



SOLO QUALIFIER JUDGES BIOS

IOWA STATE
DANCE & DRILL
TEAM ASSOCIATION



RHODESSA BELL

RHODESSA BELL, got her start in dance at the age of 12 under the direction of Koni Riley at Dance Dimensions studio in Mineola, Texas. She received her B.S. at Stephen F. Austin where she was a member of the SFA Pom Squad and the SFA Repertory Dance Company. After graduation Rhodessa moved to Houston where she studied with Richard Hebscher, Jhon Stronks, and Dina Veil. Houston expanded her performance vocabulary and from 2004 to 2008 she performed with several professional companies such as Houston Metropolitan, Psophonia, Wyld Style, and Planet Funk. This exploration expanded her training to include ballet, modern and hip hop. Since 2004 Rhodessa has worked for Marching Auxiliaries teaching dance and creating choreography for children of all ages nationwide. In 2009 Rhodessa completed a year of residency in Amsterdam Netherlands. During her stay she taught hip hop and lyrical jazz for Amsterdam Dance Centre, Body Action, and Lucia Marthas Institute for Performing Arts. Within the year, Rhodessa also choreographed an evening length work called "Laughter" set on a performance company she created called UniverSouL Dance Company. She was honored to showcase her work as well as perform at several festivals and local venues throughout Holland. Rhodessa's love for teaching and performing has spanned more than two decades. Thorough in her approach, she gives special attention to the specific needs of each dancer she teaches. After leaving a class with Rhodessa dancers are sure to feel more accomplished, energized, and empowered.



HANNAH BOHN

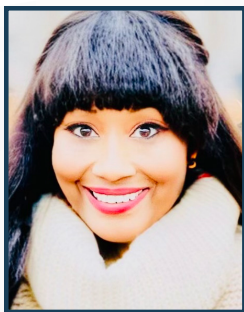
Hannah Bohn is a lifelong Illinois resident. She has danced for over 30 years, coming from a strong technical ballet background which includes training from notable companies such as American Ballet Theatre and the Joffrey Ballet.

In 2011, Hannah served as Miss Illinois. At the 2011 pageant, she received the overall talent award, and went on to finish in the Top Ten at the 2012 Miss America Pageant, where she got to perform her talent of Ballet En Pointe Live on ABC! Following her year of service, she worked for 8 years on the Miss Illinois Production team as the Head Choreographer. Hannah still volunteers with the Miss America Organization, serving on State Judging Panels for: California, Utah, Indiana, Nebraska, Alabama, Iowa, North Carolina and Georgia.

Hannah coached and choreographed Illinois High School competitive dance for 13 years. She had a very successful career, with her teams winning Sectional and Conference Championships, as well as finishing in the Top Ten at the Illinois State Final Championship. She has worked as an IHSA Judge for 8 years, and upon her retirement from coaching, choreographs for and trains several Illinois High School Dance Teams.

For 5 years, Hannah worked with Dance Team Union as a Camp Instructor, Nationals Emcee and was the first hired Sales Liaison, managing 5 states of dance teams and their coaches. She is a touring judge and emcee for studio dance competitions, and has had several of her own routines recognized at both a regional and national level. Hannah founded and directs her own company, Reverence Dance. With this company, she and her alumni staff have trained/choreographed for over 100 high school dancers.

Hannah currently works for Legacy Dance Championships as their Customer Care Manager, and for Sharpen Up Dance Team Training as their Customer Care Specialist. She loves to spend time with her husband Zach and her own little dancer, 2 year old Riley. She is very excited to enjoy the great talent of Iowa Dance once again!



KINSHASA GARRETT

Kinshasa Garrett, a Dallas native, brings over 30 years of diverse experience as a performer, choreographer, consultant, and judge. She began her dance training at age 5, continuing her education and performances through middle school, high school, and university, where she eventually became Head Dance Captain. Kinshasa's professional performances include industrial work with notable brands such as Nike, Juicy Couture, Mary Kay, Toni & Guy, Texas Instruments, Lululemon Athletica, Sephora, Forever 21, Sea World, and AMC Theaters. She has also been a featured performer for the NFL, World Cup Soccer, and the Olympic Games.

