

Interviewee Name: Jianna Georgiou

Interviewer Name: Jung Yoon

Date of Interview: 19th of August 2022

Location: Restless Dance Theatre

Length of Interview: 17:48 minutes

Transcript

Jung: Can you tell me about yourself, your name, where you're from? how did you become an artist?

Jianna: About myself?

Jung: Yes.

Jianna: Okay. So, um, I have a foreign name. Um, It's Jianna Cleoni Georgiou. Um, the first, middle one, and my first name is part Italian and my surname comes from Greece. I'm part - my mom's from Italy and my dad is from Greece. Um. And. I am part of a of the family tree. Um. Yeah.

Jung: Yeah. And do you have any sibling?

Jianna: I do have other families. I've got siblings. I've got family from Italy. Family from London. Family from Greece.

Jung: So in your family, are you the only dancer?

Jianna: Yes. Yeah. I'm the only dancer.

Jung: Yeah. So what - why? Can you tell me why you want to be a dancer?

Jianna: Um. I want to be.....

Jianna: Uh, that's, uh, um, I think I'm going to say.....

Jung: If we all change the questions. Um, can you tell me about your experience as a performing artist?

Jianna: Sorry, I'm just thinking, anyway.

Jung: Yeah.

Jianna: Yeah. For me as an artist, I would probably be more creative and also be more interactive with the audience when I'm communicating through my body.

. Um. Yeah. And I danced with, my friends. Um, with so many, um, connecting to the camera.

Jung: So why you.... I heard that you started....When did you start your dance?

Jianna: 11 years. I've been here 11 years and I've been doing a short film called Necessary Games. When I was 16, I did a short film with Sophie Hyde and Brian. Um. Yeah. And I danced with, my friends. Um, with so many, um, connecting to the camera.

Jung: So before that short film, did you dance?

Jianna: Yes. That's a short film.

Jung: What about before the short film? When you were young, did you start a dance when you were young?

Jianna: When I was young? Yeah, I did dance. Um, I actually came here to Restless when I was very little. Um, uh, there is a group, a group. No, there's a group, um, a group name. That goes from ages, from ages, from baby to teenager, with teenager to adult dancer. Um. So I started when I was 16. And I went through the first show with Restless was "Beijing Dancer". Um. And I met with Philip Channells at that time. And. Yeah, I met I met up with Philip Channells at that time. And then, um, and then we, um. Then we communicated through, um, ourselves by doing a show for Restless.

Jung: So why did you want to be an artist?

Jianna: Um. Mhm. Why do I want to be an artist? Um. I think it's just... I don't know... I feel like... I feel like I want to be, um, I've been, I've been doing, um, I've been a director before. I've done so many debuts for so long. I have been making, creating the dance pieces.

Jung: So, are you enjoying being creative?

Jianna: Yes, I like to be creative. And I say being part of the Restless team.

Jung: Cool. who is your favourite artist for dance?

Jianna: Jianna: I'll just put this down [photo]. So many people in my mind...

Jung: You can just pick two.

Jianna: Yeah.

Jung: Your best - favourite.

Jianna: I'm just going to say the company for now, um, I like ADT, Australian Dance Theatre. I have a family there. I also have Shaun Parker's company that I've worked with him since.

Jung: What do you like about them?

Jianna: Um I like to be, As a performing artist, I would love to be part of their company and not just here, but I want to be over there to dance with them... and performing for them, their company. And to collaborate with others and to communicate with everyone from that company. I do want to continue that path by, by dancing with other friends from other companies. That's my goal.

Jung: I think you will achieve your goal.

Jianna: I want to.

Jung: For sure. So what motivates you to work at Restless?

Jianna: What puts me here?

Jung: Yeah. What brings you here? Or what makes you become so energized?

Jianna: And what what brings me here is, like what you said before, like not being lazy (laughs). I think, I think it's just, um, I think it's just more like being, um, interactive. I'm going to say. Um. I'm trying to think (laughs)

Jung: That's ok. Take your time.

Jianna: Be more energised and be more creative.... I guess that's it.

Jung: So to answer this, you want to be energetic. You want to be creative. That would be the answer.

Jianna: Yeah, I'd say that, yeah.

Jung: Can you tell me about your artistic style? Your performance?

Jianna: Artistic styles like dancing styles? Oh great, Awesome. I like this one. I do love K-Pop, I do love K-Pop, I do, I do - I would like to do some K-Pop. I do want to do like K-Pop creative stuff, not just music. I still want to do hip hop. It's fun. It gets you up and running. I – oh that's what I forgot – I've done ballet when I was little.

Jung: And then you change your style to change from the ballet to contemporary? Yes. And then? Now what's your style?

Jianna: Well, now I feel like I want to be hip hop crew. Um, I was going to say. I'm just going to wing it.

Jung: Hip hop is your style.

Jianna: Like break dancing.

Jung: Oh, yeah.

Jianna: Bit of, uh, um, bit everything like a bit of salsa dancing. Um. Yeah. There's so many things that I like to try.

Jung: Cool. I love to see you. I saw you're doing hip hop dance last time when I visited here.

Jianna: Yeah,

Jung: yeah. It was so cool.

Jianna: Yeah

Jung: I loved it. When you dance in front of people, what do you want to share with the audience?

Jianna: Share with the audience?

Jung: When you dance in front of people. So what you want to share with the people.

Jianna: Let's just say I have a photo of this. Oh. Damn it! There it is. I have a photo of, of 30 years of celebration, celebration. [photo on iPad not clear to the camera – appears to be black and white photo of Jianna in a dance pose]

Jung: That's a beautiful photo.

Jianna: Um, this is me. This is me. Um, this is when I started doing, um, collaborating with other dancers, and, and this one I have been doing, um - Thom Yorke. Done Thom Yorke. Um, I've done some parts from some parts from "STD" ("Seeing Through Darkness"), some parts from "Exposed". Um, and this photo represents, um, me. Um. This photo represents me, um, that continues with, my path through - with Restless. Um, and I, I would like to, um, you know, be part of the, the company. Um and this photo. This tells me. This photo tells me that, um, I have, um, it, it actually inspires me to work with other people through my body and just, um, you know, just, uh, communicate with everyone, with the whole group.

Jung: I love it. Is there anything else you want to share? You want to share about yourself or your art? This is last question.

Jianna: Okay great. For the last one, for my goal I love to... I don't want to travel anywhere just yet, with Restless but what now what I'm thinking was going after my friends from the other companies. Um, I really want to do that because I haven't seen my other friends for so long, and I want to be there for them and just do some dancing with them, do rehearsals with them, do some studying with them. Um, you know, I want to be with them, I want to, you know, following my path in the future.

Jung: Thank you very much. I think it was really wonderful to share your story about you. Lovely to interview with you.

Jianna: Yeah. Likewise. Yeah. Thank you.