

Queens College Department of Drama, Theatre and Dance

Spring 2017 New Course Offering

Special Topics Dance 397-01: Baroque Dance and Culture (3 credits)

Tues. and Thurs. 1:40-2:55pm Rathaus Hall, Dance Studio 101A

Prof. Carlos Fittante



Carlos Fittante. Photo Credit: David Bazemore

This introductory level movement course offers an overview of the dance and culture from the Baroque and Rococo periods, 1650-1800, and is an excellent supplement for historical studies in any discipline.

Baroque, an important aesthetic movement in Europe, represents the grandeur of kings and the rise of reason in the Age of the Enlightenment. Much of contemporary western society's values are a response to the beliefs and power structures implemented in the Baroque period.

Topics to be covered include Baroque social etiquette and the art of the bow; Baroque dance, both social and theatrical styles Baroque gesture, a stylized acting technique; Baroque music, an aural field of exuberance and improvisation; Baroque fashion, hair, and makeup; period fencing-the art and science of armed self-defense; and more.

No previous dance experience is necessary; all are welcome. Body awareness principles from Laban Movement Analysis will be incorporated into the course's physical practice and guest lecturers, who are experts in their fields, will appear as a part of the curriculum.

Carlos Fittante is a choreographer/dance artist specializing in Baroque and Balinese dance, and the artistic director of BALAM Dance Theatre (BALAM), a contemporary dance company fusing diverse dance styles from around the world with Balinese theatre, (www.balamdancetheatre.blogspot.com). Fittante is the Ballet Master and Co-Choreographer for the Boston Early Music Festival. His extensive performing credits include: soloist with New York City Opera, Apollo's Fire, Academy of Ancient Music, Foliage-Entertainments of the 17th & 18th Centuries, American Virtuosi, Ars Antiqua, Sinfonia New York Quick Silver, Kingsbury Ensemble, Opera Lafayette, New York Collegium, and others. He has performed and taught master classes and workshops in Baroque dance at many institutions, including Yale, Bard College, Juilliard, New York University and Washington University in St. Louis. His choreographic work has received critical praise from the New York Times and Village Voice, and he has presented at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors, Queens Museum of Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Downtown Dance Festival, and others. Fittante is a graduate from the School of American Ballet, and has a B.A. in Dance from Empire State College and is pursuing an MFA through Peck School of the Arts. He teaches Ballet and Intro to Dance at Queens College.