As a Director and Choreographer, Kinshasa has led her teams to numerous Platinum and High Gold awards at competitions and conventions like Tremaine, Jump, Pulse, and Adrenaline. She has achieved significant success in school and all-star competitions, earning State and National Championship solo and team specialty awards for Innovative Choreography and Technical Excellence from brands such as AmeriDance, ADTS, Danceline Productions, MA Dance, NDA, Power Dance, The American Championships, Spirit Celebration, Power Dance and UDA.

Kinshasa currently resides in Georgetown, TX, serving as the Southwest Regional Director for The United States All Star Federation (USASF), which governs dance and cheerleading clubs. Her responsibilities include managing membership and compliance for Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, and she also holds the roles of USASF Leadership Director, Enrichment and DEIS Coordinator. Additionally, Kinshasa coordinates the USASF Athlete Advisory Council. She frequently travels both domestically and internationally, judging, speaking, instructing, coaching, and consulting for all-star teams, studios, high schools, and universities across Australia, the United Kingdom, Europe, Central and South America.



LEXI GBOGBO

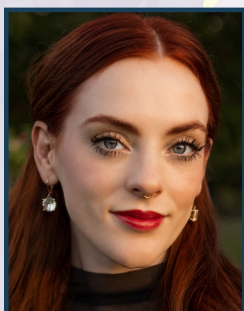
Lexi Gbogbo is heavily involved in the dance community across the state of Iowa. Her most recent role was the head dance team coach at Central College from 2012-2025. While coaching the Central College dance team, the team had won numerous ISDTA State competition titles for over a decade and are currently the 3x American Rivers Conference Champions. The dance team also won the Division III Pom National Championship title at the NDA College Nationals in Daytona Beach, FL in 2023.

From 2014-2020, Lexi had the privilege of being a member of the Iowa Wolves dance team and was given the title of head coach and choreographer for the team. The Iowa Wolves is the G-League basketball team out of Des Moines, IA and is affiliated with the Minnesota Timberwolves basketball organization.

Lexi has had the pleasure of being a dance and auxiliary staff instructor for MA Dance for 19 years. Her favorite part of working for MA Dance is building relationships with the dance directors, inspiring the talented dancers and, of course, having wonderful relationships and long-lasting friendships with the MA Staff members.

In addition to this experience, Lexi has independently choreographed competition dance routines for high school teams throughout the state of Iowa from 2010-2019. Numerous routines have won first place ISDTA State titles. Lexi has also choreographed the majorette lines for the Capital One Bowl Halftime Show in Orlando, FL in 2006, 2007 and 2008. During her competitive baton twirling years, she held the title as Miss Majorette of Iowa in 1997, 2000 and 2005.

Lexi currently resides in Ankeny, IA with her husband Tony and her two sons, Julius and Cyrus.



NATASHA GEHRTS

Natasha Overturff began her dance training in Ankeny, IA, under the direction of her mother, Nancy Moore Overturff. She trained and danced competitively, earning titles such as State Solo, Miss Teen and Miss Dance of Mid-America, and Miss Drill Team of America at MA Nationals for two consecutive years. She went on to continue her dance education at the University of Arizona, where she received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Dance in 2012.

After graduation, Natasha had the honor of joining the world-renowned jazz dance company Giordano Dance Chicago as a main company member. She performed with the company for 10 years, touring across the U.S., Europe, and Asia.

In addition to performing, Natasha has worked as a private instructor and choreographer for over 15 years, training dancers at the pre-professional level in both the Des Moines and Chicagoland areas. Her choreography has been featured by professional companies including American Midwest Ballet Company and Giordano II.

Passionate about health and wellness, Natasha is also a certified 26+2 Yoga Instructor. Since retiring from her professional dance career, she has been pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Mercy College of Health Sciences while raising her two young daughters.



ALLIE HUDAK

Allie Hudak is a committed dance educator and choreographer. Allie received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Modern Dance with a minor in Secondary Education from Texas Christian University, a Master of Educational Policies and Leadership from the University of Texas at Arlington and completed all coursework for doctoral studies in Educational Policies and Leadership from Texas A&M Commerce.

