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Location

Houston, TX

Phone

(832) 551-9408

Email

devon.okafor@example.com

Website

linkedin.com/in/devonokafor

Education

The Juilliard School
I March 2017
BFA in Dance

Forsythe Improvisation
Technologies workshop
I July 2017

Dance/USA Institute for Leadership
Training
I July 2022

Key Skills

- Contemporary, Gaga, Forsythe-based improvisation
- Classical ballet (full pointe and partnering)
- Choreography and devising for ensembles of 4-20
- Repertory staging and restaging
- Company coaching and mentorship
- Tour management and production logistics
- Budget planning for projects up to \$40,000

DEVON OKAFOR

Principal contemporary dancer and emerging choreographer with 15 years of professional credits across U.S. and European companies. Long working relationships with established choreographers and a growing portfolio of commissioned work. Trusted to anchor evening-length productions and mentor company members through demanding seasons.

Professional Experience

Principal Dancer, Gulfwater Modern Dance Theater I Houston, TX
May 2018 - Present

- Lead roles in 11 of 14 mainstage programs over seven seasons, including evening-length works by Kyle Abraham and Aszure Barton.
- Headlined 2023 European tour across six cities with 18 sold-out performances, contributing to the company's highest box-office season on record.
- Set and restaged repertory on the second company, leading three full restaging processes per season.
- Mentor 8-10 company members per season through one-on-one coaching and career planning.
- Sit on the artistic advisory committee, weighing in on programming and commissioning decisions.

Choreographer (Commissioned), Independent I National
August 2019 - Present

- Commissioned to create five works for regional companies, including Joffrey Studio Company and Ballet Memphis.
- Self-produced two evening-length works in Houston, with combined ticket revenue of \$74,000 across both runs.
- Selected as a 2022 NCCAkrone resident choreographer, developing a 35-minute group work over a six-week residency.
- Manage budgets up to \$40,000 per project, including dancer pay, music licensing, and design fees.

Soloist, Northern Bridge Dance Co. I Minneapolis, MN
May 2013 - August 2018

- Promoted from corps to soloist after two seasons; promoted to senior soloist in 2016.
- Performed featured roles in works by William Forsythe and Ohad Naharin under license.
- Toured with the company to 12 U.S. cities and three Canadian cities over five seasons.
- Served as rehearsal assistant for two principal choreographers, running clean-up calls for groups of 14 dancers.

Company Dancer, Atelier Mouvement Lyon I Lyon, France
August 2010 - February 2013

- Joined as one of two non-European hires in the 2010 season cohort.
- Danced in 9 productions across three seasons, including two co-productions with Maison de la Danse.
- Performed at Avignon Festival in 2012 in a featured trio.
- Coached new company dancers on house repertory in English and French.

- Conversational French