

ATLA- STORYLINES/BIOS

KIKI & SAKINAH: “BOSS LADIES OF ATLA”

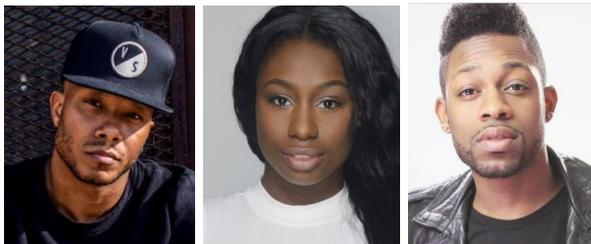


ATLA is a dance collective and a school for the gifted... and the cursed. If ATLA is the X-MEN, KIKI and SAKINAH are PROFESSOR X.

They've paid the costs to be bosses: boasting big careers as dancers and now Choreographers and Creative Directors, with credentials that include top names like Christina Aguilera and Usher, films such as Footloose and Drumline, and much much more. Their greatest challenge, however, lies ahead: can they harness the amazing raw talent of the women,

men, and children of ATLA? A group of beautiful misfits-- some destined to be stars, and some to be destroyed by their pursuit of fame. Shaped by broken homes, tragedies, insecurities and infidelities but bonded by talent and the sheer love of dance... Can Kiki and Sakinah shape them into the dancers they're meant to be? Good Cop and Bad Cop are ready for duty...

GARY, CANDY & JAY: “THREE TO TANGO?”



***Gary** is an “ex” player, dating another ATLA dancer, **Candy**. Gary’s best friend **Jay** is jealous of Candy-- feeling that he and Gary grew apart when she came into the picture. Candy believes Gary has left his past in the past but Jay knows this may not be the*

case... and he has allll the receipts. Jay claims he's straight but many around him believe he is gay but struggling to come out. In fact, they think he is really in love with Gary! Will Jay's feelings for Gary cause him to bust out the receipts for Candy?



GARY B

[INSTAGRAM: @gbeasy](#)

Ex-Military, no-nonsense dancer and choreographer. Was in Air Force right out of high school. It shaped who he is as a person and dancer. He misses the stability of the military.

RELATIONSHIPS – *Dating an ATLA dancer, Candice Savage.* Has a reputation for being a player, and has ex-girlfriends or hookups in the dance community all over town (Natalie, Jessica Butler, Tiffany “Tiff Honey” to name few), so there is a lot of trust

issues in the relationship. Gary recently proposed to Candice by *showing her his receipt for the ring.* As of now, she still hasn't gotten the ring.

RIVALRIES/ BEEFS – Gary was best friends and roommates with ATLA stand out, **Jay Battle**, for 4 years. After Gary started dating Candice, she started coming over all the time and Jay started resenting him. They have recently had a bit of a falling out. Gary (and everyone else at ATLA) thinks Jay is gay, despite Jay claiming he's straight. Some think that Jay is secretly in love with Gary.



JAY BATTLE

Singled out by most ATLA dancers as the best male dancer in the group. Also singled out for being the biggest complainer and biggest pain in the ass. Very dramatic and tells it like he sees it. Unlike some of the other ATLA dancers, he is not shy to get into verbal altercations with other dancers.

RELATIONSHIPS: Jay is not in a relationship. Everyone says he's gay, but he says he's straight. We think he's secretly in love with Gary.

RIVALS/ BEEFS: Gary was his roommate for 4 years. He thinks Gary is disrespectful, selfish & mean. He says that Gary puts up a front of being a stand up guy, but really he's just a big, womanizing jerk. He has no beef with Gary's new girl, Candice, and is just waiting for the day she asks for his opinion of Gary. He has a LOT to say, including that Jay witnessed Gary with another girl when he was supposedly about to get engaged to Candice. Jay knows that Gary will never change, and almost feels bad for Candice. Almost...



CANDY SAVAGE

INSTAGRAM: [@dxncecandii](#)

25. Moved from Chicago's south side. Chicago Bulls dance team. Trained in ballet and all other dance.

FAMILY: Raised by single mom. Mom is alcoholic. Dad is a Crack addict who is in and out of her life. She has 8 sisters from her dad. She takes care of her mom and autistic sister.

RELATIONSHIPS – Candice dates Gary... “talking” about marriage. Said that Gary showed her the receipt for an engagement ring... but he hasn't given it to her yet.

She knows that Gary has a past, but feels like that is all behind him now, and that she is the “One”. That said, she is still very cautious and fights her own jealous instincts when he works with other dancers – some of whom he's had prior relationships with.

