

Shakira Marshall known by her alias Kira Divine is an artist, dancer, singer, actor, choreographer, writer and model hailing from Queens, New York. She is the youngest of five siblings and the proud daughter of George and Marlene Marshall natives of Georgetown, Guyana. Named after Shakira Baksh, her parents had dreams of their daughter following in the footsteps of the famed Guyanese Beauty Queen. Kira began her professional training at the tender age of four studying disciplines such as tap, jazz, ballet, modern, acrobatics, afro-caribbean, traditional West African and hip-hop, which have proved to cultivate her versatile abilities. She joined the children's choir at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Cambria Heights, New York (where she also attended the school) while simultaneously taking on private piano and vocal lessons. Kira received her training and began her teaching career at many institutions including Dance Studio 'A', Perfection Dance Center, The Edge School of the Arts (ESOTA), Alvin Ailey and Broadway Dance Center. In Highschool, Kira was an honors student at St. John's Preparatory School where she participated in extra-curricular activities such as track & field, cheerleading and step while also balancing her involvement in two New York based dance companies, Queenz Finest a hip-hop dance company and KECDE (The Kerri Edge Children's Dance Ensemble). These companies gave her a tremendous amount of experience and cultivated her love for performance and travel.

Kira continued her studies at SUNY Purchase College where she received a B.A. in Media, Society and the Arts. During her tenure at Purchase, Kira saw the lack of unity among the Caribbean and African Diaspora students on campus which inspired her to create a forum where these students could share their experiences and build as a community. Kira founded the first Caribbean club entitled S.O.C.A., an acronym for students of Caribbean ancestry. During her terms as president, the club immediately became a major success becoming the most popular club on campus. S.O.C.A. won many awards for community service, outstanding creative programming and is still in existence to this day. S.O.C.A. began Kira's affinity for giving back to her Caribbean community through art. It was also during this time that Kira booked her first music video as a featured dancer in Elephant Man's "Pon De River". As she continued to book professional gigs, her love for teaching dance never died. In order to satisfy this desire she created a unique style of dance which she coined AfroSoca® and began teaching classes and workshops in Brooklyn, New York.

In 2009 Kira made her Broadway debut with the groundbreaking Tony Award winning musical FELA! In 2011 the entire Broadway cast was invited to Nigeria to perform the show. Kira joined the international touring company with Michelle Williams of Destiny's Child and had the honor of returning to Broadway with the hit show for a brief run during the summer of 2012.

Some of her recent projects include working with Australian Electronic dance act PNAU on their latest album "Changa" where she voiced 7 tracks including hit singles "Chameleon" which reached #3 on Australia iTunes charts and certified platinum, "Go Bang" and most recently "Solid Gold". Kira has also worked very closely with Ms. Lauryn Hill, choreographing her live shows, providing Ms. Hill and her daughter Selah Marley with private dance lessons and singing background vocals when needed. Personally, Kira is currently working on her debut album, while expanding her AfroSoca brand to the

west coast of America and starting the Los Angeles branch of her entertainment group Soca Sirens® (which Kira founded and is the director). You may have witnessed her choreography on BET's Black Girls Rock 2016 and Ms. Lauryn Hill's Diaspora Calling streamed live via Tidal. Kira recently choreographed Jill Scott's 20th Anniversary Tour "Who Is Jill Scott?" 2020.

Additional credits and places you may have seen Kira: "Freedom" movie (Netflix); Michelle Williams, Beyonce and Kelly Rowland "Say Yes" music video; MTV MADE (Hip-Hop coach); Singing in Chop and Quench "The Fela Band"; Questlove's Afropick's singing background vocals for grammy award winning lead vocalist Macy Gray (Paris); Stephen Marley "Out Of Africa" (Background Vocalist). Kira choreographed Jill Scott/Maxwell Tour 2010, Alison Hinds World Tour. She has also performed on stage and in music videos with artists such as Beyonce, N*E*R*D*, Sean Paul, Elephant Man, and Machel Montano. She has performed and taught many dance workshops all over America and internationally including Guyana, St. Maarten (Art Saves Lives Foundation), Nigeria, Barbados (Dance Strides), Jamaica, The Dominican Republic, Australia, Denmark and England.

When Kira travels she makes it her mission to share her talent and learn the culture of the people through music and dance. As she continues in her career, Kira plans to release more music while continuing to pursue her acting career. Currently, Kira also established The Value Arts Initiative™ in Agricola, Guyana, which is an arts foundation-exchange program for the youth. This program is uniquely designed to provide the youth of Guyana access to practicing professional artists in a neutral unbiased setting while enriching the artistic skills that they naturally possess encouraging the values of self-worth, self-confidence and self-awareness. Art is the vehicle for social change and Kira prides herself on being a conduit.