After graduating from TCU, Allie taught modern dance and hip-hop for non-majors at TCU as an adjunct faculty member. Allie was the inaugural director of the Colleyville Middle School Stars Dance Team and the artistic director for a local dance studio. In 2008 Allie became the dance director at Birdville High School. She has led the varsity dance team to ten national titles, coached six teams through the USASF Dance, and founded a junior varsity team and a hip-hop crew. In addition, Allie has built the fine arts dance program to double in size, as well as had success with straight ones at the Dance Educators Assessment of Learning. Allie was honored to be Birdville High School Teacher of the Year in 2023.

In striving for excellence in dance education, Allie reaches out beyond her own program. Allie has worked for Marching Auxiliaries Dance as a teacher, choreographer and clinic director. She has judged for the Iowa State Dance and Drill competition. Allie served on the USASF curriculum writing team and the dance curriculum team for the CEDFA Fine Arts Summit. She actively participates in the Texas Dance Educators Association (TDEA). Allie has been a Director of the Year finalist in 2020 and 2023. Allie has served on the TDEA Board since 2017 and served as president in 2024. Allie currently serves as the Administrative Assistant for TDEA.



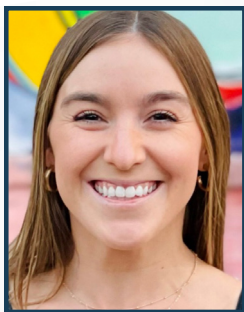
TJ JACOBS

Thomas Jacobs hails from New York City, where he currently resides. Originally from Northern Virginia, Jacobs grew his love for dance culture training at Culture Shock DC and Freestyle. This passion has led him to many amazing endeavors such as TEDx Talk, Bessie Awards Nominee, Founder of Pace Setters Dance Company and the pleasure of performing with Crystal Waters, Betty Who and Wyclef, BMW, World Of Dance and The Wizards, and most recently a residency with Ladies Of Hip Hop and Dance Lab NYC to name a few. He has extensively trained in many styles such as House, Waacking, Popping and Locking from some of the industry's greats. He is also grateful to be a part of the NYC Artistic community, where he most recently collaborated with a group of Artists from TRPNYC Dance Company. During the recent recession, the work he created was featured in the New York Times. This work, commissioned by Stephen Petronio Dance Company, was also nominated for a Bessie Award for Outstanding Production, alongside Bill T. Jones and other phenomenal Artists. These experiences have helped shape Mr. Jacobs' ideology of dance and the arts as a whole. This ignites his desire to transfer knowledge through judging, teaching and mentorships.



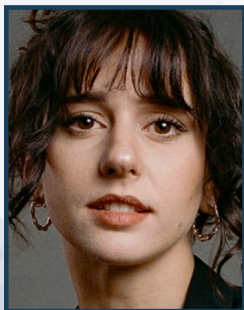
BRITITNI JOHNSON

Brittini Johnson, M.Ed., LPC is from the St. Louis, MO area where she trained as a competitive dancer in the studio, team and company environments. She danced at the collegian level for the University of Central Missouri leading her team at UDA Nationals in Orlando, FL. She is currently a dance educator, choreographer, adjudicator, and licensed professional mental health counselor. She holds a Master's degree in Clinical/Mental Health Counseling and is passionate about combining the world of dance movement with mental health and wellness. She travels nationally using her experience as an adjudicator and skills as a clinician working with many studios, dance teams and college programs creating choreography, teaching classes, implementing workshops, and consulting. Brittini owns her own private therapy practice Empowered Movement, specializing in treating dancers' mental health and providing mental wellness in dance workshops to dancers, dance parents and dance educators. She is the co-founder of Alignment: A Mental Health Therapist's Guide to Dance Education where she strives to provide mental health education and support to the dance community. Brittini believes every dancer should be empowered with the skills to protect their overall physical and mental wellness to ensure longevity in their career and overall happiness in their life. She continues to be an advocate for mental health and safety in the dance community and uses her education, passion and experiences to empower dancers, educators and supporters throughout the country.



