



BAFANA SOLOMON MATEA

Bafana is from Gauteng, South Africa and started his dancing career at *Pro Arte Alphen Park High School* in Pretoria where he studied Vaganova and the Cecchetti technique. After his studies, he moved to NYC on a scholarship by *Miss Judith Jamison* to study at the **Alvin Ailey School** for 2 years. At the Ailey school under *Miss Denise Jefferson*, Bafana got to work with choreographers, *Mathew Rushing, Colin Connor, Igal Perry* to name a few.

He later joined **Ballet Hispanico** for two years where he was introduced to traveling extensively within the US. This led to his time as a dancer with **Elisa Monte Dance**, where for three years with the company, Bafana toured Germany, France, Italy, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Brazil. He was then asked to join the **Battery Dance Company** under artistic director *Jonathan Hollander*. With Battery Dance, over a span of 6 years Bafana toured extensively throughout 5 continents, from Australia, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe.

Under Battery Dance Company educational programs Bafana worked extensively in Europe as a practitioner, working with school children and teenagers with a project called *Dancing To Connect*. Bafana is co-founder of **Juxtapower** (*South African song and dance organisation*) taking the position of rehearsal director and choreographer and continues to work in his creative dance capacity with *Alpha Omega, Delirious Dance, Thomas Ortiz and Mathew Westerby Dance*.

Since arriving and settling in the UK over the past 8 years Bafana has brought his talent and passion to work with established dance companies including, *Tavaziva, BOP Jazz Theatre Company, State of Emergency* as a choreographer for the dance project - *Where Is Home*.

Bafana is currently creating two works for the *Swindon Literary Festive 2022*.

Bafana is a respected Freelance Dance Practitioner, Choreographer and teacher of Contemporary and African Jazz Fusion Dance and holds teaching positions at *Bird College, Wilkes Academy and White Lodge UK*.

Aside of his dance work, Bafana is a sought after photographer for Dance and Weddings and has founded his own photography service - **Matea Photography** www.mateaphotography.co.uk