey, Holly McDowd, Bella Mills, Andrew Nash, Izabella Orozco, Ryan Pecorella, Simone Peterson, Anthony Picorello, Ella Querrey, Michaela Ramirez, Hannah Robertson, Dayan Robinson, Andrea Rodriguez, Jalen Scriven, Ryann Smith, Mia Snape, Landon Spurbeck, Katie Tapalaga, Jasmine Teng, Isaiah Villegas, Mason Walker, Covin Washington, Layla White, Jayde Woodard, Irena Yin, Daniel Young, Mikaela Zarsky, Avery Zerr

'Plaza Parade' Dance Minors & Elective Students:

Defne Aslan, Ava Basile, Melodie Cai, Janeel Calzaretta, Kylie Conlon, Tanvi Desai, Ashley Diaz Solano, Beatrice Egbuchulam, Audrey Fuder, Joel Goodman, Time Hu, Miki Joshua, Emersyn Klick, Ramiyah Lee, Sena (Xinrui) Li, Anya Machbitz, Sydney Madolora, Kylie Meng-Lin, Natalie Moore, Sophia Moritz, Lillie O'Loughlin, Hannah Reynolds, Lily Share, Alessandra Smith, Kaitlyn Sullivan-Pascual, Anna Tung, Alma Wariso, Troi Whittaker, Mark Willenbring, Yanlin Zhu

Generously funded by **The Anita Mann Dance for Camera Support Fund**



BEHIND THE SCENES:
FILMING OF "KAUFMAN - Dance On!"
WITH DIRECTOR MANDY MOORE

Photo Credit: Matt de la Peña

— **10TH** —
ANNIVERSARY GALA
PERFORMANCE AND TRIBUTE

Remarks by Kenny Ortega

“MAGIC TO DO”
From the musical ***PIPPIN***

Concept: **Kenny Ortega**
Stage Direction / Choreography: **Tony Testa**
Costume Design: **Momo**
Production Coordinator: **Callie Lacinski**
Assistant Choreographer: **Monique Watson**
Special Guest Star: **Wayne Brady**
Tap Soloist: **Josette Wiggan**

Music: **Stephen Schwartz**
Music Arrangement: **Joe Pistol**
Music Mix / Master: **District 78**
Lighting Design: **Tony Testa and Nathan Scheuer**
Makeup Artist: **Alyssa Holbrook**
Costume Assistant: **Stephanie Romero**
Skeleton crew: **Callie Lacinski, Monique Watson, Charissa Kroeger,
Austin Spacey, Nanea Yu, Stephanie Romero**

Featuring Special Guest **Wayne Brady** and dancers from the Graduating Class of 2025:
**Sam Amey, Chelsea Correa, Wyatt Florin, Brenan Gonzalez, Shea Hancock,
Arjun Kochhar, Janae Holster, Lindsay Lykins, Ambar Matos Ortiz, Leeann Ross,
Onye Stevenson, Alexander Thomas, Jonah Tran, Summer Vu**

Remarks by Dean Julia M. Ritter

LEGACY IN MOTION:
A DECADE AT USC KAUFMAN

“Everyone knows the story. Gloria Kaufman and I were having dinner, and she asked me why there wasn’t dance at USC. And -- why don’t we do something about that?”

—Robert Cutietta, Inaugural Dean, USC Kaufman

Filming and Editing: **Furthermore Media**

10TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

PERFORMANCE AND TRIBUTE

RENDEZVOUS

Choreography: **Nicolas Blanc**

Music: **“Après la pluie” by René Aubry**

Costume Design: **Nicolas Blanc**, *Courtesy of The Joffrey Ballet*

Lighting Design: **Jack Mehler**

Lighting Design Recreation: **Nathan Scheuer**

World Premiere: **International Ballet Competition, Jackson, MS (2014)**

Featuring Alumni Dancers:

Coco Alvarez-Mena (BFA '19) & Zachary Manske (BFA '21)

