

IOWA DANCE STATE TEAM & SOLO *Awards Ceremony*



AWARDS ARE BROADCAST FREE EACH NIGHT
AT WWW.ISDTALIVE.COM

Beginning at approximately 5:15 p.m.

College Team Awards

Beginning at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Solo & Color Guard Awards

Beyond Limits Solo Recognitions

Special Awards

High School Team Awards

DTU Be Bold Awards

Judges' Choice Awards





2023 TEAM & SOLO JUDGES BIOS

For the 2023 competition, the ISDTA is proud to welcome this year's panel of judges hailing from all corners of the nation. Our judges have over 400 years of combined experience and expertise in the professional dance industry to share with our Iowa dancers. Their experiences include performing, coaching, choreographing and judging across the nation and world-wide, making the ISDTA championships one of the most prestigious high school competitions in the nation.



JESUS ACOSTA

Jesus Acosta is originally from Guanajuato, Mexico. He started dancing at the age of eighteen at Sam Houston State University where he fell in love with dance and decided to pursue a career in dance. He recently retired from dancing full time and is looking forward to exploring different avenues in the dance world. He is a founding member of the Houston Contemporary Dance Company where he danced for 3 seasons and NobleMotion Dance where he danced for 9 seasons while serving as rehearsal director. He has also previously danced with The Houston Metropolitan Dance Company (4 years), The Kista Tucker Dance Company (2 Years), and Hope Stone Dance Company (4 years.) He has also been on staff with MA Dance and Auxiliaries for 18 years teaching, choreographing, and judging all over the United States. Aside from working in high schools throughout the U.S. Jesus has choreographed for The Houston Texans Cheerleaders and recently held a position as a judge on the Contemporary/Lyrical Panel at The Dance Worlds, The Colorado State Championships, and The Utah State Championships. He currently teaches all levels of Jazz at Dance Du Coeur in Sugar Land, TX where he has been a Company Director for the past eight years and Boni's Performing Arts Studio in The Woodlands, TX. When not at the studio Jesus is dad to 2 dogs and 3 cats, Gwen, Ivy, Josey, Penny, and Regina.



KELSEY ADKINS

Kelsey Adkins was born and raised in Morris, IL and now resides in Chicago, IL. Kelsey began her dance career as a studio trained dancer. She then went on to attend Loyola University Chicago where she graduated with a business administration degree in sport management and marketing. While attending school, Kelsey was a member of the Loyola Dance Team, competing nationally with UDA. Throughout college, Kelsey traveled across the country teaching Varsity camps as a UDA instructor. For the past four years, Kelsey has served as the Varsity Dance State Director for the central region of the country. She is also a current regional competition coordinator and judge for UDA. Kelsey is a previous NAIA college coach at Calumet College of St. Joseph's in Indiana and now currently coaches the mini all-star program at Studio 22 High Tek in Chicago, Illinois.



RHODESSA BELL

Rhodessa Bell has been an MA staff member since 2004! Rhodessa is a graduate from Stephen F Austin State University. She received her B.S. in dance and kinesiology and was a proud member of the SFA pom squad for 4 years. Rhodessa has choreographed, adjudicated, performed, and taught throughout the U.S, Brazil, and the Netherlands. Currently, Rhodessa is an instructor for Royalty Dance Academy in Rockwall TX and she performs with Dallas based modern dance company, Muscle Memory Dance Theatre.



KALI GREESON

Kali is currently in her 16th year of teaching and creating choreography for various high schools, collegiate and professional dance teams. Her love for creating large production style pieces came from her experience as the head choreographer for the Cotton Bowl pregame show and Citrus Bowl Halftime shows. Kali is the former Head Coach for The University of Texas at Austin Dance Team and Artistic Director for The Dance Works in Round Rock, TX. Her passion for choreography has led her to create for Kilgore College Rangerettes, NHL Dallas Stars Ice Girls, NFL Texan Cheerleaders, TWU Pioneer Pride, SMU Pom and many national winning high schools and studios across the country. In her spare time, she loves working with dance photographers on creating a safe and positive environment for young aspiring dancers.



ANGELA HAYES

Angela Seward Hayes is a lifelong dance educator. She recently retired from public education after 30 years, most of which she spent as the director of the award-winning Dulles Dolls Dance Team. Angela is the founder of Danceable Thoughts, a resource for dance education, consultant, choreography and clinician services. Through Danceable Thoughts, she's created an online presence that brings to light the many aspects of teaching dance. Angela is a curriculum writer, workshop presenter for many organizations, and an adjudicator. She is a proud graduate of TCU. Her past honors include TDEA Director of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Award winner.



