Founder and Artistic Director, Jamel Gaines has dedicated his life to delivering artistic excellence and stirring, soaring performance to audiences everywhere. Born and raised in Queens, New York, Jamel Gaines has dedicated his life to creating exceptional art and community programming for New York City and beyond. With more than 22 years of teaching and choreographing experience, Jamel seeks to inspire, motivate and nurture dancers and artists. Under his leadership, Creative Outlet has set itself apart as a highly acclaimed performing arts organization with a proven record in training the next generation of professional dancers and artists.

Some of Jamel’s more recent choreography includes the crowd pleasing presentation live streamed across the internet during Spike Lee's Annual Tribute Concert to Michael Jackson (August 2017) televised choreography and dramatic performance by contestants on So You Think You Can Dance. (2010). In addition, Mr. Gaines has created and staged over 25 repertory and concert productions. He has had the distinction of working with such distinguished artists as Jennifer Holiday, Michael Jackson, Whitney Houston, Savion Glover, Malik Yoba, George Fasion, Ornette Coleman, Ossie Davis, Olatunje Babatunde, Max Roach, Cassandra Wilson and Rick James. Additionally, he has taught and choreographed dance for productions in Jamaica, Guadeloupe, Spain, Germany, Canada, Italy, London, and Portugal. Founder and Artistic Director, Jamel Gaines has dedicated his life to delivering artistic excellence to artists and audiences. Jamel has appeared on Public Television's American Talent in which he was presented The Teacher Recognition Award, during the Presidential Scholars in the Arts Committee at The Kennedy Center, and has been featured in publications such as Essence Magazine, The New York Times, The Seattle Times and The Daily News. His work has been staged by the Actors Theater Workshop, The NYC Department of Parks, Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, the Paramount Theatre and The Martha Graham School.

In addition to CO, Mr. Gaines serves as the director of St. Paul's Eldad Medad Danced Ministry, which seeks to find a spiritual path through movement. His work at St. Paul’s includes “He Got Up,” the commemoration of the African Holocaust and the acclaimed “Black Nativity” for which he won an Obie Award. Gaines began his dance career in the mid-1990s under the direction of Diane and Adrian Brown, and James Grant. After receiving his BFA from SUNY Purchase, Jamel auditioned for and was accepted into the JUBLILATION! Dance Company, where he served more than 15 years. He credits the development of his unique and nurturing approach to teaching and composing to Kevin Iega Jeff.