



NDA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2022 JUDGES BIOS



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.



MICHELLE ALLISON

Head Judge

Michelle Allison is in her 29th 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.



SARAH MCALLISTER

Sarah McAllister is a national championship award winning dance team coach and choreographer from San Diego. As a former high school coach, she led her team to multiple national titles and top tier finishes in Team Performance and Pom. She has been recognized for her award winning innovative choreography. As a professional dance adjudicator since 2010, she has judged for brands including NDA, UDA, USA, JAMZ, The USASF Dance Worlds and JDCA(Tokyo). Other achievements include choreography for Legoland Entertainment, teaching in Japan and coaching at San Diego State University. Sarah is a former contributing writer for both Jo+Jax and Inside Dance Magazine. She is currently a florist and entrepreneur with Night Garden Floral and she continues to choreograph and consult for competitive All-Star, high school and collegiate teams across the U.S.



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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, 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.



DAN GIBSON

A Georgia native, Daniel has been dancing professionally since he graduated from the University of Georgia. He opened his career with a national tour with 13th Floor Performing Arts, where he was a featured performer and choreographer. Some of his formal training came from Gotta Dance Atlanta and the Joel Hall Dance Center where he trained in African, hip-hop, jazz, modern, tap, ballet, and breakdance. He then moved to Chicago where he has been fortunate to perform for Culture Shock Chicago, Chicago Dance Crash, the Seldoms, 5 Star Boogie, Elephant Filmworks, the Oprah Winfrey Show, a national campaign for UPS, Johnny Dangerous, and Kid Sister with Kanye West. He was a featured dancer in the short film, "Wonderland or Humans who talk and dance." He has worked with the University of Kentucky dance team, the Minnesota Vikings Cheerleaders, and has been fortunate enough to judge for the USASF Dance Worlds judging panel for 9+ years.



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.



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BRIAN CAO

Head Judge

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 25 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 the NCA Heart & Soul Award in 2019. 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 5-time judge for The USASF Dance Worlds.



ERIN ALVARADO

Head Judge

Erin Harold Alvarado is in her tenth year as the Pom Squad coach at Texas Tech University. In 2017, she led the Texas Tech Pom Squad to the squad's first national championship in school history in Division 1A Jazz at NDA. Her team has won 6 National Titles in four years -- being crowned 1A Jazz Champions in 2017, 2018 & 2021 and 1A Pom Champions in 2018, 2019 & 2021. While at Texas Tech, her teams have travelled to Shanghai, China to represent the USA in their annual Tourism Festival, performed alongside the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders many times, and are consistently requested to do performances across the United States. Erin is a graduate of West Virginia University with a bachelor's degree 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 to judge for JCDA, and most recently travelled to Australia to judge the AASCF Dance Nationals in 2018 and 2019. In addition to coaching the Pom Squad, Erin currently serves as an Adjunct Dance Faculty member at Texas Tech in jazz, contemporary hip hop, movement analysis, anatomy, pedagogy, and tap.



MAGGIE WHITE

Maggie Allain White graduated from Louisiana State University receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Sports Administration and Business minor. Over the past 25 years, she has trained in various types of dance including pointe, pom, ballet, jazz, lyrical, hip-hop, kick, tap and modern across Louisiana and Texas. Upon her graduation from LSU, Maggie moved to Lafayette where she teaches dance at a local dance studio. Outside of the studio and choreographing, Maggie has been judging dance competitions since 2012, notably including the Dance Summit, JAMfest Dance Super Nationals, NDA Collegiate Nationals, NDA High School Nationals, MA Dance competitions, U.S. Finals, America's Best, Coastal, Freedom Dance live in person and virtual events. Maggie's professional dance accolades include being a member of the NFL New Orleans Saints Cheerleading Team; The Saintsations, Dance Team Coach and choreographer for the LSU Laboratory High School Dance Team and Dancing in the Macy's 85th Thanksgiving Day Parade in NYC. Outside of judging dance competitions, Maggie enjoys spending time with her husband and being a new mom to her son, Liam.