BETSY HEATHCOCK

Betsy Heathcock has been actively involved in Dance Education since 1980. During her career she taught dance and directed at three premier High Schools, Dulles, Memorial and Austin Fort Bend. She had the distinct honor to choreograph for the 2005, 2009, 2013 and 2017 Tournament of Roses "Music for All Honor Dance Team", Dance Team Directors of Americas 1994 "All Star Dance Team" and was the United State Olympic Festival Assistant Dance Director/Choreographer in 1986. Staying involved is so important and Betsy has done this by serving on the Texas Dance Educators' Association Executive board in six different board positions. She oversaw the inception of the Texas State Dance Assessment, D.E.A.L - "Dance Educators' Assessment of Learning" and continues to Coordinate and adjudicate for this Assessment. Throughout the years Betsy has earned numerous accolades including being named to the Texas Dance Educators' "Hall of Fame" in 2005, "Lifetime Achievement Award" in 2000 and "Dance Team Director of the Year" in 1995. Betsy is a Clinic Director for MA Dance Officer Camp, MA Dance Line Camps and is an adjudicator for several companies throughout the country. Her passion is creating unique choreography in both Pom & Military genres and providing leadership workshops for both Dance Officers and Dance Teams through team building workshops and creative crafting for both Directors and students. Betsy and her husband Ron teach leadership/crafting workshops that focus on taking time for you and emphasizing the importance of giving from the heart. As a Dance Educator it is important to remain current within the industry and MA Dance & T.D.E.A. have always been instrumental in making this happen. She is thankful each and every day that she is aligned both professionally and personally with so many amazing companies, organizations and schools are committed to Dance Excellence.



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 from 2017-2021, she led the team to one national championship, two conference championships, three regional championships and in 2019, Katie was named the NAIA Dance Coach of the Year. A native of Miami, Florida, Katie was a member of the nationally ranked Coral Reef Dance Team and won multiple titles through UDA and ADA. After high school, Katie joined the Young Americans- a non-profit music outreach organization based out of Southern California. As a Company Manager, Casting Director, and Performer, 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 with Magna Cum Laude honors. In her spare time, Katie volunteers for the National Dance Coaches Association as the interim Marketing Director and enjoys spending time at home with her husband, Scott and cavapoo, Ruffles.



GRETCHEN NOACK

Gretchen is a graduate from California State University Fullerton where she majored in Dance and Public Relations. She began her dance career as the director of an award winning dance team in Southern California and then transitioned into the role of Dance Program Director for the United Spirit Association (USA) where she was in charge of staff training and program development for 5 years. Her association with the USA has continued for more than 20 years through her ongoing involvement in dance. Gretchen has choreographed for many nationally ranked dance/drill teams and for numerous professional dance teams, such as the 49er Gold Rush, Golden State Warriors, Sacramento Kings and Los Angeles Clippers. Gretchen was honored to choreograph for the first-ever NFL international cheerleading auditions held in Tokyo Japan in 2003. She has been involved in the production and teaching of many NBA and NFL halftime shows, as well as traveled to Paris and Australia to help produce holiday parades encompassing over 300 performers. Gretchen has been selected to the judging panel for many state and national competitions, as well as the "All-Star Dance Worlds" Competition. Over the years, Gretchen was selected to judge at the USA Japan Nationals held in Tokyo. Gretchen has extensive training in jazz, ballet, hip/hop, pom and traditional dance/drill. Currently Gretchen's full time career is coordinating Educational Dance Trips for Dance Teams and Studios, all over the United States. She also currently serves as the Partnership/Vendor Chair for the National Dance Coaches Association, and has for the past 3 years. Her passionate involvement in the world of dance continues to present her with exciting opportunities.



DEBBIE NORDSTROM

Debbie Nordstrom has been a Dance Educator and Dance Industry professional for the past 42 years. Formerly a National Award-winning Dance Team Director, Debbie is the Owner and Executive Director for Ascension Dance. She is the former Contest Director for Champion Dance and Contest of Champions in Orlando, Florida. She is a Past President and Lifetime Achievement recipient of the Texas Dance Educators Association and in 2019 was named to TDEA's Hall of Fame. Debbie originated the Collegiate Program for TDEA fifteen years ago and currently continues to serve TDEA as their Collegiate Chair. An original NBA Houston Rockets Cheerleader, NFL Houston Oilers (now Tennessee Titans) Derrick Doll, University of Houston Dance Team Captain and former Tyler Jr. College Apache Belle, she continues to adjudicate around the country. Debbie has been married to her husband Rick for 23 years and they currently reside in Cypress, TX with their 4-year-old Border Collie BarkLee.



