

MISSION: Dzul Dance fuses dance with aerial arts and contortion as a means to communicate indigenous pre-Hispanic, Mexican and Latino culture and create bridges between contemporary art and historical heritage. By transforming bodies into earthbound and airborne forces of nature Dzul breaks physical, cultural and political boundaries. This daring and unique company connects the ancient and the modern in order to illuminate the beauty inherent to the natural world and the human condition.



"Boldly sensual, unflinching in its depiction of bodies taken to extreme limits, the works of Javier Dzul vividly acknowledge the struggles of life. But these dances also radiate hope: the leaping and swirling company members illustrate our capacity to surmount challenge by bidding the body and mind to fly..."- Jay Blotcher, Roll Magazine



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: Artistic Director Javier Dzul grew up in the jungles of southern Mexico performing Mayan ritual dance until the age of 16. Formal dance training began at the Universidad de Veracruz at which time he also became a principal dancer with Ballet Nacional de Mexico and Ballet Folklorico de Mexico. Javier then received a scholarship to study at Ballet Nacional de Cuba where he remained until 1989. In 1989 Javier was awarded another scholarship by Martha Graham to study at the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance. Since his arrival in New York Javier has worked with numerous dance companies. He performed primarily with the Martha Graham Dance Company, Pearl Lang Dance Theater, Battery Dance Company, Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble, American Indian Dance Theater. He has performed as a guest artist with Acrobatic and Red Sky Productions (Canada). In 1995 Fondo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes (FONCA) of Mexico awarded Javier a scholarship to pursue his dance career in the United States. Javier began choreographing and performing his own work in 1999. He established Dzul Dance in 2003.

In 2009 Javier became the founder and director of Compania de Danza Contemporanea y Aerea del Gobierno del Estado de Campeche; a dance and aerial company funded by Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes (CONACULTA) of Mexico and the Government of Campeche. That same year the government of Campeche (Yucatan) awarded Javier el *Premio de San Francisco*, an outstanding lifetime achievement award, for raising international awareness about Mayan culture.

Javier and his company have been featured by National Public Radio's USA Latino, Univision's Despierta America, American Latino, Bloomberg TV, NY1, Telesur & CUNY TV. They can also be seen in photographer Acey Harper's Private Acts: the acrobat sublime, published by Rizzoli in September 2011.

"Mr. Dzul tumbled in a series of flip-flopping falls and ended with his bald head mere inches from the floor. As a death scene this was extremely effective. In the instant of Mr. Dzul's horrifying submission to gravity, it was easy to imagine that a man could, in fact, die. It was the most honest drama of the evening." -Erika Kinetz, *The New York Times*

ABOUT THE COMPANY: Dzul Dance was created in 2003. Artistic Director Javier Dzul and his culturally diverse company of dancers and aerialists have been presented throughout New York and Mexico and in South America, Europe, Canada, Asia and the Virgin Islands garnering reviews along the way that hail Dzul's "acrobatic wizardry" (*Attitude: The Dancer's Magazine*) and his ability to turn his dancers of "remarkable elasticity" into "creatures of the air as well as of the earth" (*The New York Times*). His choreographies have been described as "electrifying" by *Magazine.Art*, "sophisticated and eloquent" by *Attitude: The Dancers' Magazine* and "beautiful...extremely effective" by *The New York Times*.

Dzul Dance's intense physicality and creative appeal have won them invitations nationally and internationally to perform at a variety of venues that include: the United Nations, Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, El Museo del Barrio, Banff Centre for the Arts (Canada), Xcaret (Mexico), Gerald W. Lynch



Theater, Tribeca Performing Arts Center, CUNY Graduate Center, Baruch Performing Arts Center, American Indian Community House, Dixon Place, Teatro Cancun (Mexico) and Reichold Center for the Arts (USVI). International festivals include; Edinburgh Fringe Festival (Scotland), Mexico Now Festival (NYC), Festival Internacional Cervantino (Mexico), Bard College Summerscape, Mazatlán Cultural Festival (Sinaloa, Mexico), The Open Project (France), Festival de Vida y Muerte (Playa del Carmen, Mexico), Festival Indigena de Puebla (Mexico), Gunvor Festival (Switzerland), Festival Internacional del Centro Historico (Campeche, Mexico), Festival del Arte Contemporaneo (Carmen, Mexico), Muestra Internacional de Danza de Oaxaca (Mexico), Festival Santiago de Queretaro (Mexico), National Dance Week (NYC), Dancers' Responding To AIDS (NYC), Festival Otonos Culturales en Merida (Yucatan, Mexico), Teatro IATI's Performing Arts Marathon (NYC), Latin Choreographer's Festival (NYC) and Performing the World (NYC).

