

JABB AWOC KEEZ

BIOGRAPHY

The Jabbawoকেez are a world-famous dance crew who first gained fame in their national television appearance on *America's Got Talent* in 2006, before winning the MTV hip-hop dance reality series, *Randy Jackson Presents America's Best Dance Crew* (ABDC) in March 2008. The most notable group to come out of the MTV reality series, the Jabbawoকেez are synonymous with the show and universally recognized as America's true best dance crew. The crew, consisting of eight members: Kevin "KB" Brewer, Joe "Punkee" Larot, Phil "SB" Tayag, Chris "Cristyle" Gatdula, Rynan "Kid Rainen" Paguio, Jeff "Phi" Nguyen, Ben "B-TEK" Chung and Tony Tran use their signature plain white masks and gloves to guide the audience's attention away from individual identities and towards a unified group. Known for their creativity, one-of-a-kind choreography, athleticism and intricate synchronization, each member brings a different technique and perspective to form the original style that makes the Jabbawoকেez so distinct.

The name Jabbawoকেez is derived from Lewis Carroll's poem *Jabberwocky*, in which the titular character is a dragon that roamed the "tulgey wood" in the children's story *Through the Looking-Glass*.

Established in 2003 in San Diego, California, the idea of the Jabbawoকেez is the brainchild of Joe Larot, Kevin Brewer and Phil Tayag, who wanted to showcase freestyle dance. Originally working with different dance groups, the crew wanted to strike a balance between "dancing to music" and "dancing as artistic expression," in a time when the "garage crew" no longer existed, and the hip hop scene was flooded with "dance troupes" that seemed to be "clone" dancers. Coming from a variety of backgrounds in both dance and life, each member brings different styles and perspectives to the collective and collaborates to create the unique style of the Jabbawoকেez.

Initially, the Jabbawoকেez made appearances at local showcases and club events in San Diego and Los Angeles, where their impact on the hip-hop community has garnered them worldwide recognition. Several hip-hop pioneers such as Poppin' Pete, Mr. Wiggles and Crazy Legs, to name a few, have offered their support to the Jabbawoকেez. It is the mission of the Jabbawoকেez to "inspire the world through music and dance," and gaining recognition from these pioneers is extremely important to the members. They feel blessed and honored to continue to carry the legacy of hip-hop for the next generation to follow.

After their MTV's *America's Best Dance Crew* victory, the Jabbawoকেez quickly rose to fame, appearing on various television shows including "So You Think You Can Dance," "The Bachelorette," "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," "Live with Regis and Kelly," "The TODAY Show," "Dancing with the Stars," "106 & Park," "America's Next Top Model," and "The Jimmy Fallon Show." They have performed at major events such as the 2008 BET Awards with Ne-Yo, the 2008 MTV Movie Awards, the 2009 NBA All-Star Game with Shaq, the 2011 Daytime Emmy

Awards with Wayne Brady and the 2013 Billboard Music Awards with Taylor Swift. They were also featured in a Gatorade campaign that included Michael Jordan, Muhammad Ali, Tiger Woods, Peyton Manning and many others who are considered the best at what they do. With their notoriety steadily increasing, they began touring as the opening act for the New Kids On The Block tour, proving that a dance crew could successfully stand alone as its own act. Although known as America's best dance crew, their star power has even reached international fame as they have toured Asia and Australia.

With all of their success, they continue to break down doors for the dance world as they are now the first dance crew to ever headline their own show in Las Vegas. Initially set as a twenty-day run in May 2010, "Jabbawockeez Present *MÛS.I.C.* (Muse-I-See)" is a 90-minute show directed by Emmy-nominated choreographers Napoleon and Tabitha (credits: "So You Think You Can Dance" judges, Michael Jackson: The Immortal World Tour by Cirque du Soleil, Destiny's Child, Missy Elliot, Jennifer Lopez, Celine Dion, and more). The show also incorporates original music produced by bay area's heavy hitters, The Bangerz. With an overwhelmingly positive response, the show became a sold-out success, making its debut at Monte Carlo Resort and Casino in October 2010. Since then, the show has been extended at Monte Carlo three times, and concluded at the end of October 2012.

Not only a hit on The Strip, the Jabbawockeez have wowed fans from around the globe. In April 2012, the Jabbawockeez danced across the Pacific to Australia to bring *MÛS.I.C.* to fans on the Gold Coast. The show has been wildly successful, and was extended through November 2012 at Jupiters Hotel & Casino. With their third residency, the Jabbawockeez took the East coast by storm for the very first time with a month-long run at Harrah's Resort Atlantic City from August – September 2012.

Jabbawockeez are now performing five nights a week in their new headlining show "PRISM" in a custom-built theater at Luxor. A celebration of imagination, the show is a dynamic mix of awe-inspiring choreography, captivating storylines and stunning special effects, forming a production that challenges audiences to embrace the unexpected. Tickets are available at [Luxor.com](http://luxor.com).

The Jabbawockeez have accomplished more than any dance crew before, effectively transforming the way people view dance and paving the way for new methods of musical expression. In August 2012, the Jabbawockeez were honored for their contribution to the dance community with Hip Hop International's Living Legend of Hip Hop Award. As the first dance crew to ever receive the award, the Jabbawockeez have made a lasting mark on the history of hip hop and dance.

To continue to follow the Jabbawockeez story, connect with the crew on Twitter @JABBAWOCKEEZ and like the Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/Jabbawockeez> .

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