



2021 NDA ALL-STAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGES



MICHELLE ALLISON

Head Judge

Head Judge Michelle Allison is in her 28th year as Artistic Director of Curtain Call Dance Center, Indianapolis, IN. Received a B.S. in Dance Performance from Ball State University. Michelle directs the Sr. Performing Company, the annual productions of The Nutcracker and Dance Against Cancer at Curtain Call where she develops curriculum and continuing education. She has judged The Dance Worlds since the inaugural year and is currently the Panel Director for Jazz. Since 2010, Michelle has been choreographer for the Colts NFL Cheerleader auditions and halftime shows. She has been a guest judge/master instructor with JCDA Tokyo, Japan, for ten years and is a veteran judge of CheerSport, Spirit of Hope, MA Dance, The Groove Experience, UDA College Dance Nationals, NFL Colts and Ben-Gals. She spent 13 years teaching for the National Dance Alliance, choreographed and field produced numerous bowl games and nationally televised parades and has judged NDA Regionals, All-Star and College Nationals since 1992.



ERIN HAROLD ALVARADO

Head Judge

Erin Alvarado is in her ninth year as the Pom Squad coach at Texas Tech University. In 2017, she led her team to the squad's first national championship in school history in Division 1A Jazz at NDA. Her team has won National Titles in three consecutive year's—being crowned 1A Jazz Champions in 2017 & 2018, and 1A Pom Champions in 2018 & 2019. While at Texas Tech, her teams have travelled to Shanghai, China to represent the USA in their annual Tourism Festival, and have performed alongside the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders many times. Erin is a graduate of West Virginia University with a B.S. in Exercise Physiology and a minor in dance. She was a member of the WVU Dance Team, and then coached for three years where the team won two consecutive NDA Collegiate National Championships in 2010 & 2011. She is an adjudicator for NDA, UDA, USA, USASF, PrimeTime Dance and Showbiz Talent. Erin has travelled to Tokyo, Japan & Australia to judge for JCDA and AASCF nationals. At Texas Tech, Erin currently serves as an Adjunct Faculty in jazz, contemporary, hip hop, movement for the performer and tap. She also travels around the world teaching master classes, setting choreography and speaking at various events. She has been a guest speaker at various conferences, is a member of NDCA, and is the Category Director for the Contemporary/Lyrical division at The Dance Worlds. In 2019, Erin was voted the National Collegiate Dance Coach of the Year by the National Dance Coaches Association.



CHERYL PAQUETTE

Head Judge

Cheryl Paquette resides in St. Louis, MO and has been involved in the dance industry for over 30 years. She is trained in ballet, tap, jazz, and pointe and spent 6 years as a company member with the Gateway Ballet. A graduate of the University of Missouri, she earned a National Championship title with the Mizzou Golden Girls dance team. Cheryl is a former NFL St. Louis Rams Cheerleader and NBA Dallas Mavericks Dancer. She was a choreographer and head instructor for the National Dance Alliance, spent 7 years as their Event and Curriculum Director, and has field produced numerous special event half time shows during her tenure with NDA. In 2017 was awarded the Herkie Legacy Award for her commitment to the industry. Currently, Cheryl is the USASF Dance Adjudication Director and Communications Coordinator and serves as the Pom Panel Director at The USASF Dance Worlds. Cheryl enjoys judging for many national and international Event Producers.



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JENNY DURBIN SMITH

Jenny Durbin Smith is a nationally recognized and award-winning choreographer. She is a former member of the UNC-Chapel Hill cheer and dance teams and a former captain for the NBA Dallas Mavericks Dancers. Jenny has been a principal dancer for many national projects and her choreography has been featured on major network TV shows, national television commercials, industrials, films, reality television shows, NFL fields and NBA courts. In addition to being the proud director of the Dallas Cowboys Rhythm and Blue, the only co-ed hip hop dance crew in the NFL, she is the Director of the Dallas Cowboys Rookie Squad, a choreographer with Varsity Pro and travels the country choreographing and master instructing for numerous dance organizations, professional teams and studios. Jenny also proudly serves on the hip hop score sheet advisory boards for NDA and USASF.



