

# MONICA KAPOOR

DIRECTOR - CHOREOGRAPHER - EDUCATOR

## SUMMARY

Director, Choreographer and Educator dedicated to bringing the power of movement to people of diverse backgrounds.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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## ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

### NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

*M.S. in Adult Education*  
*B.S. in Dance Education*

## UNION AFFILIATIONS

*SDC, AEA, SAG-AFTRA*

## TEACHER CERTIFICATIONS

*NJ Standard: Vocational Arts/Dance*  
*Illinois Type 09 & 10: Dance*

## PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### (FOR DETAILS, SEE FOLLOWING PAGES)

#### BROADWAY PERFORMER AND NATIONAL TOURS

- Performed in an acclaimed Broadway production, showcasing versatility and excellence in musical theatre.
- Extensive touring experience, bringing high-caliber performances to national audiences.

#### DIRECTOR / CHOREOGRAPHER

- Recognized for innovative direction and choreography in regional theatre, earning awards and accolades for productions that captivate diverse audiences.
- Notable for blending world dance influences into classic musicals, creating fresh, culturally resonant productions

#### INTERNATIONALLY RESPECTED EDUCATOR AND MENTOR

- Faculty and guest faculty member at Broadway Dance Center, Steps on Broadway, Joffrey Ballet, and KMMC Chennai.
- High school dance educator, fostering a love for the arts and guiding students toward success in performance and choreography.

#### RECOGNIZED INDUSTRY LEADER AND PUBLIC SPEAKER

- Invited to speak on panels and workshops for aspiring directors, choreographers, and performers, sharing insights from a multifaceted career in dance, theatre, and education.
- Praised for approachability and guidance, inspiring the next generation of theatre artists.

#### TRAILBLAZER FOR THE SOUTH ASIAN COMMUNITY

- Recognized as a pioneering force in the South Asian community, breaking new ground in theatre and dance.
- Passionate about creating space for South Asian voices and traditions in mainstream theatre, inspiring future generations of artists from diverse backgrounds.

### **Beauty and The Beast, Cinderella, Pippin**

#### **Casa Manana | 2023-2024**

- Reconceived, directed, and choreographed full-scale and TYA (Theatre for Young Audiences) productions within a condensed timeframe.
- Collaborated closely with the cast, crew, and designers to execute the creative vision effectively.
- Maintained clear, consistent communication throughout the production process.

### **Broadway Cares Equity Fights AIDS, NYC**

#### **2010-2023**

- Choreographed segments for Broadway Bares, Broadway's one-night-only charity show created by Tony Award-winning director and choreographer Jerry Mitchell.
- Assisted in casting 190+ performance artists for various charity events.
- Choreographed award-winning segments for the Gypsy of the Year and Easter Bonnet competitions, produced to benefit Broadway Cares.
- Worked alongside prominent Broadway performers and creatives.

### **The Secret Garden**

#### **Broadway Sacramento | 2022**

- Cast, choreographed, and rehearsed a full Broadway-scale production.
- Collaborated with award-winning director Glenn Casale and musical director Dennis Castellano to develop culturally relevant content.

### **Mamma Mia!**

#### **Skylight Music Theatre, The Encore, North Carolina Theatre | 2019-2022**

#### **Broadway World Award Recipient (Best Choreography, 2019 & 2022)**

- Reimagined, directed, choreographed, rehearsed, and staged multiple full-scale Broadway productions.
- Worked alongside Eric Woodall (Artistic Director, North Carolina Theatre) and Tara Rubin Casting.
- Participated in casting diverse Equity and Non-Equity musical theatre performers.

### **Traffic and Weather NYC Workshop**

#### **Gibney Studios | 2022**

- Choreographed and staged an original musical alongside Broadway director Martha Banta, set to music by Oscar, Tony, Grammy, Emmy, and Golden Globe nominee Adam Schlesinger.
- Presented the workshop to producers and artistic directors from top New York and regional theatres, including the Atlantic Theatre Company and The Ordway.

### **Only Gold**

#### **NYC Workshop, Gibney Studios | 2013**

- Assisted in the research and development of a new work created by Tony Award-winning choreographer Andy Blankenbuehler (Hamilton, In the Heights, Fosse/Verdon).
- Developed choreography to enhance the movement, adding authentic Indian dance styling.
- Set choreography on professional performance artists, including Alessandra Ferri of NYC Ballet.

