



**Amanda Horwitz** has over 30 years of experience in the dance field. She was a member of her high school and college dance teams, and a UDA staff member for 7 summers. Her judging credentials include regional competitions throughout the Midwest and the NDTC.



**Amber Jackson** is the former head coach of the University of Minnesota Dance Team. Under her tenure, the team won 12 National Championships. She was also named head coach of Team USA earning two gold medals in the jazz and pom categories.



**Anastasia Miller Burns** is a former graduate and dance team captain from The Ohio State University. After graduation, she became a senior agent and department director at BLOC Talent Agency LA, BLOC NYC and Clear Talent Group NYC for nearly 16 years. For the past 10 years, she has joined the team at Inside Publications as the Executive Vice President and Co-Publisher of the all-access dance magazine, INSIDE DANCE. Anastasia has also enjoyed traveling the world for nearly 25 years head judging championship dance events in the studio, dance team and All-Star markets. She is currently a Hip Hop Director for the USASF/IASF Dance World Championships.



**Anthony Maneri** graduated from Mitchell College in 2020 with a Bachelor of Science in Management. He has been judging on the dance team circuit since 2022, notably including NDA All Star Nationals, The Dance Summit, and many more. He has nearly 20 years of experience as a dancer, coach, adjudicator, and choreographer at the studio, all-star, high school, collegiate, and professional levels. When not dancing, Maneri enjoys traveling, going to concerts at Red Rocks, and spending time with friends and family.



**Bettina Fields** has over 19 years of experience in the industry and frequently judges across the country. Under her direction, Eastern KY University was named NDA College National Champion Runner-up. She led South Laurel Middle School to their first ever UDA Championship title in the Kick Division (2013). She also served as the dance director for BOSS All-Stars/ Dance Alley: Summit and World-Cheer Champions. She frequently mentors' coaches and is a long-standing member of the NDCA, where she was nominated as National College Dance Coach of the year.



**Bonita Saldaña** embarked on her dance journey in 2002 as a Phoenix Suns dancer, diving into the Breaking culture. She joined the iconic Rock Steady Crew, learning from Hip Hop legends, earning the moniker "Bgirl Bonita." She's a global force who has graced TV shows and music videos alongside renowned artists. Her mastery led to roles as a judge, mentor, studio owner and ambassador to the Hip Hop and Breaking community, notably with Breaking for Gold USA, coaching aspiring American Bboys and Bgirls for the Paris 2024 Olympics.



**Brian Morris** coaches the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) D1 dance team. He holds many studio dance titles like Mr. StarQuest, Mr. Legacy, Mr. Spotlight, and more. He is an adjudicator for UDA, NDA, IHSA, IDTA, IHSDTA, and MDTA.



**Briana Baisden** is a seasoned dance adjudicator, serving on panels for state, National, and international competitions. 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 attended Mississippi State University and coached the University's dance team to their first ever National ranking. After, Briana returned to the sidelines as a cheerleader for the Tennessee Titans for 3 seasons. Currently, she resides in Texas and served three seasons as a Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader, where she had the opportunity to dance for Tyce Diorio, Meghan Trainor, Queen and many more.



**Brianna Olsen** trained at the Professional Dance Center in St. Louis, Missouri for 16 years. She attended University of Missouri Kansas City and earned a National Championship at NDA. Brianna has continued to pursue her dance career instructing and judging for the UDA. Brianna is currently in graduate school to receive her Doctorate in Nursing to become a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner.



**Brittany Smith Rash** grew up in the St. Louis area and began her dance training at age of 3. She attended the University of Kentucky, where she was a member of the UK Dance Team and UDA Staff for 4 years. In 2016, Brittany graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy. She resides in Lexington, Kentucky with her husband, Brandon, and daughter, Sloane, where she works as a clinical pharmacist at UK Healthcare and remains engaged in the dance community as a consultant with local dance teams and judging local, regional, and national events.



**Brooke Austin** is the former coach of the 18 time National Champions Lindenwood University Dance Team. Her choreography also contributed to 2 Jazz titles. At the high school level, she led her team to 2 State Championships and 2 Silver medal Nationals finishes. Along with coaching, she's been teaching, choreographing, and judging across the country since 2001.