Remarks by Composer Kris Bowers

GLORYA MAGNIFICA

Choreography: **Thomas Ford**

Original Music Composition: **Kris Bowers**

Costume Design: **Bert Henert and Kathryn Poppen**

Lighting Design: **Nathan Scheuer**

Featuring Alumni Dancers:

**Bella Allen (BFA '22), Mark Daftari (BFA '19), Justin Epstein (BFA '19),
Madison Falconer (BFA '23), Ardyn Flynt (BFA '19), Anne Kim (BFA '22),
Diego Lopez (BFA '24), Brianna Mims (BFA '19), Jonacy Montero (BFA '24),
Sophia Oddi (BFA '19), Anja Tempel (BFA '24), Jakevis Thomason (BFA '20)**

Remarks by USC President Carol Folt

Tribute to Gloria Kaufman



10

TEN YEARS

USCKaufman

JUSTIN EPSTEIN

CLASS OF 2019

Photo Credit: Rose Eichenbaum

10TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

PERFORMANCE AND TRIBUTE

(I'VE HAD) THE TIME OF MY LIFE

Choreography: **Kenny Ortega and Doriana Sanchez**

Assistant Choreographers: **Oscar Gutierrez, Diego Lopez (BFA '24), Mia Maxwell**

Music: **Franke Previte, John DeNicola, and Donald Markowitz;**

recorded by Bill Medley and Jennifer Warnes for the film *Dirty Dancing*

Music Arrangement: **District 78**

Costume Design: **Kathryn Poppen**

Lighting Design: **Nathan Scheuer**

Special Guest Artists: **Diego Lopez and Mia Maxwell**

Special Thanks: **Oscar Gutierrez, George Kosturos, Diego Lopez**

Mia Maxwell, Heather Monahan-Estes

**Faith Aguilar, Ryan Amato, Luke Barrett, Finn Bassett-Kennedy, Emmy Berg,
Jaelin Born, Emmy Cheung, Ashley Choy, Austin Diaz, Zuzu Duchon,
Sam Fine, Emily Fluker, Lola Iglesias, Avery Jerome, Kyson Kai,
Kali Knewitz, Ava La France, John Ledwith, Julia Lowe, Kamryn Maddox,
Emma Marcellana, Rhaine Marquardt, Megan Matthieu, Caroline McAleavey, Holly McDowd,
Bella Mills, Hayden Mucha, Andrew Nash, Izabella Orozco, Anthony Picarello,
Ryan Pecorella, Ella Querrey, Hannah Robertson, Noah Schmidt, Mia Snape,
Landon Spurbeck, Jasmine Teng, Katie Tapalaga, Mason Walker, Layla White,
Eloise Valero, Isaiah Villegas, Mikaela Zarsky, Avery Zerr**



BEHIND THE SCENES:
REHEARSAL OF “(I’VE HAD) THE TIME OF MY LIFE”
WITH KENNY ORTEGA

Photo Credit: Matt de la Peña

10TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS

NICOLAS BLANC (*Choreographer, Rendezvous*) began his dance training in Montauban, France. After winning a scholarship in the 1994 Prix de Lausanne, he continued his early dance education at the Academie de Danse Classique Princesse Grace' in Monte-Carlo and the Paris Opera Ballet School. He then danced with Nice Opera Ballet, Deutsche Oper am Rhein Dusseldorf, Zurich Ballet, and San Francisco Ballet, where he was made Principal Dancer in 2004. In 2009, he joined Scottish Ballet as Ballet Master and has worked as a rehearsal director and principal coach for the Joffrey Ballet since 2011.

KRIS BOWERS (*Composer, Gloria Magnifica*) is an Academy Award® winning filmmaker and an Emmy, Grammy and Oscar nominated composer and pianist. His 2024 score for DreamWorks Animation's *The Wild Robot* has been nominated for an Academy Award, by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) and by the Society of Composers and Lyricists (SCL). Bowers won his first Academy Award® for his 2023 Documentary Short Film *The Last Repair Shop*. In addition to being an accomplished filmmaker, Bowers is known for his thought-provoking playing style, creating genre-defying film compositions that pay homage to his classical and jazz roots. He has collaborated with musicians and artists across genres, including Kobe Bryant, Mahershala Ali, Justin Simien, Ava DuVernay and Shonda Rhimes. Bowers has also created original music for the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater alongside choreographer Kyle Abraham. Bowers' work can also be heard in recent films such as the box office hit Paramount biopic, *Bob Marley: One Love*, DuVernay's *Origin*, Warner Bros.' *The Color Purple*, and acclaimed television series such as *Bridgerton*, *Secret Invasion*, *Mrs. America*, and *When They See Us*.