RIVALRIES/ BEEFS – Knows that other dancers resent her because Jamaica Kraft (well known choreographer in Atlanta) books her on everything without even having to audition. Says that Desi-Ray is biggest competition.

She is also Shantella's only friend. She feels that she can relate to Shantella because of her own difficult past, and that Shantella is unfairly judged by the rest of the ATLA crew.

SHANTELLA: “WHATEVER IT TAKES”

Shantella will stop at nothing to pursue her dance career, and that includes making ends meet by stripping, and more recently, giving up custody of her child... Will the extreme cost of making it for Shantella prove to be just too high?



SHANTELLA

Shantella Austin, 24, radiates passion and defiance, both vestiges of a difficult life story. At an early age Shantella used dance as an escape from the challenges of a broken home. When she was old enough, she moved to Atlanta to follow her dream of becoming a professional dancer. But the broken home echoes still in her Atlanta life, where a short-lived marriage has left Shantella with a baby to care for, and her dream in danger of dying. Shantella will stop at nothing to

pursue her dance career, and that includes making ends meet by stripping, and most recently, giving up custody of her child to her ex in order to have time to attend exhaustive amounts of rehearsals, auditions, and numerous odd jobs - a decision she is wrestling with.

RELATIONSHIP – KEVIN (VIDEOGRAPHER) – He used to work for Kiki and Sakinah and has issues with them. He is putting a bug in her ear about the two...

RIVALRIES/ BEEFS – Friends w Candy... she doesn't trust Gary and doesn't want to see her friend hurt.

Also clashes frequently with Kiki and Sakinah. Shantella is sacrificing so much... is so all-in... that she's overly emotional and has lashed out at Kiki and Sakinah. *Will the pain of her sacrifice make Shantella too volatile to succeed?*

LUKE & GABBY :

“DIFFERENT WORLDS”

He is the self-proclaimed “White Boy” in the predominantly black ATL Hip Hop Dance scene... She is a classically trained ballerina, living and working in the mostly white world of classical dance. They dance completely different styles and exist in completely different worlds... and lately she has grown jealous of all the attention he receives as a straight guy in the dance world surrounded by women and outnumbered 10 to 1 Can their young love survive?



LUKE

[INSTAGRAM: lokedockery](#)

Luke Dockery, 16, was the perfect All-American boy: he played baseball, football, basketball, excelled in his classes and was easily the most popular kid in school. And then his mother noticed that while standing on the pitching mound during his baseball games, Luke would dance. Instead of doing homework, his mom would catch Luke studying hip-hop videos. To the dismay of his conservative father, Luke’s true passion began to emerge. In spite of bitter disputes at home between his divorced parents, Luke was allowed to give up all his other activities and focus on something most white boys can’t do - dance. And is he ever good. After 8 years, the empty chair he’s been

saving for his father at performances occasionally has an occupant - even Dad can’t deny this kid’s got skills.

RELATIONSHIPS – Luke is dating Gabby, a classically trained dancer outside the company. She’s a ballerina, surrounded by other white people. He’s a white guy surrounded by people of color. They have totally different dance styles. She is about to go to college, but is choosing to go somewhere close to be close to him. She gets jealous by all the attention he get by girls. “I can’t help being the only straight, white, cute male dancer in Atlanta!”

RIVALRIES/ BEEFS – Because he is a unicorn in the Atl dance world, a white dancer-- he books a ton of jobs and that has a lot of other dancers jealous... and wondering whether his success is because of his skills... or his skin-tone?

Overall, he thinks Atl dancers are lazy and unprofessional. He singled out Keith as being lazy. Also singled out Jay Battle for complaining too much.

FAMILY COMPLICATIONS – Lots of family drama – Mom divorced Luke’s biological dad. Luke’s dad never approved of him dancing. Wanted him to become a pro baseball player like him. Luke had the skill, but not the heart. He wanted to dance. Eventually, Luke’s mom remarried – but her new husband’s mom hated her and turned his daughters against her. After it became too much to take (the feuding devolved into death threats) Luke and his mom and new dad moved to Atlanta. His mom is fully supportive of Luke’s dance dreams and he thinks the world of his “Mommager.” That said, Luke would love for his dad’s approval one day.

BRIANA, NADERAH, DESI-RAY, JORDAN, ANTHONY: “A HOUSE DIVIDED”



As a dancer on the come-up, every penny counts... especially when you give up paying jobs to concentrate full-time on dance. What happens when the biggest and brashest personalities at ATLA end up sharing one roof?

