



Meet Leslie Scott

Leslie Scott is well known not only for her talents but her unwavering work ethic, inspiring public speaking, contagious positive energy and bold use of movement to spread a positive message! She is on Faculty at the Edge Performing Arts and Millennium Dance Complex, guest faculty on several conventions and is represented by the agency McDonald Selznick Association (MSA) in Hollywood, California. Leslie is the Founder of the non-profit "Youth Protection Advocates in Dance" (YPAD) whose Mission is to build empowered dance communities through education and activism and stop all exploitation of children in performing arts and keep youth happy, healthy and safe in dance. She also founded the [E.D.I.F.Y. Movement](#), a division committed to using dance to highlight social causes and leads groups of young dancers to teach creative arts at local shelters and orphanages in Mexico and Africa.

Leslie is a sought after Artistic Director/Choreographer and well known for the breakthroughs dancers experience in her inter-active seminar "[Self-Esteem in Performing Arts](#)" as well as her seminars for [parents](#) and [educators](#). Leslie and her team at YPAD/EDIFY have developed the first-of-its kind Dance Education [Certification](#) that focuses on the psychological, physical and sexual safety of children and teens in the arts. She has been teaching for 27 years and has been instructed in 22 countries and 48 states to spread her unique teaching methods, artistry and teaching the ideology of "*Spirit Swag*", a term Leslie coined to give value to the style of a person's heart and character, not just their talent, aesthetics, fashion, popularity, social media presence or ability to follow trends in culture.

She has traveled the country week after week with her Purpose Partner and amazing husband Joseph and her lil toddler Carmella to share the YPAD education with the dance community. Recently, she has presented YPAD/EDIFY at Pulse and Camp Pulse, Dance Educators of America, Dance Teacher Web and was the keynote speaker at *The National Honor Society in Dance Arts* in Boca Raton, Colorado's *Hip-Hop Madness* and *Studio Owner University* in Las Vegas. She is a contributing writer to *More Than Dancers* and the *American Psychological Association's Psychology Benefits Society* sharing her cutting edge research linking several Psychological Effects on the identity and brain wiring of Performing Artists who are not mindfully processing the potential consequences of today's Dance Culture and Entertainment/Social Media on Self-Esteem and Identity. Leslie is a Dance Activist!

During Leslie's commercial career she has worked with Beyonce, Ciara, Hi-Hat, Jermaine Jackson and Choreographed Brittany N's video "We're Beautiful" and has been featured at *The Carnival's Choreographer's Ball* 22 times including the sought after, invite only, Anniversary Show seven times. She has been a featured choreographer on two seasons of the web series *Wallbreakers*. *The Industry Voice Awards* in Hollywood has nominated her twice for "Best Class of the Year" and "Artist of the Year" for her Humanitarian work with E.D.I.F.Y. Movement. Leslie was featured in Nylon Magazine as one of America's leading forces in Hip-Hop and quoted in *Dance Spirit* magazine regarding appropriate facials for young dancers. She was selected as a judge for USA Hip-Hop International Championships hosted by the creators of Americas Best Dance Crew and Hip-Hop International. She is a certified Life Coach through Chonique Sneed and Lisette Bustamante's *Creating Opportunities* and was honored to present their seminar "Performing Like a Pro" at the *Monsters* dance convention in Los Angeles. Leslie also designed a clothing line with inspirational quotes in dance and life called *Groove Gear: Wear the Message, BE the Message!*



As a professional dancer Leslie experienced hypersexualization, sexism and sexual harassment within the professional setting. For many years she played into the pervasive messaging that objectification was empowerment. When she shed that myth, Leslie made a commitment that all aspects of her artistry would be a powerful representation of a human's value and worth. As she witnessed consequences in her young students, she became increasingly concerned with the dance industries' normalization and encouragement of superimposing hypersexuality and the glorification of celebrity on very young dancers. This journey led to her current purpose to educate and activate the global dance community to embrace young dancers from a Holistic perspective!

Leslie is well respected in her industry and uses dance as a vehicle to help her students, dance parents and clients reach their full potential as whole beings in a complex dance culture and world. Leslie believes dance and music has a powerful influence over our greater culture and has the power to heal and unite our communities when used with positive intent and integrity!