HELEN NORRIS

Helen Wild Norris is a professional adjudicator and choreographer for both dance and cheer. She currently works for the Tobin Center in San Antonio as a Fine Arts Instructor and administers art classes under an education grant for San Antonio ISD. Helen is a Competition Director and Clinic Director for MA Dance FX and hosts dance competitions and adjudicates both nationally and internationally. A former Houston Rockets Dancer and National Cheerleading Association employee, Helen relocated to Los Angeles and enjoyed a career with Universal Studios and Mari Winsor Pilates before relocating back to her beloved state of Texas in 2010. She lives with her husband and four children in San Antonio, Texas, and has dedicated her life to helping every child develop an appreciation for the Fine Arts.



DEB STEPHENSON

Deb currently lives in Rock Springs, Wyoming but is an Iowan at heart living most of her life in Council Bluffs. She has coached and taught dance for more than 30 years with most of those years as the Director of a very successful Lewis Central Dance Team program. She is an ISDTA Lifetime Member and has numerous dance education awards to her credit. Currently she teaches Health and Physical Education in Wyoming but continues to judge dance competitions, teach, choreograph and support the art of dance. Deb works with other school physical educators guiding them to build a dance repertoire in their physical education program and ensure that students of all abilities have the opportunity to learn to dance.



ROSIE TORRES

Rosa Rosie Torres, is a teaching artist, a choreographer, an artist assistant & community participant. Born and raised in the Laredo/Nuevo Laredo intersection and Native of the Rio Grande. Rosie has been teaching dance throughout Texas for 25 years. I am actively teaching senior citizens dance with Urban 15 & the City of San Antonio, contemporary movement at the San Antonio Ballet School and Independently in selective settings. Recent dance movement collaborations include; San Antonio Dance Fringe - "Fringe Files", Dancing Earth -"Summer Institute", in Abiquiu, New Mexico, Director, Rulan Tangen, Movement Works - "the Crossing", under the direction of Damaris Ferrer via Florida and Amber Ortega, San Antonio, TX. I am a recent recipient of an Individual Artist Grant by the City of San Antonio Arts & Culture Department. The pandemic allowed for growth outside the dance world. Currently, a personal assistant for Internationally renowned sculpture artist, Veronica Castillo. Since 2017, I have embraced the movement teachings from Native descendants of Mexico through Kalpulli Ayolopaktzin; a circle of families and people preserving rituals, ceremonies, danza and ways of life pertaining to the Aztec, Chichimecan, Toltec and Mayan ancestors. I hope to be a dancing senior citizen one day.



JENNA WALLING

Jenna Walling is an experienced dancer, coach, and adjudicator originally from College Station, Texas. She currently serves as a staff member for Encore Creative Productions, where she choreographs and develops leadership development curriculum for dance/drill team members from across the state of Texas. Additionally, she serves as a contest adjudicator and staff member for Ascension Dance. Jenna was the Captain of the 73rd Line of Kilgore College Rangerettes and continued her studies in the dance department at Texas A&M University, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 2016. She has served as an Assistant Coach for the Langham Creek High School Bailadoras (2016-2018) and the Head Coach of the College Station High School Strutters (2018-2021), leading both teams to numerous choreography, precision, technique, and performance awards, as well as state championship titles. Jenna currently lives in Austin, TX, with her husband, Justin, and works for Capturing Kids' Hearts.



MARY WENDT

Mary has been involved in the dance team industry for over 41 years as a coach and industry professional. A part of the original judging panel at The Dance Worlds, Mary was the Dance Scoring Director for the IASF, the International All-Star Federation. She has served as the Scoring and Adjudication Director as well as the Pom, Junior, and High Kick Category Advisor for the Dance Worlds. Mary was the Education Director for USASF Dance and the Associate Director of Enrichment/Leadership, assisting in the development of workshops for coaches and athletes such as Bolt, Dance FUNdamentals, What's your IQ Jr, and Impact. Mary has judged internationally and facilitated coach and athlete workshops, including developing a leadership program for students from Moldova.