Briana and Naderah are like oil and water: one the ‘mother hen’ and everyone’s friend... the other out for numero uno at all times. Desi-Ray is breaking out-- booking TV and high-profile gigs left and right-- she’s the teacher’s favorite and others are jealous of her success. Jordan is the “white girl” struggling to fit in in a predominantly african-american Atlanta dance scene. Anthony is stuck in the middle, trying not to take sides...

Kiki and Sakinah have a house near the studio that they’re making available to ATLA dancers who need a low-rent place to stay. When these five end up sharing the same space, it’s only a matter of time until the powder keg explodes...

BRIANA
THE MOTHER HEN

[INSTAGRAM: franny_pakkkk](#)

Brianna Norwood's dance pedigree is extensive and impressive. But one thing has always been a barrier for Bri - she is, by dance world standards, a "full-figured" woman. No matter the level of training, skill and innate talent Bri has honed, when she looks in the mirror, she sees only problems. It's a cycle that she's struggling with - using food to ease the pain that her self-image causes. In her mind, Bri truly believes her destiny is to be the next Beyoncé, and she is sick of being just another back-up dancer. Bri wears her heart on her sleeve, and her emotional break-downs are becoming more and more frequent as her dream moves further out of reach with each day."

She's very passionate, very dramatic, very emotional. She wants to be on Broadway. She wants to be an actress. She wants to be Beyonce. She's a hustler, always looking for a way to make an extra buck. She even makes wigs to pay the bills. ALSO - Briana is a HUGE conspiracy theorist. Chem trails, UFO's, etc... She thinks that Hillary Clinton is a Luciferian. Said that she's looking forward to opening people's eyes to the truth. TOTALLY SERIOUS.

FAMILY – Briana blames herself for her middle-class parents divorcing. She vividly remembers being used as an alibi for her mother in order to cheat on her father – she would supposedly go as a kid with her mom to "shop" or have some "mommy and daughter time," but what would really happen is that her mom would take her to her random men's homes and cheat on her father. Finally, she couldn't take it anymore and confided in her grandmother. Her grandmother told her dad and the couple divorced.

She and her mother fell out... their relationship only starting to warm recently... but she knows she must confront her about the past for them to truly move forward.

Did these mommy issues make Bri become the den mother herself? She's everyone's confident-- close w Desi-Ray and Jordan.

RIVALRIES/ BEEFS - Singled out Shantella for complaining all the time. Using her kid as an excuse. Naderah.

NADERAH

THE BAD B*TCH

[INSTAGRAM: iam_naderah](#)

She is a cold and calculating opportunist. Definitely the Omarosa of ATLA. Has her shit together and is always plotting how to get ahead.

RELATIONSHIPS: She dates older men that can help her in her career. Directors, producers, etc. Thinks dancers that date other dancers are stupid. “When can another dancer do for your career?”

She makes no secret that she wants choreographers and directors to at least think that she will sleep with them, even if she doesn't. She said she has in the past and is still “benefiting” from that experience.



DESI-RAY

THE TEACHER'S PET

[INSTAGRAM: dancin_desi](#)

Desi-Ray Morris is blowing up. Coming off of 2 tours and 5 movies, Desi is one of the booking-est dancers of ATLA. And just in case you don't know, she'll be sure to remind you daily, with her pervasive “I book!” attitude. She's got a mandate from her grandmother, who recently died of breast cancer, and that is that she “Won't stop working until she's on stage with Beyoncé.” To some of the company, she's a leader and an inspiration, but to others she can be an abrasive ego-maniac. As long as the bookings keep rolling in, Desi

could care less on which side of the fence you land. As long as you aren't blocking her path to Bey's Backup Crew.

FAMILY: Her dad is a cop, Ex-military. She was raised w/grandma who was her biggest fan and pushed her to follow her dreams. Grandma died in front of her, but not before telling her that she wanted to see her granddaughter dance.

Desi is a major overachiever - Homecoming queen. College dance team & Dean's list. Despite this, people have told her her whole life that she can't do stuff, and this drives her to prove them wrong.

Now she's the top dog female at ATLA. She's humble but blunt. She is definitely the leader among the dancers and considers herself to be the best, which of course puts a target on her back. Kiki and Sakinah love her-- she's the teacher's pet and many of the other dancers are jealous... which is starting to cause a lot of conflict between her and the others.

Also friends w Candace, doesn't like Gary for her-- thinks he'll break her heart...



