

PROFILE

Natasha Powell



It was at the tender age of 9 when Claudette Powell enrolled her daughter Natasha into a dance summer camp not thinking that Natasha would ever come this far. Natasha started out taking dance lessons at a recreational level in jazz and ballet. When she realized that she wanted to take dance more seriously and participate in competitions, Natasha then went on to attend Denise Lester Dance Academy in Pickering, ON where she continued her training in jazz, ballet, and took up tap, modern, and lyrical. In her first year at the studio, Natasha was asked to join the competitive team to attend competitions across North America. During her time at the studio, she obtained her Associate Membership to the British Association of Teachers of Dance (BATD) receiving high marks in the areas of Ballet, Stage, and Modern Jazz. After competing for 5 years and graduating from high school, Natasha then decided she wanted to

give back everything she learned by taking up teaching and joined the faculty of Take 5 Dance Studio. During Natasha's four years teaching, she helped establish the studios hip hop program. And within that time, her choreography won Adjudicator's Award, Best Ballet Performance, Best Hip Hop Performance, and overall high score awards at 1st Position, Shine Dance Festival, Flashdance Competitions, and Footloose Dance Competitions. In her final year at the studio, Natasha and the studio director were honored with winning the "Teachers of the Year" title for their performance at **5678 Showtime National Finals**.

While she continued to teach, Natasha completed her 3-year accounting program at George Brown College, and continued to dance on her own. She joined a local dance company in which she had the opportunity to perform at industrials across Toronto. She has had the opportunity to perform for **Air Canada, Woodbine Casino, MACViva Glam Fashion Cares, Breakfast Television, NEDCO, KUYA**

Productions, and various other events across Toronto. Summer 2005 was when Natasha made her music video debut dancing in **Rihanna's** hit music video "**Pon de Replay**", which was in heavy rotation on MuchMusic and MTV, and was choreographed by the world renowned **Fatima Robinson (Aaliyah, Backstreet Boys, Black Eyed Peas)**.

After performing in Rihanna's video, Natasha realized she needed MORE. More training, and a look at the life of dancers in Los Angeles, California where there are plenty more opportunities for dancers than there are in Toronto. She moved to LA for 2 1/2 months where she studied at Edge Performing Arts Centre, Debbie Reynolds Dance Studio, and Millennium Dance Complex. During her time, she was able to study with the likes of Nichelle Bane (Princess Cruiselines), Kevin Maher (Missy Elliot), Tovariz Wilson, (So You Think You Can Dance) Teresa Espinosa (Janet Jackson), Roger Lee (Justin Timberlake), Marty Kudelka (Justin Timberlake), and Alex Plasschaert (Sammy Davis Jr.). Now that she is back home, she is more determined than ever to continue along that never-ending road of feeling complete as a dancer. She now dances for **Leon Blackwood's** company Nu-Limit Entertainment (choreographer from "Making It Big") and just finished shooting a music video for Toronto R&B artist Robbie Blake with the group, and also performs the choreography of **Faye Rauw ('CHICAGO')** with ALI Entertainment in shows across Toronto. Natasha is definitely a dancer to look out for in the near future!