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CHRISTINA LEONE

Christina Leone is wrapping up her 18th year coaching at the high school level and is currently the head coach at Rock Canyon HS in Colorado. Her teams have earned numerous regional and state titles, are perennial finalists at UDA Nationals. Most recently, Rock Canyon earned Back to Back State Championship titles in 5A POM and earned three top 5 finishes at the 2022 NDTC, including two bronze medals. In 2018, they were selected as the Varsity Brands American Spirit Leader Award winner. Christina was the National winner of the 2015 Double-Goal Coach Award from the Positive Coaching Alliance and in 2016 named Coach of the Year by the Colorado HS Coaches Association. 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 industry committees. Christina is an avid fan of figure skating, all Colorado sports, loves camping, traveling and spending time with her husband & two daughters.



MICHELLE JOHNSON

Michelle Johnson, from Memphis, Tennessee, has been involved in the dance industry for over 13 years. She was a member of The University of Memphis pom squad where she graduated with her Master's degree in Instruction, Curriculum and Leadership. Formerly, she coached the Southaven Middle and High school dance teams, where she assisted in leading them to a national championship in the junior high pom division and a top 5 finish in the small varsity hip hop division. Currently, she is a UDA instructor, and throughout the year she travels to assist and clean dance teams to prepare them for competition. Michelle judges for UDA and NDA competitions at the regional, state, and national level.



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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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 Groovalos 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.



MORGAN SCHULTE

Morgan Schulte has over 20 years of experience in the dance industry as a teacher and choreographer. Currently she is in her 6th season dancing professionally for the NBA Memphis Grizzlies. She was a 7-year head instructor for UDA camps at the high school and collegiate levels and has traveled internationally with UDA for special events. Morgan judges many competitions for various brands, including The USASF Dance Worlds. She fuses dance with her other specialties of health, wellness, and nutrition as a speaker on these topics throughout the country. She is a kickboxing instructor, Orangetheory Fitness coach, and a dietitian and fitness coach through her own business, Motivate.



KRISTY BREINLINGER

Kristy Breinlinger started her dance training at the age of three. Throughout her dance career she was highly competitive in her studio where she won numerous team and individual awards. She was also captain/choreographer of her high school dance team, which won 1st place at UDA NDTC her senior year. Kristy also worked as a UDA high school/collegiate instructor. At Florida State University, Kristy was captain of the Golden Girls dance team. Kristy graduated from Florida State University with a B.S. in Dietetics/Nutrition and a minor in Psychology. Kristy has judged the USASF Dance Worlds and Dance Summit, as well as National Championships at the High School, All-Star, & Collegiate levels for UDA, NDA, ICU, The Groove Experience, Stage 8, One Up, Spirit Sports and WSF. Currently, Kristy continues to develop her dance education by participating in classes of higher education to maintain today's dance industry standards.



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SARAH GARCIA

Sarah Garcia graduate of Sam Houston State University with a Bachelors Degree in Health Kinesiology and a Masters Degree in Instructional Leadership with Emphasis in Dance. Sarah is in her 9th season as the Coach of the Orange Pride Dance Team at Sam Houston State University. Under her direction, the team has brought home 8 National Championship Titles, including Back to Back Double National Champion Titles in Jazz and Team Performance. Sarah is in her 9th season as a Coach and Choreographer for the 2x World Champion Dancin' Bluebonnet Senior Team in Spring, Tx. She is the Artistic Director for TrendSetters Dance in Houston, Tx where she educates and inspires young leaders at officer camp in the summer. As a teacher and choreographer, Sarah has set award winning routines on All-Star Studios, High School teams and College dance teams across the U.S.. Sarah enjoys the opportunity to excite and challenge dancers while helping them reach their goals, learn life lessons and enhance the world of dance.



KIERSTIN PAYNE

Kierstin has instructed dance for over 30 years, including over 15 years within the All Star community. Kierstin has provided support & served on various USASF boards, including the DNAB, DWAB, & Dance Rules Committee. Her service on the rules committee began in 2011, and she has been a certified legality official for as long as they have offered the certification. She has served as legality official for multiple high school and All Star events, including nationals and Worlds bid-giving events.