JORDAN

THE WHITE GIRL

[INSTAGRAM: jordancers](#)

Jordan grew up in a large family in Central Florida. There wasn't enough money to give Jordan dance classes, so she spent much of her time teaching herself dance moves copied from TV and YouTube. When alone on her patio, dancing was easy, but when her dream drove her to pack her few

belongings in a car and move to Atlanta for bigger opportunities, this shy self-taught dancer suddenly found herself hiding in the back rows. And to make it more challenging, in the predominantly black world of Atlanta dance, being white can be a barrier as often as an advantage. Poor Jordan... who can resist a innocent flower struggling against the odds? Or is that all part of the routine? Hiding just below the surface of an innocent struggling dancer is a calculating, opportunistic mind. Sooner or later, the real Jordan is going to emerge..."

24 years old. Working class dancer. One of the best dancers at ATLA. Despite this, she feels like an outsider because she's also the only white girl at ATLA. Her nickname is simply "White Girl" which she hates.

Says she battles reverse racism on a daily basis. For example – she hears this a lot, "Wow, you are a really good dancer for a white girl." She's like, "What if I said, you are really well spoken for a black person?" She knows they mean well, but she hates it and takes it really personally.

RELATIONSHIPS – Currently single. Has a bad history with relationships.

RIVALRIES – Again, she feels like she receives a lot of racist comments from other back dancers in the troupe. Some is unintentional, but she definitely feels like there is resentment coming her way - especially when she books a roll simply because of her skin tone. She said it goes both ways, as she has lost out on several jobs because she was too fair skinned.

Coming from a poor upbringing, Jordan is jealous and at times resentful of some of the dancers that benefited from tons of expensive dance classes as a kid. She feels like most of them don't appreciate what they got, and aren't living up to their potential because things were handed to them.

She singled out Jay Battle as being shady. Also thought Candice is too dramatic. (Gary and Candice are a couple.)

FAMILY COMPLICATIONS – Jordan’s mom and dad wish Jordan would begin to settle down and start a family. She has a younger and older sister that both have children, so there is a lot of pressure on her to find stability. She’s definitely the black sheep in the family.

ISSUES W CANDACE



ANTHONY MARQUIS

THE PRETTY BOY

INSTAGRAM: [anthonymarquis](#)

22. From Florida. Choreographer/dancer/singer. A real character. Very confident in himself. “I love the way I look naked.” Also knows that he can be polarizing. “People hate to love me”.

FAMILY: Dad was murdered before he was born. Even though he never met him, he misses his father dearly.

When he was young, his mom suspected him of being gay and tried to pray the devil out of him. He finally had to move to Atlanta when he was 15 to live with his grandmother to get away from his mom. Because of this, he is no longer religious.

He now considers his dance friends to be family. “I trust few people.”

RELATIONSHIPS: Although he is gay, he is in love with an Atl dancer named Kenisia and wants her to have his babies.

AHMED: “BLESSING AND THE CURSE”

Supremely talented, but headstrong with an ego that’s growing out of control... can the star talent get out of his own way or will his clashes with the heads of ATLA land him back on street?



AHMED

[INSTAGRAM: TEAMPULSE TV](#)

Growing up with a very strict Muslim father in New Orleans, Ahmed was forbidden to dance or listen to music in his house. He taught himself how to beatbox so he could at least have something to dance to in the privacy of his own room. When he finally got up the courage at age 16 to tell his father he wanted to pursue dance as a career, he was promptly and permanently kicked out of his house. After years spent drifting from couch to couch, Ahmed landed in

Atlanta, and found a home in ATLA with Kiki and Sakinah. But authority doesn't sit well with Ahmed, and he is making life difficult for his mentors, with a pervasive sense of entitlement, a refusal to allow the rules to pertain to him, and a penchant for getting distracted by the ladies in the company.

Now, Ahmed is starting to blow up, most recently landing a featured dancer role in Fox's new "Empire" spinoff, "Star". And he's clashing more and more with Kiki and Sakinah... can he harness his talent, control his ego and be a leader at ALTA? Or will his rule-breaking ways lead to a blow-up with Kiki and Sakinah that they can't come back from? Has he outgrown the place that gave him a home when he had none?

RELATIONSHIPS – Ahmed is a total player and is more than happy to be portrayed that way on the show. Working on LeNysia, but it's an uphill battle: he's brash and spontaneous, she's very strict, regimented and conservative. "She'll get there." It might be the oddest couple of all - anarchy meets discipline. Talk about a recipe for disaster...

FAMILY COMPLICATIONS – Kicked out of his home by his Muslim father for wanting to be a dancer. He has 2 sisters and a brother that would like for him to mend fences, but so far, his father won't have it.