WAYNE BRADY (*Special Guest, "Magic to Do"*) Perhaps most well-known for his long run as a cast member on the hit improv comedy show *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*, Brady is also a prolific and award-winning television host, actor and musician. In addition to hosting *The Wayne Brady Show*, Fox's *Don't Forget the Lyrics!* and *Let's Make a Deal*, Brady also performed as Simon in the Tony Award-winning musical *Kinky Boots*, and recurred as James Stinson on *How I Met Your Mother*. He has also starred in the eponymous role of *The Wiz* on Broadway. He is a five-time Emmy Award winner and was nominated for a Grammy Award. Brady is a member of Freestyle Love Supreme, an improvisational hip hop group combining hip hop, musical theatre and comedy in which he collaborates with *Hamilton* creator Lin-Manuel Miranda, among others. His success in the realms of improv comedy and musical theatre has led to him recently working as a faculty member at USC, teaching improv musical comedy workshops to students at the School of Dramatic Arts.

DISTRICT 78 (*Music Producers*) is a production team best known for their music work on *Dancing With The Stars* (ABC), *So You Think You Can Dance* (FOX), and many other television shows, including *The Masked Singer* (FOX), *America's Best Dance Crew* (MTV) and *World of Dance* (NBC). They have helped craft unique and memorable performances for these shows and for artists like Jennifer Lopez, Ciara, FKA Twigs, and Ne-Yo, and more. Their unique musical interpretations for singers, dancers and choreographers has allowed them to flourish in the television and film industry. In recent years, they have music directed projects including ABC's hit spin-off *The Bachelor: Listen To Your Heart*, FOX's *Game of Talents*, Nickelodeon's *Unleashed*, and the hit Vegas show *Fantasy*. They have also produced music for Paramount Pictures *Mean Girls*, Netflix's series *Spinning Out*, and feature film *Work It*.

THOMAS FORD (*Choreographer, Gloria Magnifica*) is a dance artist based in Los Angeles, whose work has appeared at the Joyce Theater, Symphony Space, the Ailey Citigroup Theater and the Kaye Playhouse, and been presented by Next@Graham (a Martha Graham Dance Company choreographic series), the Joffrey Ballet School, Capezio, the STEPS Performance Lab, Peridance, and the USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance. His performance credits have spanned television, commercials, company-based work, national tours and live performances across large and intimate stages, including the Kennedy Center, the Apollo Theater and La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club. Ford has taught year-round and for summer programs at the José Limón Pre-pro Training Program, the Joffrey Ballet School, Marymount Manhattan College, Hunter College/CUNY and USC Kaufman, where he is an Assistant Professor of Practice. In addition to being a practitioner, Ford is a published scholar who serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Dance Education (JoDE). He is also a YoungArts (NFAA) winner and Presidential Scholar finalist.

ANITA MANN (*Executive Producer, KAUFMAN - Dance On! / Gala Producing Advisor*) has been honored by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences as one of America's top five contemporary choreographers. She is the recipient of five Emmy Nominations, one Emmy Award and accolades from every corner of the industry. Her choreography credits include 5 seasons on the 1980s dance television show, *Solid Gold* (earning her two Emmy nominations), *The Muppets Go Hollywood* (her first Emmy nomination), *The Cher Show*, *The Jacksons*, *The Academy Awards*, *The Golden Globe Awards*, *Academy of Country Music Awards*, *The Miss America Pageant* (earning her first Emmy Award), *The People's Choice Awards*, *The Grammy Hall of Fame*, *The Emmys*, *The Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon* (earning her another Emmy nomination), *The Great Muppet Caper*, *Dick Clark's American Bandstand Live*, *Sesame Street Live*, *The Mighty Morphin Power Ranger Tour*, *Snoopy's World of Magic*, *Arthur Live Tour* as well as countless other film, television and live shows, including award-winning *FANTASY*, one of the longest running shows in Las Vegas. Mann was the Coordinating Producer for the WE Channel TV series, *Dirty Dancing*. She is the Producer of the pre-school animated musical webisode series, *itty bitty HeartBeats* as well as the President of the Dance Hall of Fame. Anita Mann has danced with and choreographed for Elvis Presley, Lucille

