

TIER I: JUNE 1 - 12, 2020

TIER II: Winter 2020









## INTRODUCTION



MindLeaps program for Congolese Refugee Youth in Kampala, Uganda

Thank you for your interest in the MindLeaps Train The Trainer program. Below are details on the 2020 training and application process.

MindLeaps is an NGO working in East and West Africa to empower vulnerable youth through a dance-based program. The program improves cognitive skills and social-emotional learning to help youth perform better in school and make positive life decisions.

MindLeaps 2020 training will offer four weeks of intensive dance study in the organization's standardized methodology. This training will include instruction in MindLeaps curricula as well as orient you to field work in our international programs.

Join us and make a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable youth around the world.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES



Our skilled instructors will guide you through a rigorous and focused series of daily dance classes designed to prepare you for teaching in the MindLeaps program. The training is composed of two tiers.

#### 2020 Training: Tier I

Tier I training will take place from June 1 - 12, 2020 in New York City. The two weeks of 8-hour days include:

- 4+ hours of intensive, physical dance training in studio daily
- Study of the Foundations and Choreography I Curricula
- Training on how to use MindLeaps' monitoring and evaluation system (a software app)
- Historical and cultural orientation of MindLeaps 5 country locations
- Learning MindLeaps pedagogical methods
- Guest lectures on MindLeaps' impact research

Training participants will also meet MindLeaps' field staff through skype and network with fellow dancers and friends of MindLeaps.

#### **Learning Objectives**



- Learn and study MindLeaps
   Foundation curricula including
   physical movements, anatomical
   terms, and mental development
   objectives
- Gain a comprehensive understanding of MindLeaps' pedagogical approach used to work with at-risk children and youth with an emphasis on the

contexts of post-conflict and developing countries

- Intensively use Tracker, the data collection tablet and online software system demonstrating changes in learning skills
- Interact with MindLeaps
   American and African
   instructors to share case
   studies of work with
   street children, at-risk
   youth, and refugees



## As a result of this training you will:

- Be able to use a movement-based curriculum to improve child development
- Be able to assess
   the changes in
   cognitive and
   social emotional
   learning skills in
   students
- Gain knowledge in international development, research methods, child development, and positive pedagogical methods



• Successful completion of this training will make you eligible for invitation to the Tier II training.

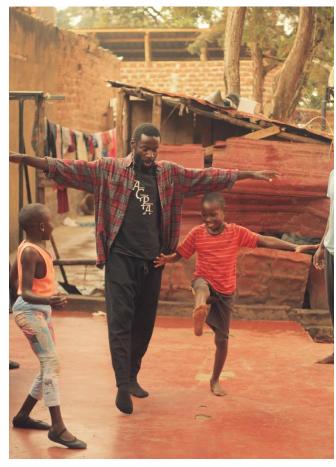
#### 2020 Training: Tier II

Tier II training will take place in December 2020 at one of MindLeaps' Centers in East or West Africa. Tier II enrollment is by *invitation only* and you must have successfully completed MindLeaps Tier I Training to be eligible. The two weeks of 8-hour days include:

- Study of MindLeaps Contemporary and Choreography II Curricula
- Supervised teaching and grading of student dance classes at MindLeaps Centers in Rwanda or Guinea
- Visits to MindLeaps students' homes and schools
- Conversations with MindLeaps staff
- Work with local MindLeaps trainers and staff on specialized projects
- Advanced training of MindLeaps kinesthetic-based curricula, specialized teaching methodologies, and practical data collection process

#### **Learning Objectives**

- Become versed in how to teach all of MindLeaps movement curricula
- Practice the pedagogical approach used to work with at-risk children and youth with an emphasis on the contexts of postconflict and developing countries



- Intensively use Tracker, the data collection tablet and online software system demonstrating changes in learning skills, and study the analytics to inform teaching practices and decisions regarding child development
- Gain a deeper understanding of the challenges facing youth enrolled in MindLeaps programs
- Become versed in how to run Train The Trainers
- Gain field experience to prepare you for deploying MindLeaps programs across East and West Africa

After successful completion of this training you will receive contracts for teaching at MindLeaps international program locations.