LANYSIA

AGE: 23

LaNysia Harrison has the discipline of an Army General, which makes sense as she comes from a military family. As a result, she has managed to pick-up whatever skills she needs to do whatever she wants to do, whether its

graphic design, video production... oh and hey, why not start dancing while you're at it? LaNysia started as the bossy office intern at ATLA, cranking out websites in her sleep, and then decided it might be fun to dance, too. So she did. Just one year later, she's standing toe-to-toe with dancers who've been training their whole lives. Don't bother telling LaNysia she can't do it - it's already done.

ISAIAH: "MINE TO TELL"

Two months ago, Isaiah learned that he was HIV+. He hasn't told anyone in the dance community, including his family. His secret is weighing on him... how long can he wait to share with those closest to him and his fellow dancers?



ISAIAH

Currently homeless, nothing in life has come easy for Isaiah. New to ATLA, Isaiah has to fight just to get noticed.

RELATIONSHIPS – Isaiah is gay. He has dated around, but is very cautious about who he lets into his life. Xavier and Will at ATLA flirt with him a lot, but he doesn't want to take it too far with them because

he doesn't want to get a reputation.

RIVALRIES / BEEFS – Thinks that Jay Battle is selfish. He feels that Kiki and Sakinah play favoritism, and that he can't seem to get into that clique. He hates that politics is part of the game, but he's getting desperate and feels like he is going to have to start playing the game if he wants to get anywhere in dance. Even if that means sleeping with choreographers and directors, which he admits goes against his morals.

BIG SECRET – Two months ago, Isaiah learned that he was HIV+. He hasn't told anyone in the dance community, including his family. He wants to wait until he makes it big, so he can then reveal to the world that he was able to accomplish everything while being HIV+. "I am battling for my dreams, battling to be noticed, and now I battling for my life".

FAMILY – Originally from Kentucky, Isaiah’s Mom and Dad were drug addicts. Primarily cocaine. They would lock him in his room so he wouldn’t see them using, so he would go into his own world and dance.

His Dad was not supportive of him wanting to become a dancer, mostly because his older brother moved to LA to become an actor and failed miserably.

His parents are clean now, and have expressed interest in finally coming to see their son perform. Isaiah knows that when they do... it’s also time for him to share everything else he’s been dealing with as well....

“THE NEXT GENERATION... AND THEIR MOMS”



ATLA is the premiere destination for the next generation of dance stars to learn and grow. The current crop of young talent: Jene, Lil Dee Dee, Christian, and Chance... is the best draft class yet! Many are already booking movies and TV shows left and right-- the only thing hotter than these rising stars are the tempers of their moms when they get into the same room! For some reason, dance moms just don’t get along---



JENE MARIE & KANISHA “COCO”

Jené Marie is an 11 year-old dancer with the drive of a Japanese commuter train. Her undeniable talent is often eclipsed by her intensity - and it has driven her mother to quit her job and uproot the family from their Kentucky home to relentlessly pursue Jené’s dream. While Jené’s effusiveness can be a source of joy and laughter, she can also be a tyrant in the rehearsal hall, since at 11, she is entirely unaware of why anyone can’t be a megastar if only they work hard enough. And with tween-fueled gusto she’s causing the older dancers uncontrollable bouts of jealousy.”

FAMILY: Her single mom had to leave her job at Humana to pursue Jene’s dance dreams. They are living off her mom’s 401k, but she’s out of money now.

Jene misses her dad being in her life. She started crying when he was brought up.

RELATIONSHIPS: Like most of the kids at ATLA, Jene is home schooled, so her friends are mainly dancers. She is good friends with Lil DeeDee, and they do some amazing dance numbers together. They are both prodigies and everyone knows they are both going to be huge stars.

RIVALRIES: Jene’s Mom said that there is a lot of jealousy coming Jene’s way from other parents because they think Jene gets special treatment.



LIL’ DEE DEE & FELICIA

Lil’ Dee Dee lives and breathes his career. You can always hear him say, “Do it like no one is watching!” And it seems even the biggest stars are taking notice - at 12 years old Lil’ DeeDee has performed for Tyler Perry and with Usher on the BET awards, not to mention touring around the world. It’s HUSH HUSH but Deedee is in talks with Usher right now to manage his career. He was born to perform, his career is exploding, and he’s as lovable as it gets. Unfortunately, the same can not be said for his Mom, Felicia. [ML15] You’ve never seen a Dance Mom like Lil

Dee Dee's mom. She's constantly rolling with extra kids in tow, starting fights with other moms, dancers, Kiki and Sakinah, and even little Jenè's mom - whom she has a side bet with who's kid is going to be more famous. Let's hope her theatrics don't dismantle Lil Dee Dee's career...