Mary is the former director/choreographer of the North Texas State University Songleaders and the Assistant Director/Choreographer for the Texas Christian University Showgirls, her alma mater, where she received a BS and MS in Kinesiological Studies. A former Kilgore College Rangerette Lieutenant and TCU Showgirl Captain, Mary has been a director for several high school teams in Texas, Ohio, New Jersey, and Washington. The Texas Dance/Drill Team Educators voted her as their youngest Lifetime Achievement Recipient and Hall of Fame Recipient. She has received the Hall of Fame award from DX Events and NDCA. Mary was the executive director and former choreographer of the Citrus Bowl and worked for MA Dance as their Vice President for over 35 years.

Mary has been married for over 34 years to Ted Wendt and has a son, John, a 2018 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy.



TAMI WHATCOTT

Tami Whatcott graduated from Utah Valley University with a BFA in Modern Dance and a BS in Dance Education. She has been a member of Synergy Dance Company, Contemporary Dance Ensemble, UVU Ballroom Tour Team, and danced as well as coached for the Utah Flash. Other notable professional companies include Diavolo, Joel Hall Dancers, Noumenon Dance Ensemble, and Myriad Dance Company. Tami has designed curriculum for multiple international schools and studios and has been trained in ballet, modern, jazz, contemporary, hip-hop, and ballroom. She has judged, performed, and taught in over 15 different countries and her choreography has been performed by professional NBA teams, dance companies, universities, musical theatre, numerous different studios, high schools as well as the European and World Championship stage.



2023 COLOR GUARD JUDGES BIOS



SANDI ELLIS

Sandi Ellis has been a color guard performer, choreographer, instructor, and judge in the Midwest for nearly 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.



DANNY MARTINEZ

Mr. Martinez has been a colorguard director for over 30 years and is currently the Guard Director at Lake Highlands High School and Highland Park High School. He was an active performer, instructor and judge with the North Texas Colorguard Association. He has served on the Board of Directors and also served as President of NTCA. Mr. Martinez was inducted into the NTCA Hall of Fame in 2016. Mr. Martinez has been involved with the design and instruction of winterguards since 1992. From 1992-1999 he taught at Springtown High School and led them to be one of the top colorguards in the Ft. Worth area. From 2000-2008, he taught at Crowley High School. During his time at Crowley High School they were a perennial NTCA medalist. Danny was an Instructor, caption head, and camp director for Marching Auxiliaries for 13 years. From 2009, he has taught at The Colony, Highland Park and Lake Highlands High School. These schools compete at WGI and NTCA events and are award winning programs. Highland Park was the 2019 Texas State Marching Competition Silver medalist. Mr. Martinez also was the director of Ars Nova "A" Winterguard (a 6 time WGI Finalist) and was the director of White Gold for 2 years. White gold won the bronze medal in 2011 at the WGI World Championships in Dayton, OH.



VICTOR MOONEY

Victor Mooney is the Color Guard Director for Bureson Centennial High School, and is a long-standing and active member of the color guard community. He is a marching band and winter guard adjudicator in the southeast as well as Texas. He comes to us from South Carolina, where he programmed and taught many successful programs. His groups have collectively won 13 Marching Band State Championships and 2 Bands of America Regional Championships. As a winter guard director, he has earned numerous championships in the Carolina Indoor Performance Association as well as the North Texas Colorguard Association. During his time in CIPA, he served on the Executive Board and has served as the Circuit President. Mr. Mooney's hard work and dedication were recognized by being the very first inductee into the CIPA Hall of Fame. The Guard program at Centennial has experienced a transformation in just 5 short years, winning an NTCA Middle School title, an NTCA Scholastic A Class title as well as 2 MA Dance National Winter Guard Titles. He began his WGI Career as the founding director of Infiniti Winter Guard, South Carolina's first Independent Winter Guard. Under his direction, Infiniti Winter Guard was the first group from South Carolina to compete in the WGI World Championships. In 2000, Infiniti was the first group from South Carolina to win a World Championship title. He also served as the Co-Director for The Cast Winterguard, 2017 WGI Independent A Silver Medalist. Mr. Mooney was also responsible for building an award-winning color guard at Atlanta CV Drum Corps, which won the DCA High Color Guard Award at the 2017 DCA World Championships. He also serves as the Color Guard Director for TCU Horned Frog Band. Mr. Mooney calls Cleburne Texas home where he resides with his husband Carlos.