



**PRESIDIO
THEATRE**

PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER



GIORDANO DANCE CHICAGO

SEASON 63 | IGNITE THE SOUL!



FOUNDER

Gus Giordano

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Nan Giordano

THE ENSEMBLE

George Brous

Amanda Hickey-Newcom

Adam Houston

Sasha Lazarus

Talia Luzzo

Fernando Rodriguez

Simon Schuh

Erina Ueda

Analyse Vance

Eduardo Zambrana

STAFF

FOUNDER

Gus Giordano

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Nan Giordano

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Cesar G. Salinas

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Caitlyn Ottenheimer

DEVELOPMENT &
OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

Olivia Pennell

GRANTS MANAGER

Maggy Fouche

FINANCIAL MANAGER

Vince Navarro

GIORDANO II DIRECTOR

Zach Heller

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR
REHEARSAL CAPTAIN

Adam Houston

MEDIA COORDINATOR

Erina Ueda

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

Elyjah Kleinsmith

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSOCIATE

Cayla Skuran

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

PHOTOGRAPHY

Todd Rosenberg

VIDEOGRAPHY

HMS Media

BOOKING AGENT

Cathy Pruzan
Pruzan Dance Arts

PHYSICAL THERAPY &
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Athletico

OFFICIAL REHEARSAL SPACE

Ruth Page Center for the Arts

PUBLIC RELATIONS &
MARKETING AGENCY

Carol Fox & Associates IT

SERVICE

Lightway Solutions

unconditional 2024

Choreography: **Adam Houston**

Music: **Aron van Selm & Ardie Son**

Lighting Design: **Julie E. Ballard, USA**

Costume Design: **Nina G.**

Dancers: **Sasha Lazarus & Fernando Rodriguez**

This work was funded by an anonymous donor.

~VIDEO~

Gershwin in B 2024

Story and Choreography: **Al Blackstone**

Dramaturg: **Anastasia Mary Ellis**

Music: **George Gershwin**

Additional Music: **Marc Cardarelli**

Projection/Lighting Design: **Julie E. Ballard, USA**

Costume Design: **Branimira Ivanova**

Soloist: **Erina Ueda**

Pas de Deux: **Erina Ueda & Eduardo Zambrana**

Ensemble: **George Brous, Amanda Hickey-Newcom, Adam Houston, Sasha Lazarus, Talia Luzzo, Fernando Rodriguez, Simon Schuh, Erina Ueda, Analyse Vance, Eduardo Zambrana**

"A Hat, a Door"

Music Arranged by: **Marc Cardarelli**

"Room 837"

Music Arranged & Performed by: **The Benny Goodman Quartet**

"S'Wonderful"

Music Arranged & Performed by: **The BBC Big Band**

"Nice Work"

Music Arranged & Performed by: **Oscar Peterson**

"Embraceable You"

Music Arranged & Performed by: **Peter Breiner, Juray Bartos**

"Rhapsody in Blue"

Music Arranged & Performed by: **Gordon Goodwin's
Big Phat Band**

"But Not For Me"

Music Arranged & Performed by: **Zubin Mehta/
New York Philharmonic**

"She Wins"

Music Arranged & Performed by: **Peter Breiner, Juray Bartos**

"Bow"

Music Arranged & Performed by: **Gordon Goodwin's
Big Phat Band**

"Gershwin in B is a celebration of the glorious music of George Gershwin, the incredible legacy of Giordano Dance Chicago, and one young woman's curious spirit. I like to say that life happens in chapters. There are core memories locked inside us that inform who we are and inspire the decisions we make. Making this piece was its own chapter of my life and I'm grateful to Nan, Cesar, and the incredible dancers of Giordano Dance Chicago for making it such a beautiful one. I hope you enjoy."

~Al Blackstone

This work was funded in part by an Anonymous Donor and Dr. Marty Gorbien.

~INTERMISSION~

La Belleza de Cuba 2013

Choreography: **Liz Imperio**

Music: **Los Van Van, La India, Ozomatli**

Lighting Design: **Kevin Dreyer**

Costume Design: **Branimira Ivanova**

Dancers: **George Brous, Amanda Hickey-Newcom, Adam Houston, Sasha Lazarus, Talia Luzzo, Fernando Rodriguez, Simon Schuh, Erina Ueda, Analyse Vance, Eduardo Zambrana**

La Belleza de Cuba was made possible through generous contributions from Pam Crutchfield and the Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation.