Dzul has created performances for a number of corporations and production groups that include: Bloomberg Link, NYC Big Events, Latin Grammy Week (NYC), El Financiero (Mexico), Canadian International Bank (Canada), Conde Nast, Mexican Tourism Board (NYC), Pineda Covalin (Mexico), Wild Bird Fund (NYC), Whirl Inc. (Canada), El Financiero (Mexico), Em Polham (NYC/Korea) and Xcaret (Mexico).

Dzul has collaborated with a variety of artists. Among them, Guatemalan composer and musician Sergio Reyes, Ecuadorian mask maker Pablo Caviedes, Native American composer Jesse Benavides, Columbian singer/songwriter Lucia Pulido, award winning photographer Acey Harper, fashion photographer Tim Petersen, Mexican American photographer and videographer Rojelio Rodriguez, internationally acclaimed vocalist Sussan Deyhim, sound/image artist Jacob Robinette, award winning filmmaker and human rights activist Rebecca Sommer and grassroots community activist and politician Dr. Lenora Fulani.

The Company is also widely supported and promoted by several Hispanic and Mexican organizations including: United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce (Northeast chapter), Adelante: JPMorgan's Hispanic/ Latino Employee Network, Mexican Board of Tourism, Mexican Cultural Institute of New York, Mano a Mano, Government of the State of Campeche, Campeche Tourism Board and Hispanic Professionals Networking Group.

"Electrifying...Dzul's compositions create tumultuous psychological echoes of a socio-cultural past and emotional maps of a possible human future." - Suzanne K. Walther, Magazine.Art

YOUTH & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Youth and community outreach are a vital part of Javier's vision as an artist, teacher and creator. Javier and his company use performance, post-performance discussion and workshops to provide people of all ages from diverse backgrounds with unique tools to confront their future with creativity, responsibility, confidence, strength and positivity.

Javier and his performers have brought the artistry and vocabulary of Dzul Dance to others through professional workshops and youth/ community outreach programs in the Virgin Islands, Mexico, South America, Europe, Canada and the United States.

Dzul Dance and Mexico

The Campeche Youth Initiative is a project of Dzul Dance in collaboration with the Government of the State of Campeche, Mexican Cultural Institute of New York and the Campeche Tourism Board. These organizations are committed to providing youth with opportunities to experience artistic creation, the creative process and performance in order to enhance their individual development and stimulate their artistic potential. This program has enabled young dancers from Mexico to travel, perform and study in New York and has created opportunities for them as professional dancers in Mexico. In October 2008 the



Campeche Youth Initiative project was accepted to be part of the Performing the World Conference in NYC, an event that brings together artists, activists, community organizers, researchers, youth workers, psychologists and educators from 27 different countries. The annual conference is sponsored by the All Stars Project and the Eastside Institute for Psychotherapy. The conference offers numerous performances, lectures, films, workshops and networking opportunities. Thirteen young adults from Campeche traveled to New York City to perform alongside Dzul Dancers for two weeks. None had traveled outside of Mexico before.

Because of the success of the Campeche Youth Initiative Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes (CONACULTA) of Mexico and the Government of Campeche awarded Javier Dzul full funding to create La Compania de Danza Contemporanea del Estado de Campeche. The dance and aerial company has been performing and touring in festivals throughout Mexico since Javier founded the company in 2009. Since 2009 Dzul Dance and other sponsors have secured funding and visas for members of La Compania de Danza to study with and perform with Dzul Dance for two months in NYC every year.

Dzul Dance and the All Stars Project



Dzul has been involved with the All Stars project since 2008. The All Stars is an organization dedicated to the development of poor and minority youth through a performance based model. In the past three years Javier Dzul and his company have been involved with several of the organization's leading programs including Youth Onstage, All Stars Talent Show Network, Castillo Theater, Development School for Youth and Dr. Lenora Fulani's UX Program for community development.