KATIE MARSH

Katie Marsh is an experienced dancer, choreographer, coach, and judge. She currently serves as an official for Dance Team Union, as well as the Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota State Associations. As the Head Dance Coach at Midland University (2017-2021) she led the team to one national championship, two conference championships, three regional championships and was named the 2019 NAIA Dance Coach of the Year. A native of Miami, Florida, Katie was a member of the nationally ranked Coral Reef Cudettes and won multiple titles through UDA. After high school, Katie traveled all over the world and taught performing arts workshops to over 20,000 students. Katie is an alumni of Chapman University in Orange, California where she received her B.S. in Business Administration. Katie now lives in Dakota Dunes, SD where she is a stay-at-home mom to her two young kiddos and enjoys singing on the Worship Team in her spare time.



GINA MENICHINO

Gina Menichino (she/her) is a dynamic dancer, choreographer, and educator whose journey has taken her from Miami to Los Angeles, to New York City and now back to LA as a creative director and educator. After spending six years in Los Angeles as a choreographer's assistant to industry greats like Tyce Diorio, Megan Lawson, and Cat Cogliandro, Gina moved to NYC, where she spent five years building a thriving career as a full-time teacher and choreographer at Broadway Dance Center, Peridance center and Steps on Broadway. Known for her emotionally-driven and musicality-rich classes, Gina blends contemporary technique with acting and storytelling to create a unique, transformative experience for dancers. She has worked alongside top creatives such as NappyTabs, Tessandra Chavez, and the Seaweed Sisters, and with music artists including Daya, Tiësto, Blake McGrath, and Caitlin Russo. Her performance credits include high-profile events like the Emmy's Governors Ball, Tony Robbins 60th Birthday Banquet, and NBC's World of Dance Season 3 as part of Team Radiance. Gina's training is rooted in classical techniques including Horton, Limón, Graham, and ballet (Cecchetti, Vaganova, and Balanchine), and her commercial edge was sharpened during her college studies at Studio School Los Angeles, where she majored in dance and minored in acting. There, she trained under respected mentors like Michelle Loucadoux, Ambrose Respicio, and Sal Romeo. As an educator, Gina is passionate about cultivating connection- between movement, music, and meaning. Her classes emphasize emotional authenticity and performance as a cathartic, empowering experience. She is dedicated to creating safe, supportive spaces where dancers feel seen and confident in their artistry. Follow Gina on Instagram @ginamenichino to keep up with her creative journey!



DEE DEE MUNSON

DeeDee is the Founder/Owner of DDAMdancewear & Manager for Tippi Toes Dance Roswell. She is the former Managing Director at The Moment Dance Experience at KM Agency. She is also the former General Manager/Artistic Director for Power House of Dance Dallas / Frisco & the former Artistic Director of Dance for North Texas Performing Arts. Her credits include Kilgore College Rangerette, Stephen F. Austin Repertory Company, Stephen F. Austin Pom Squad member and coach, Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader, and Dallas Mavericks Dancer. She is also a former Walt Disney World Dancer where she performed in The Beauty & The Beast Show, Pleasure Island Explosion Dancers, various conventions and special events, and the Rhythms of the World Show at Tokyo DisneySeas. She has also served as audition choreographer for Walt Disney World, Disney Cruise Lines & Disneyland Paris.

DeeDee has taught and choreographed for studios, dance teams & theatres across the country. She has choreographed over 60 musicals. Her Freaky Friday new works choreography was showcased at The Junior Theatre Festival in Atlanta, GA. She is an international adjudicator & master teacher. She has served as a judge for MA Dance, Varsity Brands, Cheer Power, Freedom Dance, The Groove, HTE, The USASF Dance Worlds, COP Brands, Inferno Dance & The Kilgore College Rangerettes. She was also a dancer/actress in the movie Miss Congeniality starring Sandra Bullock.



KELSEY (KK) NICHOLS

Kelsey Nichols is a dedicated dance educator and coach from Des Moines, Iowa, whose passion for dance has shaped her career spanning competitive dancing, choreography, and coaching.

