



PRESS PROFILE: DR. CHIARA AJKUN

Artistic Director, Ajkun Ballet Theatre

I. SHORT BIOGRAPHY (150 WORDS)

Dr. Chiara Ajkun, PhD, is an award-winning choreographer, researcher, and former principal dancer who serves as the Artistic Director of the **Ajkun Ballet Theatre**. Within this performing arts ecosystem, she leads the **Ajkun Ballet Company** as its vibrant, professional performing wing. While renowned for **The Originals**—her proprietary collection of over 50 ballets—central to her current season is the spotlight on **The Classics**, reimagining repertory to reveal the raw athleticism and emotional core for contemporary audiences. Her work is defined by an evocative minimalism that prioritizes the dancers' performance over static décor.

A global artist commissioned for original productions in 27 countries, Dr. Ajkun has been featured on the BBC, Netflix, and RAI TV. Through an elite artistic collaboration with **Herman Cornejo**—which began with *Dracula* (2024), followed by *Romeo & Juliet* (2025), and continues in the 2026 production of *Don Quixote*—she continues to push the boundaries of artistry within traditional ballet culture.

II. FULL BIOGRAPHY (500 WORDS)

Dr. Chiara Ajkun stands as a premier figure in contemporary ballet, serving as the Founder and Artistic Director of the **Ajkun Ballet Theatre**. An international choreographer and researcher with a PhD in Medical Science and an MFA in Performing Arts, Dr. Ajkun has spent over two decades redefining the classical landscape. Under her leadership, the Ajkun Ballet Theatre has grown into a comprehensive New York City ecosystem that includes the **Ajkun Ballet Company**, its professional performing wing, globally recognized for its technical virtuosity and forward-thinking vision.

Central to her current season is the spotlight on **The Classics**, a collection of legendary ballets reimagined to resonate with 21st-century sensibilities. While at the heart of her creative vision is her vast proprietary repertory known as **The Originals**—a collection of more than 50 original ballets—her



choreographic approach to traditional masterpieces like Don Quixote is one of intentional modernization. She utilizes an evocative minimalist “less is more” philosophy that serves as a blank canvas to prioritize the dancers’ physical narrative over static sets.

A pivotal element of the company’s artistic excellence is the sustained collaboration with **Herman Cornejo**. This elite partnership, focused on artistic coaching for the company’s lead dancers, has become a cornerstone of the Ajkun Ballet Company’s identity. Initiated in 2024 with Dracula and followed by Romeo & Juliet in 2025, this artistic collaboration with Herman Cornejo reaches a new summit with the 2026 staging of Don Quixote, a production that highlights one of Cornejo’s most iconic and fully inhabited roles.

Dr. Ajkun’s influence reaches beyond the stage into the vital field of dance science. Within the **Ajkun Ballet Theatre** ecosystem, her **Ajkun® Methodology** utilizes biomechanics to prioritize dancer longevity, replacing the “survival of the fittest” mentality with sustainable, science-based training for peak performance. This unique expertise has established her as a preeminent mentor, with a teaching reach spanning 135 countries and a choreographic legacy that includes original productions commissioned in 27 countries and featured on global platforms like the BBC, Netflix, and RAI TV.

Based in Manhattan, Dr. Ajkun is a vital part of the arts sector. Her artistic vision fosters a deep commitment to the New York City leadership affordability agenda. Through the **Ticket to Dream** program, she ensures the vibrancy of the performing arts remains accessible by offering professional performance experiences to underprivileged communities and children’s hospitals. By balancing the discipline of heritage with a bold, minimalist vision, Dr. Chiara Ajkun ensures that the ballet thrives as a vital and inclusive conversation for the modern global stage.

III. SELECT QUOTES FOR EDITORIAL USE

Journalists may attribute these quotes directly to Dr. Chiara Ajkun.

On The Classics’ and Minimalist Vision:



By focusing on The Classics, we are stripping away the historical 'dust' to reveal the raw, visceral human heartbeat of these stories. Our minimalist approach isn't about lack; it's about prioritizing the dancer's athleticism as the primary vessel for the narrative."

On the Collaboration with Herman Cornejo:

"our collaboration with Herman Cornejo has been a transformative journey, progressing from Dracula and Romeo & Juliet to the current work on Don Quixote. This partnership is a seamless extension of my vision; Herman's iconic artistry and exceptional skills are shared with our lead dancers with a level of generosity and nurture that allows them to thrive. This redefines ballet as an art of strength rooted in a supportive, non-malignant company culture—a standard I am committed to championing throughout the entire ballet world."

On the Ajkun Ballet Theatre Ecosystem:

The Ajkun Ballet Theatre is a complete ecosystem where science, education, and performance meet. While the Ajkun Ballet Company is our professional wing on the theater stage, it is supported by the same rigorous methodology and philanthropic spirit that defines our entire organization."

On the Modern State of Ballet:

"New York City demands a specific kind of artistic boldness. To thrive here, ballet must be more than a tradition—it must be a conversation with the contemporary world."

Media Resources

High-resolution Images: [Ajkun-Ballet-Theatre-DonQuixote-2026](#)

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