



COLLEGE
CHEERLEADING
& DANCE TEAM
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



JAZZ:



Andy Vaca -

Andy Vaca is an experienced judge of national and international competitions. With 35 years of experience in college and professional sports dance teams, Andy has choreographed televised halftime shows for the Detroit Lions and the NFL Pro Bowl, is an instructor with Pro Action Dance, and has choreographed for the Pro Bowl Cheerleaders since 1999. Andy was recently awarded the President's Award of Excellence as a 25-year Professor of Dance at CSU Long Beach. Andy is the former President of the American College Dance Association and will soon celebrate 20 years teaching for the LA Music Center's Dance DTLA community events.



Jennifer McKusick -

Jenn McKusick has been teaching jazz at Scottsdale Community since 2001. She co-directs Fusion Dance Ensemble and is the former director of S.A.J.E. (Scottsdale AZ Jazz Ensemble). She graduated from the University of Arizona where she danced with Quinn Williams Jazz at two JazzDance World Congresses, including the Kennedy Center. She was also a member of the UofA pomline. Jenn was a head instructor and choreographer for Universal Dance Association for many years, which enabled her to teach and travel to Japan and Europe. She has performed with UDA on the Jerry Lewis telethon, with La Jaz Danz, Grounding Point Dance Company, Theatre League, numerous domestic and international performances with Universal Dance Association, and many industrial shows in Arizona. She also teaches at Spisak Dance Academy and is a certified member of Dance Educators of Arizona.



Jessica Walz -

Jessica Walz received her B.A. in Dance from Point Park University. Jessica was the choreographer for Club Med Resorts and has presented shows on Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines and at Walt Disney World. Jessica has received national titles with UDA and NDA College Nationals as well as the Innovative

Choreography Award when coaching the 7-time National Champion Hawaii Pacific University Dance Team. In 2015, she coached Team Slovenia and won the Gold Medal at both the International Cheer Union (ICU) and European Cheer Union (ECU) in Doubles Freestyle Pom. With over 30 years of dance experience, she continues to be requested as a motivational speaker, choreographer and master class instructor across the US and abroad.



Kiki Lucas -

Kiki Lucas is an accomplished Assistant Professor of Dance at Point Park University, specializing in jazz technique, contemporary partnering, and dance composition. She has served as the Resident Choreographer and company member of dance companies such as Met Dance Co. in Houston, TX and Mosaic Dance Project in Miami, FL. Kiki's choreography has been showcased at prestigious venues including Jacob's Pillow, The Kennedy Center, Wright State University, Western Michigan University, Dreyfoos School for the Arts and many more. Kiki has also made an impact on the international dance scene, through teaching engagements in Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, Uruguay, and Mexico. She currently serves as faculty for Universal Ballet Competition.



Kristin Best Kinscherff -

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 (Metro-East, IL). Her choreography has been presented at the American College Dance Association's Gala Concert, SIUE Summer Theater, SIUE Musical Theater, the Midwest Dance Festival, St. Louis's Grand Dance Fest, The Gala/Extravaganza for Body Worlds 3 at St. Louis Science Center, the Victoria Ballet Theater, University of Iowa, SIUE, and Lindenwood. 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.



Liz Rifino -

Liz studied on scholarship at Broadway Dance Center in New York City. She then 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. Her current position is the Director for Pom, Hip Hop, Jazz and High Kick, coaches and judges' educational programs for the International Cheer Union, which is the IOC recognized international governing body for the Sport of Cheer.



Rochelle Mapes -

Rochelle earned a MA and BFA in Dance from CSU, Long Beach. Performance credits include dancing for Gladys Knight, Wayne Brady, the FX television show Nip/Tuck, BARE Dance Company and RhetOracle Dance Company. Teaching credits American Ballet Theatre Gillespie School, Orange County School of the Arts, the Dizzy Feet Foundation's National Dance Day, and USA Dance Camps. Rochelle has judged for Dance Worlds, UDA College, USA Dance, and USA-Japan.



Shannon Gregg -

Shannon boasts 20+ years of cheer and dance experience, excelling as a competitor, coach, judge, and author. Her coaching portfolio spans all star, school and rec teams, and studio dance. From 2005-2010, she owned an all star dance and cheer gym. As a seasoned judge, Shannon's expertise shines in hip hop and jazz/kick panels at the USASF Dance Worlds, spanning over a decade. Her dance journey includes collegiate level training, feature roles in award-winning musicals, an internship with the Pittsburgh Dance Alloy, and studies at the Lake Erie Ballet. She holds an English Literature BA with minors in History and Dance from the University of Pittsburgh and earned an MBA and PhD from Point Park University, where she's now an author and educator.