She began her dance training at age 5 and continued through middle school, high school, and college. As a student athlete at Grand View University, she danced for four years and served as team captain for two seasons. In 2015, she earned her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Reading from Grand View University, combining her love of teaching with her dedication to dance. Following graduation, Kelsey quickly established herself as a choreographer and coach in the Des Moines area. She served as the Head Coach at Bondurant-Farrar High School from 2011 to 2017. Simultaneously, she returned to her alma mater as Assistant Coach for the Grand View University Dance Team from 2017 to 2022.

Kelsey has worked with the National Dance Alliance as both a Choreographer and Head Instructor, sharing her knowledge and artistry with dancers across the country. Her choreography has been featured at local high schools, colleges, and dance studios throughout the region, and she has served as a judge for numerous studio and dance team competitions.

Now in her third year as the Head Coach of the Grand View University Dance Team, Kelsey has led the Vikings to impressive accomplishments, including top-three national finishes at the NAIA Cheer and Dance National Championships, first place at the NAIA Regional Championships, first place at the Heart of America Dance Championships, and multiple top finishes at the Iowa State Dance and Drill Team Association competitions.

When she's not in the studio or on the sidelines, Kelsey resides in Des Moines with her husband Justin and their three sons.

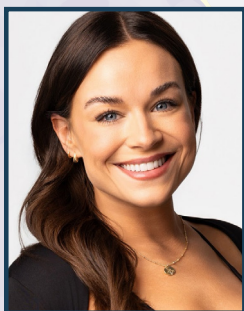


VALERIE POTSO

Head Coach of the nationally ranked University of Michigan Dance Team from 2000-2022, Valerie Stead Potsos is the Director/Owner of Dancer's Edge in Dexter, Michigan. Recently, she traveled to Vienna, Austria and Tokyo, Japan to judge, choreograph and train dance teams around those countries. She has choreographed for professional corporate sponsors including Ford Motor Company and much more. Dancer's Edge was named as one of the "Top Studios on the Move" in Dance Spirit magazine. 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 on topics such as Motivation, Leadership, Team-building and many more. She also conducts and offers UDA Digital Critiques for teams on their routines helping coaches and teams prepare for their competitions.

Her students have auditioned for America's Got Talent and have been featured on the show in 2015. Along with judging local, state and national competitions, she has judged Studio, High School and College Dance Nationals as well for various organizations. She coached The Royal Oak Kimball Dance Company and The Royal Oak Kimball Varsity Dance Team for 8 years. She also teaches for the kinesiology department, "U-Move" at The University of Michigan. She has been dancing since age three and teaching dance since age fourteen and was 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. Valerie resides in Dexter, MI with her husband and three children.

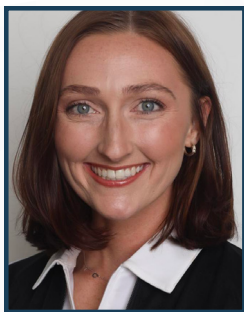


HOLLY REIMER

Holly Reimer has been immersed in dance from a young age, mastering styles such as contemporary, jazz, and hip hop. During her high school years in Iowa, she competed both at the studio and on her dance team, winning the state solo competition two years in a row. At the University of Iowa, she continued to refine her skills as a member of the university's dance team, before moving to Los Angeles to pursue a professional dance career.

In 2017, Holly landed her breakthrough role as a dancer for the Los Angeles Clippers' Clippers Spirit, where she performed at high-profile events, traveled, and shared the stage with renowned artists and celebrities. Signed with MSA, she spent several years auditioning and furthering her career in the entertainment industry.

Currently, Holly resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota and balances her full-time career in the billboard advertising industry with her passion for dance. She is a certified nutrition coach, personal trainer, Lagree instructor and is currently coaching at [solidcore]. However, her most fulfilling role has been mentoring young dancers aspiring to join collegiate or professional teams. Through choreography, master classes, and one-on-one guidance, Holly remains deeply committed to helping the next generation of dancers achieve their dreams.



STEPHANIE SIBENALLER

Stephanie Sibenaller is from Lohrville, Iowa, and has been integrated into the dance community for years. She grew up dancing at Dance 2 Xtreme in Lake City, Iowa and later danced on her high school dance team, South Central Calhoun. She attended Iowa Central Community College and danced for two years on the Iowa Central Dance Team, where she was named captain her sophomore year. She transferred to Dordt University and was captain of the Dordt University Dance Team for two years. She was named an NDA Collegiate All American in August 2017. She earned her Bachelors in Business with an emphasis in Agriculture from Dordt University in May 2018.

