

# DAVID J. AMADO

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Filmmaker • Choreographer •  
Creative Director



BIOGRAPHY • WORK • RESUME

# BIOGRAPHY

**David J. Amado** is a Jamaican-American Filmmaker-Choreographer, a Portuguese Ministry of Culture Grant Recipient and a graduate of Columbia University in the City of New York (B.A. in Music).

His films “Velveteen” and “True Colors” have been presented in film festivals such as the Berlin Lift-Off Festival, Afropolitan (Brussels) and Mostra Ousmane Sembene de Cinema (Brazil). David’s work has also been featured in magazines such as Vogue Portugal, The Vanilla Issue (Australia), Selin Magazine (Holland) and PARQMag (Portugal). Most recently, “Velveteen” and “True Colors” were broadcast on the television station RTPÁfrica, which brought the films directly into the homes of people in Portugal, Angola, Mozambique, Guiné-Bissau, São Tome and Cape Verde. Currently, David is in the process of developing his first feature length film through a screenwriting residency with Netflix Portugal and Academia Portuguesa de Cinema.

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As a choreographer, his mission is to use ballet to tell the stories of black queer people. As a filmmaker, David is deeply influenced by the structure of the old 1970s and 1980s musical films, the aesthetics of 1990s American hip hop culture, as well as the writing of queer Black pioneers like James Baldwin. His work lies at the intersection of fine art, intellectual queer, and ghetto aesthetics. With a multicultural heritage and a career spanning three continents, David J. Amado approaches choreography and film with a nuanced, inclusive mindset where audiences are given the opportunity to expand their paradigm as it relates to the versatility of the Black body, as well as what is ballet.

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## FILMOGRAPHY

### "True Colors"

2022

Director, Choreographer, Executive Producer

A courageous ode to queer black men, which examines queer black men's relationship to the tradition of masculinity, and the ways in which societal expectations encourage those who exist outside the heteronormative standard to silence their voices, express themselves in a more "acceptable" way, and mute their true colors. With 4 acts of fashion, each act represents a different stage on the journey from repression to bold authenticity.

### "Velveteen"

2021

Director, Choreographer, Executive Producer

Inspired by the book "The Velveteen Rabbit" by Margery Williams, "Velveteen" chronicles one queer black man's journey from self-hatred and repression towards self-discovery and acceptance. With dance and poetry, we follow our protagonist as he navigates ancestral trauma, racism and homophobia in order to heal himself, find community and live an authentic life unburdened by the expectations of others.

### "Kaleidoscope"

2020

Director, Choreographer

A choreographed contemporary ballet trio for men which uses formations and visual effects to give the illusion of that the viewer is gazing into a kaleidoscope.

### "Prism"

2019

Director, Choreographer

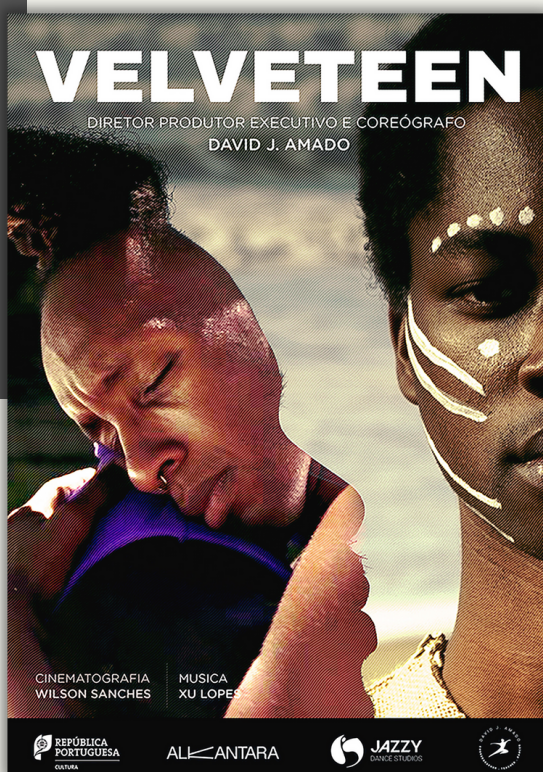
A choreographed contemporary ballet duet for two men built around the concepts of symmetry, parallel lines, light and perspective.

### "self."

2016

Co-Director, Choreographer

Set to the music of singer/guitarist Moses Sumney, the film tackles race-related violence, death and rebirth.



# CHOREOGRAPHY

## Classical Ballet

Classical dance should be used as a transformational tool to help us build confidence and self esteem by showing us that we all possess strength, grace and beauty.

