

Inspire Faculty



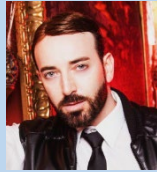
Carlos Garland was born on July 4, 1988 and was raised in Jacksonville Florida. He started dance at the age of 13 at Lavilla School of the Arts. Then graduated from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, where he received a Merit Award in the NFAA (National Foundation of Advancement of the Arts) in hip hop. Carlos attended Jacksonville University, double majoring in dance and computer science. Also during this time, he performed in the *First Coast Nutcracker* as lead the Russian Doll and has

consistently over the years since then. He has a previous background in Taekwondo of 7 years and reached a second degree black belt.

Carlos has been the winner of the Mille Lewis America's Models and Talent Competition in dance. He and his dance crew, "*Systematic*", has won BET's *106th and Park* dance competition twice in a row and has been in national and international commercials. Carlos is a member of and has danced with *Rasta Thomas' Bad Boys Of Dance* and has performed in their hit show "*Rock The Ballet*". With the company he has toured Europe, Australia, New Zealand and the U.S. Carlos was also a top 20 finalist on the Fox TV dance show "*So You Think You Can Dance*" Season 10. He has also danced with the cast of "*Spider-man Turn Off the Dark*" in their final *Gypsy Of The Year* performance. He is a member of iLuminate (as seen on *America's Got Talent*) and has performed as the main character in their hit off-broadway show, "*iLuminate, Artists of Light*". He has been on instructor faculty at Broadway Dance Center and Steps On Broadway in NYC and still teaches there when in the area. He is currently a traveling instructor/choreographer for many schools and companies as well as a performer in Universal Studios and Walt Disney World.



Heather Parker began dancing at the age of two in metro Atlanta under the direction of Pamela Mitchell Lambert. As a member of a competitive dance company for 14 years, Heather won numerous awards as a dancer and student choreographer. In her teenage years, she was given the opportunity to assist and teach classes and quickly fell in love with being able to pass on her love of dance to younger students. Heather is trained and teaches in the disciplines of Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Lyrical, Contemporary, and Hip Hop. Throughout her childhood Heather was very active not only in dance but also in the dramatic arts, pageantry, and modeling. Heather is a graduate of Barbizon School of Modeling, holds several pageant titles, has modeled throughout the metro Atlanta area for children's fashion shows, and has performed on Good Day Atlanta. While a student at the University of West Georgia, Heather began her professional career in the Atlanta area dancing for promotional events, and as a dancer, singer, and show supervisor for Six Flags Over Georgia. Heather has choreographed for multiple competitive studios, dance teams, and independent groups at the University of West Georgia. Now, Heather continues to teach and choreograph at her own studio where she has been owner and director for over ten years. In such a short time she has provided a premier dance education center where students have graduated and received scholarships at the collegiate level, won hundreds of high scoring and top honors throughout the dance competition circuit, and has been awarded numerous choreography awards. Heather loves nothing more than to teach and choreograph for dancers of all ages and looks forward to each and every day in which she can continue to encourage today's youth through the art of dance.



Christopher Robbins is a born South Carolinian. Member of Actors Equity Union & SC Artist in Residence. He has worked professionally in entertainment for over 22 years and his spectrum ranges from Singer, Dancer, Actor, Producer, Director, and Choreographer. Chris has worked with artists/choreographers such as Donny & Jimmy

Osmond, Darius Rucker, Justin Timberlake, Kelly Rowland, Jennifer Holiday, Kristine W, The Pointer Sisters, Lee Greenwood, Caroline Lewis Jones, Gil Stroming, Adrienne Canterna, Jean Whitaker, Joe Lanteri, Pamela Bolling, and Pam Chancey. He has worked for companies such as Opryland Productions, Gaylord Productions, Victoria's Secret, Hardrive Productions, Celebrity Cruise Lines, Pzazz Entertainment, OnStage Productions, StarStudded Entertainment, Walt Disney World Productions, and Tokyo Disney Productions. He has been the lead role of The Grinch for the City of Savannah for the past 3 years and is in the Ballet "The Nutcracker" as Cavalier at the Lucas Theater in Savannah. He is the Ballroom couple winner for "Dancing with the Horry County Stars" televised program in 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, & 2016. Chris worked for Hardrive Productions as Production Assistant/Executive Asst. to the President/CEO Pamela Bolling where he facilitated shows for Celebrity Cruises & many other companies. Many of his coached students have pursued professional work on Broadway, tv, movies, Radio City Rockettes, BadBoysOfDance, and assistants to NYCDA, Jump, Nuvo, Dance Makers, and Pulse. Chris is currently finished on the movie "1 Chance 2 Dance" filmed in LA as choreographer & played the role of "Alex." IMDB.