**Caroline Koch** was crowned Miss Dance Drill Team before joining UDA Staff. While on the Hip Hop Coalition at Arizona State, Caroline was cast in High School Musical at Disney World, taking the stage with the likes of Beyonce, Selena Gomez and Justin Bieber. After completing her apprenticeship from The Jabbawockeez at the Monsters of Hip Hop tour she danced across the globe on the Seabourn Cruise Line. She has been judging dance events for over a decade, including UDA College Nationals, NDTC, and The Dance Worlds.



**Chasity Tyus** is entering her 7th season as the Head Coach for the Florida State Golden Girls. Under her direction, the GGs have consistently placed in the top 10 at the UDA Collegiate Nationals, recently placing 7th in the 2024 Division 1A Jazz and Hip Hop categories. Her team was selected as the 2023 US National Jazz Team for the ICU Worlds Championships, where they won Gold! Chasity currently judges Regional & National Dance Competitions around the country.



**Christine McCarton** is in her 21st year as the head coach of the St. John's University Dance Team. She led the team to 3 UDA National Championships. Christine is the Spirit Director at St. John's and a veteran UDA judge. She is a former member/coach of the LIU dance team. Christine is a veteran UDA High School Nationals judge and frequently judges state and local dance team competitions including LIDTA and state championships in the NY area.



**Dawn Walters** is the Head Coach of the University of Kentucky Dance Team, which is currently ranked 3rd in the nation in Div. 1A Game Day division at UDA. In 2017, her team became silver medalists in Pom and Hip Hop as they represented the US National Team at the ICU International Dance Championships. Dawn has judged, spoken at coaches' conferences, and had teams perform internationally, including Japan, China, Mexico, Australia, and Canada. Dawn danced and cheered at UK and is currently the IASF Pom and Jr. Panel Director for Dance Worlds.



**Devin Kilgore** has 20+ years of experience in the dance industry and is a 2x National Championship coach and choreographer. She was honored by the State of Alabama for leading the first team in their history to win a National Championship & was recognized in front of the Birmingham City Council for excellence in leadership. Devin currently runs a mindset coaching company, along with a choreography business teaching master classes and choreographing award-winning routines for dancers across the country.



**Emily Price** is a choreographer, former graduate assistant, and former captain of the Ole Miss Rebelettes.

She is also a former UDA staff member and has experience choreographing routines for state and national competitions. She helped coach and choreograph the Rebelettes to their first National Championship in 2023 and graduated from law school this past May.



**Emma Freeze** is a Birmingham, Alabama native and has 17 years of dance experience and training in a competitive studio setting. She specializes in jazz, ballet, lyrical/contemporary, acrobatics, and hip hop. She now choreographs and teaches in studio and school settings where she continues to expand her love and knowledge of dance.



**Hannah Ray** graduated from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas receiving a Bachelor's Degree In Business

Administration and Marketing and a minor in Communication. She was a member of the UNLV Rebel Girls and Company for two consecutive years in which time she earned two National Championships. She keeps her passion for dance alive by teaching at a local studio, choreographing for various teams across the nation and judging for NDA, UDA and USASF. When Hannah is not judging and teaching, she can be found hiking with her two dogs, Arlo and Keota, or teaching her partner Kevin a pirouette.



**Heather Holliday** has 40 years of dance experience and training in classical ballet, lyrical/contemporary, jazz, modern and hip hop. In 1992 she was one of 16 dancers selected from the state of Kentucky to attend The Kentucky Governors School for the Arts in dance. She formerly ran her own studio coaching teams to 11 National titles, 3 World Performance titles and 1 Summit National Title before she retired in 2019. Heather has judged for 18 years.



**Heather Sprouse Madison** is currently the owner and artistic Director of On Stage Dance Studio in Cedar City and St.

George Utah. Heather graduated from Southern Utah University with her

Bachelors in Accounting and received a Masters Degree from Utah State University. Heather is former dance faculty for Southern Utah University and Dixie State University. Heather loves to travel and is the proud mom to two boys, Hayden and Hudson.



**Jade Whaley** started her dance career training at Aspirations Dance Company for 12 years.

She danced throughout college at the University of St. Thomas, where she received USTDT Rookie of the Year. Currently, she is a member of the NBA Chicago Luvabulls. She has danced for Disney, Justin Timberlake's Super Bowl Halftime, and international commercials. She has choreographed routines for Just For Kix, various high schools, and universities in the Midwest area.



