



B Á R B A R O S

JANA CASTILLO

Performer

Winner of the prestigious Australian Dance Award for Outstanding Performance by a Female Dancer. Lead motion-capture actor for Sir Peter Jackson's Planet of the Apes and The Hobbit: The Battle of the five Armies feature films. One of Sydney's top choreographers, as published in October 2022. Inclusivity consultant for screen and stage.

Jana Castillo's story from dance-obsessed childhood to celebrated Australian artist, who happens to live with disability, has been a hard-earned one. Castillo grew up in Wodonga, winning a scholarship to complete her schooling at the VCA (Victorian College of Arts) Secondary School in Melbourne. She then went on to study at the New Zealand School of Dance, graduating in 2009.

Since 2010, Castillo has worked in both Australia and New Zealand with leading artists across dance, theatre, opera and film. She has toured nationally and internationally with companies such as ADT (Australian Dance Theatre), Legs on the Wall, Shaun Parker and Company, Force Majeure, Dance Integrated Australia, Opera Australia, Okareka

Dance Company, The Conch, and World of Wearable Arts in addition to independent choreographers Prue Lang, Craig Bary and Meryl Tankard. Performance venues at home and abroad have included London's Sadlers Wells Theatre, New York's The Joyce Theatre and Sydney Opera House.

In November 2019, Castillo's life-story to date was the subject of SBS documentary series 'Perspective Shift' which premiered on national Australian TV. Noted as Dancer to Watch in the annual Critics Choice 2020 feature – by Dance Australia magazine – projects for 2023 include Duellite for Frame Festival hosted by the Australian Ballet, an aerial duet in Sydney CBD - Love for Sydney Pride Festival 2023; a short film on neurodiversity in women and a the latest development for a new show with Dance Makers Collective.

Jana has recently been nominated for A Green Room Award for "Best Performer in Dance". Jana is invited to perform Castillo at the Théâtre Nationale de Chaillot in January 2024.

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