Chris coaches all over the U.S. using his specialized form of teaching, working on body alignment, conditioning, strength, stretch, across the floor, and combo. Chris is currently on faculty for Inspire Dance Convention, Encore Extreme, Beyond Limits Dance Convention, and DMA touring the US. Chris is the CEO and residing Artistic Director of E'clatez Production Company in which he produces and choreographs Cabaret Shows for venues in the Southeast. For more info. visit FBook/YouTube/Twitter/Instagram. www.shipshoreproductions.com



Charlie Lazar Womble, originally from Los Angeles, California, started dance at the age of 3. He was the recipient of the National Society of the Arts Award, received an Honorable Mention Scholarship Award, and the Mary Fife Memorial Award in Classical Ballet. After graduating High School in 1997, he relocated to Atlanta where he danced with the Atlanta Ballet, and also performed in the Corps. Mr. Womble took on principle roles in the Nutcracker, Don Quixote, and Romeo & Juliette. At the age of 17 Lazar joined the Colorado Ballet company and became a lead soloist for 3 years. Later he joined the Boston Ballet with the Esemble and as a soloist.

Mr. Womble earned his Bachelor of Art in Fashion, with a Minor in Musical Theater at Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD). During his studies, he performed with the Savannah Ballet and Savannah Performing Arts Ballet Company. He also utilized his talent with the Sankofa Dance Theater, specializing in Modern and African Dance. From 2001-2004 Lazar danced for Disney Theme Parks and Disney Cruise Lines in Orlando Florida. While there he performed lead roles in Tarzan and Beauty & The Beast. He also danced in musical performances featuring National Recording Artists such as Moriah Carey and Brittany Spears. He has also taught at a number of studios in Georgia & Florida and he is known for his National Award winning choreography



Marisa Dolan Started dancing in Jacksonville, Florida training in ballet, contemporary, lyrical, jazz, modern, and hip-hop. Marisa studied dance at Jacksonville University and was a part of a contemporary/hip-hop company called A Rhythm Nation. As a freshman, she traveled with Jacksonville University students to perform a show on the ABC Island, Curacao. Marisa attended the Gelsey Kirkland Academy of Classical Ballet Summer Intensive in New York City and got to work with Gelsey Kirkland herself. She was then accepted to

the Broadway Dance Center's Professional Semester Program and moved to New York City. She has been on Good Morning America and danced with the Broadway cast of Spiderman: Turn off the Dark in their final Gypsy of the Year performance. Also in New York, she was a part of JT Lotus Dance Company and performed in many shows throughout New York and surrounding areas. Marisa has since then moved to Orlando, FL. She is currently dancing at Universal Studios Orlando in The Marilyn Monroe show and other seasonal events. Marisa is continuing to teach and work as a freelance dancer.



Diana Ford was born in Costa Rica. She began her dance training in Miami, Florida, under the instruction of Pepe Bronce, Vivian Tobio, Maria Eugenia Lorenzo, and Manuel Castro. While furthering her dance education at New World School of the Arts College, she performed as a soloist with the Pepe Bronce Flamenco Company, and began working in the commercial dance industry. Diana also had the privilege of performing alongside dance icon Mikhail Baryshnikov. Upon graduating from NWSA with

a BFA in dance, she spent a summer as a scholarship student at the Martha Graham Dance Center, and was a featured performer in an off-broadway production of Rumba Dreams, both in New York City. Soon after, Diana was invited to join Miami Contemporary Dance Company and was a featured company dancer for 7 years. She also danced with the Cuban Classical Ballet of Miami, and did a variety of commercial work, including television work for Univision. Diana has also performed on several TV shows alongside artists such as Pitbull, David Bisbal, and Willy Chirino, and was a dancer for the MTV VMA's in Miami. She has taught and choreographed for several dance schools and studios throughout South Florida, and is currently the assistant dance director at Miami Arts Charter School. Diana is a member of the National Dance Education Organization and the Florida Dance Education Organization.