**Jenn Wright** is from Fairfax, Virginia. She is a graduate of James Madison University where she was a 4-year

member of the Nationally ranked Dukette Dance Team. She received her degree in Business Management and a Minor in Dance. Jenn worked for UDA for seven years as an instructor, Head Instructor, and parade staff. She has over 15 years coaching experience and continues to teach at the studio level.



**Jenna McClelland** is an accomplished coach driven by a passion for servant leadership. Jenna has had the opportunity

to work on UDA staff in over 15 states and has over 8 years of coaching experience. She danced competitively at San Diego State University is currently a certified personal trainer and serves as the Education Assistant with NDCA where she received the Volunteer of the Year Award in 2023. Jenna serves as the Spirit Coordinator at Norfolk Christian School.



**Jennifer Keller** is the Director of Spirit Programs and Head Dance Team Coach at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA.

She is the former Head Coach of the Cheerleading and Dance Teams at The College of New Jersey and an alumnus of the University of Delaware Dance Team. Jennifer judges for numerous local, state, and regional competitions each season and is a veteran judge for NDTC.





**Jennifer Taylor** began as a dancer in the Competitive Dance Team world over 15 years ago in Memphis, TN.

She continued as a member for NBA Memphis Grizz Girls in 2009 & lead a competitive middle school dance team for 7 years; winning two 1st place NDTC titles. She was a member of the D1A college team Memphis Pom/Team USA Hip-Hop. Jennifer has worked for UDA as a Regional and National Judge for the last 12 years.



**Joan Noble Pruett** is currently in her 29th year as Professor of Pageantry Arts for the Michigan Marching and Athletics Band.

Joan also holds a dual appointment with Michigan Athletics, and is in her 15th season as Assistant Coach for the Michigan Dance Team. She is a veteran judge for UDA at various regionals and the NDTC.



**Julie DeVries** is a veteran State Director, UDA Head Instructor, choreographer, and judge for UDA. She coached for

nationally and state ranked high school and college teams including Arizona State. She worked for Co. Dance Conventions and Starlight Productions and has performed for industrials and productions including "Pop Goes Vegas" and choreographed for the movie "Queens of Country". Julie owned Adage Dance Studio and currently teaches dance and is a mom to her little dancer.



**Julie Berardi** is the Owner of Synergy Dance, as well as the Coach of the Eastern University Cheer and Dance Teams. Julie

coached the 3x National Champion Penn State Lionettes Dance Team from 2015-2021. Since founding Synergy Dance in 2015, she has choreographed for over 75 dance teams and studios across the country.



**Julie Henderson** has been active in the dance team community for over 25 years. Julie served as the UDA

National Sales Manager and event producer for several years. Julie has a wealth of experience as a coach/choreographer for middle-school level to college age teams. Julie's teams earned over 50 regional/state and UDA/NDA National titles. Julie graduated from the University of Memphis,

currently resides in Collierville TN, and is the Chief Revenue Officer for a global CRA.



**Kaitlyn McArthur** is from the Nashville, TN area. She was a competitive dancer and cheerleader since elementary school. After high school, she danced at Austin Peay State University. She coached and choreographed on the high school competitive dance level from 2010-2021, and collegiate level from 2017-2021 consistently placing top 3 at state and top 6 at nationals.



**Kassi Bosco** is a teacher, and choreographer from Columbus, GA. She is a graduate from Valdosta State University and

was a 4-year member of the award-winning dance team, The Valdosta State Red Hots. On the team, she was a two-time Hip-Hop Division II National Champion. Currently, Kassi is the Artistic Director at Academy Dance Center in Columbus, Ga while also being a Pure Barre instructor.



**Katie Jackson** is a veteran judge for NDTC, a Head Instructor for UDA for 6 years, and a choreographer for

summer curriculum. She is a Southeastern Louisiana University graduate and was a member and captain of the Nationally ranked Lionettes dance team. Katie is the former coach of the Mill Valley High School Silver Stars. Under her direction, the Silver Stars won several KSHSAA State Championships and 3 National Titles at NDA High School Nationals.



**Katie Zale** Katie grew up training in various styles in the Chicagoland area. She graduated with a BFA in dance from the University of Illinois. She was a former captain and four-year member of the Illinettes Dance Team. Katie has spent the past 11 years with UDA teaching, choreographing, and training dancers across the country. She currently coaches a varsity team in Illinois and choreographs and teaches at a studio.



