



TEAM & SOLO JUDGES BIOS



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 danceworld. 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 is originally from Illinois, now residing in Denver, Colorado. 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 eight years, Kelsey has served as the Varsity Dance State Director for the central and mountain west regions of the country. She takes great pride in helping dance team coaches across the country provide memorable experiences for their athletes each season. 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 mini all-star program coach at Studio 22 High Tek in Chicago, IL.



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.



KIN GARRETT

Kinshasa Garrett has multi-faceted experience as a performer, choreographer, director, and adjudicator. Born and raised in Dallas, Kinshasa began studio dance and drill team at the age of 7, training, competing, and performing for the next 20+ years. Upon graduating with a Bachelor of Behavioral Science in Communications, she went on to work in both secondary and post-secondary education, while continuing to direct, choreograph and consult high school, collegiate, studio and all star teams. Kinshasa is widely respected for her holistic approach to coaching and leadership development. Her philosophy of teaching skills that contribute to coaches' and dancers' lives on AND off the performance floor, which she believes contributed to the overall success of the dancers with whom she worked! Kinshasa continues to elevate her own knowledge base and skills on a regular basis and says, "The moment that someone feels that they "know it all", they are doing themselves and those they serve a disservice. Educators have a responsibility to continue to elevate themselves and others. The process is ongoing!" Kinshasa continues to judge while also serving as a performance coach, speaker and consultant, throughout the US and abroad. Kinshasa now resides in Cedar Park, TX and is serving in her 6th year as the Southwest Regional Director for The United States All Star Federation (USASF).



DONNA HAAS

Founder and Executive Director Marching Auxiliaries of America and MA Dance, 1976-Present; Creator, Director and Choreographer Texas Christian University "Showgirls", 1976-1998; Charter Member National Council Drill Team Camps, 1983-Present; Director TDDTEA Texas "All-State Drill Team, 1990; Director Houston Olympic Games Opening Ceremonies, 1986; Director Houston Rodeo Opening Ceremonies, 1986; Pageant Choreographer Bluebonnet Bowl-Houston, TX, Holiday Bowl-San Diego, CA, Hall of Fame Bowl-Tampa, FL, Citrus Bowl-Orlando, FL, Maui Classic Basketball Tournament, Maui, HI; Director Opening Ceremonies 1988 World's Fair Brisbane, Australia; Director Opening Ceremonies 1992 Expo Seville, Spain; Current Member of Conseil International De La Danse CID, National Dance Coaches Association Hall of Fame Award Recipient 2021, TCU Ex-Bandsmen Association Band of Fame 2021, Hall of Fame Award Texas Dance Educators Association 2002, Lifetime Achievement Winner National Drill Dance Team Directors of America, 1991-1992; Lifetime Achievement Award Texas Drill Dance Team Educator's Association, 1992-1993; Presenter TDDTEA State Conventions, DTDA National Conventions, Illinois State Convention, DTDA Midwest Conventions; Published Author of numerous articles Insights Magazine; Former Director Brewer HS Drill Team, 1976-1980, Yellow Rose Award for Teacher of the Year Brewer HS, 1980; Savant Women's Leadership Honorary, 1974; Dream Girl Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity, 1974; Head Majorette and Feature Twirler University of Florida, 1972-1974, President Delta Delta Delta Sorority, 1972-74; Collegiate Representative for Delta Delta Delta National Board, 1973; Outstanding Young Women of America, 1971; Tennessee Girls State Representative, 1970; Junior National Baton Twirling Champion, 1965.



BETSY HEATHCOCK

Betsy Heathcock has been actively involved in Dance Education since 1978. 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. In addition, Betsy is a Dance and /Color Guard adjudicator for MA Dance, Marching Auxiliaries of America and several other companies throughout the country. She continues to mentor and provide guidance to Dance educators and Color Guards throughout Texas. Her passion is creating unique choreography in both Pom & Military genres and providing leadership workshops for both Dance Officers and Dance Teams. Most recently Betsy was a presenter for Texas Dance Educators Association and Region IV at Deer Park and Goose Creek ISD's. Betsy and her husband Ron teach leadership/crafting workshops that focus on taking time for yourself 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, Dance Educator's and schools that continue to pursue excellence in dance.



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 (2007), a Master of Educational Policies and Leadership from the University of Texas at Arlington (2014) 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 currently serves as the TDEA President.



LINDSEY LARSEN

Lindsey Greer Larsen knew she was destined to be in the dance world at a very young age. Her love to create artistic dance pieces that push the physical limits of the dancer and off the wall style was what drew her to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance with an emphasis in Choreography from the Herberger College of Fine Arts in 2006 from Arizona State University. While in College her passion for mentoring and coaching aspiring dancers grew as she opened a dance studio (Cynergy Dance Studio/ Inspiration Dance Company) as well as coaching all-star and high school dance/pom teams. She pursued an active role in the competitive dance industry taking on national choreography jobs for various high school, all-star, collegiate, pro teams, and as well as various musical artists and celebrities.

