



COLLEGE
**CHEERLEADING
 & DANCE TEAM**
 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



JAZZ:



Andy Vaca -

Andy Vaca is an experienced judge of national and international competitions. Andy has 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 22 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 12 years of service on the American College Dance Association Board of Directors where he currently is the Past President.



Gretchen Noack -

Gretchen is a graduate from CSU Fullerton where she majored in Dance and Public Relations. Gretchen has been selected to the judging panel for many state and national competitions, as well as the Dance Worlds Competition since 2007. Over the years, Gretchen was selected to judge internationally as well, in Tokyo and Mexico. Gretchen has extensive training in jazz, ballet, hip/hop, pom, and her newest endeavor, is her comprehensive training in Pilates. Currently Gretchen's full-time career is coordinating Educational Dance Trips for Dance Teams and Studios.



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 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 the Chair of the Department of Theater and Dance at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, where she is also an Associate Professor, Head of Dance, and Co-Director of the University Dance Company. A seasoned choreographer, her work has been featured in prominent SIUE theater productions and regional/national dance festivals. Kristin is a respected adjudicator for the Universal Dance Association (UDA), National Dance Alliance (NDA), United States All-Star Federation (USASF) & International All-Star Federation (IASF) The Dance Worlds. Her dedication to inclusive dance education includes certification in Autism Movement Therapy and the creation of a curriculum titled "Dance For Everyone," enhancing access to dance for all abilities.



Shannon Gregg -

Dr. Shannon Gregg has over three decades of dance experience as a competitor, coach, and judge and she was a feature dancer in Kelly-award winning musicals "Lil Abner" and "Peter Pan" (Tiger Lily/Dance Captain). She had an internship with the Pittsburgh Dance Alloy, studied with the Lake Erie Ballet, and was a member of the University of Pittsburgh Dance Ensemble. She was a finalist at the first USASF Dance Worlds, competing multiple years and has judges on the hip hop and jazz judging panels. Shannon holds a BA in English Literature with History and Dance minors from the University of Pittsburgh, and an MBA and PhD from Point Park University, where she now teaches courses.



Jesus Acosta -

Jesus is originally from Guanajuato, Mexico. He began dancing at eighteen at Sam Houston State University, where he attended school to receive a BFA in Dance. He danced professionally with METdance Company and Hope Stone Dance Company for four years and is a founding member for NobleMotion Dance and for Houston Contemporary Dance Company. Jesus has worked for MA Dance and Auxiliaries for nineteen years teaching, choreographing, and judging all over the United States. Jesus has also choreographed for The Houston Texans Cheerleaders and has been featured in Dance Teacher Magazine. Mr. Acosta has been a judge on the Contemporary/Lyrical Panel at The Dance Worlds for the past 4 years.



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 University's dance team coach, she began teaching, choreographing and performing for UDA. Her performance and choreography credits include The Jerry Lewis Telethon, Disney's Christmas Parade, the Citrus Bowl Halftime Show and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Liz is now Performance Cheer Director for the ICU (International Cheer Union), where she developed the Judges and Coaches training programs and continues to teach and judge worldwide.



Michelle Allison -

is the Artistic Director at Curtain Call Dance Center in Indianapolis, IN. She holds a B.S. in Dance Performance from Ball State University. Michelle directs the Performing Companies, The Nutcracker & Dance Against Cancer at Curtain Call, teaches, choreographs & develops curriculum and continuing education. Currently she also choreographs musicals, show choir, marching band, winter guard, and is a Panel Director for USASF. Michelle taught NDA camps for 13 years and choreographed and field produced bowl games and parades. She has been judging Regionals, All-Star, School & College Nationals for 20+ years.



Sarah Miller Bate -

Sarah Miller Bate has studied dance for over 35 years and holds a dual BA in Dance and Education. She grew up in a competitive studio environment and discovered dance team in high school where she was a 4-time National Dance Alliance (NDA) High School All-American and 4-time Top Gun Leaps & Turns winner. A collegiate All-American as well, Sarah worked as a Head Instructor for over ten years and was recognized with the NDA Leadership Award. After college Sarah danced with various Virginia-based modern dance companies and while recovering from an injury discovered Classical Pilates. After becoming a third-generation instructor with direct lineage to Joseph Pilates, she has continued to teach Pilates for over 15 years, working with Olympic athletes and professional dancers. Sarah currently serves as the Dance Director for USASF, where she strives to bring awareness and growth to All Star Dance, and judges domestically and internationally.

**Stacy Paydo-**

Stacy Paydo just completed her 18th season as a "Radio City Rockette". She's performed on "The TONY

Awards", "The Rockefeller Center Holiday Christmas Tree Lighting", "Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade", "The Today Show", "The Chew", "The Wendy Williams Show", "The Meredith Vieira Show", "Michael Bubble's Christmas Special", and the "NY Spectacular" Directed by Mia Michaels. Her Assisting and Choreographic work with the Rockettes includes "The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon", "The Today Show", and commercials for Google Pixel. Ms. Paydo graduated from Arizona State University. She's celebrating her 25th year as a UDA master teacher, head instructor, summer material choreographer, and a veteran judge at NDTC, College Nationals, and Worlds.

**Wanda Weir-**

Wanda is the former Director & Choreographer of the NBA Washington Wizards Dance Team.

Before joining the Wizards Dance Team as a dancer, Wanda was a cheerleader for the NFL Washington Commanders for two seasons. Wanda's instructional and choreography career spans over 25 years and includes numerous high school, all-star, and collegiate teams. Wanda has adjudicated for numerous local, state, national and international competitions including The Dance Worlds and the ICU World Cheerleading Championships. Currently, Wanda is Owner/Creative Director for Premier Dance DC and a sought-after dance fitness consultant, speaker, motivational coach & commercial actress/model appearing in numerous local and national ad campaigns along with her family, The Wonder Weirs.

