



JAZZ:

Andy Vaca

Andy Vaca is an experienced judge of national and international competitions. Andy has over 30 years of experience choreographing for professional sports dance teams all across the US and continues to do so as a choreographer/instructor for Pro Action Dance and PAD Go. He has choreographed televised halftime shows for the Detroit Lions and the NFL Pro Bowl and has choreographed for the Pro Bowl Cheerleaders since 1999. Andy is a professor and former Department Chair of Dance at Cal State Long Beach, where he has taught for 23 years. He creates concert dance work with his company Jazzworks-Long Beach and is a featured teacher for the Los Angeles Music Center's Dance DTLA summer series. Andy is completing 13 years of service on the American College Dance Association Board of Directors where he currently is the Past President.

Beverly Bautista Spaulding

Beverly Bautista Spaulding is a dance artist, university educator, choreographer, and co-owner of Dance Education Equity Association. Drawing from her education and over 13 years of experience in the entertainment hub of Los Angeles, Beverly has worked on jobs with Disney, Pepsi, the Billboard Music Awards, NBA All Stars, Lip Sync Battle, iHeart Radio, Good Morning America and is a Monsters Dance alumnus. She is an Assistant Professor of Dance at Point Park University and utilizes her academic background with industry experience to bridge the gap between higher education and the professional entertainment world.

Christina Leone

Christina Leone, in her 20th season coaching at the high school level, is currently the head coach at Rock Canyon HS in Colorado. Her teams have earned numerous regional and state titles and are perennial finalists at UDA Nationals with three top 5 finishes at the 2022 NDTC, including two bronze medals. 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. Judging for the past 15+ years, Christina is a veteran adjudicator with experience spanning from the USASF Dance Worlds, numerous 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 both as a judge and coach. Christina is an avid fan of figure skating, all Colorado sports, loves camping, traveling and spending time with her husband & two daughters.



Jessica Walz

Jessica Walz began her dance career at age 14 as an apprentice with JazzMet Dance (BalletMet) in Columbus, OH. She received her B.A. in Dance from Point Park University. She was named one of the top dance coaches in Dance Spirit Magazine's Dance Coach's Survival Guide coaching nationally ranked San Diego State University and Hawaii Pacific University. Jessica has received national titles with NDA College Nationals as well as the Innovative Choreography Award when coaching the 7-time National Champion Hawaii Pacific University Dance Team. In 2015, her team won the Gold Medal at both the International Cheer Union (ICU) and the European Cheer Union (ECU) in Doubles Freestyle Pom. She was also awarded the medal of excellence in coaching from the Slovenian Cheer Association. Jessica is currently the Logistics Director for The National Dance Coaches Association (NDCA) and assists with the NDCA Dance Rules Committee. She continues to publish articles for Inside Dance Magazine and web, Dance Spirit Magazine, USASF.net and Varsity.com. Jessica is the Category Director for the IASF Jazz and Contemporary/Lyrical divisions at The Dance Worlds.



Kristin Best Kinscherff

Kristin Best Kinscherff is Chair of the Department of Theater and Dance at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and an Associate Professor, Head of Dance, and Co-Director of the University Dance Company. She holds an MFA in Dance Performance from the University of Iowa and has performed with The Big Muddy Dance Company (now St. Louis Dance Theatre). A former Artistic Director for aTrek Dance Collective and Turn of Change Dance Collective, Kristin's performance-driven choreography spans concert, musical theatre, and festival stages. She has over 20 years of experience as an adjudicator at the national and international level.



Lindsay Headrick

Lindsay Headrick is from St. Louis, MO, where she grew up focusing 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 a four-year member of the National Champion Lion Line Dance Team. During her time on the team, she began working for Universal Dance Association, where she has been named Veteran Staff Member of the Year and received the Raving Fan Award. For the past decade, she has been a part of adjudication panels on the regional, national, and international levels. Currently, she is the Co-Director of Quality Control at the USASF/IASF Dance Worlds. Lindsay consults and choreographs for numerous High School and College Dance Teams across the US and has helped them achieve top national rankings.



Liz Rifino

Liz 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. As a Captain, choreographer and eventually the coach of the University's dance team she began teaching, choreographing and performing for Universal Dance Association. Former Director of Choreography for UDA's HS and College summer programs and Varsity's International Dance Division she now currently holds the position of Performance Cheer Director for the ICU (International Cheer Union). As the developer and certifier of the ICU Judges and Coaches Training Courses she has worked with many outstanding international programs and has judged for numerous championships throughout the world. Her most recent achievement was as Head Judge for the Pom Doubles Division at The World Games 2025 Chengdu China.