Stephanie started coaching at Iowa Central Community College in May of 2018. She serves as the Assistant Coach and Strength and Conditioning Coach of the Iowa Central Dance Team. Stephanie enjoys creating innovative routines for high schools, colleges, and studios all around Iowa and the Midwest. She is deeply connected to her calling of reaching and impacting the lives of young athletes through the art of dance.

Stephanie currently lives in Fort Dodge, Iowa, and is married to Jordan Sibenaller. They have two Australian Shepherd dogs, Cleopatra and Honey.



SAMMY STEPHENS

Sammy Stephens, Jr., a native of Hot Springs, Arkansas, is a choreographer, performer, and educator with over 20 years of experience in hip-hop, urban, and modern dance. He holds a Master of Fine Arts in Dance from Arizona State University and a bachelor's degree in theatre arts, dance, and health science from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Sammy has appeared in a wide range of theatrical productions including Hair, The Wiz, To Kill a Mockingbird, Spunk, and the Black Theatre Troupe's Revenge of a King. His concert dance performances include José Limón's The Exiles, presented at Arizona State University and the Congress on Research in Dance in New York.

He has been a company member with The Tidwell Project in Little Rock and Movement Source in Phoenix, and he founded Floor Rockers, a hip-hop dance company based at UALR. Sammy has led workshops and masterclasses across the country—including in Arkansas, Florida, Tennessee, Iowa, and Arizona—and has taught at Arizona State University, Mesa Community College, and Chandler Community College.

As a respected voice in the dance community, Sammy also serves as a judge for national dance competitions and state pageants, bringing a unique blend of technical knowledge, performance experience, and cultural insight to every stage he steps onto.



MIA STORTO

Mia is a licensed and certified athletic trainer at Iowa Orthopedics Surgeon Group. Her clinical emphasis is on injury prevention, emergency care, enhancing athletic performance, and helping all athletes achieve their fitness goals. Mia graduated from the University of Iowa with a masters of science in athletic training, bachelors of fine arts degree in dance, and a bachelors of arts degree in exercise science. She was a member of the Iowa Dance Team and has a passion for teaching dancers. As a dance educator, Mia loves to create and set choreography for dance teams all around the state of Iowa.



JENNY THIELMAN

Jenny Thielman is the owner of The Dance Challenge and brings more than 27 years of coaching experience to the dance industry. She previously spent a decade as the owner of a successful multidisciplinary dance studio, following seven years as a Field Coordinator and Program Director with the nationally recognized Just For Kix program. Jenny also toured throughout the mid-west for five years as a judge with the Symposium Talent Competition.

An award-winning freelance choreographer, Jenny is highly sought after for her creative work with studios and high school dance teams across Iowa. Beyond the dance floor, she serves as Program Director for the Linn County Historical Society, where she combines her passion for history and community engagement. She is also an entrepreneur, running her own catering company, and contributes to the local business community as an Executive Board Member for CR NetWORK.



CASSIDY VERMEER

Cassidy Vermeer, head dance team coach at Iowa Central Community College, grew up in Fort Dodge, Iowa where she graduated from Fort Dodge Senior High in 2007. After high school, Vermeer made the smart decision to stay in town and finish her AA degree at Iowa Central Community College for one year. She then went on and transferred to receive a bachelor's degree in Family Services from the University of Northern Iowa in May of 2010.

At both Iowa Central and UNI, Vermeer was a member of their collegiate dance teams. She has attended many state competitions and national competitions where awards were won such as national champion in the Pom Division for UNI in 2010. Vermeer began her dance coaching career at Iowa Central in 2011 and has remained a part of the dance program coaching for almost 12 years. Along with coaching the Iowa Central Dance Team, she has also choreographed for many local surrounding high school dance teams and soloists.

Vermeer lives in Humboldt with her husband Tyler, her two sons, Tucker and Weston, and daughter Reese.