BRIAN CAO

Brian Cao has been involved in the spirit industry for over 20 years on the school, all-star, collegiate and professional levels. He has been affiliated with NCA/NDA for the last 23 years and has contributed to both NCA and NDA's summer curriculum as a choreographer and consultant. In 2007 & 2008, Brian served as a Co-Show Director for the Thanksgiving in Paradise Halftime Show in Hawaii, and his choreography opportunities have taken him all around the world, including to England, Finland and Japan. In 2010, Brian received the coveted Herkie Legacy Award for his contributions to NCA/NDA, The Work is Worth It Award in 2016, and most recently, the 2019 NCA Heart & Soul Award. Brian's dance resume includes performing with several companies in Oregon, including three seasons with the NBA Portland Trailblazers Jam Squad. He currently works as a choreographer and consultant to cheer and dance teams of all levels and was the choreographer for Team England Freestyle Pom in 2018. In his limited free time away from training, he travels the world speaking at conferences, judging for major cheer and dance events, and is a 4-time judge for The USASF Dance Worlds.

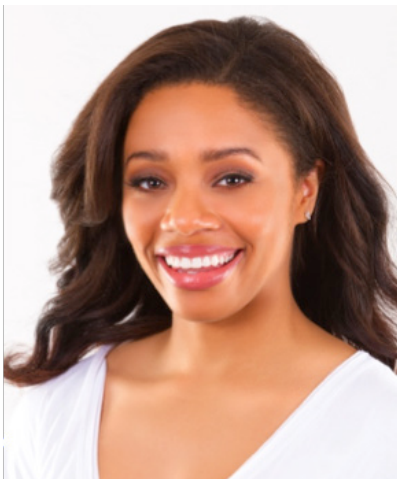


JESSIKA LEONARD

Jessika Leonard has over 30 years of dance experience, including: education/training, coaching, judging, and instructing. Her training includes ballet, pointe, jazz, tap, baton, gymnastics, and has extensive training in her area of expertise, pom. As a dancer, she studied alongside world-renowned dancers in NYC and received numerous accolades including her acceptance to the Minnesota Conservatory of Art. Jessika has performed and choreographed for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Walt Disney World, College Bowl Games, and several NFL half-time shows. As an accomplished dancer, she later chose to share her passion for dance by coaching high school and all-star teams, whom consistently made appearances in the state finals and captured national top honors. Jessika now focuses her efforts speaking at conventions and also conducts private choreography and workshops with teams and coaches. Jessika's has extensive experience judging state, national, and international competitions, including multiple years with The USASF Dance Worlds.



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BRIANA BAISDEN

Briana Baisden is seasoned dance adjudicator, serving on dance audition and state, regional, and National competition judging panels across the country. Trained in ballet, jazz, contemporary, and hip hop, she has received numerous awards throughout her years as a dance student. A graduate of the University of Alabama, she was a member of the University's dance team, serving as captain her senior year. After graduation, she coached the Mississippi State University dance team to their first ever National ranking. Following her coaching stint, Briana returned to the sidelines as a cheerleader for the Tennessee Titans for 3 seasons. Currently, she resides in Dallas working as a Human Resources manager and is in her third season as a Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader, where she has had the opportunity to dance for Travis Wall, Tyce Diorio, Meghan Trainor, and many more.