Marc Spaulding

Marc's noteworthy concert and theatrical performance credits include: Dreamgirls 1st National Tour, Equus- Broadway Revival, PHILADANCO (The Philadelphia Dance Company), Westside Story International Tour, Donald Byrd/The Group, Broadway's: Gypsy of the Year Competition, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Memphis (Musical Theatre West), Eleone Dance Theatre, Raven-Symone (Undeniable Tour), and Endless Shock (Japanese Musical Series Tour). His Television and Film credits include: Nissan National Commercial, Euphoria, Brooklyn Nine-Nine, Timeless, Hairspray (New Line Cinema), Dancing with the Stars, NBC: Today Show, Saturday Night Live, and the 81st Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.



Morgan Schulte

Morgan Schulte has over 25 years of experience in the dance industry. She danced professionally for the NBA Memphis Grizzlies for 6 seasons, and was a 7-year head instructor for high school and college UDA camps. 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 a dietitian, fitness coach, and wellness speaker through her own business, Motivate.



Rochelle Mapes

Rochelle Mapes earned a MA and BFA in Dance from CSU Long Beach. Performance credits include dancing for Gladys Knight, Wayne Brady, the TV show Nip/Tuck BARE Dance Company, and RhetOracle Dance Company. As an educator, she is on faculty with the American Ballet Theatre Gillespie School and Dance aTAK Convention, and is Director of Dance at a private high school. Previously, she taught for the Orange County School of the Arts, the Dizzy Feet Foundation's National Dance Day, Texas All-State, and USA Dance Camps. Rochelle Mapes' diverse

choreography has been presented at the Palm Desert Choreography Festival, college dance departments, studios, and extensively with competitive high school dance teams. Rochelle has judged for 20+ years for UDA College Nationals, UDA National Dance Team Championships, The Dance Worlds, USA Dance, and USA-Japan.



Shannon Gregg

Shannon J. Gregg, PhD, has over three decades of dance and cheer experience as a coach, judge and program owner, from All Star to school to studio dance. Shannon has ten judging appearances at The Dance Worlds. She was a feature dancer/Dance Captain in Kelly-award winning musicals "Lil Abner" and "Peter Pan," had an internship with the Pittsburgh Dance Alloy and went on to study with the Lake Erie Ballet. A finalist herself at the first ever Dance Worlds in 2007, competing multiple years in jazz and hip hop, Shannon loves the power and talent of this event! Shannon holds a BA in English Literature with minors in Dance and History from the University of Pittsburgh, and an MBA and a PhD from Point Park University where she is currently on faculty.



Sarah Miller Bate

Sarah Miller Bate serves as the Director of Dance for the U.S. All Star Federation, where she leads initiatives to advance and elevate All Star Dance across the industry. With over 35 years of experience and a dual BA in Dance and Education from Old Dominion University, Sarah has danced professionally with Virginia-based modern companies and performed in international festivals across the U.S. A third-generation Classical Pilates instructor, she has also taught Olympic athletes and professional dancers. With over 20 years of national judging experience at collegiate, high school, and All Star events, Sarah also currently judges abroad, including in England and Ecuador.



Stacy Paydo

Stacy Paydo graced the stage as a Radio City Rockette for 19 seasons. Her television credits include the Tony Awards, Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Rockefeller Center's Christmas Tree Lighting, and specials featuring Mariah Carey and Michael Bublé. Beyond performing, she served as Assistant Choreographer on The Today Show, The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon, and Google's 2023 holiday commercial. Stacy's career began at age seven as a "Star Search" National Dance Champion. A graduate of Arizona State University, she is a 20-year UDA veteran, master teacher, and choreographer for high-profile events like the NDTC opening number on ESPN. Currently, Stacy serves as VP of Event Operations for Spotlight Dance Cup. Her expertise has been featured in "Dance Magazine" and you might have caught her on "Dance Moms". Her former students have achieved professional success on "So You Think You Can Dance," appearing in "Wicked," and joining the iconic Rockettes themselves.



Tami Whatcott

Tami Whatcott is a dancer, choreographer, educator, and adjudicator dedicated to inspiring communities through the art of movement. She earned both a BFA in Modern Dance and a BS in Dance Education from Utah Valley University, grounding her career in strong artistry and pedagogy. Her performance credits include work with Joel Hall Dancers & Company, Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, Diavolo, and Noumenon Dance Ensemble. She has also collaborated with renowned choreographers in the U.S. and abroad. As a choreographer, her work has helped teams achieve recognition at the state, national, and international levels — successes she attributes to the talent and dedication of the dancers she leads. With over 15 years of adjudication experience, Tami has judged prestigious events such as UDA College Nationals, Dance Worlds, and the ICU World Championships. She currently serves on the ICU teaching staff, supporting dance federations worldwide and cultivating the next generation of artists.

