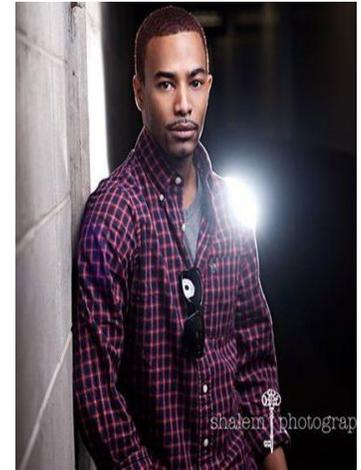


# OKC TDE JUDGES

## **Darwin Black**

Darwin Black of Newark, New Jersey started his dancing at the age of 16. In 2006, he graduated from Newark Arts High School under the direction of Ronnie D. Carney and Kim Richardson. Darwin furthered his training under Nancy Turano with the New Jersey Dance Theatre Ensemble. After a year of training at Alvin Ailey American Dance as a Fellowship Student under the Oprah Winfrey Scholarship, he began his professional career with the Miami Contemporary Dance Company, performing repertory by Ray Sullivan. Darwin later joined The Sacramento Ballet, performing ballets by George Balanchine, Twyla Tharp, Trey McIntyre and Matthew Neenan, to name a few. After three years with The Sacramento Ballet, he joined Pascal Rioult Dance Theater, dancing and touring throughout the United States. Mr. Black danced as a freelance artist for Alaska Dance Theatre, Lustig Dance Theatre, Montgomery Ballet and Nimbus Dance Works, and he toured throughout Europe with Momix. Darwin later joined TU Dance under the leadership of Toni-Pierce Sands & Uri Sands. For four seasons he danced World premiere works by Uri Sands, Francesca Harper, Kyle Abraham, Gioconda Barbuto, and Katrin Hall. Darwin is spreading his wings into Choreography. His first Original work by the Saint Paul Ballet "OFF THE BASE" premiered at The Cowles Center March of 2017. October of 2017, he Premiered "N.L.I. F" (Never Live In Fear) for Minnesota Dance Theatre. Darwin is currently performing original works by David Taylor, Zikr Dance Ensemble, on a six-city tour. He will also be touring with John Lehrer Dance on a upcoming five city tour.



## **ILAN NUNEZ**

Ilan Nunez, son of New Orleans and Ambergris Caye, Belize, was born to music and has had a life experience which has cemented his life's calling in entertainment. Ilan was born in the city of Jazz, but was raised on the beautiful island of San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, a combination which only served to enhance his own inborn ability for rhythm and celebration. Ilan began his basic dance training at the age of nine with the only dance company in San Pedro town. Even at that age, his love for his craft was noticed by the company's director and she decided to push him further than any other student. This push gave Ilan an edge which called for further expansion. In his teen years, Ilan and his brother moved back to the US with their mother. She moved the family to San Antonio, Texas to have them continue an education in a less informal environment. It was here that Ilan also entered into a more formal training for his interests, where he took quickly to classes in dance, vocals, and acting, and where the expansion of talent and effort became the foundation for a career. Ilan attended the North East School of the Arts High School and then Point Park University, so gaining the extra confidence and technical ability needed to pursue his career as a dancer. Ilan has since had the privilege to work with major companies and artists, both as a dancer and choreographer. He has also had the opportunity to teach youth dancers on competitive teams all over the US and abroad. And in all circumstances, he has continued to learn and grow. Ilan's desire to cover as many learning bases as possible, even took him to do a session at sea with the Norwegian Cruise Line. This period added to his overall experiences in the industry and it was after this first-time experience that he decided to make his move to Hollywood where he now is signed with Movement Talent Agency. Since his move Ilan has danced for the LA Opera, starred in The Fair Wells premier music video "Where is your heart" and tried his hand at acting in an upcoming dance film. Some of Ilan's favorite roles have been as Greg in "A Chorus Line", as the Evil Prince in "Mask of the Red Death Ballet", and as a backup dancer, for singers from "The Voice" and "American Idol", as part of Larrwell Productions. Be sure to keep an eye out for Ilan Nunez as he keeps fulfilling and conquering on his journey through his life's calling.



## **Tara Carpenter**

Tara grew up dancing at her mother's dance studio in Texas starting at the age of three. She has trained in all styles of dance from some of the top teachers in the Nation at Houston Met Dance Center in Houston, Broadway Dance Center in New York City, and Millennium Dance Complex in LA to name a few. She attended the University of Houston studying dance and marketing. Tara was the Director of The Dance Factory for 15 years where she led the competitive dance teams to success earning numerous high score, choreography, and teacher awards. She was also the Director of the award winning Duchesne Dance Team in Houston, TX. Her choreography has been performed at Disney World and at the Tanzommer Dance Festival in Innsbruck, Austria. Tara currently teaches ballet, contemporary, jazz, hip hop, and technique classes to all ages and levels. She also choreographs for award winning dance teams across Texas. Tara has traveled as a dance competition judge for the past 12 years. She is very excited to be a part of The Dance Effect family this season!

