



Jason Rodriguez (right) as Lemar Abundance in "POSE," with Dominique Jackson as Elektra

FX's "POSE" Returns for a Fabulous Third Season

FX's hit series "POSE" is back on the ballroom floor for a third season, premiering this summer. The show has captivated viewers with its in-depth portrayal of NYC's ball culture scene in the 1980s and '90s, and we're super-excited to see more fierce dancing as the story continues. *Dance Spirit* caught up with voguer Jason Rodriguez, who plays Lemar Abundance, to learn about his background in vogue and his time on set as a movement coach. —Natalie Zisa

Dance Spirit: When were you first introduced to vogue?

Jason Rodriguez: It wasn't until my junior year at SUNY Purchase, when vogue legend Benny Ninja came to teach a vogue workshop. When he vogues, he's very articulate—he asserts both his masculinity and femininity. I said, "I need to be like that man." He's also queer and Hispanic, and I really connected to that. I never saw that growing up.

DS: What type of an environment do you try to create as a movement coach?

JR: When I work as a movement coach, my number-one job is to create an incredible pose and shot. But I also ask myself, "How can I 100 percent be there for this individual in this moment?" When I teach, work, and choreograph, I try to create a comforting environment, so that I can help each individual find confidence and allow the creative process to blossom. I'm there as a tool—if something isn't working, I can help figure it out or change it.

DS: What were some challenges you experienced on set?

JR: It's difficult to put your work on another individual that hasn't had the same dance journey as you. You have to stay adaptable and aware of the people you're working with. I may be trying to create a pose or movement, but I'm also making sure that individual shines.



Rodriguez

DS: What has been the most rewarding aspect of your role?

JR: There have been so many incredible fans showing us love and writing to us about how much it's changed them to be able to see this culture on this platform. There have also been dancers from Dominican Republic, where I was born, saying they relate to me specifically. This work vitalizes me. I find it limitless when it's empowering other people. And at the end of the day, what a voguer wants is to be seen. Voguing comes from a magazine, from fashion, and it's a gift to be able to access these spaces.

DS: What's something you can share with our readers about voguing?

JR: At the end of the day, vogue is improv-based, so who's to say what you're doing is wrong? You just have to be super-fierce.