



## MESTRE JAMAICA (MAURO ROMUALDO)

Salt Lake City, Utah, United States and Nova Viçosa, Bahia, Brazil  
saltlakecapoeira.com ◦ @saltlakecapoeira

### PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

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Mestre Jamaika is an internationally recognized practitioner of the Afro-Brazilian art form of capoeira, a three-time Brazilian Capoeira Confederation champion, black belt in Jiu Jitsu, and owner and lead teacher of Salt Lake Capoeira since 2005. His exceptional skill, knowledge, and authentic preservation of his Afro-Brazilian roots have placed him among the most sought-after instructors within the capoeira and dance community, teaching and performing throughout the world for the past 30 years.

### TEACHING

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*Mestre Jamaika is known as an engaging, inspiring teacher for students of all ages and backgrounds. He began teaching capoeira as a young teenager in Brazil, and has since shared his Afro-Brazilian culture and art form worldwide.*

- **Owner and Lead Capoeira Teacher**
  - Salt Lake Capoeira (2005–Present)
- **University Adjunct Faculty Member**
  - University of Utah; Physical Education (2005–2009)
  - Salt Lake Community College; Health and Lifetime Activities (2008–2016)
- **Guest Capoeira Artist** (2005–Present)
  - American College Dance Association Northwest Conference (2018, 2019, 2023)
  - Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company summer dance camps
  - Higher Education Institutions: Brigham Young University, Salt Lake Community College, University of Utah, Utah Valley University, Westminster College

- **Capoeira Academy Instructor**
  - At events throughout Australia, Canada, Cuba, Germany, Israel, Mexico, New Zealand, and the United States
  - Long-term at an academy in Israel (1996–1998)
  - Long-term at academies throughout Brazil (1993–1996)
- **Youth Capoeira Instructor**
  - Salt Lake Arts Academy (2022–Present)
  - Salt Lake’s Youth City Program (2005–2010; 2020–2022)
- **Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Professor**
  - Gustavo Rodrigues BJJ Team (2020–Present)

## PERFORMING

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*Mestre Jamaika shares his Afro-Brazilian culture and art through interactive lectures and impactful performances for audiences of a few to thousands. He is often joined by his trained and talented capoeira group members.*

- **TEDx Salt Lake City** (2016)
- **Rock in Rio Las Vegas** (2015)
- **Damian Marley’s Welcome to Jamrock US Tour** (2005)
- **Utah Festivals:** African Heritage Festival, Afro Utah Festival, Craft Lake City, Living Traditions Festival, Moab Arts Festival, Reggae Rise Up Festival, Urban Arts Festival, Utah Arts Festival, Utah Brazilian Festival, Utah Pride Festival
- **Cultural Events:** Red Butte Gardens Cultural Night, Utah Division of Arts & Museums’ Mondays in the Park, Utah Cultural Celebration Center Events, University of Utah Cultural Night, Weber State University Cultural Event
- **Public Library Programming:** Salt Lake County, Davis County
- **Professional Sports Team Shows:** Utah Jazz (NBA basketball), Real Salt Lake (MLS soccer), Utah Warriors (USARL rugby)
- **Utah Public and Private K–12 School Assemblies**

## ADDITIONAL PROJECTS & EXPERIENCE

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*In addition to teaching and performing, Mestre Jamaika has been involved in projects and opportunities throughout his career to help preserve and share Afro-Brazilian capoeira.*

- Founded the Volta Miúda Capoeira group (2005)
- Advisor and supporter of the Volta Miúda quilombo, a federally recognized community originating from a settlement of African-Brazilians who were enslaved (Ongoing)
- Featured artist in award-winning documentary, *Capoeira: The Dance of Freedom* (2010)
- Organizer for an annual capoeira batizado event for nearly 20 years, curating a group of professional capoeira artists to offer workshops and perform (2005–Present)
- Curator and guide for small group cultural trips to Bahia, Brazil (Ongoing)
- Partnered with Upworthy media organization and American Immigration Council on a campaign dedicated to fostering a more welcoming nation; featured in a video highlighting stories of belonging between immigrants and U.S.-born community members (2022)
- Featured in Living Legacy video series in collaboration with the Utah Arts & Museums and Salt Lake City Arts Council (2021)

- Member of Team 4Life, a group of world-renowned athletes who enjoy using 4Life products as part of their training regimens
- Featured dancer in Damian Marley's *MOVE!* music video (2016)
- Inspired the video game character "Jamaika" in Capoeira Fighter 3
- Board member for the Utah Arts Alliance (2019–Present)

## EDUCATION

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### **Mestre of Capoeira Certificate (2013)**

Los Angeles, California

### **Black Belt in Jiu Jitsu with Gustavo Rodrigues BJJ (2020)**

Salt Lake City, Utah

### **Professor of Capoeira Certificate (1997)**

Brazil

## AWARDS & GRANTS

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*Helping to pave the way for capoeira's worldwide visibility, Mestre Jamaika was awarded the highest level of recognition in capoeira for three consecutive years prior to moving to the United States. More recently in his career, he was recognized as a Utah Performing Arts Fellow; the prestigious jury members awarded him this honor due to his "demonstrated extraordinary talent, bold vision, and his leadership and advocacy for the art of capoeira."*

- Brazilian Capoeira Confederation Champion (1997, 1998, 1999)
- Performing Arts Fellow for the Utah Division of Arts & Museums (2021)
- Recipient of the following grants:
  - American Folklore Society Gerald L. Davis Presence Pathway Award (2023)
  - Salt Lake City Arts Council's Artist Career Empowerment Grant (2021–2023)
  - Salt Lake City Arts Council's Project Support Grant (2021–2024)
  - Salt Lake City Arts Council's Artist-in-the-Classroom Grant (2023)
  - Salt Lake City Department of Economic Development Community Grant (2023)
  - Utah Division of Arts & Museums Artist Career Adv. Scholarship (2022–2023)
  - Utah Division of Arts & Museums Apprenticeship Grant (2008)