What Leslie Can Do For You

Leslie offers a variety of classes, seminars and choreography for your students. Pieces designed by Leslie can also be performed by Y.P.A.D. dancers. All classes and choreography can be designed specifically for students, teachers and studio owners. Interactive seminars and classes for the mind, body and soul address the following:

- Parenting tips in today's dance culture
- Effects of entertainment media and social networking
- Body image and nutrition

- Who is your audience?
- Co-dependency and depression
- I AM (identity and self-worth)
- Music and Movement: Sexualization of dance and music

Class 1- Holistic Hip-Hop: Dance for the Mind, Body and SOUL! Open your Mind and your Body will follow! As dancers we will see stunning results by working on our mind and Spirit before our movement! After all, what our body does is just a reflection of what our minds and Souls are thinking and feeling!! If we are thinking insecure, self-defeating thoughts, then our success rate to retain choreography or even learn the specific skill being taught will decrease. This class will focus on some of the secret tools I have learned over my 21 years as a Hip-Hop teacher that will break down those mental and emotional barriers in students of all ages, gender and skill level so you can experience the gift dance was meant to be!!

Class 2- Let Music Be Your GPS: This class will address a very specific and crucial skill: MUSICALITY! Learning the lyrics, the instruments (piano, bass, sneer, etc.) AND all in the correct rhythms and syncopations is our goal! ! These 3 abilities will nurture a musical ear that will make your dance go from average to Brilliant! ! Nothing is more frustrating than learning a combination that looks one way when you do it slow with the teacher and then a completely different routine when the music comes on. As a dancer our music is our GPS! ! Let's me help you become an amazing Musical Map Reader!!

Class 3- Performance Technique: The difference between dancing to impress or dancing to inspire starts with your Spirit Swag! ! We don't want our audience to watch us dance, but to FEEL us dance! ! The root of this is authentic emotion speaking through your movement. I will address how to create camaraderie among your dance company that people can feel on stage, combat competition among your peers, taking care of yourself outside the classroom and how to use opportunities to perform as a lesson in accountability, community and the rewards of a strong team work ethic! I will share exercises on facials, structure, lines, levels, rehearsal etiquette, etc. that will not only yield the best results but will give the most memorable journey to the final destination of performing! !

Class 4- Mock Audition: For many the thought of auditions or going into a highly competitive dance environment makes your tummies turn! ! In this class I will address proper etiquette for these environments and work on some mental strategies to keep you focused and counteract getting psyched out or intimidated. ! You will each come up with your own IT factor and gain clarity on what you individually have to offer that is special and unique to YOU! ! I will address what to expect and what it actually takes to book that music video/commercial. !Many of you will be surprised your dance skills are not first on the list! ! Whether you want to be a professional dancer or not this class will help prepare you to confidently pursue any goals you want to achieve in life!

Some of Leslie's Work

(Can be Seen on Youtube)

["I Will Wait for You"](#)

Choreographed piece for Carnival 2012.

["Dance Texas!"](#)

See a great clip of how Leslie teaches classes in this video done for Dance Texas! 2014.

["I Shall Be Free"](#)

A Choreographed piece for Carnival 2013 with a message about the sexualization of culture.

["Midnight Mission"](#)

This performance was done in March 2013, choreographed by Leslie Scott with the concept of the piece to encourage dancers to use their gifts for outreach.

What Others Have to Say

*"Leslie does more than "just teach class" or "make a hot combo", she INSTRUCTS and INSPIRES. Two of the many key components needed in the growth of our art form. Everything from her words of inspiration, to her choreography is artistically bold, passionate, and loving. She's a true artist to the core." **Stephen "tWitch" Boss** (2nd Runner Up So You Think You Can Dance-Season Six, Step Up 3D and Stomp the Yard 2)*

*"Leslie Scott is truly an Angel walking this earth, and is a blessing to absolutely everyone she comes in contact with. Her talent goes so far beyond just her choreography. She's one of the few folks in the industry, that care so deeply about the art form and what we are passing on to this next generation." **William Wingfield** (Dance Magazine 2010 Cover and So You Think You Can Dance-Season Six)*

*"Before we received any fame in this industry, even when we were wak and no one new us, Leslie encouraged us to keep going and she has not just done this for us, but has done this for many." **We Are Heroes** (Winners Season 4, America's Best Dance Crew)*

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