

## THE CALLING!


BY MIA MICHAELS

**T**he calling in one's life to be a creator is a huge responsibility to the world. There is no backing down once this realization of artistic destiny takes place. It is the commitment of one's life, the artistic version of the monk. We are being used by God to affect and change the universe, shift the planet, and hopefully leave it forever altered. Once our calling takes place, it is our duty to respect, nurture, and dig into it so deeply that there is no other way of living. It becomes our life and our every breath. Everything we experience transforms into art.

Then there are those who choose but have not been chosen. They make it a career (a business if you will) and have a different take on it. It's a different way of life. They do it for the love of recognition, money, and fame. These people operate in a thing called the entertainment business. So many in this business have been successful without caring about creating their own voice or vocabulary, but just copying the great ones that have come before them. They constantly continue to repeat themselves without ever considering the "reinvention of oneself," and without guilt or apologies. There is truth in both these worlds, they just have different heartbeats.

We are now in a time of reality TV and "instant celebrity." It's a time of mediocrity, not too much dignity or integrity on screens all over America. I am one of those so-called instant celebrities in the world's eyes. It just happened over night. I dropped out of the sky and became a big-name choreographer with a face. The funny thing is I am just Mia doing what I have been doing for the last 25 years, but now I am MIA! Very funny and very strange.

The fame will pass. The show will close. The trends will change. What will remain constant are the true artists, visionaries, and creators, the ones that are called. They will stand as they are until they are gone.

I hope and pray to always stay true to my calling. A creator of beauty, ugliness, and worldly art of movement. I hope to be a constant because I am called. 



Mia Michaels is a world-renowned choreographer. She was recently awarded her first Emmy Award for Outstanding Choreography for "Calling You," created in 2006 for Fox's *So You Think You Can Dance*. Mia has been collaborating creatively and as a regular columnist for *movmnt* since its inception.