**Tami Whatcott-**

Tami Whatcott graduated from Utah Valley University with a BFA in Modern Dance and a BS in Dance

Education. While at UVU, she was a member of Synergy Dance Company, Contemporary Dance Ensemble, Ballroom Tour Team, and danced and coached for the NBA D-League, the Utah Flash. Other notable professional companies include Diavolo, Joel Hall Dancers, Noumenon Dance Ensemble, and Myriad Dance Company. Some of Tami's judging accolades include NDTC, UDA College Nationals, NDA Nationals, Worlds, Summit, and the ICU World Championship. She was an instructor for Universal Dance Association and has been trained in ballet, modern, jazz, pom, contemporary, hip-hop, and ballroom. Tami has done choreography for professional NBA teams, dance companies, numerous studios, high schools and collegiate dance teams both nationally and internationally.

**Tegan Reeves -**

Dr. Tegan Reeves bridges her extensive studio and career dance experience with academic

accomplishments in her private practice where she works with individuals and teams to perform at their best. Tegan studied dance at Iowa State University, was a company member and scholarship performer as well as part of the inaugural nationally competitive cheer team. She was the founding executive director of USASF Dance and The Dance Worlds. While her award-winning work spans 19 countries and diverse fields, "Dr. T" always cites dance as the foundation of it all.

POM:**Brian Cao -**

Brian Cao has been involved in the spirit industry for nearly 30 years on the school, all-star, collegiate and professional levels. Brian's dance resume includes performing with several companies in the Pacific Northwest, including The Detail and LYFE Dance Company. Brian was also a member of the NBA Portland Trailblazers Jam Squad from 2005-2008. In his limited free time, he travels the world, choreographing for competitive teams, judging for major cheer and dance events, speaking at industry conferences, and is a 7-time judge and the current Pom Panel Director for the USASF Dance Worlds.

**Briana Baisden -**

Briana is seasoned dance adjudicator, serving on dance audition panels as well as state, regional, National, and International competition judging panels. She is trained in ballet, jazz, contemporary, hip hop, and pom. 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 coached the dance team at Mississippi State University, and more recently, has danced for the Tennessee Titans Cheerleaders as well as the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders. After retiring from the sidelines, she was invited back as a Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader All Star where she recently completed her second season.

**Cheryl Paquette -**

Cheryl Paquette is the USASF Dance Adjudication Director and Communications Coordinator. She

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.

**Christina Leone -**

Christina Leone, in her 19th 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.

**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, who 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 McAllister -**

Sarah McAllister is a national championship award winning dance team coach and choreographer from San Diego. As the head coach at Ramona High School, she led her team to multiple national titles and top tier finishes in Team Performance and Pom and 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 briefly 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.



Shelly Mahaffey Warren -

Shelly Mahaffey Warren is the current VHS Spirit Program Director where she coaches the nationally ranked Golden Girls in The Villages, FL. She is a veteran UDA Head Instructor and the Quality Control Director for judging panels at The USASF Dance Worlds. 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.

HIP HOP:



Anastasia Miller Burns -

Anastasia is a former graduate and dance team captain from The Ohio State University. After graduation, Anastasia became a talent agent booking choreographers, dancers, actors, athletes, 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 16 years. For the past 8 years, she has joined the team at Inside Publications as the Executive Vice President (titles include Inside Gymnastics and Inside Cheerleading) and Co-Publisher of the all-access dance magazine, INSIDE DANCE. Anastasia has been one of the Hip Hop Directors for USASF Dance and Dance Worlds since 2013 and, as of 2019, is also a Hip Hop Panel Director for IASF divisions at the Dance World Championship. You can find her speaking and judging at numerous dance & talent competitions/conventions across the US and internationally.



Caroline Koch -

Caroline Koch has been a UDA judge for over a decade. Hailing from Chicago, she was crowned Miss Dance Drill Team before teaching UDA summer camps around the country. While on the Hip Hop Coalition at Arizona State University, Caroline was cast in High School Musical at Walt Disney World! She has performed in everything from The Lion King to the famous Walt Disney Christmas Day Parade, taking the stage with the likes of Beyonce, Selena Gomez and Justin Bieber. Most recently she danced across the globe on the Seabourn Cruise Line's Showroom At Sea. This came after completing her apprenticeship to America's Best Dance Crew, the Jabbawockeez on the Monsters of Hip Hop Convention tour.



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.



Patty Adams -

With over thirty years of experience in the dance industry, Patty Adams' knowledge base is extensive. Having previously coached at the High School, Division IA College, and All-Star levels, she now enjoys adjudicating as well as fulfilling her role as a Hip Hop Panel Director for both the USASF and IASF Dance Worlds events.



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 World's from 2014 through 2024. Her extended dance

background has made her an asset to many studio, school, collegiate and all-star organizations.



Sarah Schneeweis -

Sarah is the current director for the NBA Sacramento Kings Dancers, the owner of HYPE Dance Studio in California, and Artistic Director of nationally ranked Fusion Dance Company. Choreography credits include Wale, Too \$hort, The Dogg Pound, and many more. Sarah is an experienced business owner and choreographer with a demonstrated history of working in the professional dance industry for over 25 years. She has extensive experience working in brand development and management, as well as creative consulting for professional dance teams in the NBA and NFL. Skilled in choreography, live events, stage production, dance instruction, team leadership, and brand development, Sarah also has a broad background as an adjudicator for national and international dance events and competitions.



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