



OUR MISSION

Versa-Style Dance Company is a 501 C 3 non-profit organization and dance ensemble that consists of committed and conscientious artists representing the diversity and beautiful complexity of Los Angeles. We create highly energetic work that fuses dances that are culturally significant to our community. These forms include Hip-Hop styles such as 90s Hip-Hop, House, Popping, Locking, Whacking and Boogaloo, and Afro-Latin styles such as Salsa, Merengue, Cumbia and Afro-Cuban to name a few. As a reaction to the widespread media misrepresentation of these dance forms, Versa-Style specifically aims to perform and instill the roots, history, and social and political issues surrounding the art of our generation.



THE FOUNDERS



Jackie Lopez aka Miss Funk & Leigh Foaad aka Breeze-lee are the Founders and Artistic Directors of Versa-Style Dance Company. Their common passion for honoring both Hip-hop dance and Los Angeles artistic culture resulted in the creation of Versa-Style in 2005. Lopez and Foaad have served as cultural ambassadors for the U.S. through the Arts Envoy Cultural Exchange Program in which they were able to perform, teach and lecture in countries such as Israel, Egypt, India, and Colombia. They have also been guest choreographers for Santa Monica College, LA Valley College, Columbia College and University of Utah. Currently, they are both Adjunct Lecturers for UCLA's World Arts and Cultures/Dance Dept. They owe a lot of their fortune to the legends and culture of Hip-hop.

BOX OF HOPE

Box of Hope explores themes that deal with the inequalities in today's volatile social climate, more specifically within underserved communities. Versa-Style utilizes Hip-hop dance to navigate and tell these stories as each company member lives, expresses, and struggles within these varied and infinitely complex political and personal landscapes of Los Angeles.

FURIOUS BEAUTY

The first half is entitled 'Furious', showcasing the high-flying skills and technique of the company, and wowing audiences with inspiring choreography reflecting a pure love of dance. The second half, 'Beauty', takes a more introspective look at the hardships and struggles we endure as human beings, and how we can use art and our loved ones to rise up from those struggles and move forward with positivity, empathy and love in our hearts.

FEEL OUR RHYTHM

"Feel Our Rhythm" is a multimedia production that entertains and exposes its audience to the flavorful history and complexity of Hip-hop dance culture. It employs rare interviews with dance legends such as Marjory Smarth, Damita Jo Freeman, and Rennie Harris, and reminds the audience of the genius origins of Hip-hop. The production even tickles the humor nerve by concluding the evening with a comedic and uplifting rendition of Los Angeles' infamous traffic.



SCHOOL SHOWS

With over 700,000 students in the LAUSD system, Versa-Style aims to perform, connect and educate. In a dynamic one hour show, Versa-Style performs choreography, demonstrates foundation, and unfolds the history of Hip-hop culture with live lecture demonstration as well as inspiring audience motivation. The intention is that students gain a new perspective on Hip-hop dance culture and the impact arts can have in their communities.



RESIDENCY WORKSHOPS

Versa-Style offers the highest quality Hip-hop and street dance instruction. Years of training and tutelage from the pioneers and founders of Hip-hop, Popping, House, Locking, and Whacking has resulted in talented teachers throughout the company. Versa-Style Dance Company's Directors and company members' unique dedication to participating in Hip-hop dance culture both nationally and internationally affirms its ability to pass on the legacy, richness, and depth of Hip-hop's foundations and traditions.





OUR CREATIVE SERVICES

- Live highly energetic performances: excerpts and/or full theatrical productions
- Participation in community festivals worldwide
- Collaborations with other dance theatrical companies
- Dance Workshops: technical skills, composition, and choreography through movement and traditional cultural dance forms.
- Lecture/Demonstration
- Panel Discussion
- K-12 Educational School Show
- Competition Judging/Participation
- Private Dance Classes

“A group of life-affirming party starters!”

- Kelly Apter *The Scotsman*

“When Versa-Style shares their work with student audiences, they also share a message of hard work, pride in your community, dedication to an art form, and the value of education.”

- Theresa Willis Center for the Art of Performance at UCLA
(K-12 School Show)

“The choreography is original, organic and extremely musical.” - Jeff Slayton *SeeDance.com*

“The most vibrant elements of hip-hop culture—the spirit of inclusion, innovation, reverence and authenticity...”

- Jessica Koslow *Annenberg Media Center*

“A stunningly tight multimedia dance spectacle.”

- Joel Smith *Dancing in Los Angeles: Political Moves*





CONTACT US

For general inquiries,
contact our Company Manager, Harry Weston at
harry@versastyledance.org