CHANCE MIZELL

[INSTAGRAM: theboychance](#)

13. From Ft. Lauderdale. Started dancing at age 5. Has signature blue hair. He just shot a video and in the next few months is going to shoot another one. He wants to be like Chris Brown. Home schooled. Likes public school better. Single mom. His dad is in FL. He has 2 older brothers. He has to work on making his dance moves more "clean". Says

Sakinah is hard on dancers. Looks up to Jene, DeeDee, Elisiah, and Luke.



MELANYA

16 year old, Malayna is outspoken dancer/singer and has been a star with all those she's competed with her whole life. She comes from a Upper Middle Class family with both parents still together. Dad is an engineer. Mom is an account manager. Both very educated. She is multi-racial (Philipina, Black, American Indian). So she connects with Asian people.

Rivalries: Desi is her biggest competition. In a year and a half Tesir will be her biggest rival. A lot of other dancers consider Melanya privileged and are jealous of her because she has both parents and comes from a bit of money

Secrets: "When I turn 18, I'm taking all of your jobs."



CHRISTIAN & PORTIA

11. From Cincinnati, OH. Dancing since 9 years old.

FAMILY: Being raised by a young, single mother. Last year, she found out that her father, Ron Smith of the NFL, is not her real dad when he yelled out in a fight with her mother, "Why do I have to take her to dance practice? She's not even my child!"

In the process of separating from Christian's mom, Ron Smith took all of her credit cards, drained her bank account, cancelled her insurance, and then refused to divorce her so he wouldn't be forced to pay child support. They later learned that he is suffering from mental illness due to the concussions he received during his pro football career. He was part of a big settlement that he just won, but who knows if they are ever going to see a dime of it.

Christian's mom has been in & out of the hospital for kidney problems.

Christian's big sister, Jordan, left home years ago to pursue acting. Her career never amounted to anything and she has since stopped talking to the family. She won't even speak to Christian. Her mom says that Jordan is jealous because she thinks her mom "plays favoritism" towards Christian. Mom said Jordan never stayed with anything long enough, and she doesn't want to sponsor her "party life". Jordan cried a lot when discussing this. All she wants is for her sister to reunite with her.

Christian has an adopted brother (not legally) Quintrail, that is an ATLA dancer.

RIVALRIES: Christian thinks ATLA's resident "white boy," Luke is annoying and cocky. She can't stand him.

According to Portia - Felicia (DeeDee's mom), is pushy, aggressive, liar, name dropper. This seems to be all the other dance mom's opinion as well. Coco (Jene's mom) is a good friend. Coco and India's mom don't get along. Luke's dad is annoying and awkward.



QUINTRAIL

20. Sensitive, graceful, protective adopted brother to Christian.

FAMILY: His family was horrible. Dad was an alcoholic and left mom when he was 13 and abandoned Quintrail because he was gay.

One time, Quintrail woke up to his father choking him. He fought him off and then his dad tried to stab Quintrail to death.

His mom isn't any better. When he was a kid, his Mom would feed other brothers but would make Quintrail fend for himself, so he eventually moved in with his aunt. After his mother literally won the lottery, she bought a big house and had his two brothers move in with her, but didn't want Quintrail back because he was gay.

Portia Smith has adopted him as her son (not legally) [ML16] and he considers Christian to be his little sister. He's VERY protective of her.

Quintrail sees Portia as a mom now but would love to have a relationship with his biological parents still, despite the horrors they inflicted on him.

OTHER POTENTIAL CAST



CHRIS PLUNKETT

31. From Newark, NJ. Theater Arts degree. Dancer/choreographer. Definitely a player. His goal is to change the world thru dance. He recently did a dance piece to bring awareness to the homeless.

FAMILY - Chris began to cry when talking about his cold relationship with his mother. He revealed that his Mom has never told him that she loves him. He knows he's an adult, but all he wants is for her to say it, even once. She doesn't support his dance either. His estranged Father was only one to give encouragement, which was usually over the phone. When his Father eventually passed, Chris found out 6 months after the fact.

Has an 8 year old daughter that he hasn't seen since 2014. The mother won't let him see her but he longs to have a relationship with her. He flew up to see her this Thanksgiving but was not allowed to come in the house when he arrived. [ML12] Calls his daughter his best friend. Gets very emotional when talking about her.

REALTIONSHPIS - He has a very jealous Model girlfriend, and for good reason – he has cheated on her in the past with a dancer.

BIG SECRET – His girlfriend is pregnant. They haven't told anyone.[ML13]

RIVALRIES/ BEEFS - Thinks that Kiki & Sakinah are condescending/arrogant. Feels that dancers in ATL have big egos & flakey.