In 2011 Javier Dzul received the All Stars' PHAT Friend Award; an award given by young people to NYC's unsung heroes. The award recognizes those adults who serve as community role models and leaders, supporting the growth and development of today's youth.

"Javier Dzul has a strong presence... 'An Encounter with Picasso' recalled Martha Graham's 'Penitente' in its conscious use of theatricalized ritual." -Jennifer Dunning, The New York Times

Other outreach programs include:

Harlem Stage Educational Programming Series for NYC Public Schools
 Bertha C. Boschulte Middle School, USVI
 Cancun International American School, Mexico
 Global Impact Group, Mexico
 CUNY Graduate Center
 (sponsored by Center for Latin American Studies)
 New Canaan Dance Academy, CT
 Mano a Mano's Indigenous Language Project
 Boys & Girls Harbor Dance Conservatory of Harlem
 The Hurley School, Boston Public School
 Orchard Gardens, Boston Public School
 American Indian Community House
 Xcaret Outreach Initiative in Playa del Carmen
 Lakota Youth Center fundraiser sponsored by
 Theater for the New City



"Mr. Dzul demonstrates why he is the leader of this pack keeping us at the edge of our seat as he contorts and isolates each muscle of his back with fluent ease and snake-like dexterity."

-Antonio Minino, The Happiest Medium Blog

Professional Workshops & Classes Within Dzul Dance resides a unique vocabulary and precise technique. Javier's company and his classes are a remarkable balance of strength, flexibility, athleticism and grace.

Javier has taught professional classes & workshops in the US and abroad. In New York he teaches a company class at the NY Conservatory of Dance and is the aerial instructor at Chelsea Piers.

“Javier Dzul sent people twisting and turning with remarkable elasticity...they made skillful use of devices that turned them into creatures of the air as well as of the earth.” – Jack Anderson, The New York Times

Professional Workshops include:

'Mexico Espectaculo' principal performers
Xcaret, Mexico
Banff Centre for the Arts, Canada
Colegio Nacional de Danza, Mexico
Universidad de Veracruz, Mexico
Cisne Negro at Emproart, Brazil
Festival Santiago de Queretaro, Mexico
Arena Ballet School, Switzerland
Millbrook School, New York
South Carolina Dance Company
Ridgefield Conservatory of Dance



DZUL PERFORMERS



Ji-Hyuen Bang (dancer, aerialist) – Ji-Hyeun was born in Seoul. She attended Duk-won Art High School and furthered her classical ballet training at The Se-Jong University. While studying at Se-Jong, she became a member of the Aeji Ballet Association. After graduating Ji-Hyeun studied at Ballet Academy of Canada, Canada National Ballet Center, Korean National Ballet Company and Universal Ballet Company. In 2002 she became a principal dancer with Lee Ballet Company and Seoul Ballet Theater. Ji-Hyeun was awarded both the grand prize and first prize at the Korean Ballet Competition. She has been a member of Dzul Dance since 2005.



Chellamar Bernard (dancer) – Chellamar was born in Brooklyn, NY and is a graduate of the prestigious F.H. LaGuardia High School for the Performing Arts. He went on to receive his BFA from SUNY Purchase Dance Conservatory. Chellamar has had the opportunity to work with companies such as NathanTrice/RITUALS, the Kevin Wynn Collection, Philadanco, Buglisi Dance Theatre and Jennifer Muller. He enjoys working as a dance instructor at Boys and Girls Harbor Dance Conservatory in Harlem and New Canaan Dance Academy in Connecticut. Chellamar joined Dzul in 2009.

“Javier Dzul's choreography spans time and emotion...his widely varied experiences as a dancer have put a stamp on his choreography and enabled him to develop a vocabulary

that fuses different elements into a cohesive expression.”

- Suzanne K. Walther, *Attitude: The Dancers' Magazine*



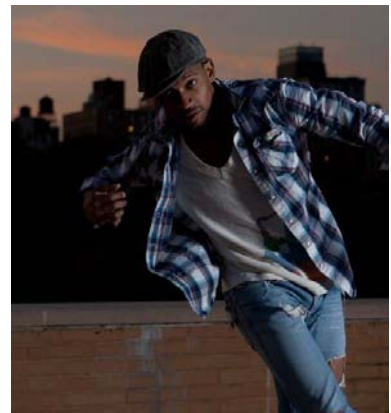
Cornelius Brown (dancer, aerialist) Cornelius began dancing at the Academy of Dance in Georgia. He pursued his study of dance with Columbia City Ballet in South Carolina and Boston Ballet on scholarship. He received his BFA in Dance from Southern Methodist University at which time he also became a member of the Fort Worth Ballet. Since his arrival in New York Cornelius has apprenticed with Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance and taught at Eliot Feld's Ballet Tech School. He has danced with Jennifer Archibald, Young Soon Kim, Dodge Dance Company, Redwall Dance Company, Christopher Caines and C. Eule Dance. Cornelius has been a member of Dzul Dance since 2006.