**Kayla Preston** has over 25 years of experience in the dance and fitness industry. She danced with the University of Minnesota dance team and has over 10 years of experience choreographing

and teaching at local studios, high schools, Varsity camps, judging, and directing studio competitions. She currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia.



**Kelly Clement Gaddis** is known for her dynamic choreography and ability to pull an emotive performance out of dancers. Her repertoire includes studio training, collegiate dance department training, Dancer & Captain for University of Minnesota, UDA Instructor, Minnesota Vikings Cheerleader, NFL Choreographer, professional dancer in movies, and judging at state, national & world levels. Her choreography contributed to 6 National Championships & a Gold Medal at Worlds. She works in the costume & studio dance industry.



**Kerry Sullivan** is a native of Boston, MA and has over 25 years of experience in dance the dance industry. She is the former head coach of the Harvard University Crimson Dance Team. Prior to Harvard, Kerry attended the University of New Hampshire where she was captain and choreographer of the dance team. In 2017, Kerry returned to UNH as a technique and conditioning coach, helping lead the team to a 4th place finish in Division 1 jazz at NDA College nationals. Kerry is a former head instructor for UDA and has traveled both nationally and internationally teaching high school and college dance teams.



**Kira Collins** has experience dancing at the studio, high school, and professional level. She has over 20 years of experience in the industry as a dancer, coach, and judge. She has been judging with the state of Wisconsin WACPC since 2002 and for Varsity, UDA & NDA in the US & internationally in Japan. Kira is NDCA, Varsity, UDA and NDA Certified. In addition to dance, Kira enjoys spending time with her husband and son, being outside, traveling and hanging out with her Great Dane.



**Kristany Malone** is an Eastern Kentucky native who's collegiate and professional performance highlights include Dallas Cowboys Rhythm & Blue Dancers, RWS Entertainment Group, Oprah's 2020 Vision Tour and the

University of Kentucky Dance Team. Her dance training includes Dance Etc. Studio of Dance, University of Kentucky Dance Minor Program and Broadway Dance Center's Professional Semester. Kristany is the owner of Incandescence Coaching, wife to her husband Sam and mother to her son Sammy.



**Kristin Jeffries** is currently in her 20th season as the head coach of the Dance Team at East Carolina University. She is also a member of the ECU Marching Pirates Staff working with the feature twirler. Kristin is a former UDA Head Instructor and is a veteran NDTC judge. In addition to coaching, she is a school counselor and has her Doctorate degree in Educational Leadership with researching student athletes mental health.



**Kristin Best Kinscherff** is an Associate Professor and Head of Dance at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and 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 of The Big Muddy Dance Company (St. Louis, MO) and was the Artistic Director of Turn of Change Dance Collective. Kristin has served as a head instructor, choreographer, and on the Universal Dance Association (UDA) curriculum committee. She is a veteran adjudicator for Varsity Spirit and USASF/IASF The Dance Worlds.



**Laura Jimenez** has been involved in the dance world for many years. She holds a state title in Pom and a third place award in Pom at UDA College Nationals. Her undergraduate career ended with two years on the Illinettes Dance Team at the University of Illinois. She is a veteran UDA staffer, and after completing her Master's degree in Nutritional Science, she is continuing her passion for dance as a member of UDA's judging team.



**Laura Pickett** comes with extensive dancing and coaching experience. She holds a UDA National title, 10 State titles and 10 double Regional titles. While working with UDA, she taught camps and judged competitions in all categories, nationally and internationally. She was also nominated for Rookie and Veteran

of the Year during her time with UDA. In 2022 Laura was nominated for 'Coach of the Year' by NDCA.



**Lauren Byrd Salgado** has over 20 years of experience in the dance industry. She was a member and captain of the University of Memphis Pom Squad, where she won two Hip Hop National Championships in 2011 and 2012 as well as a member of Team USA Hip Hop 2012. She danced professionally in the NBA for six seasons with the Memphis Grizzlies. She also was a veteran and head instructor for UDA for five years at the high school and collegiate levels. Lauren has been a part of judging panels as well as special events on the national, collegiate, and international levels for over ten years.