## 2020 TIER I INFORMATION

**Dates:** June 1 - 12, 2020

Location: New York, NY, USA

Cost: \$2,000, which includes:

- Rigorous 8-hour days that combine intensive dance movement with classroom work
- Interactive teaching with the expectation of active participation



MindLeaps program in Kigali, Rwanda

- Theoretical and practical classes including time dedicated to the application of concepts learned
- A diverse environment and mixture of languages to facilitate the practice of cultural adjustments
- Dedicated time to learning about the countries where MindLeaps trainers work



Trainees are responsible for their travel and accommodations.

Please see the last page of this packet for suggested grants to cover the cost of the training. MindLeaps also provides merit-based scholarships.

Email info@mindleaps.org for more information.

## Who is eligible to apply for Tier I:

- O Dancers, athletes or people with extensive movement experience
- English or French language proficiency
- o Full-time availability for the dates of training
- o Interest and passion for working with vulnerable youth

#### **Apply now:**

Click on this <u>link</u> (<u>https://bit.ly/2Hcolk0</u>) to complete this application online for Tier I, or if you prefer, answer the questions and send all materials to info@mindleaps.org. Applicants will be notified of acceptance in the spring.

Tier I Applications are due by April 1, 2020.



## 2020 TIER II - INFORMATION

Dates: December 2020

Location: Conakry, Guinea or Kigali, Rwanda

Cost: \$2,000, which includes:

- Rigorous 8-hour days that combine intensive dance movement and teaching
- Supervised work experience with MindLeaps staff and students
- Learning opportunities from experienced MindLeaps staff, educators, and participant alumni
- Accommodations are included (flights, vaccinations, meals, and other incidentals are not included)



## Application to Tier II is by invitation only



## SELECTED INSTRUCTOR BIOS

REBECCA DAVIS



Rebecca is the Founder and Director of MindLeaps. Rebecca has choreographed and taught in the USA, Canada, Russia, Ukraine, the Balkans and across Africa. She was classically trained in the Russian Vaganova method of ballet and received a degree in choreography from The Saint Petersburg Conservatory under the tutelage of Nikolai Boyarchikov (former Artistic Director, The Mussorgsky Ballet). She is a twotime Fulbright scholar and summa cum laude graduate of Temple University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Entrepreneurship. She holds a Master of International Relations with a concentration in Peacekeeping from American Military University. In 2010, she was awarded the Carl Wilkens Fellowship from the Genocide Intervention Network. Rebecca has appeared on The Melissa-Harris Perry Show, given two TEDx talks, and been a guest speaker at several universities. She has presented at the Pan-African Film Festival, United Nations Film Festival, International Institute of Education Seminary and given the Fulbright Association's Selma Jeanne Cohen Lecture on Dance Education and Research. Rebecca's work has been featured in many publications, including: Dance Studio Life, The New Times (Rwanda), Dance Magazine, and Dance Teacher Magazine. In 2015, Rebecca received Dance Studio Life's "Generous Heart Award" and was selected as the Greater New York City's Fulbright Alumnus-in-Residence for her work involving arts, technology and education in conflict zones. Rebecca is a Truman Project Fellow (2017) and a Gratitude Network Fellow (2017-18).