Erin Demers has been a professional in the dance industry for fourteen years. She has been fortunate to train with some of the greatest including the University of South Carolina dance faculty, Columbia City Ballet, Gaye Baxley of Madeleine Walker Coastal Ballet, Hilton Head Ballet Theatre, and numerous others on the convention circuit. An avid student, Erin believes that training and being a student should never stop as long as one is in this

industry!

Though currently on staff with three studios, Erin has had the good fortune to travel to many studios throughout the South Eastern United States to teach, choreograph, and judge. She has choreographed for multiple pageants, most recently for the Miss Georgia Southern Pageant. Erin lives to teach dance and hopes that her love radiates outwardly! She is so excited to be a part of the Inspire staff!



Kara Johnson is originally from Boston, Massachusetts. After winning the title of Regional Grand Champion in tap she moved to Atlanta Georgia in 1993. Kara performed in the 1996 Olympic Games and Superbowl XXIV in 2000. She has danced alongside greats including Celine Dion, Gloria Estefan, Liza Minelli, Travis Tritt, and Savion Glover. Currently Kara teaches at several metro Atlanta dance studios and has held the title of Tap Artistic Director with Dance Contempra for over 15 years. She is lucky enough to travel across the United States teaching Master Classes, judging various talent competitions and working with the Miss Georgia pageant system. Recently she choreographed *Singin' in the Rain*, *Shrek the Musical*, and *Les Miserables* for local theatre companies and schools. Her choreography has won numerous awards including Top Tap, Precision, and Entertainment. Kara is proud of her B.S from Georgia State and her M.S. in Early Childhood Education from The University of Phoenix.



Maddie Kurtz is originally from Westport, CT, and received her early dance training at the D'valda and Sirico Dance and Music Centre under the direction of Angela D'valda Sirico, Steve Sirico, Jessica Stafford, and Jason Marquette. She holds a BA in Dance and Religious Studies from Colby College and an MFA in Dance Performance and Choreography from SUNY Brockport. Her most recent performance credits include works by contemporary dance leaders including Julia Burre, Heidi Henderson, Annie Kloppenberg, Paul Matteson, and Kendra Portier. Maddie continues to teach and choreograph at studios and universities along the East Coast, while also creating and producing contemporary dance works for the concert stage with her company, MKrep. With interests rooted in the overlaps between concert and commercial dance, she has presented research at conferences including the National Dance Education Organization, The Dance Studies Association, and the Popular Culture Association. Maddie is a sought-after teacher and adjudicator.



Brittany Noltimier Brittany Noltimier is the proud founder of Entr'acte Dance Prep, LLC; a private coaching service for the serious dancer. Her goal is to help performers find their niche and bring it to the stage. As a national judge, she gets to see many talented performers dance their hearts out but she wants to give back more than just talking to a headset. Brittany's passion is to build connections with dancers worldwide and bring those critiques to a reality; allowing our inner artist to become vulnerable for corrections and improvement.

Brittany grew up on a farm in Devils Lake, ND where she danced and taught at her mother's dance studio, Miki's School of Dance. For Brittany dance was her passion so she presumed it professionally at the prestigious Oklahoma City University, specializing in Performance and Pedagogy, and graduating with a Bachelors in Fine Arts. Under the direction of Jo Rowan, she is professionally trained in ballet, tap, jazz, musical theater, contemporary, and dance pedagogy. After graduating college, Brittany worked as a dancer in NYC in productions such as *West Side Story* and taught for *Dance Olympus*.

Currently, she resides in Orlando, Florida and was just seen dancing at *Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom* for the Christmas event. She also performs at *Universal Studios*, *Legoland FL*, and *Seaworld*. Brittany is a proud member of JunNK; a percussion/tap/variety arts show of 4 people that will be debuting in Orlando in 2019. She also serves as both a regional and national judge for several dance competitions.