**Lindsay Headrick** is from St. Louis, MO, where she grew up and focused on ballet by studying with the Missouri State Ballet and the Canadian Ballet of Montreal. Lindsay earned her BA in Dance, at Lindenwood University, where she was member of the Lion Line Dance Team. Lindsay has been a part of judging panels on the national and international levels for the past decade.



**Lindsey Hull** resides in Birmingham, Alabama. She owns and operates Dance Connections. She has coached the University of Alabama Birmingham (UAB) Golden Girls and the nationally ranked Mountain Brook High School Dorians. She serves as the director for the Magic City Sparks, a performance dance team for students with special needs. She was a UDA Head Instructor and has judged numerous dance competitions across the southeastern United States. She is also a veteran NDTC judge.



**Lindsey Lococo** is in her second season as Senior Manager of Entertainment for the Chicago Bulls. For twelve years, Lindsey was the Spirit Coordinator & Head Dance Coach at her alma mater, the University of Illinois-Chicago. She graduated with a B.S. in Movement Sciences and danced on the Nationally ranked UIC Dance Team. She is a former UDA instructor and has choreographed at the High School, Collegiate and NBA level. She has adjudicated for the IHSA, IHSDTA, WACPC, UDA/NDTC, Varsity All-Star

Brands and the Dance Worlds. She resides in the Chicagoland area with her husband, Joseph, son Greyson and dog, Buehrle.



**Liv Rodrigues** is a graduate from Dean College where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Dance. She has worked for UDA for 10 years, judging competitions, choreographing, and instructing dancers of all ages, both nationally and internationally. She has had the privilege of teaching in five different countries. Liv is the current head coach of the Bentley University dance team.



**Liz Rifino** studied on scholarship at Broadway Dance Center in New York City where she trained extensively in ballet, jazz, lyrical, tap, hip hop and theatre dance. After several seasons with the NJ Dance Theatre Guild Ballet Company, she attended Rutgers University where she was Captain, choreographer and eventually the coach of the University's Dance Team. She went on to work for Universal Dance Association, performing and teaching across the United States and abroad, as Director of Choreography for UDA's HS and College summer programs and Director for Varsity's International Dance Division. Current Performance Cheer Curriculum Director for the International Cheer Union, she has adjudicated throughout the United States, South America, Australia, Asia and Europe.



**Maggie Allain White** graduated from Louisiana State University receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Sports Administration. Maggie has been judging dance competitions since 2012, notably including JAMfest Japan, The Dance Summit, NDA Collegiate Nationals, NDA High School Nationals and UDA Louisiana State Competitions. She was an NFL Cheerleader for the New Orleans Saints, The Saintsations. Outside of dance, Maggie enjoys spending time with her husband and being a mom to her son, Liam.



**Mandy Vodvarka** was born and raised in Omaha, NE where she trained for 15+ years and danced competitively for both her high school and dance studio. She became a member of the nationally ranked University of Nebraska at Omaha dance team for 4 years and



later was the assistant coach for 3 years. Mandy has extensive judging experience and has been judging high school, studio, and college/NAIA dance teams for the past 13 years.



**Marisa Bishop** is from Middletown, Connecticut. She has a degree in Dance Education from Central Connecticut State University. She has experience dancing for the WNBA, NLL, and coaching at a high school and collegiate level. Marisa has been working for UDA since 2017. She now works as a Dance Teacher at Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy is also a New England Patriots Cheerleader.



**Dr. Mark Foster** is the band director at John Carroll Catholic High School in Birmingham and has been teaching band for 34 years. He has previously taught band in the Mountain Brook and Jefferson County School districts. He holds the Bachelor of Science, Master of Arts, and Doctor of Education degrees from the University of Alabama, as well as National Board Certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. He is a frequent guest conductor and adjudicator throughout the Southeast, and he maintains an active schedule of performing as a trombone player.



**Marrin Innis** is an Assistant Coach of the a Nationally Ranked Endicott College Dance Team. She has been a trained judge since 2017 and has judged numerous competitions in and around the New England area. Marrin was a member of the Endicott Dance Team and has choreographed for both High School and College Dance Teams.



**Melissa Kidd** is the owner of Dance Technician located in Cincinnati Ohio. Throughout her career she has trained under members of Cincinnati Ballet, Boston Ballet, and New York City Ballet. Melissa is also a USASF certified legality official, judges for both the all-star and studio circuit where she serves as a judging trainer/coordinator. She has been honored to serve as a judge and legality official for the USASF Dance Worlds since 2018.