Thinks that Jay Battle, Desi-Ray, Ahmed, Jene, Gary are best dancers.



TACIR

[INSTAGRAM: tacir.r](#)

18. From Fairfield, CA. Both parents are still together. Shy but dances fiercely. 2 sisters & a brother. She left a performing arts school because people were mean to her. Sensitive. Melayna is non-friendly and too competitive with her. Dad found job in South Carolina so he lives there so she can dance. Her mom is driving her crazy. She just wants to be self-sufficient and have her own place. Parents want her to go to college but she just wants to

dance. Touchy subject right now. Usher is her ultimate job.

BEST DANCER OUT OF GROUP

DE'LISHA

[INSTAGRAM: delisha_williams](#)

23. From Detroit. Both parents were murdered on separate occasions. Mom killed by her boyfriend. He came in a shot her at her work. Dad was found dead in a van years before. Shares birthday with her twin siblings. Hasn't had a professional job yet. Won't date dancers. Super close to Gary & Jay. Works at Amazon warehouse.



BRANDON

[INSTAGRAM: @brandon_cwork](#)

The ladies of ATLA love Brandon Forrest. He's hot, charming and cocky - and leaving a trail of broken hearts in his wake. The reality is, life has been way too easy for Brandon - he's a great dancer, and his path to success has been a little too easy, a little too early. The result is that Brandon has difficulty taking criticism, quickly exposing his stubborn nature whether in the audition room or the rehearsal hall. His tendency to push back has Kiki and Sakinah

ready to pull their hair out - and if he can't find a way to manage his temper, it may ultimately cost him his spot in the company. There's only so far talent and looks can take you in the cutthroat world of dance.



ALISON

27 year old. Moved to Atlanta for more dance opportunities. Got sick from mold in her house. Was sick for 3 years. Thought about suicide. Now, is a health nut and will only eat food she cooks. She wants to teach others in the entertainment industry how to live healthy. Also, she sells weed and eatables illegally to support herself. She was arrested for possession with intent to sell so she is going to court this spring to see if she has jail time. Nobody knows.

She plays sax, piano, and bass. She is also a singer.

Relationships: She is a virgin. She is seeing a girl. Her first lesbian experience. The girl she is seeing (not in a relationship) has parents that are trying to keep her away from Alison. Strict Catholics.

Dance: She is not trained in as many styles of dance as others but can compete. “Other dancers tend to be mean and self-centered, I think, because they are so worried about their careers.” Male dancers have hit on her a lot. Nobody in the dance world knows she’s liking the ladies more now. She feels in dance that she needs more confidence & training.



KEITH NEDD

“Keith Jamal Nedd Bridgman was born and raised in Boston, MA. At age 14, Keith’s world was turned upside-down when his mother drove him and his little sister all the way down to Greensboro, NC with no resources and no explanation. While Keith’s unemployed single mom landed in a homeless shelter, Keith and his sister rejected that humiliation and instead became teenage nomads, begging a temporary couch or room off of high school friends. 4 years of homelessness was enough for Keith, and he enrolled in

North Carolina A&T University simply to have a place to stay. A dance crew at the school gave Keith a reason to keep going, and now he credits dance with saving his life. He’s bringing that message to the dancers at ATLA who he helps out by teaching and coaching, the specter of his former homelessness a sharp reminder of the stakes many kids like him face.”

BIG SECRET – His parents, and several ATLA dancers, don’t know he’s gay.

He has unresolved issues with his mom of why she left the marriage. Parents say they support him dancing but have never been to a dance performance. Hasn’t dated in ATL. Anthony Marquis and Keith always get paired as bookends. Great friends with Jordan. Attention seekers bug him.

BOOGIE

“Karee’ “Boogie” Augustus earned the name “Boogie” for her inability to sit still. She’s had a bit of

a hard luck life, and this year hasn't been any easier. She's lost her job, her apartment, lost all of her savings in a mail fraud scam, and now she's living out of her car. Boogie isn't shy about letting you know exactly how hard she's got it, and she's often the recipient of some tough love from Kiki & Sakinah. But Boogie isn't getting the message. Maybe that's because she rolls in to rehearsal "smelling like a pound of weed." Getting high constantly is keeping Boogie from losing 30 pounds and taking her dancing seriously. Her insecurities are mounting, and her dreams are fading away - as she watches fellow 'big' girl Bri continue to book in spite of her size, Boogie's sitting on the sidelines, getting more and more jealous... "

Raised by a single mom. Dad was present. Gang violence. People are jealous of her. Big weed smoker. Trying to lose weight. Very outgoing. Biggest competition is Candice. She is the "sauceiest dancer". She needs to work on doubting self. Straight shooter. Goofy. Annoying = Shantella & Jay Battle. They are late to rehearsal too. Secret crush on Jared.[ML18] Live in her car. Works at Chili's. Agnostic. She gets mad when all pray before dancing. DeLisha is unprofessional. Tons of conspiracy theories she believes in. Isaiah has no "sauce".