### **KMMC Chennai, India**

#### **Guest Artist | 2024**

- Led workshops in Musical Theatre for students at AR Rahman's KMMC school in Chennai, teaching original Broadway choreography from Mamma Mia.
- Set a piece for students to perform in a showcase in front of AR Rahman.
- Became the first guest teacher hired for the school's newly established Musical Theatre program.
- Gained valuable international experience working in India, fostering cross-cultural collaboration and skill development in aspiring performers.

### **Temple University, Philadelphia, PA**

#### **Guest Speaker | 2024**

- Observed senior musical theatre auditions, providing both group and individual feedback to students.
- Led a Q&A session, answering questions from the perspective of a performer, choreographer, and director, offering valuable industry insights and guidance.

### **Broadway Sacramento, Sacramento, CA**

#### **Conservatory Instructor | 2024**

- Served as one of the first instructors for the newly established conservatory, contributing to the development of its curriculum.
- Taught general musical theatre classes for beginner to intermediate level students, focusing on foundational skills and performance techniques.
- Set a musical theatre piece on children aged 13-18, fostering talent and performance skills in young artists.

### **Cal Poly University, Arcata, CA**

#### **Guest Workshop Leader | 2024**

- Led dance workshops for students in the Child Development Association, focusing on the importance of movement and dance in child development, offering valuable insights and practical applications.
- Guided college students through a dance class to allow them to personally experience the physical and emotional benefits of dance.
- Conducted a Bollywood dance workshop for the university's Asian American, Desi, and Pacific Islander student groups, celebrating Diwali and Indian culture through dance.

### **Princeton Public Schools, Princeton, NJ**

**2019 - 2023**

- Choreographed Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) productions for children aged 5-14, creating engaging and age-appropriate content.
- Developed and implemented dance vocabulary tailored to various age groups and skill levels.
- Led rehearsals for up to 100 children, fostering teamwork and discipline.
- Created a new assistant choreography position, offering high school students volunteer credit for their involvement.
- Acquired proficiency in Final Cut Pro to edit musical numbers during the pandemic, ensuring continuity in production.
- Founded after-school dance clubs for children aged 5-10, introducing them to Hip-Hop, Bollywood, Musical Theatre, and current social dance forms.

### **Steps on Broadway & Broadway Dance Center, NYC**

**2014 - 2017**

- Designed and taught Bollywood dance classes, integrating East Indian classical and folk dance with contemporary fusion styles.
- Adapted lesson plans to suit students of all levels, from beginners to professionals.

### **Joffrey Ballet, NYC**

**2016**

- Developed and taught an intensive dance program focused on Musical Theatre and Bollywood dance.
- Auditioned and mentored high school students from across the East Coast, supporting their development in both dance genres.

### **Buffalo Grove High School, Buffalo Grove, IL**

**2001 - 2003**

- Served as the Director of Dance at a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.
- Developed a comprehensive dance curriculum, introducing a new grading system, rubrics, syllabus, and exams.
- Increased student enrollment, ultimately leading to the creation of a full-time dance position.
- Organized and facilitated collaborative projects with professional guest artists.
- Designed, planned, and directed performance opportunities for students performance development.

## BROADWAY / NATIONAL TOUR

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MAMMA MIA! (Lisa) Winter Garden Theatre / dir. Phyllida Lloyd / 2006 - 2014

BOMBAY DREAMS (Ensemble) 1st National Tour / dir. Baayork Lee / 2005 - 2006

## CONCERT DANCE

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BALTIMORE/CHICAGO CONTEMPORARY (Principal Dancer) / dir. Charles Carter / 2001 - 2003

## TV / FILM

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LIMITLESS (Featured Dancer) CBS / Chor. John Carrafa / 2016

BEFORE I DISAPPEAR (Featured Dancer) Feature Film / Dir. Shawn Christensen / 2014

SMASH (Featured Dancer / Indian Dance Consultant) NBC / Chor. Joshua Bergasse / 2012

## PRINT AND COMMERCIAL ADS

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CNN, Macy's, Subway, MTV, IBM, Verizon, Aetna, (RED), Parenting Magazine, Redbook Magazine, Dance Spirit Magazine (Broadway's Brightest 2008)

## TRAINING

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### *DANCE:*

Jazz - Debbie Roshe

Contemporary - Dr. Charles Carter

Ballet - Kathryn Sullivan

Street / Hip-Hop - Robin Dunn, Derek Mitchell

Musical Theatre - Tony Stevens

Kathak - Guru Shila Mehta

*VOICE:* Ilene Reid, Brad Garside, Jennifer Hamady (NYC)

*ACTING:* Larry Moss, Darrin Baker (NYC)