

## **AL BLACKSTONE**

Al Blackstone is an Emmy-winning director, choreographer, and educator. A former Broadway performer (*Wicked the Musical*), his passion for bringing people together to experience something meaningful drives him to make dances, tell stories, and encourage joyful connection. Born in New Jersey and raised in a dance studio, he has called New York City home for more than a decade. In that time he has created emotional work for the stage and screen, thrown dance parties for charity, and introduced hundreds of people to one another. With a focus on storytelling and a deep love of jazz dance, Blackstone “infuses his work with humor, theatrical flair, and sharp technique- a combo that has earned him many fans (NY TIMES)”. Inspired by generations of dance educators before him, Al’s dance classes are known around the world for their positive energy and unifying structure and his influence can be seen in many of the young teachers and choreographers of today. He has been on faculty at JUMP Dance Convention since 2012 and his classes at Broadway Dance Center and Steps on Broadway helped define theater jazz for the 21st century. Al is also the co-founder of MOMEN NYC, an NYC-based brand focused on providing memorable experiences for adult dancers, deepening their love of dance and strengthening their sense of togetherness. Awards include the 2011 Capezio ACE Award, 2018 Carbonell Award for Best Choreography, and the 2020 Emmy Award for Outstanding Achievement in Choreography for Variety/Reality Programming.

He resides in Queens with his husband Abraham and has kept a journal since he’s 12.