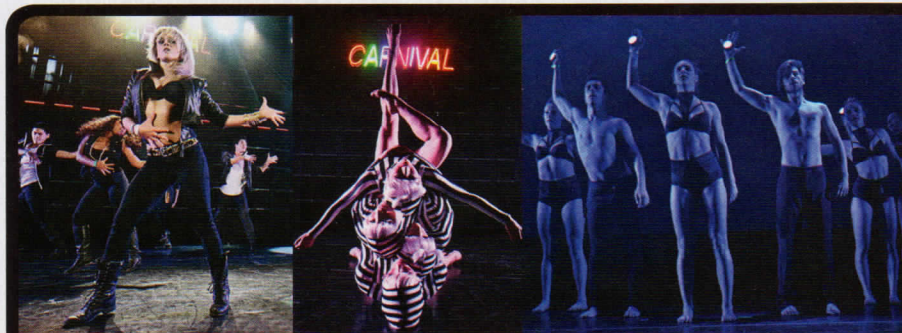
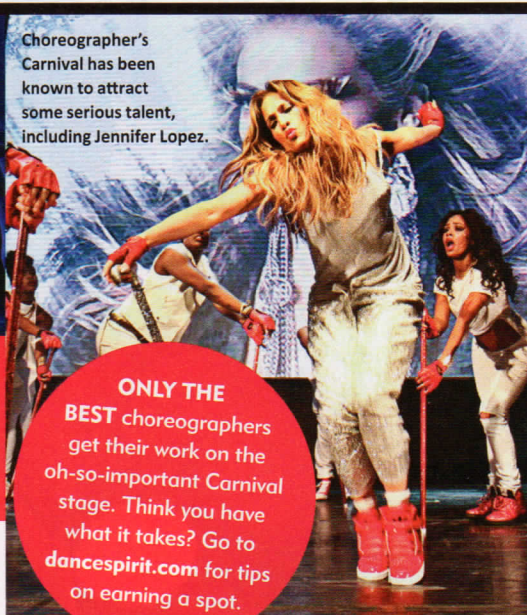


Get the inside scoop on Choreographer's Carnival. Plus, The Dirt with Cat Deeley.



Choreographer's Carnival has been known to attract some serious talent, including Jennifer Lopez.



ONLY THE BEST choreographers get their work on the oh-so-important Carnival stage. Think you have what it takes? Go to dancespirit.com for tips on earning a spot.

Carnival Attractions

What you should know about Choreographer's Carnival By Rachel Zar

IF YOU'RE A DANCER IN L.A., chances are you've heard of—and probably been to—Choreographer's Carnival. Founded 14 years ago, this series of monthly industry showcases is *the* place for choreographers to get noticed. It's no wonder every spot on each program is so coveted. *Dance Spirit* talked to executive producer and director Carey Ysaïs, who shared seven things newbies need to know about Carnival.

- 1. It's huge.** Carnival sells out gigantic nightclubs and concert venues, drawing 700 to 1,200 audience members. Each show includes 18 to 20 choreographers and 160 dancers.
- 2. It's worldwide.** While L.A. is the original home of Carnival, shows are also going strong in cities including NYC, Chicago and Sydney.
- 3. It has hosted your favorite choreographers.** The list of dance celebs whose work has made appearances on Carnival stages includes Tabitha and Napoleon D'umo, the Beat Freaks, the Jabbawoockeez, Wade Robson, Brian Friedman, Jamal Sims, Marty Kudelka and Christopher Scott, to name a few.
- 4. It can jump-start your career.** Getting to the Carnival stage means showing your work alongside that of the biggest choreographers in the world, so all eyes are on you. And many of those eyes belong to industry insiders. "If you do something to stand out, you'll probably be hired, get an agent or be offered teaching jobs worldwide," Ysaïs says.
- 5. It allows a lot of creative freedom.** There are no style, theme or music guidelines, so choreographers can really let loose. "This is a place to express yourself without conforming," Ysaïs says. "Choreographers do what they want to do instead of what they're told to do."
- 6. It's not just for choreographers.** Performing at Carnival is a great way for

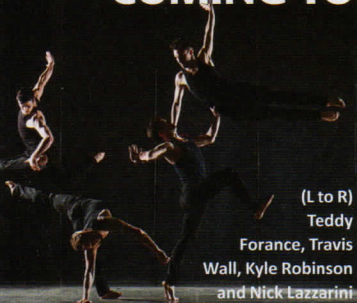
dancers to get noticed, too. But how can you get involved? "Take classes with top choreographers and go to clubs where dancers are battling," Ysaïs says. If you have an agent, ask if he or she has any choreographer clients who are doing Carnival—you'd be surprised how many may be searching for dancers.

7. It's open to anybody (over the age of 18). "Our audience includes everyone from b-boys to bunheads to celebrities like Queen Latifah and Diana Ross, plus industry heads and agents," Ysaïs says. And just because you're not onstage doesn't mean you won't get to dance: Every show starts with a battle, and the crowd is encouraged to join in!

Choreographer's Carnival comes to Joe's Bar in Chicago May 8. For more show dates, go to choreographerscarnival.com.

COMING TO A THEATER NEAR YOU... Shaping Sound!

Last summer, *Oxygen's "All the Right Moves"* gave us a behind-the-scenes look at the creation of *Shaping Sound*, a contemporary company starring powerhouses Travis Wall, Teddy Forance, Nick Lazzarini and Kyle Robinson. (The show even included a peek inside the company's *Dance Spirit* May/June 2012 cover shoot!) Now the group is embarking on its first tour, stopping in 13 cities throughout May and June. "The show revolves around a love story that takes place in a dream," Wall says. "The goal is to transport the audience to different worlds." With a cast that includes "So You Think You Can Dance" favorites Melanie Moore, Jaimie Goodwin, Noelle Marsh and Channing Cooke, the tour will showcase original choreography and, of course, impeccable technique. Plus, the cast will teach a dance class in every host city! The tour kicks off at L.A.'s El Portal Theatre May 18. Find out if it's coming to your hometown at shapingsoundco.com. —Megan Kirsch



(L to R) Teddy Forance, Travis Wall, Kyle Robinson and Nick Lazzarini