NaShayla Jones was born and raised in Marietta, Georgia. She began training in ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop modern and musical theater at very early age. NaShayla grew up a "competition kid". During her competition years she was able to assist and be the mentee to many notable choreographers. She later went on to graduate from the University of Alabama where she earned a B.A. in Dance and social work. During her time at Alabama, NaShayla was a member of the Alabama Repertory Dance Theater, the university's pre-professional dance company. While a member of the company she was selected to perform at The American College Dance Festival. NaShayla was also given the privilege to be an American Ballet theater counselor for three years. In recent years, she has worked for the Universal Dance Association as a head instructor, rehearsal director, and judge. NaShayla has judged for well-known competitions both regionally and nationally, and now takes her own students to competitions every year. NaShayla has received numerous choreography awards for her work in Contemporary, Lyrical, and Jazz. She's had the opportunity to work with many studios throughout the south and east coast as a guest instructor/ teacher. NaShayla currently choreographs for studios, competitive cheerleading squads and dance teams, pageants, and industrials. She loves and believes in the art of dance and cannot wait to see it expand.



Nicole Campbell is a professional dancer, choreographer and instructor currently based in Atlanta. Hailing from metro Detroit, she received her B.S. in Dance from Wayne State University after her childhood training at Robert Lee School of Dance and Churchill High School's Creative and Performing Arts program. Performance credits include Hannibal Buress, Maksim Chmerkovskiy, JTDance, Gotta Dance Contemporary, Melodic Nocturne Dance Tribe and halftime shows for the Detroit Lions and Detroit Pistons. Nicole's choreographic works have been presented in concerts for artLabJ and MoreDances Contemporary Dance Company in addition to receiving frequent top honors in competitions.



Megan Montgomery comes to us from Detroit, Michigan where she was a company member of Limon-based, modern dance company, DDCdances. Also a graduate of Wayne State University, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, she's performed work by Biba Bell, Sidra Bell, Harriet Berg, Rachael Harbert, Kristi Faulkner, Stephanie Laipis, Chris Masters, Addison O'Day, Barb Selinger, Sonya Tayeh, Colleen Thomas, Ronnie Todorowski and Marcus White. Megan studied on scholarship in Chicago at Giordano's Dance School, on scholarship in Detroit at Complexions Contemporary Ballet Intensive, and in Detroit at Sidra Bell Dance NY. She is a Harriet Berg Endowed Scholarship for Choreography recipient. Prior to DDCdances, Megan was a three-year member of Mack Avenue Dance Company, in conjunction with ChrisMastersDance, and a three-year member of the Detroit Pistons Dance Team, where she was recognized for leadership, and outstanding performance quality. In addition to choreographing and performing, Megan is a dance educator and guest teacher at numerous pre professional studios. She adjudicates for various dance competitions, is a Pilates Mat instructor, and a 200-hour Certified Regional Yoga Teacher through Yoga Alliance. Upon relocating to central Florida, Megan took a position with Windermere High School. She is a UDA Credentialized Coach of the Varsity and Junior Varsity Dance Team, a program created and directed uniquely by her. In "real life," you can find Megan on her yoga mat and dog walking!



Cassandra Pappy is a professional dancer, choreographer, and teacher currently living in Raleigh, North Carolina. Originally from Charlotte, her breadth of dance experience has afforded her the opportunity to train and work with teachers, choreographers, dance teams and students across the nation. She received her early competitive dance training from Dance Productions Performing Arts Studio and pursued higher education at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro where she served as a member and co-captain of the Spartan G's dance team. Upon graduating from the university in 2012, she received a B.A. in Dance with a K-12 teaching license in dance. She has trained in the genres of ballet, jazz, tap, contemporary, west african, hip hop and heels technique.

As a competitive dancer, Cassandra held the title of Miss Dance of North Carolina 2007. She also won the title of National Champion Senior Soloist at StarSystems Dance Competition in Las Vegas in 2008. Cassandra continued her dancing career as a member of Technoja Theater and Dance Company for two years post-college. As a part of the company, Cassandra danced and acted in productions such as "The Color Purple" and "Dreamgirls". In 2015, she appeared in the movie *Bolden!* and choreographed and performed for international recording artist IYAZ. In 2016, Cassandra choreographed and performed for Grammy nominated producer/artist Imani as an opening act for Chris Brown's Royalty Tour. In that same year, her professional dance company Elite DanceWerks LLC. (EDW) was founded. In 2017, Cassandra toured & performed as a back-up dancer for platinum recording artist Ginuwine, traveling to Paris, Great Britain, and Germany. Cassandra's extensive background in performance, dance education, and choreography led to the creation of EDW. The company began as a summer project and blossomed into an effort to reach and inspire dancers in and outside of North Carolina. EDW's services target dancers from the ages of 7 and up. The company specializes in private lessons, choreography, performance pieces, and master classes



