

Frank G. Hull

Frank G. Hull is a power chair dancer, choreographer, singer, and theatre artist. His work interrogates the relationship between body and mobility devices in ways that challenge traditional (mis)representations of disabled people. Frank's career as a dancer was launched in 1999 at the Betty Oliphant Theatre in Toronto with his debut performance in *THE CARETAKER*. He then was awarded a scholarship to train with Cleveland Ballet Dancing Wheels in Ohio. Frank has since choreographed and performed numerous original dance performances across Ontario, as well as in New York State. He has developed both solo performances and ensemble shows, with

Toronto-based artists Spirit Synott and Kazumi Tsuruoka and Ottawa-based artist Alan Shain. Frank has developed dance instruction for people with mobility impairments, including those who use manual or power wheelchairs. He continues to train each year with the Steffi Nossen School of Dance in White Plains, New York. Frank has also been instrumental in the Rolling Dance Chair Project™ serving as a “test” dancer/research participant and providing input for the new wheelchair technologies for dance being developed at the University of South Florida.



Hanna Harchakova and Ihar Kisialiou

Hanna Harchakova and Ihar Kisialiou are World and European champions in Wheelchair Ballroom Dancing. They have performed in many dance arenas in the world including China, Netherlands, Spain, Germany and Poland. Ms. Harchakova was recently elected Chairwoman of the Minsk Regional Society for People with Disabilities, a group that unites more than 20 local grassroots organizations. She is a well-known wheelchair athlete and public figure in Belarus who uses dance as a method of social adaptation and rehabilitation for people with mobility limitation. In 2012, Ms. Harchakova founded the successful “Dar” Dance School that offers a unique opportunity for young people to practice wheelchair dancing in an inclusive environment.



REVolutions Dance



REVolutions Dance Inc. is a non-profit professional dance company based in Tampa, Florida that offers the opportunity for education and performance to dancers with and without disabilities. The company was founded in 2005 by Dwayne Scheuneman and Amie West. The mission of the company is to raise awareness of the significant contribution of people with disabilities to the arts and to create a fully inclusive, inspiring and legitimate outlet for artistic talents that would not otherwise be available. The company has performed and conducted workshops nationally and internationally, with the most recent international experience in Palestine and Russia.

Photo credit: Jim Lennon

Funded in part by:



Rolling Dance Chair Project™



VSA Florida and USF Present

A New Definition of Dance

An International Mixed Ability Showcase and Educational Initiative

October 14-17, 2015



Tentative Schedule

Merry Lynn Morris, Artistic Director

October 14:

- 9-12: Workshop in Hillsborough County Public School
- 9-10:30 and 3:30-5: Classes for USF Dance majors including Ballet and Modern dance**

October 15:

- 9-12: Workshops in Hillsborough County Public Schools
- 10-12:30 and 2-5: Classes for USF Dance majors including Ballroom, Ballet, Hip Hop, and African dance**

October 16:

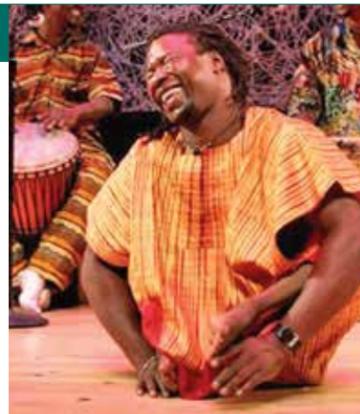
- 10:30-11:30: Performance at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital*
- 11-12:30: Class for USF Dance majors on classical Chinese dance**
- 12:30-2:30: Brown bag lunch with dancers*
- 8-9:30: Final performance*
- 9:30-11: Reception at the Contemporary Art Museum*

October 17:

- 10-12: REVolutions Dance class* * Open to the public ** Public may observe

Sidiki Conde

At the age of 14, Sidiki Conde lost the use of his legs as the result of polio. Knowing that he would not be able to participate in the coming-of-age ceremony if he could not dance, Sidiki reconstructed the traditional steps using his hands instead of his feet. He became so adept that he was able to travel to the capital city, Conakry, and form *Message de Espair*, an orchestra of artists with disabilities he recruited from the city's streets. In 1987, he was asked to join the prestigious troupe, *Les Merveilles de Guinea*, for whom he composed and directed musical arrangements as well as served as director of choreography. In 1988 Sidiki came to America. He formed the *Tokounou All-Abilities Dance and Music Ensemble* and teaches children in the public schools. Sidiki received a National Heritage Fellow Lifetime Honors from the National Endowment for the Arts in 2007.