POM:



Brian Cao

Brian Cao has been involved in the spirit industry for over 30 years on the school, all-star, collegiate and professional levels. Originally from the Pacific Northwest, he was a captain for the University of Oregon Duck Cheer Team, eventually becoming an assistant coach and choreographer for the program. Following college, he switched gears to dance and has stayed the course ever since. Brian's dance resume includes performing with professional companies in Oregon, including three seasons with the NBA Portland Trailblazers Jam Squad. He currently works as a consultant to teams of all levels, choreographed for Team England Freestyle Pom in 2018, 2025 & 2026, and in his limited free time away from training, he travels the world speaking at conferences, judging for major events, is a 7-time judge for The Dance Worlds, and in his third year as the USASF Pom Panel Director.



Briana Baisden

Briana is a seasoned dance adjudicator with extensive experience judging at state, regional, national, and international competitions. She is trained in ballet, jazz, contemporary, hip hop, and pom. A graduate of the University of Alabama, Briana served as captain of the university dance team before coaching the dance team at Mississippi State University. Her professional dance career includes 3 seasons with the Tennessee Titans and 3 years with the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders, where she has had the opportunity to perform for Charm Ladonna, Megan Trainor, Tyce Diorio, and Ellie Goulding, among others. Upon retirement, she was invited back and served as a DCC All Star for 2 seasons. Briana currently lives in Houston and leads the University of Houston dance team as head coach.



Cheryl Paquette

Cheryl Paquette is the USASF Dance Adjudication Director and Communications Coordinator. Cheryl has been involved in the dance industry for over 30 years and is trained in ballet, tap, jazz,

and pointe, spending six years as a company member with the Gateway Ballet. A graduate of the University of Missouri with a B.S.Ed. K-12, she earned the team's first National Championship title with the Mizzou Golden Girls in 1991. She is a former NFL St. Louis Rams Cheerleader and NBA Dallas Mavericks Dancer. She was awarded the Herkie Legacy Award in 2017 for her commitment to the industry and inducted into the Missouri State Hall of Fame in 2023 for her contribution as a Mizzou Golden Girl. Cheryl resides in St. Louis, MO, and enjoys judging for many national and international Event Producers.



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, high kick and has extensive training in her area of expertise, pom. As a dancer, she studied alongside world-renowned dancers in NYC and the Minnesota Conservatory of Arts. 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 over 10 years with The Dance Worlds.



Sarah Garcia

Sarah Garcia is a collegiate dance coach, choreographer, and nationally recognized judge with experience across multiple dance genres. She serves as head coach of the Orange Pride Dance Team at Sam Houston State University, leading the program to 16 National Championships, including Reigning D1A Team Performance Champions and Inaugural Team Performance Grand Champions. Sarah is also a Worlds coach at Dance Dynamics, working with elite-level athletes on highly competitive stages. She values technical excellence, musicality, innovation, and authentic performance, and is committed to providing constructive, educational feedback that supports dancer growth and confidence.



Shelly Mahaffey Warren

Shelly Warren is the current Golden Girl Spirit Squad Director at The Villages High School in Middleton, Florida and a Quality Control Director for the judging panels at The USASF/IASF 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. She is the rehearsal coordinator for the halftime performance for the Citrus Bowl held annually in Orlando, Florida, and has served as rehearsal director for pregame at the ACC Championship Game. Shelly worked for UDA for 22 years in various roles: head instructor, choreographer, program committee member, and college camp instructor, and has obtained national titles as a dancer,

coach, and/or choreographer in Pom, High Kick, Hip Hop, Jazz, and Game Day. She continues to pursue her dream of educating and inspiring dancers through her travels to studios and schools worldwide.



Wanda Weir

Wanda Brown Weir is a seasoned dance professional with over 25 years of experience as a performer, coach, and choreographer. A former NBA Washington Wizards Dance Team Director/Choreographer and NFL Washington Commanders Cheerleader; Wanda has led championship collegiate programs at Catholic University and George Washington University. Since 1999, she has been a respected adjudicator for local, state, national, and international competitions, including The Dance Worlds and the ICU World Cheerleading Championships. She is the Owner and Creative Director of Premier Dance DC, a sought-after consultant and motivational coach, and appears in national ad campaigns alongside her family, known as The Wonder Weirs, a vibrant brand featured across television and media.

HIP HOP:



Anastasia Miller Burns

Anastasia is a former graduate and dance captain from The Ohio State University. After graduation, Anastasia became a talent agent booking choreographers, dancers, actors and models in feature films, television, commercials, music videos, Broadway productions, and world artist tours. She was a senior agent and department director at BLOC Talent Agency LA, BLOC NYC and Clear Talent Group NYC for nearly 14 years. For the past 12 years, she has led the team at Inside Publications as Executive Vice President and Co-Publisher of the all-access dance magazine and media group, INSIDE DANCE. Since 2013, she has been the Hip Hop Judge Panel Director for the USASF/IASF Dance World Championships. Anastasia is also a member of the USASF Board of Directors and guides the USASF Dance Advisory Board as Chairman. In 2024, she had the honor of being inducted into the National Dance Coaches Association (NDCA) Hall of Fame.