Robin Taylor Dzul (dancer, aerialist, rehearsal director) – Robin moved to NYC and joined Lori Belilove and Company: *The Art of Isadora Duncan*. She toured both nationally and internationally with Lori Belilove and became a soloist company member. In 2001 Robin joined the faculty at the Isadora Duncan Foundation. She also competed nationally in Ballroom and Latin Dance with international champion, Ian Folker. Robin has been a member of Dzul Dance since 2003. She has assisted in the restaging of Javier Dzul's choreographies in Mexico and has led dance and aerial workshops in New York and abroad. She has been the company's rehearsal director since 2005 and in 2009 became rehearsal director for Javier Dzul's second company in Mexico, Compania de Danza Contemporanea. She is also co-director of Dzul's Outreach Initiatives and President of the Dzul Dance Board of Directors. Photographs of Robin and Javier Dzul by Acey Harper are featured in Private Acts: the acrobat sublime published by Rizzoli in 2011.

"Dzul finds a vehicle in which to cross boundaries. The voice, often eloquent and sophisticated, tells of a people caught between two worlds."
- Lori Ortiz, *Attitude: The Dancers' Magazine*

Jason Jordan (dancer) – Jason began his dance career at the age of seven when he won five dollars for being the best dancer at a Brooklyn house party. Mr. Jordan has since danced with Feld Ballets/NY, Ballet Tech (as a Principal dancer), Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, Mandance Project, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montreal, Rubberbanddance Group and Buglisi Dance Theatre. Jason joined Dzul Dance in 2008.



Steven Melendez (dancer) –

Steven Melendez was born in New York City and started his ballet training as part of the LIFT Scholarship Program at Ballet School New York at the age of 7. He has studied at the School of American Ballet, San Francisco Ballet Academy, Houston Ballet Academy and Kaatsbaan International School. In 2001 Steven joined New York Theatre Ballet as an apprentice and in 2006 was promoted to Principal. While dancing with New York Theatre Ballet, he graduated from the American Ballet Theater Studio Company Associate Program. Steven has danced with numerous national and international ballet companies including Ballet Concierto (soloist) in Buenos Aires, Vanemuine Theater Ballet Company (principal) in Estonia and Ballet Company of Yokohama (principal). He has traveled extensively performing in international ballet galas and festivals in Argentina, New Zealand, Thailand, Venezuela, Ecuador, Estonia, Spain and Italy. Steven is a protégé of international ballet master David Howard. He has been performing with Dzul Dance since 2011.

Noriko Naraoka (dancer) – Noriko was born in Tokyo, Japan. She started ballet when she was 6 years of age with ballet teacher and choreographer Ms. Tatsue Sata and Mr. Shouwa Kouchi. Noriko joined Ms. Sata's company at a very early age. When she was fifteen she won 2nd prize in Saitama-ken Buyo Competition, she also won the IBM prize in the Asia Ballet Competition. When she was sixteen Noriko received a scholarship to the San Francisco Ballet School for a year and performed with the company in numerous productions such as Swan Lake. After she finished the San Francisco Ballet School, she was awarded the Prix de Lausanne Scholarship at the 17th Prix de Lausanne competition, and received a scholarship to the School



of American Ballet. Since then she has performed with many ballet companies, including the Los Angeles Classical Ballet, Westchester Classical Ballet and Stanford Ballet. In 1996 she joined the Dance Theater of Harlem. Noriko was also a featured instructor in several of the ballet videos made by Mr. Finis Jung. She trained with Vladamir Dokoudovsky and Patricia Dokoudovsky at the New York Conservatory of Dance where she started working with the Faune Dance Troupe as a principal dancer, costume designer and guest choreographer. Noriko joined Dzul Dance in 2011.

