

Riley Walker is a familiar face at the studio, an aspiring dancer, gymnast and choreographer. Beginning at a very young age he had a love for movement; starting in gymnastics at 6 before enrolling at a dance studio soon after. Focusing in Jazz, Lyrical, Contemporary, Tap, Musical Theatre, and Ballet with several years of BATD training; he has experience in Partnering, Spotting, and Improvisation - also specializing in Acrobatics and Tumbling.

In his teen years he continued studying dance by participating in conventions, workshops and master classes spanning North America, picking up inspiration from influences including Mia Michaels, Blake McGrath, and Brian Friedman. While traveling and competing he was awarded scholarships to several of these events: Coastal Dance Rage, Jump, Fresh Dance Convention, Be Discovered NYC, among others. Before joining the pre-professional company at O'Neill Academy of Dance he was able to be a part of multiple school musicals, dance shows, galas, talent competitions and charity performances including Decidedly Dance (and more recently Dancing with the Stars) with NSD! He notes his highlight as being a cast member and featured dancer in Footloose at the Grand Theatre (2011).

Training at OAD under the direction of Kim O'Neill he was provided with countless opportunities to grow as an artist, learning from industry names such as Linda Garneau, Alvin Collantes, Gino Berti, Jesse Weafer, Cora Kozaris, Jesse Weafer, Mitchell Jackson and Kristin Gillis. As a senior dancer he earned numerous awards, some of which are: 5-Time Overall Senior Soloist, Move Dance & Fever Dance Off Finalist, Hall of Fame National All Star VIP Dancer, Mr. Dance Canada Finalist, and recognized many times for Judge's Choice and special awards. Contributing to his individual success was a unit of talented dancers and faculty which propelled the team to become Highest Scoring Studio winners and Senior Regional Group Champions of Hall of Fame Dance in Detroit, Michigan in his final competitive season.

Relocating to Toronto for school at George Brown College as a Dance Performance student, he was part of a joint program, which included full-time training at Ballet Jörgen Canada. Expanding on his dance education, he also trained at Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre, OIP, Metro Movement and Underground Dance Centre.

He has been working as a competitive dance teacher/choreographer for over ten years, acknowledged for his creativity and style that continues to evolve through time. His main goal is always to train successful, well-rounded dancers, with heart.

As a growing artist Riley consistently challenges himself in many aspects, pursuing training to improve in many styles of dance; including tap which has brought him new experiences on stage with London Tap Collective; and he was recently named as an inaugural company member of Syncopate Tap Co - with their debut performance being the London Music Awards 2022!

He also has a massive appreciation for athletics, devoting time to work with organizations like Gymnastics Canada for events including the 2017 World Gymnastics Championships in Montreal and the 2018 Canadian Gymnastics Nationals here in Ontario. Working as a media liaison he has had the chance to interact with international athletes, news & media personnel, elite coaches & trainers and be a part of growing the sport of artistic gymnastics in Canada! Riley has also enjoyed choreographing floor routines for local gyms competed at the provincial level.

"I am so very thankful to be back for a 5th season as a faculty member at NSD!"