~VIDEO~

333 2025

Choreography: **Nan Giordano & Cesar G. Salinas**

Music: **Otis Redding**

Lighting Design: **Julie E. Ballard, USA**

Costume Design: **Nina G.**

Dancer: **Erina Ueda**

This work was funded by Chris & Christine D'hondt.

~PAUSE~

Soul 2018

Choreography: **Ray Leeper**

Music: **Gladys Knight and the Pips, Al Green, Tina Turner**

Lighting Design: **Jacob Snodgrass**

Costume Design: **Jordan Ross**

Ensemble: **George Brous, Amanda Hickey-Newcom, Adam Houston, Sasha Lazarus, Talia Luzzo, Fernando Rodriguez, Simon Schuh, Erina Ueda, Analyse Vance, Eduardo Zambrana**

This work was made possible, in part, by contributions to the Susan Carlins "Make It Happen" Initiative.



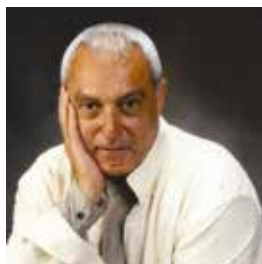
Giordano Dance Chicago (GDC)

America's original jazz dance company electrifies into their 63rd season with radiance and infinite horizons. GDC is an iconic cultural institution with deep roots in Chicago and around the globe (28 countries, 47 states, and more than 1,300 cities).

From founder Gus Giordano's vision, the company continues to honor the past while pushing the art form forward.

Nan Giordano celebrates 41 years as an artistic leader responsible for commissioning innovative choreographic works and mentoring thousands of dancers. Alongside Nan, Associate Artistic Director, Cesar G. Salinas and the magnificent dancers are an integral part of the GDC legacy. Al Blackstone serves as Resident Choreographer, truly a testament that the art form of jazz dance is thriving. The company is one of the few in the world that has a foundational technique, Nan Giordano Certification Program® with certified teachers in 9 countries and 36 states.

GDC is committed to Youth Arts Education at home and on tour through mentorships, scholarships, and our free Chicago Public Schools and park programs. GDC is proud to be one of the longest running dance companies in the world, continuing to enrich lives through dance.



Gus Giordano

Founder

1923 – 2008

Gus Giordano's dedication to jazz dance was exhibited in every facet of his extraordinary life. He was a dancer,

master teacher, choreographer, author, and the founder of the Giordano Dance School (GDS) in Evanston, Illinois, the dance company Giordano Dance Chicago, and the Jazz Dance World Congress.

Gus created and taught the Giordano Technique at venues across the United States and around the world. He choreographed works for television, film, stage, commercials, industrials, and concert dance. In 1976, he authored the highly acclaimed Anthology of American Jazz Dance. In August 1990, he organized the first Jazz Dance World Congress, which brought together renowned jazz dance master teachers and companies. The Congress has since been hosted at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Northwestern University, the University at Buffalo, Point Park University, and in cities such as Phoenix, Chicago, as well as internationally in Japan, Germany, Mexico, and Costa Rica.

Throughout his career, Gus received numerous honors. These included the 1984 Dance Educators of America Award for his contribution to the world of jazz dance; the 1988

Mayor's Award for the Arts; the 1989 Governor's Award for the Arts for exemplary individual artistic achievement; the 1991 Dance Teacher Now Circle Award; the 1993 Ruth Page Lifetime Service to the Field Award; and both the University of Missouri Distinguished Alumni Award and the William Francis English Scholar-in-Residence Award in 1996. In 1985, Governor James Thompson declared April 25 as Gus Giordano Day. In 1995, Chukyo University in Nagoya, Japan, honored him with the Honorable Artist Award.

His leadership extended beyond choreography and teaching. In 1997, he served as the National Spokesperson for National Dance Week. In 1999, he received the Third Annual Katherine Dunham Award for excellence and outstanding contributions to the arts. In 2003, Chicago's Mayor Richard M. Daley presented him with the Chicago Senior of the Year Award. In 2005, the National Dance Association presented him with its Heritage Award, and later that year, Shenandoah University awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree.



Nan Giordano

Artistic Director

At the helm of Giordano Dance Chicago for 41 years, Nan Giordano was trained by her father and mentor, Gus Giordano.

She teaches master classes throughout the United States and has toured internationally as a guest teacher in countries including Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, El Salvador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Latvia, Mexico, and Israel.

Nan's leadership and contributions to dance have been widely recognized. On June 9, 2018, former Mayor Rahm Emanuel declared "Nan Giordano Day" in Chicago in her honor. That August, Chicago Dancers United presented her (alongside Lou Conte) with the Dance for Life Impact Award for her contributions to the Chicago dance community and Dance for Life. Later that year, the Chicago Tribune named her one of its "2018 Chicagoans of the Year," spotlighting her as the city's honoree for dance.