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.



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 as well as 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. Her judging accolades include National Dance Team Championships, UDA College Nationals, NDA High School Nationals, ICU World Championship, Worlds, Pan Americans, Mexico ONP, AASCF, and many other regional and national championships around the world. She was an instructor for Universal Dance Association and has been trained in ballet, modern, jazz, pom, contemporary, hip-hop, and ballroom.



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 NFL Washington Commanders for two seasons. 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. Since 1999, Wanda has judged for many local, state, national and international competitions including The Dance Worlds, UDA and NDA high school, all-star and collegiate championships & nationals. Currently, Wanda is Owner/Creative Director for Premier Dance DC and Head Coach for Catholic University.

POM:



Brian Cao -

Brian Cao has been involved in the spirit industry for over 25 years as a cheerleader, dancer, instructor, coach and choreographer on the school, all-star, collegiate and professional levels. Brian’s dance resume includes performing with several dance companies in the Portland area such as Urban Shock, Portland Dance Company, Unseen, h2A, Connex7, The Detail and LYFE Dance Company. Brian was also a member of the NBA Portland Trailblazers Jam Squad from 2005-2008. In addition to choreographing around the world for cheer and dance

teams, he spends his limited free time judging for major cheer and dance events, speaking for Varsity University and other State Associations, and is a 7-time judge for The Dance Worlds.



Briana Baisden -

Briana Baisden is a seasoned dance adjudicator, serving on panels for state, National, and International competitions. Trained in ballet, jazz, contemporary, hip hop, and pom, she has received numerous awards throughout her years as a dance student. 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. After retirement from the sidelines, the Dallas Cowboys invited Briana back to serve as a Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader All Star and recently completed her second season.



Cheryl Paquette -

Cheryl 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. A graduate of the University of Missouri, she earned a National Championship title with the Mizzou Golden Girls and was inducted into the Missouri State Hall of Fame in 2023 for her contributions to the team. Cheryl is a former NFL St. Louis Rams Cheerleader and NBA Dallas Mavericks Dancer. In 2017, she was awarded the Herkie Legacy Award for her commitment to the industry. Cheryl Paquette resides in St. Louis, MO.



Christina Leone -

Christina Leone is in her 20th year coaching at the high school level and is currently the head coach at Rock Canyon HS in Colorado. Her teams have earned numerous regional and state titles, are perennial finalists at UDA Nationals. 5x Colorado State Champions, Rock Canyon has also placed in the top three at NDTC since 2020. In 2018, they were selected as the Varsity Brands American Spirit Leader Award winner. Christina was a 2023 NHSACA Coach of the Year Finalist and previously was named the Positive Coaching Alliance Double-Goal Coach (2015) and Colorado Coach of the Year (2016). A veteran adjudicator, she

regularly judges for the USASF Dance Worlds, National Championships at the High School, All-Star, & Collegiate levels and currently serves on numerous industry committees. Christina is an avid fan of figure skating, all Colorado sports, loves camping, traveling and spending time with her husband & daughters.



Sarah Garcia -

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. Sarah 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.



Sarah McAllister -

Sarah McAllister has been a professional dance adjudicator since 2010, where she has judged at the All Star, High School and Collegiate levels for brands including NDA, UDA, USA, JAMZ, The USASF Dance Worlds and JDCA (Tokyo). She is a nationally acclaimed coach and choreographer recognized for her Innovative Choreography in Pom. Other notable achievements include choreography for Legoland Entertainment, LLC. Sarah is a former contributing writer for Jo+Jax and Inside Dance Magazine.



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 10 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 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.



Bonita Saldaña -

Bonita Saldaña, a Phoenix, Arizona native, 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, 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. In Phoenix, Bonita thrives as a dedicated mother and a successful entrepreneur, owning The Studance Lab dance studio. The studio, focusing on developing professional dancers, has become a Valley favorite and is the driving force behind the Levels Dance App, a Breaking curriculum for dance studios.