David J. Amado's classical choreographic work pulls from the Vaganova (Russian) tradition which places an emphasis on harmony of movement, athleticism and greater expressive range onstage. Detailed, individualized attention is given to each and every dancer resulting not only in improved ballet technique, but an increased consciousness of the body.



## Contemporary Ballet

David J. Amado's Contemporary Ballet is an opportunity to transcend classical dance. It incorporates cultural traditions deeply rooted in the African diaspora, while borrowing classical lines and ballet vocabulary. Mobility of the spine and "groundedness" are the key components of the technique.

This fusion of the classical with the contemporary, and the European with the African Diasporic, creates an inclusive environment where everyone is welcome to cultivate their own language in the technique.

## MOVEMENT COACHING

David J. Amado is also available for movement coaching and has extensive experience working with both dancers and non-dancers alike. He has lent his expertise and eye for elegance and grace to theatrical productions, commercials, fashion photo shoots as well as live musical performances.

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# CREATIVE DIRECTION

In one word, David J. Amado's style can be described as surreal. Through mastery of color, lavish composition and compelling narratives, David uses unique approach to creative direction as a means to push the boundaries of fine art, photography and film.

Conjuring images that are both highly imaginative and fantastical, David ambitions to use his work to showcase Black people, queer people, and other normally marginalized groups of society, in a majestic and supernatural way in hopes of shifting the cultural paradigm and changing the zeitgeist.

His work has been shown throughout Europe as well as South America, and he was also featured in Vogue Portugal.



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## LINKS:

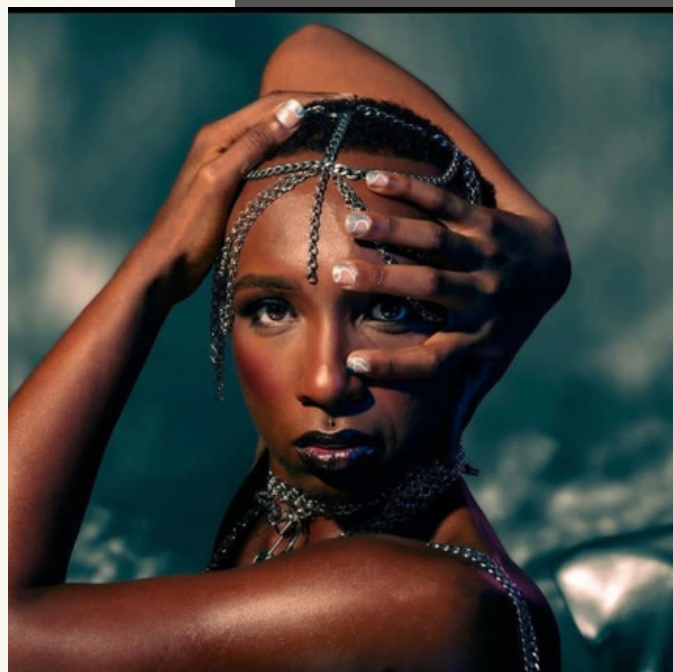
- [Website/ Portfolio](#)
- Instagram: @davidjamado
- [YouTube](#)
- [Linkedin](#)

## FILM:

- [“True Colors”](#)
- [“Velveteen”](#)
- [“Kaleidoscope”](#)
- [“Prism”](#)
- [“Ascension”](#)
- [“self.”](#)

## PRESS:

- [Vogue Portugal](#)
- [The Vanilla Issue](#)
- [“Conversas ao Sul”](#)
- [“Bem-Vindos”](#)
- [PARQ Mag](#)
- [“People of Lisbon”](#)



# CONTACT



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Thank you and I look  
forward to working with  
you.



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FILMMAKER  
CHOREOGRAPHER  
CREATIVE DIRECTOR

## ABOUT ME

A multidisciplinary artist who aspires to use cinema, dance, poetry and fashion to tell the stories of queer black people and empower the community.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Portuguese Ministry of Culture creative grant recipient.
- Screenwriting Residency with *Netflix Portugal* and *Academia Portuguesa de Cinema*.
- Facilitated workshops at *Escola Superior de Dança* and *Forum Dança*, the two leading dance colleges in Portugal.
- Films presented internationally at *Berlin Lift-Off Festival*, *Afropolitan (Brussels)* and *Mostra Ousmane Sembene de Cinema (Brasil)*.
- Work presented in *Vogue Portugal* and *Lisbon Fashion Week*.
- Member of *The Classical Dance Alliance, Inc.* and of *The International Dance Counsel of UNESCO*. Certified in the first 5 years of the Vaganova Classical Dance syllabus. (USA/ Russia)
- Teacher Training workshops with *The National Dance Institute-NDI* in NYC (USA), Director Jacques D'Amboise.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