While pursuing her career in dance and choreography, Lindsey had the opportunity to perform with amazing artists such as Black Eye Peas, Wyclef Jean, The Who, Alice Cooper, Sarah Dash, CaZo Dance Company, and was a part of the first NHL dance team to perform directly on the ice the Phoenix Coyotes "PACK" dancers.

Lindsey currently holds multiple National, State, and Regional titles for her Coaching and/or Choreography. UDA, NDA, USA, AIA, Celebrity Competitions, Starpower, and KAR are some of the organizations titles that Lindsey holds in her resume and dear to her heart. Her passion for Choreography, Dance Team Training, and Inspiring Coaches has lead her to partnering up and developing Sharpen Up Dance Team Training with her two fellow coach colleagues. When Lindsey isn't teaching master classes with SUDTT she is continuing to expand her passion for choreography nation wide for High School, Professional, and College Dance Teams along with educating, speaking at many State Association and Nationals Conferences, or Judging. She feels honored for the amazing opportunities she has been fortunate to experience over the years and that she is actively involved in today. Lindsey feels very blessed for the strength that God gives her to continue to dance, educate, and inspire the up and coming new generation of dancers, coaches, and educators!



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.



DEE DEE MUNSON

DeeDee is the Managing Director at The Moment Dance Experience & the Assistant Director for The Movement at KM Agency. She is 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.

Her TV/Film credits include Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Thanksgiving Day halftime with Reba McEntire, Mickey's Very Merry Christmas with Aaron Carter, The Oprah Winfrey Show, Live with Regis & Kelly, The Wendy Williams Show. She was also a dancer/actress in the movie Miss Congeniality starring Sandra Bullock.

DeeDee has taught and choreographed for studios, dance teams & theatres across the country. 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 currently serves on the Texas Dance Educators Association DEAL Adjudication Staff.



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.



RANI REICHOW

Born and raised in Omaha, NE, Rani was a member of her high school, all star, and college dance teams, worked as a head instructor for UDA and went on to dance in the NFL with Kansas City Chiefs and the Arizona Cardinals.

Rani earned a Bachelor of Science in Education, specialized in Exercise Science and Physical Education, and a Master of Arts in Secondary Teaching and then worked as a personal trainer & a high school teacher.

Since 2002, Rani has coached many award-winning dance teams, most recently, the 2023 UDA Spirit Programs Game Day National Champions, Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, AZ.

Rani served 3 years as the Director of Education for the National Dance Coaches Association, helping with educational programming, credential courses, conference scheduling, and many more enrichment opportunities for coaches. She has presented for multiple coaches' conferences including NDCA, DTU, Arizona, Indiana, Utah, Wisconsin and Iowa! Now, as co-founder of Sharpen Up Dance Team Training, she produces large scale educational workshops & recruiting events for high school dancers!

Rani received her Judge's Credential through NDCA and DTU, and has been judging for multiple state and national organizations for the past 21 years. She is honored and excited to be a part of the legendary ISDTA State Championship and wishes the best of luck to all of the coaches and competitors.



LORI RUPP

As a long time educator, Lori Rupp has 30 plus years of experience in the world of Cheer and Dance. She holds a BA Degree from SUU and a Master's Degree from the University of Utah. Formerly the Spirit Coordinator and head coach of the University of Utah Crimson Line Dance Team and Cheer Team for over 20 years. She is also the co-owner of RC Competes and Go For It Dance and Cheer. She is the Artistic Director of the Professional Dance Company "Nightline" who performs across the US and Internationally. Lori is the head clinician for all Utah State Office of Risk Management Cheer and Dance Safety Clinics. She is on the Utah High School Activities Association State Dance/Drill Team Competition Board and created and conducted the judges training for the state of Utah. She is a former director of the NBA Utah Jazz Dancers and has choreographed halftime shows for many College Bowl Games. She has done production work for the NFL, NBA and Major League Baseball. Ms Rupp has worked with many celebrities in productions around the US. Alongside her dance duties she had the great opportunity to run the Karl Malone Foundation for Kids for six years for the NBA Hall of Famer. She just recently was inducted to the Utah Sports Hall of Fame for her work in Dance, Drill, Cheer and other Sports. Lori is from Salt Lake City, Utah and Spokane Washington, she is married to Kerry Rupp and has two daughters Billie and Randie and three bonus daughters Allie, Lindsey and Shelby.



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.



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 (2017-2018) 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.



COLOR GUARD JUDGES BIOS



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.



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DANNY MARTINEZ

Mr. Martinez has been a colorguard director for over 30 years and is currently the Guard Director at Reedy 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 Burleson 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.