RACHEL DOMANGUE

Rachel Domangue, originally from New Orleans, is the former Director of the National Dance Alliance. With an extensive background in high school and college dance team, Rachel's BFA in Performing Arts-Dance from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette has allowed her to network with all facets of the dance industry. She has worked all over the U.S. as a dance team coach, choreographer and studio teacher. Rachel has been honored to judge for Champion Spirit Group, JCDA at the All Japan Cheer and Dance Championship in Tokyo, The Groove Experience, NDA, UDA, and the USASF Dance Worlds. She is currently living in Dallas, Texas, and still works as a speaker, instructor and adjudicator at conferences and competitions across the U.S. Rachel's "day job" is as the Business Operations Director at Glass Staircase, a marketing and branding company that focuses on empowering women and small businesses.



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HEATHER LANGHAM

Heather Langham, currently residing in New York City, is a 12 year veteran with The Radio City Rockettes. She began dancing at the age of 2 at her family owned dance studio, Langham Dance Center. She received a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies from Arizona State University in 2003 where she was captain of the nationally ranked ASU Dance Team. During her Rockette career she has had the opportunity to perform on the MTV Video Music Awards, The 72nd Annual Tony Awards, America's Got Talent, The Today Show, The Meredith Vieira Show, Live with Kelly, Martha Stewart and 11 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parades. Heather's impact in the dance world does not stop in the studio or on stage. In 1998, she began working for the National Dance Alliance. She has choreographed for many nationally ranked collegiate teams including: Southern Methodist University, Sacred Heart University, Northern Arizona University, The University of Pittsburg and The University of Albany. Heather also has years of experience in national adjudication and has been on the panel of many prestigious competitions, such as NDA High School Nationals, NDA All-Star Nationals, NDA College Nationals, COP Brands, USA All Star Nationals, and The Dance Worlds.



MICHELLE VAUGHN

For over sixteen years, Michelle has not only worked within the commercial dance world but also has been leaving an imprint in the Professional sports world. Her resume includes performing for artists, movies, and shows such as Lil Uzi Vert, Nicki Minaj, Flo Rida, Becky G, J Balvin, La Banda, Latin Grammys, Oscars, and a TV series on Nickelodeon called "Fresh Beat Band". Michelle is a faculty member for the top professional dance team convention that caters to colleges and professional sports teams across the country called Pro Action. She has worked with numerous NBA and NFL teams including the Golden State Warriors, Washington Wizards, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Boston Celtics, Utah Jazz, Miami Dolphins, and many more. Michelle is a nationally ranked choreographer for numerous high schools, colleges, and all-star gyms across the world. Awards including innovative choreography, best in show, and top 5 in the world are a few of her accomplishments in the Dance Team world.



WANDA WEIR

Wanda Brown Weir is the former 3 year Director/Choreographer of the NBA Washington Wizards Dance Team. Prior to joining the Wizards Dance Team as a dancer, Wanda was a cheerleader for the Washington Football Team for two seasons. Wanda worked as a head instructor for Universal Dance Association for numerous years and also spent several years as both a UDA territory manager and Varsity Spirit Fashions sales representative. Wanda is the former captain/choreographer of the multi-championed Towson University Dance Team and former coach of the George Washington University "First Ladies" Dance Team. For over 20 years Wanda has judged for many local, state, national and international competitions including over 10 years as an adjudicator for The Dance Worlds! Currently, Wanda is the Owner/Creative Director for Premier Dance DC and Head Dance Team Coach for Catholic University. Wanda is a sought after dance fitness consultant, speaker, motivational coach and commercial actress/model.



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JARRIN WARREN

Jarrin Rolle Warren has been in the dance industry for more than 30 years. She is a recognized dance coach/director, instructor, and choreographer with works ranging from pee-wee to collegiate and professional. She has judged for numerous dance companies and competitions nationally and internationally and has received choreography awards in hip hop, pom and jazz. Some of Jarrin's accomplishments include dance performance assistant of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, halftime performance coordinator/choreographer for the New Jersey Nets, dance camp instructor/choreographer Japan, dance assistant for the Aloha Bowl Hawaii, production assistant of Thanksgiving in Paris, France, an eighth-year The Dance Worlds judge, a fifth-year Dance Summit judge, CopBrands Mexico 2018 and 2019 dance judge and COP Virtual Games Mexico 2020..