Caroline Koch -

Hailing from Chicago, Caroline Koch 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 been a featured performer 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. After completing her apprenticeship from The Jabbawockeez at the Monsters of Hip Hop tour she danced across the globe on the Seabourn Cruise Line. Caroline continues on as both talent and producer in the entertainment industry, working with some of today’s biggest acts from music festivals to red carpet movie premieres. She has been judging dance events for over a decade, including UDA College Nationals, NDTC, and The Dance Worlds.



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 Crew from MTV’s ABDC 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 teaching on faculty for Showstopper, ADE, NUVO, & 24/Seven. Geo most recently choreographed performances on the Disney Magical Holiday Celebration on ABC for artists Robin Thicke, Tori Kelly and Chrissy Metz! Geo has danced with some of the biggest stars: Jennifer Lopez, Will Smith, P!NK, Britney Spears, ‘NSYNC, Jessica Simpson, and Michael Jackson.



Patty Adams -

With a career spanning the course of four decades, Patty Adams’ experience in the dance industry is extensive. Her passion lies in preparing teams for the competitive experience of dance and enabling them to maximize their potential. Exceptional Athletes are a particular joy for Adams and she enjoys being a part of the EA Committee for Dance Abilities Teams. Having previously coached at the High School, Division IA College, and All-Star levels, she now focuses on adjudication as well as fulfilling her role as a Hip Hop Panel Director for both the USASF and IASF Dance Worlds events.



Stacy Garrastazu -

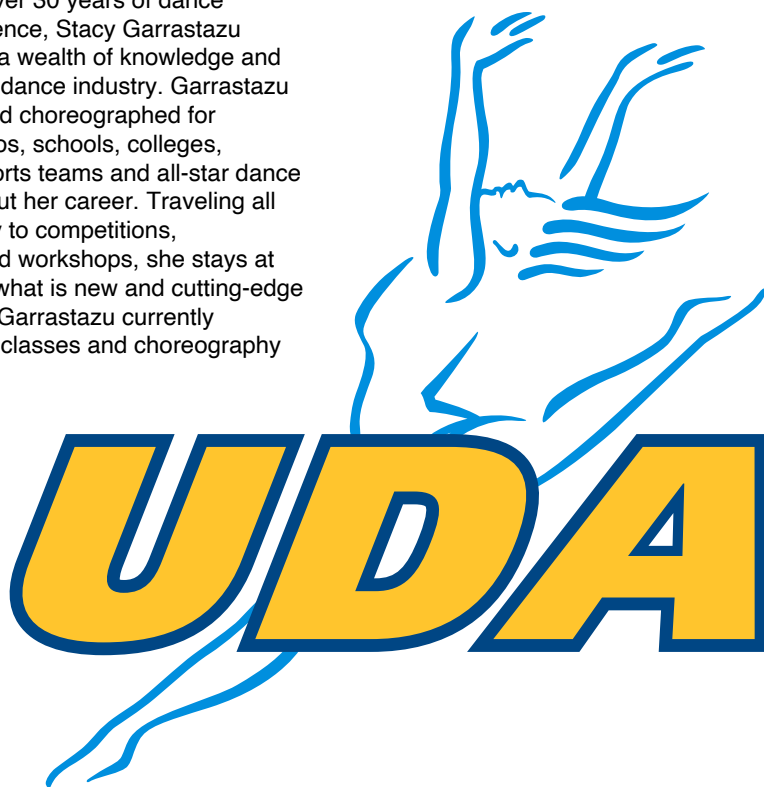
With over 30 years of dance experience, Stacy Garrastazu brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the dance industry. Garrastazu has coached and choreographed for numerous studios, schools, colleges, professional sports teams and all-star dance teams throughout her career. Traveling all over the 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 2023. Her extended background has made her an asset to many studio, school, collegiate and all-star organizations.



Summer Moon -

Summer began her training in Jazz, Modern and Hip Hop and she continued to train during college while obtaining a degree in HR Management. She has been an adjudicator for the past 18 years and her dance background includes being a principal dancer for many national industrials and commercials as well as choreographing and dancing for up-and-coming artists. Her choreography for studios, drill teams and all-star programs has won awards at competitions nationally. She continues to share her passion for dance with the next generation teaching at various studios throughout Texas and she continues to judge for competitions across the US and internationally including judging on the Hip Hop Panel at USASF Dance Worlds.



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