

JUDGES



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.



CHRISTINA LEONE

Christina Leone is in her 18th year coaching at the high school level and is currently the head coach at Rock Canyon HS. Her teams have earned numerous regional and state titles, are perennial finalists at UDA Nationals. Most recently, Rock Canyon earned the 20-21 State Championship title in 5A POM as well as two silver medals at the 2021 NDT. 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. 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, cooking, traveling and spending time with her husband and two daughters.



CHASITY TYUS

Chasity is in her 6th season as the Head Coach of the Florida State University Golden Girls. Under her direction, the Golden Girls have consistently placed in the top 10 at the Universal Dance Association Collegiate Nationals, most recently including a 3rd place finish in 2023 division 1A Jazz category. Her team was also selected as the 2023 US National Jazz Team for the ICU Worlds Nationals. Chasity currently judges Regional and National Dance Competitions around the country. She is originally from Kansas City, MO. Chasity was a member of the Lion Line Dance Team at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Mo where she obtained 3 National Championships, two of which she led the team as a Captain. Chasity is a former 7-year Head Instructor for NDA, where she traveled the country training HS Dance Athletes. She is the former Head Coach of Incarnate Word Academy and Interim Head coach for the Lindenwood University Golden Line Dance Team. Chasity has her Bachelor of Arts in Human Resources and Masters in Business Administration.

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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.



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.



STEPHANIE ROGERS

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio and has been heavily involved in the dance team world for over the past 20 years! She is a two-time National Championship dancer from the University of Ladybirds Dance Team. She's currently the head coach for Miami University Dance Team for the past 13 seasons which compete in team performance, pom and jazz categories. Stephanie is a member of National Dance Coaches Association (NDCA) and formerly a UDA instructor and judge. Her bachelor's degree in physiology and master's degree is sport psychology/coaching. She has consulted and taught dance for numerous schools, all-star programs and college dance teams over the past 20 years.

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MICHELLE ALLISON | Head Judge

Michelle Allison Artistic Director of Curtain Call Dance Center, Indianapolis, IN, B.S. in Dance Performance - Ball State University. Michelle directs the Performing Companies and annual productions of The Nutcracker, Dance Against Cancer at Curtain Call where she also develops curriculum, continuing education. Michelle enjoys doing musical and show choir choreography and currently works on staff with the Marching Pride of Lawrence Township. She has judged The Dance Worlds since the inaugural year, is currently the Panel Director for Jazz and Kick Categories for the USASF. From 2010-2021 Michelle choreographed the Colts NFL Cheerleader auditions and halftime shows, has been a guest judge/master instructor with JCDA Tokyo, JPN since 1994, is a veteran judge of NDA and Varsity school and college competitions. She spent 13yrs teaching for NDA, choreographed and field produced.



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.



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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KARRINGTON ADAMS | Quality Judge

Karrington Adams is a graduate of Kansas State University with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and emphasis in Marketing. She was a member of the Kansas State University Dance Team for four years. She also worked as a member of the Tremaine Dance Company for three years. Karrington worked 10 years with the National Dance Alliance as a Head Instructor and Choreographer, teaching high school and college pom camps across the United States. This opened numerous doors including judging NDA High School Nationals, NDA All-Star Nationals and many regional competitions. Karrington continues to teach, choreograph, and clean jazz, pom, and hip hop routines for local studios, high schools and colleges.



KRISTIN BEST KINSCHERFF

Kristin Best Kinscherff is an Associate Professor and Head of Dance at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville as well as the Artistic Director of the SIUE University Dance Company. She holds a Master of Fine Arts in Dance Performance from the University of Iowa. Kristin is a former company member with The Big Muddy Dance Company (St. Louis, MO), served as the Artistic Director of Turn of Change Dance Collective (Metro-East, IL), and for aTrek Dance Collective (St. Louis, MO). Her choreography has been presented at the American College Dance Association's Gala Concert, SIUE Summer Theater, CHICAGO The Musical (SIUE), FAME (SIUE), National Dance Week, Midwest Dance Festival, Grand DanceFest, Dancing in The Streets, The Gala/Extravaganza for Body Worlds 3 at St. Louis Science Center, the Victoria Ballet Theater, University of Iowa, SIUE, Lindenwood, and Tour Dance Company. She has a certification in Autism Movement Therapy® and developed a dance curriculum for children with special needs. Kristin has served as an adjudicator with UDA, NDA, USASF the Dance Worlds, and Stage 8 Dance.



