



TEACHER PROFILE



Lona Mafaufau *Hip Hop*

Lona started break dancing in high school and it was all he ever did in his free time. As soon as he left school in 2004, he spent one year studying dance and performance at the 'Excel School of Performing Arts' in Avondale.

Lona's performance and teaching background is wide and varied. He was a member of Dzhia and then Prestige Dance Crew who won many national and international competitions including Gold (1st out of 50 crews) at the 2007 World Hip Hop Champs held in Serbia in October 2007, and was placed 2nd, 4th and 8th from 2006-2008 at the International Hip Hop World Championships held in Los Angeles and Las Vegas. Lona has also been a back-up dancer for J Williams, Aaradhna, Drew Neemia, Dei Hamo, PNC, and Keshia Paulse.

He has taught at various schools around Auckland and was a choreographer and instructor for the Desire to Dream mentoring programme - an 8 week course based at Dzhia Dance Studio where he trained 19 dancers aged between 18-27 years old in new school hip hop culminating in a performance at the Genesis Theatre at the Telstra Stadium in Manukau.

Career highlights include being a core member of *Prestige, Phunk Nation* - 13 week TV show filmed in NZ, being chosen to accompany Prime Minister John Key on his 4-day 'Pacific Tour' to Niue, the Cook Islands, Samoa and Tonga as an opening act and Opening for Missy Elliot in 2004.