Ball, Michael Jackson, Cher, The Muppets, Wayne Brady, Julianne Hough, Adam Lambert and countless other stars while maintaining a four-decade relationship with all the major networks.

MANDY MOORE (*Director, KAUFMAN - Dance On!*) is a world-class Choreographer, Director, and Producer who has garnered 3 Emmy Awards among her 13 nominations. She is best known for her ground-breaking work as a producer and choreographer on *So You Think You Can Dance* as well as producing and choreographing Taylor Swift's record shattering *The Eras World Tour*. On film Mandy's highly acclaimed choreography can be seen in the Academy Award winning film *La La Land*. Notable film credits include *Snow White*, *Babylon*, *American Hustle*, *Silver Linings Playbook*, *Sleeping With Other People*, and the soon to be released *The Life of Chuck*, and *Tron: Ares*. On TV, Mandy had an Emmy Award winning 2 season run on *Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist*. Other notable television credits include *Dancing with the Stars*, FOX's *Glee*, *American Idol*, Disney's 60th Anniversary, *Modern Family*, and Showtime's *Kidding*. On stage, Mandy choreographed and directed the 2025 *Dancing with the Stars Tour*. She has also worked on Celine Dion's sold-out *Taking Chances* tour, Britain's *Strictly Come Dancing*, Cirque du Soleil's *My Immortal*, and Shania Twain's Vegas Residency *You're Still the One*. Mandy is a proud member of the Television Academy and the Academy of Motion Pictures, Arts, and Sciences

MOMO (*Costume Design, "Magic to Do"*) Momo's innate gift for the arts has led to collaborations with a diverse variety of artistic mediums. Her original illustrations and design work have been featured by Gasp Zine, David LaChapelle, Nike, & MGM Grand. Her couture costuming has been highlighted in short films (*Spaghetti*, *Origin*, *ReInTeGrated*), live events (*b1*, *Feminine Range*), and most recently for Hollis, in a new music video premiering late 2025. Though a jack of many trades, her crown jewel is MOMO, the upcycled handbag art house. Primarily focused on the world of tactile sustainability, each one-of-one wearable collage is made entirely from scratch and sold at Thirteen Crosby in SoHo, NYC. Forever committed to creative evolution, Momo has trained with Sondra Jolles, and studied high-level craft leatherwork at Accademia Riacci in Florence, IT. She holds a BFA from NAU and was born and raised in Tempe, AZ. Special thanks to Charissa Kroeger, Monique Watson, Jackie Kopcsak, Kate Poppen, and the Kaufman Costume Department.

10TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS

KENNY ORTEGA (*Choreographer, (I've Had) The Time of My Life / Gala Producing Advisor*) *Variety* Magazine's "Billion Dollar Maestro," Kenny Ortega is a visionary director, choreographer, and creative force behind some of the most beloved films, television, and live events worldwide. His work spans generations, from *High School Musical* and *Descendants* to *Hocus Pocus* and *Newsies*. A protégé of Gene Kelly, Kenny began his career directing and choreographing the iconic *Twist and Shout* parade sequence in *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* before becoming Michael Jackson's longtime creative partner. He has worked with legendary artists including Barbra Streisand, Cher, Hugh Jackman, Olivia Newton-John, Patrick Swayze, Mick Jagger, Elton John, Miley Cyrus and The Jonas Brothers. His groundbreaking projects include directing *Michael Jackson's This Is It*, choreographing the world-famous Bellagio Fountains in Las Vegas, and helming *Julie and The Phantoms*, which won three Emmys and topped the iTunes charts. With multiple Emmy and DGA Awards, a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and Disney's prestigious Legends Award, Kenny continues to develop theatrical, film, and television projects between New York and Los Angeles.