ELIZABETH WEIDNER

Elizabeth Weidner, a Waterloo, Iowa native, discovered her passion for dance at the age of three. Throughout her youth she performed and competed with both her studio and high school team, claiming multiple state championships in pom, hip hop, and solo categories.

Elizabeth brought her dedication and energy to the University of Iowa, where she was a four-year member of the Iowa Dance Team. During her tenure, the team had two top-three finishes at Universal Dance Association (UDA) nationals, tying the program's all-time best and cementing her legacy as a Hawkeye. She graduated with degrees in Journalism & Mass Communications and Dance, showcasing her commitment to both artistry and academics.

Now based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Elizabeth continues performing as a veteran NFL cheerleader for the Minnesota Vikings. Beyond the field, she thrives in a full-time Marketing career, seamlessly blending creativity with professionalism.

Elizabeth's passion for dance extends far beyond performing—she's an accomplished instructor and respected adjudicator, dedicating over five years to MA Dance and lending her expertise to numerous competitions. Her influence is felt throughout the region as she regularly leads master classes and choreographs for soloists and teams.



COLOR GUARD QUALIFIER JUDGES BIOS

IOWA STATE
DANCE & DRILL
TEAM ASSOCIATION



EVAN COONROD

Born and raised in St. Louis Missouri, Evan has been involved in the color guard activity since 1996. Upon graduating high school, he attended Southwest Missouri State from 2000-2005 as a Music Education Major, and performed with the Pride of SMSU Color Guard. He was captain of the color guard from 2002-2005. In addition to performing with the Pride Color Guard, he was a member of the Pride of SMSU Winter Guard from 2000-2004. After aging out in 2004, he made his way to Jacksonville, Florida and performed with the Independent World Winter Guard Northeast Independent from 2007-2009. Since moving back to St. Louis, Evan has taught many color guard teams in the state of Missouri, and is now in his 17th year of being the Director of the Lafayette Color Guard program in Wildwood, Missouri. Evan currently lives in Chesterfield Missouri with his husband Brian and their two dogs, Jack and Winston.



SANDI ELLIS

Sandi Ellis has been a color guard performer, choreographer, instructor, and judge in the Midwest for more than 30 years. She performed throughout high school and college, including two trips to the Tournament of Rose Parade, and groups for whom she has written have performed at numerous college football bowl parades. Sandi is a long-time staff member at the Central Iowa Color Guard Camp and has been a choreographer and instructor at other camps in Missouri, Kansas, and Illinois. The Iowa high school marching bands with whom she has worked range in size from Class 2A - 4A, and she currently is the instructor with the award-winning Dallas Center - Grimes Marching Mustangs.



SAM HOUSTON BROWN

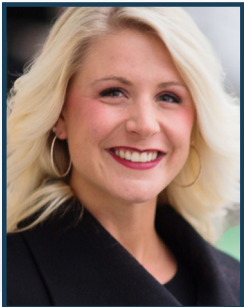
Samantha Houston Brown has been involved in the marching arts since 2004. In high school, she competed in Bands of America and Winter Guard International with Odessa High School Band of Distinction, Odessa, Missouri. While attending the University of Kansas, she served as a 3 year guard captain with the Marching Jayhawks, 3 seasons with Synchronicity Winterguard, 3 seasons with Avidity Independent Winterguard and a summer performing with the Santa Clara Vanguard Drum and Bugle Corps, from Santa Clara, California. She became a member of the Zeta Delta Chapter of Tau Beta Sigma in 2008, serving as chapter President for 2 years. In March of 2020, she was welcomed as an Honorary member of Kappa Kappa Psi by the Epsilon Omega Chapter.

Samantha has experience instructing and choreographing for high school and collegiate color guards in Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Texas, Hawaii and Nebraska. 2024 marks her 6th year as the Color Guard Instructor for the Cornhusker Marching Band at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In addition to color guard, she completed her first season serving on the visual staff for the Crossmen Drum and Bugle Corps. She has her Music Education Degree from the University of Kansas and a degree certification in Physical Therapist Assistant.



