

Ryan K. Johnson

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2010 Dance Metro DC Award Winner: Outstanding Solo Performance

2017 MSAC Individual Artist Award Winner

Profile A virtuosic creator, choreographer and Artistic Director of SOLE Defined with 10+ years of arts administrative experience. An innovative multidisciplinary artist who synthesizes global rhythms by intersecting Tap, Stepping/Body Percussion, South African Gumboot Dance, and nonverbal acting.

Arts Administrative Experience

Step Afrika! 2006- 2011 Production & Tour Manager

- Supported senior staff, including Executive Director, Company Manager, and Artistic Director, and represented the company at national presenter conferences.
- Lead and organized tour logistics, including air and land travel, meals.
- Technical budget development and created tour riders and audio plots, supervised load-in/ outs, assisted in the lighting design for the touring shows.
- Designed and maintained social media outlets

SOLE Defined| 2011-present Co- Founder & Artistic Director

- Grant research and writing for funding to support non-profit
- Maintain artistic vision for the company while creating new works and designing marketing materials
- Created a branding scheme and designed all marketing collateral
- Establish partnerships with national and international theaters and festivals with 92% rebooking rate including: The Kennedy Center, Shakespeare Theater, Jacobs Pillow
- budget development and contract negotiation
- hire and train creative personnel and theater management staff
- direct national and international touring productions

Performance Experience

BROADWAY'S AFTER MIDNIGHT (2015-2016)

Character: Tap Brother 1 | Ensemble Dancer

THE BEATLES LOVE BY CIRQUE DU SOLEIL, LAS VEGAS, NV (2014) Character: Sugar Plum | Featured Dancers: Gumboot & Body Percussion Solo

STOMP, NYC AND TOUR OF THE AMERICA'S 2011 - 2013

Dancer/ Drummer: Particle Man and Ringo

THE WASHINGTON BALLET 2009-2011 Resident Tap Dancer

STEP AFRIKA! NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TOUR 2006-2011 Tap & Body Percussion Soloist | Dancer | Production Manager

Choreographic Experience Sole Defined 2011-Current: Creator and Artist Director fusing theater and percussive dance. | A Choreographers' Showcase by Cirque Du Soleil w/ The Nevada Ballet 2014 | Extreme Makeover Home Edition: 2010 Season Premier | Human Orchestra: New York City Tap Festival- Tap | International Body Music Festival | Step Afrika! Trio | Studio's & Universities | USA Cultural Ambassador

International Experience: Cajon Festival Lima, Peru | IBMF Sau Pablo, Brazil | DansEncore Quebec, Canada | TDC Cairo, Egypt | Ghaoua Festival, Morocco | HIFA, The Republic of Zimbabwe | US Embassy: Republic of Chile | US Embassy: Republic of; Ecuador, Paraguay, South Africa, Madagascar and Luxembourg, Germany | Hamilton, Bermuda

Artistic Directing

SOLE Defined Zaz 4:15 (Work in progress) 4:15 is a new creation fusing show stopping tap dance, astonishing body percussion, and a magical blend of original music that incorporates soundbites of speeches from the civil rights movement with a brass band/afrobeat undertone.

SOLE Defined VIBEZ (2018) An innovative, groundbreaking performance where music was is used as social protest, Afrocentric expression, and a celebration of life. SOLE Defined takes us on a journey back in time to The Golden Age of Hip Hop, fusing a live DJ, Tap Dance and Stepping. Baltimore native, DJ The Kid, spinning the sounds of the 90's, on the turntables while SOLE Defined blends the sounds of their feet taking the audience on a rhythmic roller coaster.

SOLE Defined Frequency (2016) It's the first of its kind for SOLE Defined. Frequency is a percussive dance musical set in the mid 90's. A look into the life of a up and coming radio DJ who's looking to use music to enhance the community. This roller coaster of emotions takes the audience on a ride that we can all relate too: love, good music, dreaming and bringing those dreams to life. Actors, dancers and musician bring this show to life, turning any theater into a true experience.

SOLE Defined Phenix (2015) Phenix is the story of a mad scientist on a search for the perfect equation to percussive dance. Dancers turned lab assistants; search high and low for the perfect combination of dance and multimedia.

SOLE Defined The Experiment (2014) The Experiment is just that; an experiment of music and movement from the human body. Using tap dance, stepping, body percussion, vocal percussion, and spoon playing to bring the rhythms of the world to life.

SOLE Defined Black Amer-I-Can (2013) Black Amer-I-Can is the story of a young man facing internal racism within the black community. During his journey, we see his journey of being black in one area code and not black enough in another. Fusing tap dance and body percussion with multimedia, SOLE Defined brings his many lessons to life!

Training Tap: Mary Slater | Drop-in Classes at: BDC, Step and ATDF | Stepping/ Body Percussion:
Kappa Alpha Psi | Step Afrika | STOMP | Max Pollak | Nicolas Young | David Pleasant

Additional Skill:

Production Management | Tour & Artist management | Stage Managing | Travel planning | Microsoft Office |
Movie and Audio Editing | FOH Audio | Making people smile | Rehearsal Directing | Carpentry |
Motivational Speaking | I clap loud: 113.2 db SPL | dope Running Man! | AutoCad | Logic | Excel | PowerPoint
| iMovie | Garageband | Lecture Demonstration regarding world dance and percussive dance form