JENNY DURBIN SMITH | Head Judge

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 & The Officials, 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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ASHLEY MARQUARDT

Ashley Marquardt is a Connecticut native and started her training at age 4 from All The Right Moves Dance Center. During her high school years, she competed with ECB's Street Elite All-Star Hip Hop Team and "globed" at USASF's Dance Worlds. Ashley graduated from UConn with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. She was a four-year member and co-captain of UConn Dance Team. Ashley is also a Head Instructor for the National Dance Alliance (NDA) and travels around the country to teach technique and routines to high school and college dance teams. She has choreographed material for NDA Curriculum since 2017 to 2021. In 2019, she was awarded Top Rookie Head Instructor. She is also a choreographer for EnVision. She has vast experience with professional cheerleading and dance team organizations such as the NLL New England Black Wolves and was a four-year member of the WNBA CT Sun Solar Power Dance Team.



ANDREA ONEY

Andrea Oney 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. Andrea judges for both National and International events in Japan, England, and Scotland, as well as judging the USASF Dance Worlds Championship.



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.

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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.



KEIRSTIN 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.



TARA YANTIS | Quality Judge

Tara Yantis is in her 12th season as the Head Coach at Saint Thomas Aquinas High School, leading the team to State finals and a National title in hip hop. Tara is the Executive Director, Operations and co-founder of the Kansas State Dance Team Coaches Association, and the co-chair of the Spirit Advisory Committee to the Kansas State High School Activities Association. A 14-year NDA veteran, Tara is a Head Instructor, adjudicator and conference speaker, and has earned NDA's Excellence in Leadership award, was the inaugural recipient of the NCA/NDA The Work is Worth It™ award and was the 2016 national representative at the London New Year's Day Parade, helping facilitate performances seen by 300million+ viewers worldwide. A graduate of Washburn University, Tara led her team to multiple finals appearances and national rankings at the NCA/NDA Collegiate National Championship. She was also an arena football cheerleader for 4 years.

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JARRIN ROLLE-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.



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.



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.

2023 NDA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
JUDGES



ERIN ALVARADO | Head Judge

Erin 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. In her free time, Erin is in her second year teaching and choreographing at Revolution Elite Dance in Lubbock, Texas. She also spends time traveling around the world teaching master classes, setting choreography and speaking at various events. Additionally, she has been a guest speaker at Varsity, USASF, state Conferences, is part of the credentialing committee for USASF, is a member of NDCA and spoke at their conference in 2018, is the Category Director for the Contemporary/Lyrical division at The Dance Worlds and assists with NDA Judges Training. In 2019, Erin was voted the National Collegiate Dance Coach of the Year by the National Dance Coaches Association



LYNDSEY ROMNEY

Lyndsey is from Salt Lake City, UT and has trained in jazz, lyrical, contemporary, hip-hop, and ballet. Being surrounded by some of the best she was able to learn from teachers such as Bonnie Story, Joey Dowling-Fakhrieh, Jacki Ford, Thayne Jasperson, and Caroline Lewis Jones just to name a few. By the time Lyndsey turned 12 she started performing with Odyssey Dance Theater learning from Derryl Yeager. As she entered middle school she started to receive numerous scholarships to dance conventions like NYCDA, Hollywood Connection, JUMP, and NUVO. When Lyndsey entered High School she wanted to take a break from dance conventions and be a part of her schools Drill Team at Hillcrest High School. She was able to grow as a leader and became captain her junior and senior year. After High School she went to college at Southern Utah University and graduated from there with a degree in Exercise Science. During her time in college she was a member and captain of their dance team. Some of her accomplishments include: Being a backup dancer in the movie High School Musical and Hatchin' Pete, receiving first place in the 5A dance division at the Utah State Dance Competition, performing in NYC, traveling to Japan to teach dance, working for NDA for 12 years as a dance instructor and now a Head Instructor, and being a Physical Therapist Assistant. She has been married for 7 years and has three little girls who are her everything.