

BEHIND THE STORY

CHRISTOPHER D'AMBOISE / BIOGRAPHY

Born into a family of dancers, Christopher has had many careers: dancer, choreographer, director and playwright.

As a Principal **dancer** with New York City Ballet, Christopher worked closely with both George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins, originating works as well as performing major repertoire. On Broadway he earned a Tony nomination co-starring with Bernadette Peters in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Song and Dance*.

His television credits include two appearances on the esteemed Kennedy Center Honors, where he performed most recently in honor of his father, legendary ballet performer Jacques d'Amboise, and previously to honor his mentor, Jerome Robbins. His other television appearances include *Live from Studio 8H*, the solo Dr. Pepper commercial, and the Oscar and Emmy Award-winning documentary *He Makes Me Feel Like Dancing*.

As a **choreographer**, Christopher works both in theater and ballet. As a choreographer, he has created over 150 works for ballet, modern dance, and musical theatre. His choreography explores the integration of text, dance, music, and drama and seeks to reinforce a positive perspective of humanity. He has created more than eighty ballets for numerous international companies, including those in San Francisco, Amsterdam, and Flanders. In January of 2015, a revival of his work, "*Just One of Those Things*," premiered in Istanbul with the Istanbul State Ballet. Most recently, his work as choreographer of the Olney Theatre's production of "*Colossal*" received a 2015 Helen Hayes Award for outstanding Choreography in a Play.

As a **director** and **choreographer** for theater, Christopher's vision is cinematic in style integrating music, movement, and text into image-based visual storytelling. As a **writer**, Christopher has created original works for the stage. His latest show, *Secret Notes* at Barnes and Noble is a contemporary musical (currently under option). *REVIVAL* is a "backstage" musical currently in development with collaborators, Michael Paternostro, Paige Price and Kelly Crandall. *The Studio* is an original "play-with-dance" which premiered in 2006 at South Coast Repertory, and had its east coast premiere at the Signature Theatre in Virginia in November of 2007. *The Studio* was also selected as a featured play at the Pacific Playwrights Festival in 2006. *Voice of the City*, an original musical about Vaudeville which had its New York workshop at Musical Theatre Works. He has also written a new musical about Fred and Adele Astaire entitled, *Hang Onto Me*. Christopher directed and choreographed *Up The Avenue*, an original comic act starring Bill Irwin and Charlotte d'Amboise at the Williamstown Theatre Festival. His other theatrical credits as a choreographer include *You Never Know*, a new musical by Charles Strouse at Trinity Rep.; the pre-Broadway production of *High Society* at ACT in San Francisco; and *Romeo & Juliet: The Musical* at the Ordway Theatre and the Goodspeed Opera House. Christopher has also collaborated with singer/songwriter Cat Stevens on *The Road To Find Out*, a new musical about the life and music of the artist.

Christopher has **directed** and **managed** several arts organizations. As President/CEO and Artistic Director of Pennsylvania Ballet, he launched the unprecedented "Save the Ballet Campaign" raising 2.5 million from 10,000 Philadelphia residents in two weeks and then led the company through 4 successful seasons. Christopher founded and directed Off-Center Ballet, a contemporary dance company in New York City and is the founder of Moving Story, a production company supporting innovative dance-driven projects in film, theater, dance, literature, and performance art.

As an **educator** Christopher has initiated outreach programs, community development initiatives and taught master classes and workshops at schools and universities worldwide. He currently holds the position of Heritage Professor at George Mason University where, in addition to teaching dance, choreography, and music studies he founded and oversaw the creation, design, marketing and implementation of the highly successful George Mason University Summerdance Intensive.

Trumpet-man: Christopher's secret passion; writing songs and playing the trumpet.