- [www.davidjamado.com](http://www.davidjamado.com)
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- +351.910.537.426
- 1150-113 Lisboa, Portugal

## FILMOGRAPHY

<b>"True Colors"</b>	2022
Director, Choreographer, Executive Producer	
• Featured on Portuguese TV programs <i>Conversas ao Sul</i> and <i>Bem-Vindos</i> .	
• Highlighted in the <i>Vanilla Issue Magazine</i> . (Australia)	
• Shown in <i>Afropolitan (Brussels)</i> and <i>Goethe Institutue-Portugal</i> .	
• TV Broadcast in Portugal, Cape Verde, Guine-Bissau, Mozambique, Angola and São Tomé on <i>RTPÁfrica</i> .	
<b>"Velveteen"</b>	2021
Director, Choreographer, Executive Producer	
• Debuted in <i>Lisbon Fashion Week</i> Spring 2021.	
• Featured in <i>Parq Magazine</i> and <i>Mensagem de Lisboa</i> .	
• Shown in <i>Festival Política</i> , <i>Festival Genders &amp; Performances</i> , <i>Berlin Lift-Off Festival</i> and <i>Mostra Ousmane Sembene de Cinema (Brasil)</i> .	
• TV Broadcast in Portugal, Cape Verde, Guine-Bissau, Mozambique, Angola and São Tomé on <i>RTPÁfrica</i> .	
<b>"Kaleidoscope"</b>	2020
Director, Choreographer	
<b>"Prism"</b>	2019
Director, Choreographer	
<b>"self."</b>	2016
Co-Director, Choreographer	

## DANCE COMPANY EXPERIENCE

<b>Chapitô</b>	2018
Dancer	
<b>Grupo Corpo/ Corpo Cidadão</b>	2013 - 2016
Corps de Ballet	
<b>Ballet des Ameriques</b>	2010 - 2012
Corps de Ballet	
<b>Alpha Omega Theatrical Dance Company</b>	2009 - 2010
Apprentice	

## FREELANCE DANCE

- Grada Kilomba [O Barco/ The Boat](#) Portugal
- Miles Greenberg [Like Water in a Heatwave](#) Portugal
- Mandy Capristo [13 Schritte](#) Germany
- Fado Bicha [Namorico do André](#) Portugal
- Olga Roriz [Interferências](#) Portugal
- Benvindo Fonseca [Portugal Fashion Week](#)
- Cie Willie Dorner [Bodies in Urban Spaces](#) Portugal
- Sublime Dance Company Portugal
- Jacobs Pillow [Inside Out Festival](#) USA
- Miss Drag Lisboa [Choreographer](#) Portugal
- David Gordon [Pick Up Performance Company](#) USA





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## HIGHLIGHTS

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## DANCE TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Classical Ballet, Pointe & Floor Barre Teacher

Jazzy Dance Studios  
Lisbon, Portugal

2018 - 2023

- Administer theoretical, yet practical dance lessons.
- Implement detailed, streamlined lesson plans which foster knowledge acquisition and improved technique in all students.
- Artistic Direct and choreograph for school performances. Organize and produce audiovisuals, design lighting plots and design costumes.

### Dance Teacher

BalletX Dance eXChange  
Philadelphia, PA, USA

2015 - 2017

- Facilitated dance classes for 3rd and 4th grade students in the *Philadelphia Public School system*.
- Collaborated with Artistic Director and Associate Director of *BalletX* to mount 2 dance performances per semester in a theater with more than 200 students for an audience of approximately 450 people.
- Integral in training novice dance students.
- Served as mediator for underserved children and provided conflict resolution.

### Dance Teacher

Learning Through and Extended Arts Program (L.E.A.P.)  
Bronx, NY, USA

2013

- Developed and implemented the first after-school dance program curriculum for LEAP, which is accessible to all *MS22* students in the Bronx. Curricula focused on hip hop and jazz dance styles, as well as body conditioning and nutrition.

### Program Coordinator/Teacher

Ballet des Amériques School & Company, Inc.  
Port Chester, NY, USA

2011 - 2013

- Designed a curriculum for 35 students between the ages of 5 and 16 with a focus on the fundamentals of music theory, composition, ear and voice training.
- Point of contact between teachers, administration, students & parents.
- Coordinated the agenda of the School, as well as the Company. . . . Drafted all email correspondence on behalf of the Founder and Director.
- Oversaw the organization's operating budget. Maintained several databases with up to date with information including boutique sales, employee compensation, as well as monthly payment plans.

## EDUCATION

### Columbia University in the City of New York

Bachelors of Music  
New York, NY, USA

2010