In 2019, Nan received the Grace Wakefield Lifetime Achievement Award from Star Dance Alliance at the Circle of Excellence Gala. She has also served as a guest judge at The Dance Awards (DanceOne) and graced the cover of *Fra Noi*, Chicago's Italian magazine.

Most recently, Nan was awarded the prestigious "Take Your Seat" honor at the Harris Theater, an enduring tribute recognizing her profound impact on the arts and securing her place in Chicago's creative legacy. In August 2025, she was invited to serve as a judge at the highly acclaimed A.C.E. Awards by DanceOne.



Cesar G. Salinas

Associate Artistic Director

This year marks Cesar's 11th season in an artistic administrative role, having previously served as Artistic Assistant and Artistic Programs Manager. Originally

from Portland, Oregon, Cesar began his formal dance studies at the Zohar School of Dance in Palo Alto, California, under the direction of Ehud Krauss. There, he was introduced to the classic jazz styles of Gus Giordano, Luigi, and Matt Mattox. He later trained at the Willamette Ballet Academy in Oregon under Deborah Higginbotham before pursuing a BFA in Dance at the University at Buffalo.

In 2004 and again in the summer of 2005, Cesar was awarded a scholarship to study at the original Giordano Dance School in Evanston, Illinois. From 2006 to 2011, he was a full company member with Giordano Dance Chicago (GDC), performing across the United States and Europe. During his tenure, he was proud to contribute to GDC's educational outreach pilot program, teaching science- and health-based dance classes to 4th and 5th grade students in under-resourced Chicago public schools.

Cesar's career highlights include appearing on the cover of Dance Magazine (August 2007) and teaching at the Jazz Dance World Congress in 2007, 2009, and 2012. In 2013, he was featured as a soloist with BalaSole Dance Company in

New York City's Alvin Ailey Citigroup Theater, performing *Hunted* to critical acclaim: Philip Gordon praised his "richly physical performance that drew the audience's unfettered enthusiasm."

Beyond concert dance, Cesar toured internationally with Royal Caribbean cruise lines as both a performer in the Broadway production of *Saturday Night Fever* and as an aerialist. In 2018, he appeared in *Dance Teacher Magazine*, demonstrating the Giordano Technique alongside Nan Giordano in celebration of the company's 55th Anniversary Season.

A certified teacher of the Giordano Technique through all levels of the Nan Giordano Certification Program® (NGCP®)—Basic, Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, and Professional—Cesar continues to pass on the legacy of jazz dance. He returned to the stage at the Auditorium Theatre to perform Gus Giordano's iconic 1978 solo *Wings* in honor of Nan Giordano's 33 years at the helm and her 25th Anniversary as Artistic Director of GDC. Lauren Warnecke of *See Chicago Dance* noted, "...you could almost imagine Gus himself up there performing the piece he made 40 years ago."

Today, Cesar teaches master classes and workshops and choreographs for universities and studios nationwide. In October 2024, the University at Buffalo's Department of Theater and Dance honored him with the Distinguished Alumni Award for his contributions to the art of jazz dance.



Talia Luzzo

A Paxton, Massachusetts native, Talia is excited to be in her third season with the legacy company.



Fernando Rodriguez

From Fort Gratiot, Michigan, Fernando is a main company member excited to be entering his sixth season with Giordano Dance Chicago.



Simon Schuh

From Greenbay, Wisconsin, Simon is excited to be performing for his third season with Giordano Dance Chicago.



Erina Ueda

From Nagoya, Japan, Erina is in her fifth season with Giordano Dance Chicago, where she proudly holds the distinction of being the company's first Asian female dancer.



Analyse Vance

Originally from Springfield, IL, Analyse is beyond excited to start her third season as a main company member with Giordano Dance Chicago.



Eduardo Zambrana

From Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, Eduardo is honored to be part of Giordano Dance Chicago for his fourth year.



To read more about the dancers,
please scan the QR code.

CONTACT

GIORDANO DANCE CHICAGO

1754 North Clark Street,
Chicago, IL 60614

P: 312-922-1332 | **F:** 312-922-1335

Email: info@giordanodance.org

Website: giordanodance.org

BOOKING

Cathy Pruzan

Booking Agent

Email: cpruzan@aol.com

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Caitlyn Ottenheimer

Operations Manager

Email: caitlynottenheimer@giordanodance.org