



**DR GERARD M SAMUEL  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR,  
SECTION HEAD - DANCE**

Gerard is Associate Professor: University of Cape Town, Centre for Theatre, Dance & Performance Studies, Convener: Post Graduate studies in Dance, Editor: South African Dance Journal and Chair of Confluences international dance conference.

During the Apartheid era he performed with the NAPAC Ballet Company and The Playhouse Dance Company in Durban. He held senior management posts for The Playhouse Company, until 2006. His notable choreographies include Prabhati and The Man I Love. He received the Durban Theatre Awards in 2006 for The Sound of Music. Gerard produced Place of Grace, a dance film in 2011. He is an advocate of disability arts in South Africa and in Copenhagen.

His PhD thesis - Dancing the Other in South Africa is from UCT, in 2016. It was announced that Gerard's "thesis makes a highly significant intervention in Dance and Performance Studies in terms of its original argument about how the category of 'age' is used [as] part of 'othering' process... coining the term 'body-space' as a theoretical tool to observe bodies and dancing as states of becoming".



**CHANTEL DE WEE**

### **Chantal De Wee- Teacher, Creative Artist and Designer**

An artist by nature. Her creations flow with movement, whether on the physical or digital canvas, or simply through her choreographic works.

Through her eyes detail, beauty and opportunity are not overlooked, and she transforms to wonder something that might have been considered ordinary. Her work is often inspired by her fascination with music, dance, and anything that causes a reaction in the human spirit.

As a teacher of dance and movement, Chantal has been fascinated with music and its effects on the body for as long as she can remember. As a child, she would simply observe how music's rhythm and sound enabled her body to move in ways in which only it could explain. Self-observation led to formal dance lessons, which started with ballet training and later developed into instruction in other forms of dance, the violin and choral performance. During her free time she would spend hours learning dance routines from films and from watching other dancers. This natural curiosity and ongoing pursuit to improve herself has shaped the way she sees the world and the detail she adds to her work.

Chantal has a gift for connecting people through her presence and through her work. When she isn't leading a dance group or creating commissioned artworks, she works with young women and children in her local community. This work touches the people she works with and, in turn, touches her too. Even during her first three months of working as a dance educator for the Western Cape Education Department, Chantal was nominated for a Teacher's Appreciation Award. She believes that expression in movement, and the way in which it can manifest, affects our local communities, our beliefs, as well as our sense of dignity and what we believe of ourselves and of each other. Dance and music have taught her so much about her own community and those of others, and she often thinks about how furthering an understanding of these forms of expression may mean for us all. Her tertiary education covers studies in dance, music and graphic design.

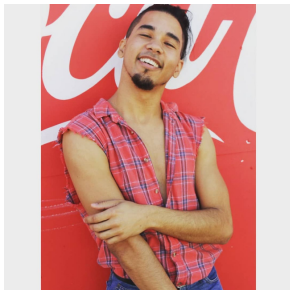


**JAIME MONTGOMERY**

From a very young age Jaime Montgomery was drawn to the stage. Throughout her schooling career she was involved in performing arts; singing, acting and dancing in competitions as well as school and professional productions. In 2019 she graduated from Stellenbosch University with a degree in Performing Arts and theatre studies. Jaime always had a passion for Choreography, having choreographed school shows and productions for the University of Stellenbosch.

In 2020 Jaime made the move to UCT to merge both her performing arts passions, doing her Honors in Dance research.

One of her highlights was traveling to Croatia in 2018 to compete as a soloist and as a group in 'Dance Star. ' As a soloists she snagged first place for Tap dance and 3rd place for Musical theatre. Her group BasicBlack, choreographed by Rudi Smit and Grahan Valentyn, won 1st place in the hip-hop formation, and were invited to perform at the Dance star gala evening which was held in an Olympic stadium with a crowd of over 4000 people.



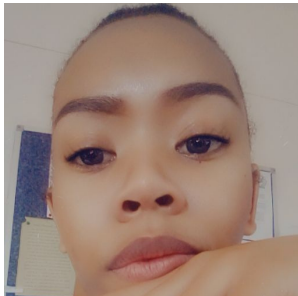
**MICHAIL LABANS**

Michail Labans is a 23-year-old, Capetonian-based Contemporary dancer who is currently in the process of completing his Honours in Dance degree at the Centre for Theatre, Dance & Performance Studies, University of Cape Town. He has obtained his Bachelor of Music in Dance in 2020.

Michail began with Modern dance training at the age of 7 and only officially started his Contemporary dance training at Cedar High School. During his high school career, he was offered the opportunity to be a trainee for Celeste Botha and Marlin Zoutman, the teachers and choreographers of New World Dance Theatre. With this dance organisation, and later for Janine Booysens, he has been a part of countless dance productions and has part-taken in several dance festivals at the Artscape Theatre, the Baxter, and the Joseph Stone Auditorium. He also performed annually at the Centre for Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies' end-of-year productions. Where he undertakes and is interested in pedagogy and performance scholarship.

His aspiration in this field of art is to become a fully-fledged artist that is not only visually appealing to audiences, but one who contributes towards the holistic growth and perception of dance within South Africa. Dance has always been a motivational tool for him as it has always driven him to strive for more, to be and to do better as a dancer and a human being.

Through dance performance, he hopes to bring to the audience a sense of peace and passion, but simultaneously, to share a true reflection of reality, serving as a natural mirror of the human experience.



**ROBYN SETTLER**

Robyn Settler is an Honours Dance student, in the center for Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies in 2020. Her interest in dance studies is rooted in Hip-hop and her creative journey started in the living room of her home; freestyling to rap and R&B music. She recently graduated with a Bmus in Dance pedagogy and most of her aspiration from her current studies was drawn from her experience as an undergraduate student. Some of the highlights during her studies in undergrad was seminars presented by Professors Adam Haupt, who theorises Hip-hop as a possible pedagogy, talks on the impact of Hip-hop by Emile Jansen who was a guest speaker at confluence and Hip-hop dance classes hosted by dance teacher Marcus Mabie. These individuals inspired her journey in Hip-hop as a research student.