

## Zazel Chavah O'Garra



Zazel-Chavah O'Garra is the founder and Artistic Director of ZCO/DANCEPROJECT-a physically integrated dance company. She attended the University of Michigan and Empire State College where she received a Bachelor of Arts in dance performance. Zazel holds an MSW from Fordham University and is a member of SAG-AFTRA, EQUITY. A Presidential Arts Scholar, she performed with Mark Dendy Dance Company and Alvin Ailey Wksp II, as well as performing Off-Broadway and in numerous musical theatre stage productions in the U.S. and abroad. Zazel is the recipient of the VSA-John F. Kennedy- National Teaching Artist fellowship and was named the inaugural member of the White House Disability Liaison under President Obama. She serves on the Arts and Education Committee-Board of Education, Disability Task Force, DANCE/NYC, SAG-AFTRA/Performers with Disabilities, Ambassador-Voices Against Brain Cancer and Divas with Disabilities.

In December 2001, Zazel discovered that she had meningioma, a benign brain tumor, which proceeded to paralyze her right side and resulted in a slight speech impediment and cognitive loss. Zazel can be heard on numerous podcasts and webinars including the National Foundation for the Arts, New York Public Performing Arts Library-Jerome Robbins Collection. Wanting to share her story, she performs Inside/Out (voices of the disability community), directed by Ping Chong, nationwide. Zazel is now the new featured model for Zappos Adaptive and Smart Adaptive clothing.

<https://www.zcodanceproject.com/>