KATHRYN POPPEN (*Costume Design*) is a Los Angeles-based theatrical and dance costume designer. She is an Associate Artist with theatre dybbuk, and her designs are featured in the current touring productions *The Villainy You Teach* and *The Merchant of Venice (Annotated)*. Credits include work with Center Theatre Group, South Coast Repertory, Atlantic Theatre Company, Geffen Playhouse, Echo Theater Company, Bootleg Theater, Pasadena Playhouse and the Garry Marshall Theatre. She holds a BFA in Theatrical Design from the University of Southern California.

ROBERT ROLDAN (*Supervising Choreographer, KAUFMAN - Dance On!*) From commanding the stage as a soloist with the groundbreaking Contemporary Ballet Company "Bad Boys of Dance", Robert catapulted into the national

spotlight as a Top 3 finalist on the multi-Emmy Award-winning phenomenon *So You Think You Can Dance* in 2010. Cementing his legacy as an All-Star. Robert's standout TV appearances include *Dancing With The Stars*, *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*, *Glee*, and the electrifying *Super Bowl XLIX Halftime Show* alongside Katy Perry. His talents brought him to perform for First Lady Michelle Obama both on *Ellen* and at *The White House*. Robert appeared in the movies *La La Land*, *Mascots* (directed by Christopher Guest), and delivered a show-stopping performance with PINK at the *Billboard Music Awards*. Seamlessly transitioning from performer to behind the scenes, Robert's choreography and production credits are diverse and prestigious. He choreographed for *The Ellen Show*, *Step Into the Movies* for Julianne Hough and Harry Shum Jr., and served as Associate Choreographer for the TV show *Kidding* with Jim Carrey, *Alter Ego* on FOX, and Disney's *Mickey Mouse Club*. A creative force on *So You Think You Can Dance*, Robert choreographed and associate-produced Seasons 15, 16, and 17, bringing his visionary movement to a new generation of dancers. His recent work includes choreographing and appearing in HBO's Emmy-winning *Hacks*. With his mentor Mandy Moore, Robert served as Associate Director and Choreographer for both the *National Dancing With The Stars Tour*, and performing and co-choreographing this year's *Academy Awards*.

DORIANA SANCHEZ (*Choreographer, (I've Had) The Time of My Life*) A longtime collaborator with Legendary Icon Cher, Doriana has Directed and Choreographed the superstar's extravaganza performances and tours including the *Love Hurts*, *Believe*, *Living Proof*, *Cher at the Colosseum at Caesars Las Vegas* and *D2K* tours. She was Creative Consultant for *Classic Cher* at the Park Hotel in Las Vegas. Doriana was nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Choreography for the *Believe Tour's* HBO special, and received a WCA for her work on *D2K Tour*. Television credits include: *The Grammy Awards*, *American Music Awards*, *The Voice*, *Dancing with the Stars*, *Divas Live*, *Euro VMAs*, *Blockbuster Awards*, 16 seasons

on *So You Think You Can Dance*, *Disney Channel*, *Macy's 4th of July Spectacular*, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *The Late Show*, *The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade*, *The Rockefeller Center Tree Lighting*, *Strictly Come Dancing*, and the *Royal Variety Show at Royal Albert Hall* in London. Doriana first collaborated with Kenny Ortega on the film *Dirty Dancing*; she is thrilled to be working with Kenny once again for the USC Kaufman Gala.

NATHAN SCHEUER (*Lighting Design*) is a faculty member of the USC School of Dramatic Arts and a lighting and projection designer. Select credits include designs for The Muny, Tuacahn, Theatre Under the Stars, New York Opera Society, St. Louis Rep, Los Angeles Ballet, Barak Ballet, Capital Rep, Broadway Sacramento at Music Circus, Faculty Inc, Adirondack Theatre Festival, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Bucks County Playhouse, Arkansas Rep, TheatreSquared, Spectrum Dance, New Theatre, and Travis Wall's Shaping Sound. Nathan has also had the pleasure of designing for Mandy Patinkin, Patti Lupone, Selena Gomez, Barry Manilow, and Alice Cooper, as well as companies such as NYC Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, Lincoln Center Festival, San Francisco Opera, and Center Theatre Group. Proud member of USA-829.