JV TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS JUDGES BIOS

IOWA STATE
DANCE & DRILL
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LEXI GBOGBO

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KELSEY (KK) NICHOLS

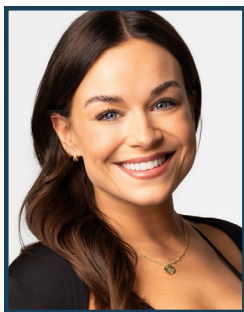
Kelsey Nichols is a dedicated dance educator and coach from Des Moines, Iowa, whose passion for dance has shaped her career spanning competitive dancing, choreography, and coaching.

She began her dance training at age 5 and continued through middle school, high school, and college. As a student athlete at Grand View University, she danced for four years and served as team captain for two seasons. In 2015, she earned her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Reading from Grand View University, combining her love of teaching with her dedication to dance. Following graduation, Kelsey quickly established herself as a choreographer and coach in the Des Moines area. She served as the Head Coach at Bondurant-Farrar High School from 2011 to 2017. Simultaneously, she returned to her alma mater as Assistant Coach for the Grand View University Dance Team from 2017 to 2022.

Kelsey has worked with the National Dance Alliance as both a Choreographer and Head Instructor, sharing her knowledge and artistry with dancers across the country. Her choreography has been featured at local high schools, colleges, and dance studios throughout the region, and she has served as a judge for numerous studio and dance team competitions.

Now in her third year as the Head Coach of the Grand View University Dance Team, Kelsey has led the Vikings to impressive accomplishments, including top-three national finishes at the NAIA Cheer and Dance National Championships, first place at the NAIA Regional Championships, first place at the Heart of America Dance Championships, and multiple top finishes at the Iowa State Dance and Drill Team Association competitions.

When she's not in the studio or on the sidelines, Kelsey resides in Des Moines with her husband Justin and their three sons.

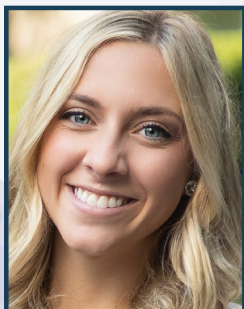


HOLLY REIMER

Holly Reimer has been immersed in dance from a young age, mastering styles such as contemporary, jazz, and hip hop. During her high school years in Iowa, she competed both at the studio and on her dance team, winning the state solo competition two years in a row. At the University of Iowa, she continued to refine her skills as a member of the university's dance team, before moving to Los Angeles to pursue a professional dance career.

In 2017, Holly landed her breakthrough role as a dancer for the Los Angeles Clippers' Clippers Spirit, where she performed at high-profile events, traveled, and shared the stage with renowned artists and celebrities. Signed with MSA, she spent several years auditioning and furthering her career in the entertainment industry.

Currently, Holly resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota and balances her full-time career in the billboard advertising industry with her passion for dance. She is a certified nutrition coach, personal trainer, Lagree instructor and is currently coaching at [solidcore]. However, her most fulfilling role has been mentoring young dancers aspiring to join collegiate or professional teams. Through choreography, master classes, and one-on-one guidance, Holly remains deeply committed to helping the next generation of dancers achieve their dreams.



ELIZABETH WEIDNER

Elizabeth Weidner, a Waterloo, Iowa native, discovered her passion for dance at the age of three. Throughout her youth she performed and competed with both her studio and high school team, claiming multiple state championships in pom, hip hop, and solo categories.

Elizabeth brought her dedication and energy to the University of Iowa, where she was a four-year member of the Iowa Dance Team. During her tenure, the team had two top-three finishes at Universal Dance Association (UDA) nationals, tying the program's all-time best and cementing her legacy as a Hawkeye. She graduated with degrees in Journalism & Mass Communications and Dance, showcasing her commitment to both artistry and academics.

Now based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Elizabeth continues performing as a veteran NFL cheerleader for the Minnesota Vikings. Beyond the field, she thrives in a full-time Marketing career, seamlessly blending creativity with professionalism.

Elizabeth's passion for dance extends far beyond performing—she's an accomplished instructor and respected adjudicator, dedicating over five years to MA Dance and lending her expertise to numerous competitions. Her influence is felt throughout the region as she regularly leads master classes and choreographs for soloists and teams.