JOE BARRON

Joe Barron leads a double life. By day, he is a buttoned-up corporate accountant, pushing papers 9-to-5. But every evening, Joe drives to the studios at ATLA where he indulges his alter-ego, the "Filipino beak-dancing clogger." Neither his fellow dancers, nor his white collar

co-workers quite know what to do with Joe, who has his own unique style and passion. Hard-working and reliable, he's also not afraid to be as ridiculous and brazen as the style of dance he's perfected. He's trying desperately to fit in, hoping to leave the corporate world behind and launch a new dance craze. Everyone's got a dream."

20 years old. Never met or seen a pic of his dad. Dance scholarship to college. Clogging. Mother & sister in Hawaii. Sister in military. Straight. He thinks LeNisia is hot. Desi is arrogant. Boogie and Desi don't get along. Worked for Desmond Johns with Sakinah as choreographer. Learning stunt work. He think DeeDee, Ahmed, Desi, Candice, & Tesir are best dancers. Thinks Isaiah isn't that good.

DEVYNE

18. A super cocky, gay, bad ass from the Bronx. Identifies with Ann Hathaway's character in Devil Wears Prada. He is trying to breakout of perception of a kid dancer and wants to be seen as an adult.

FAMILY: One of 6 kids. All different dads. Mom had first kid at 14. His family is homeless and has been in and out of shelters his whole life.

Dad lives in South Carolina but they don't talk.

Devyne trained as a boxer & kick boxer as a kid. He had major anger issues and regularly got in fights with people that teased him for being gay, and he ALWAYS won. He finally stopped fighting after putting a schoolmate in the hospital for 3 weeks after a fight in the lunchroom.

He's since controlled his anger issues but still hot-headed.



XAVIER

25. Military brat. Goofy. Smart. Hot headed, smart mouth, cold when angry. Don't get on his bad side.

FAMILY: Parents still together. A tight, secure family, which he knows is different from most dancers' background. When Xavier dropped out of college to pursue dancing, his father cut him off financially.

BIG SECRET: Parents don't know he's bisexual. Brother caught him with a guy when they lived together. Will "come out" to his parents only until he has the right guy to bring home.

RELATIONSHIPS: Had a love triangle for years with two other dancers: Cherod Tate & Clayton, that ended very poorly. Both have moved to LA since. He still has something for Cherod, who comes back to Atlanta regularly. [ML20]

BEEFS/ RIVALRIES: Dance community in ATL upsets him. Says there is a lot of jealousy & inconsiderate people.



ANDRAYA WOODLEY

27. Started dancing in St. Louis at 4. Youngest of 13 kids. Brother is UFC Fighter--Tyron Woodley. She is also a professional stunt woman. Has a 3 year old son who is 1/2 Vietnamese. She sings well. In a group called Matte Blaq. ATL dance scene needs more variety. ATL has sauce but not variety. We need masculine men teaching not gay men. They teach dance differently. Toured with TLC, R-Kelly, Sesame Street.



ASHLEY DALAINA

28. Parents married for 32 years now. She's sensitive and a crier. Toured with Johnny Gill. Interested in a guy...personal trainer in New Orleans. Desi-Ray is a dance rival. She was engaged in college but she found out he was also sleeping with guys. Thinks Keith and Jay have bad attitudes. She always wants to make her parents proud so she dances cute not sexy. Is a majorette dancer. Wants to start a majorette dance convention and handbook. She's the assistant coach for Morehouse college marching band.



OLIVIA

New girl at ATLA. Always has a different hair color. Very emotional, especially about her biological father. Cried a lot in our interview.

RELATIONSHIPS – Has a hard time with relationships because of her absent father.

RIVALRIES/ BEEFS - Olivia and Desi don't get along. She says that Desi is condescending.

FAMILY - Grew up in Mississippi. She has two sisters. All three of them have different, abusive fathers or step fathers.

Her biggest regret in life is that she has no relationship with biological father. She even tracked down his other children from a different marriage and became somewhat close with them, but despite their best efforts, he has no desire to meet her. She feels responsible for some reason, like it is her fault. All she wants in life is to meet him and have him acknowledge that she exists. Olivia uses this sadness in her dancing, and is VERY emotional when discussing this.