TONY TESTA (*Choreographer*, "Magic to Do") With an early passion for choreography, Tony spent his formative years in a small dance studio in Fort Collins, CO. After handing out copies of his homemade choreography reel, he received a call that one of his DVDs had reached Janet Jackson. This breakthrough led him to LA in 2005, where he created projects for award shows, concert tours, theater, TV, feature films, commercials, opening ceremonies, and museum galleries. After apprenticing with Dimitris Papaioannou and studying at the Pina Pausch archive, he converted his garage into a blackbox theater, deepening his experimental roots. This led to original short films (*DisInteGrated*, *ORIGIN*, *ReInteGrated*), and photography (GASP Gallery LA, Vanity Fair Magazine). Currently, he tours his most ambitious original work yet, the choreographic / photographic / cinematic entity, *b1*. An excerpt from *b1* will premiere online via TED, summer/fall 2025.

JEFF THACKER (*Executive Producer*, KAUFMAN - *Dance On!* / *Gala Producing Advisor*) is a multi-award-winning force in television production, celebrated across both American and British entertainment. With a dynamic foundation in Dance, Choreography, and Production, he has

worked with the industry's most iconic talents and helped shape some of the most acclaimed and influential shows on both sides of the Atlantic. His evolution from Performer to producer and Show-runner, showcases a rare fusion of artistic vision and executive brilliance. Known for pushing creative boundaries, Jeff's groundbreaking work has not only captivated global audiences but also redefined the standards of modern television. His productions consistently raise the bar for innovation, originality, and excellence. This includes 17 seasons of the Emmy Award winning *So You Think You Can Dance*. With an unmatched dedication to quality and a legacy of success, he continues to inspire the next generation of creatives. Jeff Thacker stands as a true luminary—whose leadership, creativity, and influence have left an indelible mark on the entertainment industry.

PRODUCTION CREW

USC Kaufman Producer:

Jackie Kopcsak

Live Voiceover:

Betsy Struxness

Production Manager:

Callen Gosselin

Assistant Production Manager:

Brendan Craig

Calling Stage Manager:

Sue Karutz

Master Electrician:

LJ Curiel

Audio:

Dora Ramos

Deck Stage Manager:

Carolyn Wasson

Stage Crew: **Grace Berry, Esther Chung,**

Nick Gutierrez, Erin Newsom,

Florence Montgomery, Deion Sanders

Costumes: **Mariah Harrison, Phoebe Ping,**

Keren Rosenthal, Tina Sheridan,

Olivia Schlueter-Corey, Marissa Tiffany,

Isabel Wing, Molly Wilcox,

Emily Winokur

Additional Thanks: **USC Cultural Relations
and University Events | Achinta McDaniel |
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Born from the visionary generosity of philanthropist Glorya Kaufman, the USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance opened its doors in 2012 as the university's sixth art school—and its first new school in nearly four decades. More than just a school, USC Kaufman is a bold reimagining of dance education, built for the 21st century and beyond.

At its core is The New Movement, a groundbreaking approach that fuses the discipline of conservatory-style dance training with the expansive possibilities of a major research university. Here, students don't just perfect their technique—they explore choreography alongside new media, fashion, music, and scholarship. Immersed in USC's dynamic academic ecosystem and the vibrant pulse of Los Angeles, students engage with dance as a global, evolving language.

USC Kaufman's faculty includes world-renowned educators and artists, bringing the repertory of trailblazing choreographers to the studio. Graduates have gone on to light up Broadway stages, join prestigious concert dance companies, and lead in choreography, arts administration, and beyond.

This is more than a school—it's a launchpad for the future of dance.

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ONYE STEVENSON

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