Caroline Koch

Caroline is a former Miss Dance Drill Team whose career bridges elite performance and creative production. A team captain, title-winner, and theater lead multi-hyphenate, she began in the studio competition circuit before touring nationally as a UDA dance team instructor. While training with Arizona State University's Hip Hop Coalition, she was cast in Disney's High School Musical, launching a professional career that includes The Lion King, Fame, Hairspray, Disney's Christmas Day Parade, and performances with Selena Gomez and Justin Bieber. Caroline refined her style training under The Jabbawockeez on Monsters of Hip Hop before bringing her dynamic presence to international audiences with Seabourn. Now both performer and producer, she works across global stages, music festivals, and red-carpet events, bringing artistic insight, industry excellence, and contagious love for the sport to the Nationals judging panel.



George "Geo" Hubela

With over 30 years experience in the Entertainment Industry, GEO Hubela is a Choreographer, Artistic Director, Dancer & Dance Educator. He is

Co-owner and Director of one of New Jersey's leading Dance Education facilities, ICON DANCE COMPLEX, home of the ICONic Dance Crew from MTV's America's Best Dance Crew Season 1 and the ICONic Boyz, Runner Up of Season 6. GEO has choreographed internationally for stage and screen, danced in feature films, television, music videos and live concert tours. GEO is a leading educator in HIP HOP workshops across the US and around the World on faculty for some of the Dance Industry's leading convention tours including Showstopper, ADE, NUVO, & 24Seven. One of his most recent choreographed works was the first ever Live Stage Show for Lionsgate Films "STEP UP" franchise at Motiongate Dubai Theme Park in the UAE. GEO has also appeared as a dancer in the Original STEP-UP feature film. As a performer, GEO has danced with some of the biggest stars in the music industry such as Jennifer Lopez, Will Smith, P!NK, Britney Spears, 'NSYNC, Jessica Simpson, and the King of Pop, Michael Jackson. GEO is Director of HIP HOP and Breaking for both the International Dance Organization (IDO) and the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Team HIP HOP USA and an International VIP HIP HOP Judge.



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 & 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.



Bonita Saldana

Bonita Saldaña, a beacon of artistic excellence, has carved a path from Phoenix, Arizona, to the international stage. Her journey began with Breaking culture as a Phoenix Suns dancer, leading to global recognition as a Bgirl. Trained in Ballet, Jazz, Lyrical, and Tap, her fusion with Hip-Hop created a distinct style that propelled her career forward. She has performed with icons, represented legendary groups such as The Rock Steady Crew and The Beat Freaks, and contributed as a coach with Breaking for Gold USA, preparing Team USA Breaking for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. A respected master teacher and judge, Bonita's influence extends across national and international competitions. At home in Phoenix, she leads alongside her husband and business partner, Gabriel, while raising their two daughters. As founder of The Studance Lab and creator of DanceLevels.app,

her plug-and-play Hip Hop curriculum, she empowers studios worldwide with innovative training solutions.



Stacy Garrastazu

With over 35 years of dance experience, Stacy Garrastazu brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the dance industry. Garrastazu has coached and choreographed for numerous studios, schools, colleges, professional sports teams and all-star dance teams throughout her career. Traveling all over the country to competitions, conventions, and workshops, she stays at the forefront of what is new and cutting-edge in this industry. Garrastazu currently teaches master classes and choreography to select organizations while sitting on numerous judging panels including the USASF Dance Worlds from 2014 to present. Her extended background has made her an asset to many studio, school, collegiate and all-star organizations.



Sarah Schneeweis

Sarah Schneeweis is the Head Coach of the NBA's Sacramento Kings Dancers and Manager of Performance Teams, overseeing choreography, creative direction, and talent management for one of the league's most dynamic entertainment programs. A former NBA dancer herself, Sarah has choreographed for NBA and NFL teams nationwide and has represented the league internationally, leading performances at the NBA India Games and NBA House in Brazil. She is the founder of HYPE Dance Studio and creative director of the award-winning Fusion Dance Company, both recognized nationally for excellence in performance and training. Sarah has recently choreographed for artists Wale, Too Short, Dogg Pound and more. Her credits include the creation of the successful holiday production Believe, and choreography for multiple nationally ranked college and high school teams. A respected industry leader, she serves as a longtime UDA faculty member, national adjudicator, and judge for USASF Dance Worlds, and UDA College Nationals.



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