

2022-2023 FACULTY



**ERIKA
TOMLINSON**

Erika is a professional dancer, choreographer & instructor. She currently resides in Las Vegas, Nevada where she was performing in the award-winning show "Le Reve - The Dream," at Wynn Resorts. Featured in the show as the lead female character "The Dreamer," Erika also performed as one of the ballroom dancers, and was the show's dance captain. Having the prominent title of dance captain allowed her to be a part of the creative process working side by side with brilliant choreographers like Maksim Chmerkovskiy from DWTS & Emmy winning choreographer Marguerite Derrick. This past holiday season you might have seen Erika in the music video "Christmas Show" with Straight No Chaser. Not only did she (& her cute pups Neptune) get to dance in the video, but she was also the associate choreographer on the project. Other choreography credits included being a guest choreographer for the San Francisco 49ers Gold Rush Dancers, Stiletto Entertainment on behalf of Holland America Cruise Lines & many studios & dance teams around the US. Before Le Reve some of Erika's favorite credits include dancing in the Broadway National Tour of "Peter Pan" starring Cathy Rigby. Numerous music videos & films for Nickelodeon, NBC & Stars Encore as well as industrials for Playstation, Honda & Apple. Dancing for Universal Studios Hollywood and shows aboard Holland America Cruise Lines has allowed her to dance around the world. Currently an Event Manager & Show Director for Spotlight Dance Cup which keeps her busy traveling all over the United States. She is honored to judge & master teach for Stage 8 Brands working alongside some of the best in the industry!



**BRIANA
BAIDEN**

Briana Baisden is a seasoned dance adjudicator, serving on dance audition and state, regional, and National competition judging panels across the country. Trained in ballet, jazz, contemporary, and hip hop, 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 nationally ranked dance team, serving as captain her senior year. After graduation, she coached the Mississippi State University dance team to their first ever National ranking. Following her coaching stint, Briana returned to the sidelines as a cheerleader for the Tennessee Titans for 3 seasons. Currently, she resides in Texas working as a Human Resources Business Partner and is currently in her second year as a Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader All Star, after serving three seasons as a Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader, where she has had the opportunity to dance for Tyce Diorio, Meghan Trainor, Kane Brown and many more.



**VALERIE
STEAD POTSO**

Valerie Stead Potsos is in her 21st season as Head Coach of the nationally ranked University of Michigan Dance Team and is the Director/Owner of Dancer's Edge Studio in Michigan, which was named as one of the "Top Studios on the Move" in Dance Spirit magazine. She has choreographed for NAIA College Teams, High School Teams, All-Star Teams and for professional corporate sponsors including Ford Motor Company. Her articles on coaching and dance have appeared in Dance Spirit, American Cheerleader and in Motion Magazines. She is a Seminar presenter, and curriculum consultant for Varsity University, UCA/UDA and AACCA on topics such as Motivation, Leadership, Teambuilding and more. Along with judging local, state and national competitions, she has judged Studio, High School and College Dance Nationals for various organizations. Previously, she coached The Royal Oak Kimball Dance Company and The Royal Oak Kimball Varsity Dance Team for 8 years. As a dance educator for 30+ years and an adjudicator for 20+ years, she was also a member and captain of The University of Michigan Dance Team. Valerie graduated with a B.A. from the University of Michigan and has additional graduate studies in Secondary Education from Michigan State University. Recently, she traveled to Vienna, Austria to choreograph and train three dance teams. Valerie resides in Dexter, MI with her husband and three children.



**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, studios and professional teams. Jenny also proudly serves on the Hip Hop score sheet advisory boards for NDA and USASF.



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**LIZ
RIFINO**

Liz Rifino studied on scholarship at Broadway Dance Centre 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 Rutgers University Dance Team she began teaching, choreographing and performing for Universal Dance Association. 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. Former Director of Choreography for UDA's HS and College summer programs and Director for Varsity's International Dance Division she now currently holds the position of Curriculum Director for Performance Cheer (Dance Team) for the ICU (International Cheer Union) the world governing body for cheerleading. As the developer and certifier of the ICU Performance Cheer Judges and Coaches Training Courses she has worked with many outstanding international programs and has judged for numerous championships throughout the world. She continues to teach and grow the sport world wide.



**LONDYN
DANIEL**

Londyn Daniel is a fourth-year member of the nationally ranked, National Champion Louisiana State University Tiger Girls dance team. Her passion and commitment to dance is evident, as she and her team recently competed and placed first place in Hip Hop UDA College National Championship in 2022. With her passion for hip hop, jazz, and contemporary styles, she has won numerous awards and scholarships during her years of training. Londyn trained in many styles at Lemoine Academy of dance for 17 years and started competing at the age of five. With a background in ballet, jazz, contemporary, hip-hop and acro, inspiring and teaching dancers is one of her greatest passions. Londyn is a member of the Chi Omega sorority and is majoring in Kinesiology. She plans to go into medical sales after graduating with her Bachelor's degree.



TAMI WHATCOTT

Tami Whatcott graduated from Utah Valley University with a BFA in Modern Dance and a BS in Dance Education. She has been trained in ballet, modern, jazz, contemporary, hip-hop, and ballroom. She has choreographed for professional NBA teams, dance companies, and numerous different studios and award winning high schools and teams across the United States and abroad. She has been a member of Synergy Dance Company, Contemporary Dance Ensemble, UVU Ballroom Tour Team, danced and coached professionally for the Utah Flash, and performed with Joel Hall Dancers & Center, Noumenon Dance Ensemble in Chicago and Myriad Dance Company in Salt Lake City.

LEXINGTON, KY

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Central Bank Center

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