



## Shirel Jones, Elevate+ Role Model Speaker

Shirel Jones is a choreographer, teaching artist, and creative entrepreneur whose work centers on early childhood arts education, movement, and storytelling. She holds a BFA in Dance from the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) and has built a multifaceted career that bridges performance, education, and digital media.



She is the founder of [Lil Dumplings](#), a platform that employs ballet and play-based learning to help young children explore their emotions, creativity, and self-expression. Through her [YouTube channel](#), she creates original dance content for preschoolers that reaches families nationwide. Shirel is also a Resident Teaching Artist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, integrating music and movement into Detroit Public Schools.

Her choreography has been showcased at the Detroit Institute of Arts and the New York Live Arts festival. She is a recipient of multiple honors, including the Kresge Gilda Award, the Jubilation Foundation Fellowship, a CultureSource ARC Fund Fellowship, and a YoungArts award. Shirel is passionate about reimagining what a career in the arts can look like—blending entrepreneurship, education, and technology to make the arts more inclusive and accessible for the next generation.

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