

NDA COLLEGE NATIONALS 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

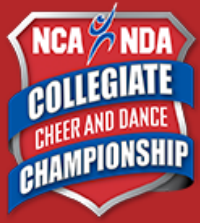
Head Judge

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.



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.

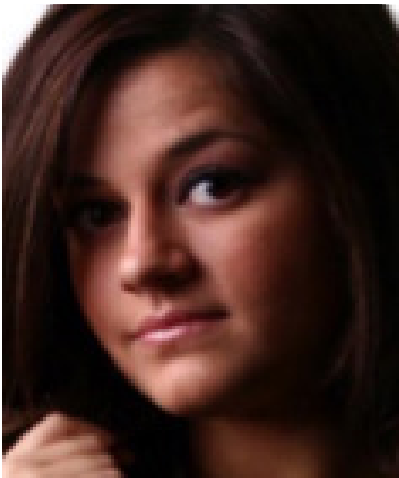


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DAN GIBSON

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.



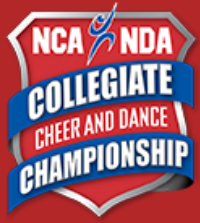
KRISTY BREINLINGER

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.



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.



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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.



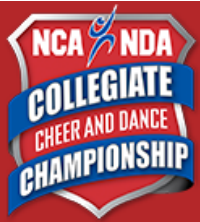
BRIAN CAO

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 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.

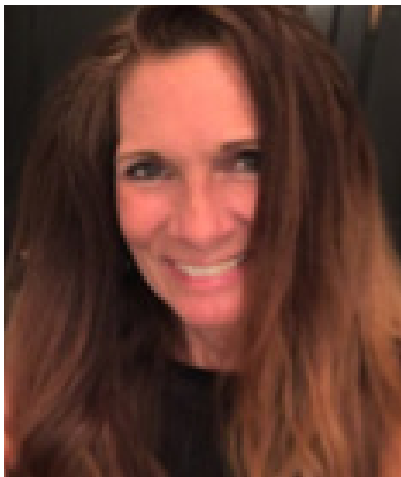


JESSIKA LEONARD

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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PATTY ADAMS

Patty Adams has enjoyed a career in dance for over 30 years, allowing her to experience a wide field of creative arenas. From dance performance ensembles and musical theater to education and curriculum development, her knowledge base is extensive. Patty's primary focus has been in the area of hip hop choreography and team preparation for competitive dance events. She has consistently led teams to top ten placements, as well as numerous championships and innovative choreography awards. Having coached at the High School, College and All-Star levels, Adams has a clear understanding of the type and quality of educational feedback that competitive programs value. Adams has been fortunate enough to have been a member of the Hip Hop judging panel at the USASF Worlds since 2013 and is currently the Hip Hop Director for the event. In addition to being a member of the USASF Judges Education Committee, she serves as a Keynote Speaker, Dance Library author and Mentor for USASF Dance.



CHASITY TYUS

Chasity is currently in her 5th season as the Head Coach for the nationally ranked Florida State Golden Girls Dance Team. She is originally from Kansas City, Mo where she started studio training at age 5 and continue training in both studio and dance team throughout high school. Chasity continued her dance career at Lindenwood University, and was on the 7-time National Champion Lion Line Dance Team in which; she helped lead to 3 national championships. Chasity was a head instructor for NDA for 7 years. She is the former head dance team coach of Incarnate Word Academy in St. Louis, Mo and has choreographed for many state and nationally ranked high school dance teams in Missouri.



SHELLEY MAHAFFEY WARREN

Shelly Mahaffey Warren is the current Golden Girl Spirit Squad Director at The Villages High School in The Villages, FL, a veteran Head Instructor for Universal Dance Association, and the Quality Control Leader for judging panels at The USASF Dance Worlds. In addition, Shelly is a veteran national and international judge and works as a choreographer and competition consultant for high school, college, studio, and all-star programs across the country. She is the rehearsal coordinator for the pregame performance for the Citrus Bowl held annually in Orlando, FL and has served as rehearsal director for pregame at the ACC Championship Game in 2015 and 2016. Shelly has obtained national titles as a dancer, coach, and choreographer in High Kick, Hip Hop, Pom, and Jazz, and continues to pursue her dream of educating and inspiring dancers through her travels to studios and schools nationwide.