**Michelle Vincent** has been dancing since she was five in all types of dance. She was captain of her Drill team in high

school and then went on to teach for UDA. Michelle was also a member of the University of Utah dance team. She has taught dance at several local studio's before opening her own in 2001. She has been teaching and running her own studio for 18 years now. She has 25 years of judging experience for UDA.



**Miranda Calhoun** is a 2020 graduate of West Virginia University with a Masters of Science in Sports Management/Marketing and a 2012 graduate of Bowling Green State University with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Dance Education. Miranda was the Head Dance Team Coach at Bowling Green State University for ten years and is currently the Mount St. Joseph University Spirit Coordinator and Head Dance Team Coach in Cincinnati, OH.



**Mo Klug** is a native of Miami, Florida currently based in Omaha, Nebraska. She is a UCLA graduate and former Associate Producer for CBS Television in New York. Mo is in her ninth season as Head Coach of the University of Nebraska at Omaha Dance Team and her fifth as the Director of the Nebraska Dance Squad all-star program. She has judged the UDA National Dance Team Championships, local and state events for Varsity, and several NAIA events for numerous years.



**Morgan Schulte** has over 20 years of experience in the dance industry as a teacher and choreographer. She danced professionally in the NBA for six seasons with the Memphis Grizzlies. She was a 7-year head instructor for UDA camps at the high school and collegiate levels. Morgan judges many competitions for various brands, including The USASF Dance Worlds. She attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she earned degrees in Exercise Science and Dietetics, and has a Master's degree in Nutrition from Saint Louis University. She is an Orangetheory Fitness coach and nutrition coach through her own business, Motivate.



**Nichole Josey** has an extensive background in performance and dance. Starting at a young age, she began taking studio dance and continued through her adult years. In

2013 Nichole began her first season as an NBA Dancer with the Detroit Pistons. She completed 4 seasons as an NBA dancer with them, ending in 2017, but continuing to work in game operations with the Pistons. She has performed with artists such as Kelly Clarkson, Silento, Run DMC, Kid Rock, etc.. Nichole has been a judge for over 8 years. Beyond dance, Nichole works as a Digital Marketing Manager and is currently pursuing her Doctoral in Organizational Leadership.



**Nicole Zehnder** has over 30 years of experience in the dance world. During her 14-year tenure as the Head Coach of the University of Delaware Dance Team, she led them to 5 National Championships in both Hip Hop and Jazz. She is a consultant who provides instruction and creative feedback for studios and teams, as well as to international competitive figure skaters. Nicole is also a certified Behavior Analyst and resides in Delaware with her husband and daughter, who share her affinity of dance, and 2 dogs!



**Nikki Sao Pedro-Welch** earned an M.F.A from Goddard College, an M.Ed from Endicott College, and a B.A in Dance from Point Park University. She has been the Dance Coordinator, and head coach the Dance Team for 14 years at Endicott. Her team has won 4 UDA National Titles), multiple top 10 placements and 11 UDA regional wins. Nikki has been judging for UDA for the past 12 years. She is also a D3 representative of for the National Dance Coaches Association.



**Rachel Levetzow** is the current Director of Spirit Groups/Head Coach of the Rebelettes at the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss). Rachel is the former Director of Spirit Groups at Baylor University as well as the former pom coach at Texas Tech University. She graduated from Missouri State University while a member of the nationally ranked Sugar Bears Dance Team. She's a former professional dancer with Carnival Cruise Line as well as Shoji Tabuchi Theatre.



**Rachel Lawler** is from Kansas City, Missouri where she currently owns a competitive dance studio. She is a former member of the Avila University Dance

Team and KC Comets Galaxy Girls. Her coaching career was over a decade long with Winnetonka High School and two years at Northwest Missouri State University. Rachel is a former UDA Head Instructor and veteran NDTC judge.



**Raven Gantt** is a Southern California native and has been dancing since the age of three.

Throughout her dance career she has studied and trained under the industry's top professionals. She is the co-owner and director at Define Dance Space in Riverside, CA. Raven teaches, choreographs and judges throughout the United States and abroad.