CHRISTINA LEONE

Christina Leone, a Colorado native, is in her 17th year coaching at the high school level. The 20-21 season will mark her 12th year at Rock Canyon HS and she previously coached for five years at Ponderosa HS, while simultaneously directing a competitive All-Star dance program. Her teams have earned numerous regional and state titles, are perennial finalists at UDA Nationals and are 5x Academic State Champions. Most recently, Rock Canyon earned two Bronze medals at the 2020 NDTC and in 2018 they were selected as the Varsity Brands American Spirit Leader Award winner. In 2015, Christina was the National winner of the Double-Goal Coach Award from the Positive Coaching Alliance and in 2016 named Coach of the Year by the Colorado HS Coaches Association. Christina grew up as a competitive figure skater while also training in dance before joining her high school & college dance teams. Outside of coaching, Christina is an active adjudicator and conference speaker. She has judged for the USASF Dance Worlds, National Championships at the High School, All-Star, & Collegiate levels for UDA, NDA, USA, GSSA, Dance Summit, Jamfest and Jamfest Japan and currently serves on numerous committees including the PCA Character Initiative Program and Varsity Brands DanceCAST. Christina is an avid fan of figure skating, the Denver Broncos and loves camping, cooking, traveling and spending time with her husband & two daughters.



MELISSA KIDD

Melissa Kidd has over 3 decades of training in all genres of dance as well as over 15 years of instruction/choreography experience in over 30 studios/schools across the country. Melissa's training includes training under the Cincinnati Ballet and members of the New York City Ballet and Boston Ballet. She currently owns a fine arts facility in Cincinnati, Ohio. Melissa holds multiple certifications in choreography, technique, judging and early childhood dance education. Dancers that have trained under Ms. Kidd have gone on to dance on cruise lines, Broadway productions, NBA dance teams, NFL Cheerleading, many Universities, Hallmark movie productions, music videos, and many more professional positions in the dance industry. Melissa enjoys splitting her time between teaching and traveling judging competitions and teaching master classes. Melissa judges for the all-star dance circuit and the studio dance circuit where she has served as a judging coordinator/trainer. Miss Kidd has also served as a certified legality official at USASF Worlds for several years in a row.



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ANDREA ONEY

Andrea Masters has been a coach, instructor, judge, and choreographer for 30 years. Her background includes training in ballet, pointe, modern, jazz, tap, gymnastics, and has extensive training in her areas of expertise, which are hip hop and pom. As the former Assistant Coach of the University of Kentucky Dance Team, Andrea helped them rise to become a top 3 team in the nation in Hip Hop at UDA. She also danced for the University of Kentucky herself, where she was a part of the 1995 NDA National Dance Champion squad. Andrea has been a UDA Instructor, as well as an NDA College Instructor. She has choreographed for several national award-winning programs in the country. Andrea judges for both National and International events in Japan, England, and Scotland, as well as judging the USASF Dance Worlds Championship for 7 years.



BONITA SALDANA

Bonita Saldana's influence is recognized from the streets to the stage. Hailing from Phoenix, AZ, her professional career originated as a member of the Phoenix Mercury Hip-Hop Squad and the Phoenix Suns Dance Team. Known globally as, "Bgirl Bonita", she has performed with artists such as: Jason Derulo, P. Diddy, Black Eyed Peas, Sean Kingston, Fergie, Jamiroquai and is a member of three of the most legendary, world-famous and credible names in Hip-Hop dance: The Rock Steady Crew, The Groovaloos and The Beat Freaks. She has also been featured on Disney, Nickelodeon, American Idol, Dancing with the Stars and MTV's Made. Bonita has been teaching, adjudicating, lecturing, and choreographing professionally for over 17 years. She is beyond grateful for the launch of her dance studio in Phoenix, AZ, The Studance LAB, where her students bridge street dance and classical foundations, birthing a diverse generation of performers.



SUMMER MOON

Summer Moon began her training in Jazz, Modern and Hip Hop and she continued to train during college while obtaining a degree in HR Management. She has been a principal dancer for many national industrials and commercials and her choreography for studios, drill teams and all-star programs has won awards at competitions nationally. She continues to share her passion for dance with the next generation teaching at various studios throughout Texas and she continues to judge for competitions across the U.S. and internationally. She has judged on the Hip Hop Panel at the USASF Dance Worlds and is currently a Hip Hop Adviser on The American Championships Dance Advisory Board.