Anna Venizelos (contortionist, aerialist) -- Anna came to circus from a background of both gymnastics and dance. After studying dance education at NYU and an intense immersion in yoga she settled on pursuing her love of contortion, aerials and acrobatics. She toured with Cirque du Soleil's production of Quidam from 2004-2007, performing both the aerial hoops act and the contortion in silks act. Anna teaches Pilates privately and Extreme Stretch classes to the professional students at LIC's Circus Warehouse. Anna has been performing with Dzul Dance since 2007.



“Javier Dzul’s presentation could not be more eye-catching. The dancer/aerialist/choreographer and head of Dzul Dance makes striking sculpture of his sinewy flesh with every movement on land or in the air. His every appearance in Forest of Kings is a regal, masterful study in how to stare down and command a stage or, really, life itself, by sheer personality and will. And it is clear that he has inspired his young dancers to go for the gusto...” -Eva Yaa Asantewaa, Dance Bloggers

REPERTORY

Mexico Maya (2013) *A journey through the history of Mayan and Mexican culture into contemporary western society.*
Premiere: Gerald W. Lynch Theater (NYC)

MAYA 2012: A New Beginning (2012)

Support provided by U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce Northeast Chapter, Banff Centre for the Arts & Scorpion Mezcal. *Maya 2012 is based on the end of the Mayan calendar outlined by the Mayan prophecies. The choreography illustrates the life, beliefs and art of the always present Maya.*
Premiere: Teatro Cancun (Mexico)

Forest of Kings (2011) Tour sponsored by Delta Air Lines and Mazatlan Institute of Culture, Tourism & Art
Based on Javier Dzul’s experiences growing up Mayan in the jungles of southern Mexico. The piece explores transformation rituals, rites of passage and past relationships and connections to the natural world.
Premiere: Mazatlan Cultural Festival (Mexico)

Rosas y Espinas (2011) *Select repertory from 2006-2011 celebrating Latin music and Hispanic culture.*
Premiere: Baruch Performing Arts Center

Danzon (2009) Commissioned by the Government of the State of Campeche
A blending of Mayan beliefs and Spanish Catholicism tells the story of a mythical angel who chooses to become mortal in order to experience human love.
Premiere: Festival del Centro Historico (Mexico)

The Symbol Bearer (2008) Tour sponsored by the Cultural Institute of Campeche
Inspired by the Mayan symbol bearer glyphs; figures believed to hold the secrets of the universe.
Music: Sergio Reyes, Jacob Robinette, Jesse Benavides
Premiere: Festival Internacional Cervantino (Mexico)

“Dzul moves with the undulant muscularity of a jaguar...echoes of Martha Graham’s heroic tableaux are visible in his choreography as are elements of Mayan cosmology...Dzul’s imagery is intricate, epic and profuse.” -Sparrow, Chronogram

Reincarnations (2007)

Mexican cultural icons such as la Catrina, Fida Kahlo and Emiliano Zapata blend with pre-Hispanic myths and are used as catalysts to explore reincarnation.

Premiere: Bard College Summerscape Festival

Couples (2007) Commissioned by Em Polham

A multi-disciplinary performance piece that examines aspects of intimacy; a collaboration with photographer Justin Lin

Premiere: Theater Won (Korea)

Maya (2006) Tour sponsored by the Government of the State of Campeche
This choreography illustrates the journey of Mayan king Pacal Votan from heaven into the underworld.

Premiere: Festival Centro Historico (Mexico)

Revolutions (2005) *A choreographic exploration of physical, individual and collective revolution.*

Premiere: Tribeca Performing Arts Center

From A Wounded Heart (2005)

A collaboration with Lucia Pulido for the release of her album 'Dolor de Ausencia'

Music: Lucia Pulido

Premiere: Merce Cunningham Studio

Archeology of Memory and Desire (2004) Commissioned by Cristina Enriquez-Bocobo

A multi-disciplinary performance piece that examines the potential for art to transform our moral landscape.

Music: Sussan Deyhim, Sergio Reyes

Premiere: Mexico Now Festival

The Fifth Sun (2003) Commissioned by the American Indian Community House

Premiere: American Indian Community House

Wayob Nahual Maya transformation ritual performed by Javier Dzul



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"Simply Spectacular..." - Aharon Sosa Gonzalez, La i (Mexico)