**Risa Snapp** is currently in her 6th season as Head Coach of the University of Delaware, her alma mater where she was part

of the team's first hip hop national championship in 2005. In her tenure as coach, her team has won Division 1 Hip Hop National Title three times. Prior to that, she was assistant coach of University of Delaware and Temple University teams. In addition to coaching, Risa works in corporate fitness as a multi-site fitness center manager.



**Sandy Yen** is a dancer, choreographer and adjudicator currently living in the San Francisco Bay Area. Her film,

television and stage credits include Friends, Pepsi, N'SYNC, A Walk to Remember and Bring it On. Her choreography credits include Disney Cruise Lines, Tokyo Disney, the Miss Florida Pageant, the Sacramento Kings Dancers and the Orlando Magic Dancers. Internationally, she has toured with Latin recording artist Mariana G and Philippine recording artist Vina Morales.



**Sarah Garcia** is in her 13th season as the Dance Coach at Sam Houston State University.

In 2010, Sarah led the Orange Pride Dance Team to a National title for the first time in 5 years in the D1 Jazz Division at NDA College Nationals. Orange Pride won 4 consecutive National Titles in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013. She came back to Sam Houston in 2016 to take on the position of Spirit Program Coach. Double National Championship titles in D1 Jazz and D1 Team Performance for the first time in University history in 2019, 2021 and 2023.



**Shannon Washington** began dancing at age 3, training extensively ballet. Later, her passions expanded to include jazz, contemporary, lyrical, and hip hop. Shannon graduated from Pomona College with a B.A. in Chemistry and Dance minor. Since graduating, Shannon danced for Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, Nomi Dance Company, and South Chicago Dance Theatre. Currently, Shannon is a freelance professional dancer, coach, and teacher & choreographer for various dance studios and teams in the Midwest.



**Shelby Forrest** is from Denver, CO and has been a part of the dance community for over 25 years. After spending four years on the University of Oklahoma Pom squad, she's held roles as an instructor, judge and in Marketing for UDA, while also coaching and choreographing for various teams.



**Sonja Rzeszutko** is a Physical Education dance teacher at Maine East High School in Park Ridge, IL. Formally she taught at Neuqua Valley High School where she led the Dance Team in back-to-back State Championships for IHSA. Sonja was a Luvabulls Dancer for the Chicago Bulls NBA Team and staffed for UDA summer camps. Most recently, she is an announcer for the IHSA Dance State Championship and choreographs for local high school dance teams.



**Stephanie Edson** has been in the dance industry for over 25 years. She is trained in all forms of dance, specializing in dance team choreography and team dynamics. Stephanie has worked with UDA since 2000 serving as Head Instructor, Choreographer, and Adjudicator. Stephanie also danced professionally with the Sacramento Kings Dance Team and loves to share her dance passion. Currently, Stephanie works for ARUP Laboratories utilizing her medical degree as the Quality Manager.



**Stephanie Manuel** was recently inducted into "Varsity Legends" for her impact and leadership in dance. She is a former UDA Head Instructor and State Director. She is the former coach/choreographer for St. Thomas More

High School where she led them to 16 National Championships in Pom and Jazz. Her passion for dance still exists today as she continues to lead young dancers at her hometown studio in Lafayette, Louisiana for the past 26 years.



**Tami Whatcott** graduated from Utah Valley University with a BFA in Modern Dance and a BS in Dance Education. She is

a freelance dancer, performer, choreographer and teaching artist who has danced professionally throughout the US and has choreographed, taught, and judged in over 15 different countries.



**Theresa Chiodi** was the Seton High School Varsity Dance Team Coach & Dance Program Director from 2003-2019 and

the Junior High Coach from 1992-2003. During her 27 year tenure, her teams achieved 25 top-ten NDTC finishes and numerous ESPN TV appearances. She led Seton to an NDTC title for Small Varsity Pom in 2018. She's been honored as Coach of the Year 8 times and was inducted into the Seton High School Athletic Hall-of-Fame in 2016.



**Valerie Stead Potsos** previously headed the Nationally ranked University of Michigan Dance Team since

2001 and is the owner of Dancer's Edge Studio in Dexter, Michigan. Recently, she traveled to Vienna, Austria to choreograph and train three dance teams with the Vienna Vikings. She has choreographed for College Teams, High School Teams and All-Star Teams and is a seminar presenter and curriculum consultant for Varsity University.