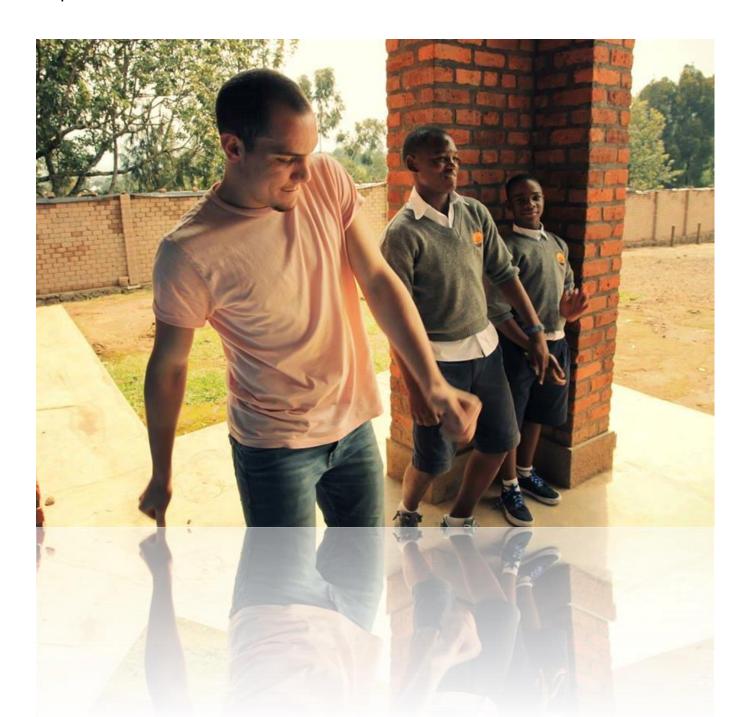
CAITLYN CASSON



Caitlyn, originally from Philadelphia, graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of South Florida with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance and a minor in Psychology. She has performed repertoire by distinguished artists Bill T. Jones, Doug Varone, Talley Beatty and Sean Curran. Casson's desire for internationally diverse, artistic endeavors has taken her across the globe to perform and teach including Edinburgh's Fringe Festival and Kigali's Ubumuntu Festival. Since 2013, she has been working as an international dance trainer and teacher training specialist with MindLeaps to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Rwanda and Guinea. Caitlyn is currently based in NYC. She teaches hot yoga and is a performing company member with Ariel Rivka Dance, Dance Entropy and Matthew Westerby Company.

# PREVIOUS DANCERS' TESTIMONIALS

Upon completing the training, you will become eligible to receive contracts with MindLeaps to teach in our program locations in Africa. Below you will find more information on a few of the dancers who have completed the training and some testimonials from their experiences.



"I have been teaching dance for 16 years, and the MindLeaps Train The Trainers program is by far the most rewarding thing I have ever done. You get to work with students dealing with some of the most difficult life situations, yet they come to class some of the happiest, hard-working people you will ever meet. It has been a humbling experience."

> Deanna Cormier Attended Tiers I & II Training 2019 Dance Professor, St. Lawrence College

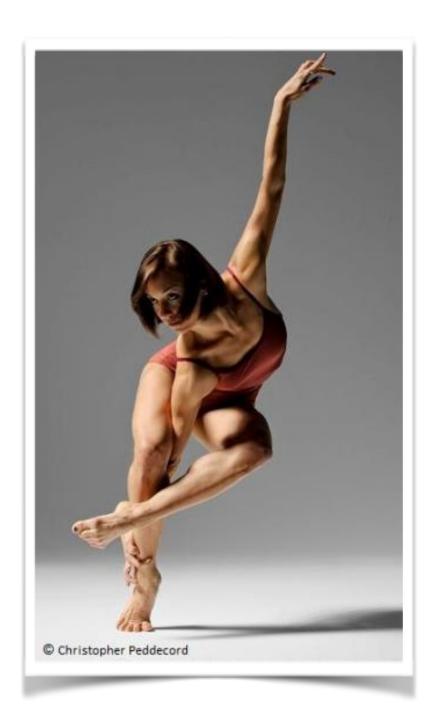




"Train The Trainers has taught me so much about culture, about people, and about the way I teach and approach others, and I can already see myself applying what I learnt with MindLeaps in my everyday work and life."

Giulia Coti Zelati Attended Tiers I & II Training 2019 Freelance Dance Artist "The rhythms meant so much more than counts, and the movements more than shapes. I could feel each child's sprit in full celebration."

-Ashley Werhun Les Ballet Jazz de Montreal





"The students' lives are like nothing we can begin to even fathom. They have been through things that no one should ever have to go through."

-LaMar Baylor Disney's The Lion King on Broadway



"These kids' lives are changing, and they have definitely changed mine."

-Misty Copeland MindLeaps International Artist Fund, American Ballet Theater



## **GRANTS & RESOURCES**

If you are interested in pursuing grant funding to cover the cost of this training, we have provided links to several grants below. For more information on scholarships from MindLeaps, please email info@mindleaps.org.

http://sandrfoundation.org/programs/washington-award

https://americandanceabroad.org/rapid-response/

https://exchanges.state.gov/us/program/arts-envoy

https://actorsfund.org/services-and-programs/careertransition-dancers

http://www.thedcd.org.uk/retraininggrants.php

https://www.nyfa.org/Content/Show/Awards-and-Grants

https://uk.usembassy.gov/embassyconsulates/london/ukpa/grants-programs/

# **QUESTIONS**

Please contact MindLeaps with any questions at info@mindleaps.org or 646.902.1295.

Thank you for your interest in becoming a MindLeaps dance teacher to help at-risk youth around the world!