Luca Patuelli

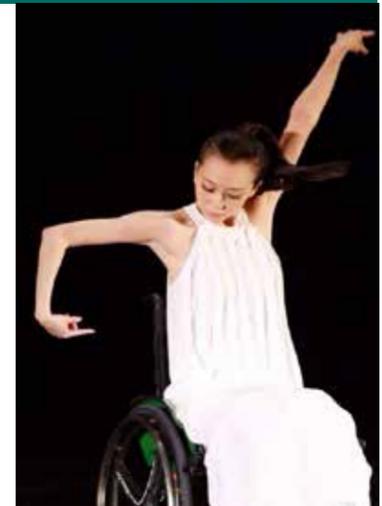
Luca "Lazylegz" Patuelli was born with Arthrogryposis, a rare disorder that causes limited joint movement and poor muscle growth, as well as scoliosis. Luca never let his disability slow him down. In 1999, at the age of 15, Luca discovered "B-boying" also known as Breakdancing. Although quite challenging at first, he began to learn moves and modified them to create his own unique style that incorporates both extreme upper body strength and the use of crutches. "Lazylegz" was born. In 2002, Lazylegz moved back to Montreal, where he had a massive impact in the Montreal dance community and began representing Canada in top-level international events. In 2004, Lazylegz joined forces with Canadian breakdance crew, *Illmatic Styles*. They performed and competed all over North America and were featured as one of the top acts on NBC's *America's Got Talent*. In 2007, Lazylegz created *ILL-Abilities*, an international crew consisting of the world's best "ill-abled" dancers from Canada, USA, Chile, and Holland. Together, they continue to perform all over the world and spread the message "No Excuses, No Limits".



Photo credit: Patrick Sansregret

Liu Yan

Liu Yan is a classical Chinese dancer who has performed in many dance dramas and won many dance competitions in and outside China. When she was 10 years old, Ms.Liu gained admission to the Beijing Dance Academy middle school. She later enrolled at the Beijing Dance Academy at the age of 18 and majored in classical Chinese dance. Ms. Liu has performed alongside some of the nation's most famous people and won numerous awards for dance and drama. Ms.Liu was chosen to be the lead dancer in the "Silk Road" segment at the Beijing 2008 Olympics opening ceremony. Twelve days before the actual performance, Ms.Liu fell from a malfunctioning moving platform during rehearsal at the Beijing National Stadium. Her accident resulted in nerve and spinal damage, paralyzing her lower body. In March 2010, Ms.Liu established the Liu Yan Arts Special Fund, to help children in poverty-stricken areas, orphans, and migrant workers' children through art education. She has recently completed a doctorate degree in Dance theory at the Beijing Dance Academy.



Marcie Ryan

Marcie Ryan worked with the nationally esteemed, *Dancing Wheels* dance company in Cleveland, Ohio from 1996 - 2001, under the artistic direction of Sabatino and Barbara Verlezza. She spent a year as a trainee and then danced and toured with the company doing significant main stage and lecture performances. Marcie also studied wheelchair ballroom under the direction of Rubin Zacharanov for approximately two years and competed in the Ukraine, coming in 5th place out of eight couples. Marcie has participated in the Moving Wheels and Heel summer dance workshops out of the Steffi Nossen School of Dance in White Plains, NY since leaving Dancing Wheels. Marcie has also been instrumental in the Rolling Dance Chair Project™ serving as a "test" dancer/research participant and providing input for the new wheelchair technologies for dance being developed at the University of South Florida.



Sonsheree Giles

Sonsheree Giles is a dancer, choreographer, teacher, and costume designer. Originally from New Orleans, LA, she moved to the San Francisco Bay Area to attend Mills College and received her MFA in performance/choreography. She has spent the past ten years developing her skills in the field of physically integrated dance. From 2005-2015 she was a performer, teacher, and Associate Director with AXIS Dance Company. Sonsheree has received an Isadora Duncan Award for ensemble performance of *To Color Me Different*, choreographed by Alex Ketley and in 2010 she was honored to receive a Homer Avila Award for Excellence in the field of integrated dance. She formed *this sweet nothing* as a container for her dance art and has been generously supported by Zellerbach Family Foundation, CLOROX Company Foundation, CA\$H grant, and East Bay Fund for Individual Artists. She has taught contemporary dance in public school systems, universities, institutions, and dance festivals and has toured and performed for audiences throughout the world.



Photo credit: Trib LaPrade