Mindy Medina began her dance training at the age of three in Mobile, Alabama under the director of Melinda Lee. Her father was in the military so moving was a giving. Mindy continued dancing through the years in Quantico Virginia, Jacksonville North Carolina, and Beaufort South Carolina. She has studied and danced with Jacksonville Civic Ballet, Carolina Dance Masters, and Tremaine dance. She has performed lead rolls in the *Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *Capella Ballet*. Mindy has had training in a large variety of dance through the years including Ballet, Pointe, Tap, Jazz, Hip-hop, Lyrical, Modern, Musical, Pom, Cheer, Tumbling and Baton. Mindy began her assistant teaching in 2004 in Beaufort South Carolina in Jazz, Ballet and Tap. She fell in love with teaching and someday dreamed of opening her own studio. She made that dream a reality in 2012 in Sneads Ferry North Carolina opening Mindy's Dance Attack. Her students have won numerus titles, scholarships, top highest scores and overall awards at regional and national competitions. Mindy is a nationally certified member of Carolina Dance Master and Dance Masters of America. She began judging last year with Dance machine productions/Boogie fever under Will Shover. She is excited to share her love for dance, knowledge and passion.



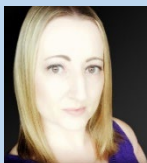
Jamie Yelunder has thirty-five years of dance training and has been a dance instructor for the twenty-two years. As a child she trained under Angela Franko-Burns at Dancer's Pointe. From there she went on to train at many other studios across Georgia including the prestigious Georgia Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, and Ruth Mitchell. Jamie has performed many leading roles such as Cinderella, Roxie in Chicago, Christine in Phantom of the Opera, and Alice in Alice in Wonderland. Jamie is an energetic teacher who is proficient in ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, contemporary, lyrical, bachata & salsa. She is a graduate of Georgia State University and holds a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Psychology with an emphasis in Early Childhood Psychology. Jamie enjoys teaching adults and children of all ages. She has owned and operated her own studio, Steps Dance Center in North Georgia for over 16 years. Her competitive dancers have won numerous awards at both regional and national dance competitions and she also won numerous "Best Choreography" awards. She also choreographs and guest teaches for many studios across the east coast. Seeing students making improvements in their technique and artistic growth is her greatest joy. Jamie choreographed scenes in the movie "The Change Up" starring Ryan Reynolds & Jason Bateman. Not only did she train the child actresses Sydney Rouvieve and Faith Aldhoff for the dance scene, she worked alongside legendary stuntman Jack Gill to choreograph stunts in the movie. Jamie is so proud of her tiny ballerina's who were also cast in the dance scene. For the past four years Jamie has produced an in-house studio convention called Elev8. She has brought in numerous choreographers and instructors spanning from the artists of So You Think You Can Dance to up and coming professionals working in the dance industry.

Jamie is extremely proud of her dancers that have gone on to pursue dance as a career as studio owners, Broadway and cruise ship performers and gifted dance instructors. Jamie is extremely dedicated to the art of dance and considers herself blessed to have a career encompassing her passion for dance and love for children.



Carissa Bishop is originally from Rome, NY, and trained competitively under Charlene and Cristina Topor, as well as her mother, Leah Bishop, at Empire Center of Dance. Graduating from The College at Brockport, SUNY, with a BFA in Dance, Carissa had the opportunity to perform works by prominent contemporary choreographers: James Hansen, Laura Peterson, Jordan Lloyd, MADELINE ROSE KURTZ, and

Cameron McKinney. Throughout her collegiate career, she performed at the Rochester Fringe Festival and the American College Dance Association Regional Conference, and she continues to perform professionally in New York City. Carissa is also noted for her national title-winning choreography as a captain of the Brockport Dance Team. Currently, she teaches and choreographs for numerous dance studios and companies across the country, from New York to Florida. She performs with contemporary dance company, MKrep., and continues to work as a freelance performer. Carissa is currently located in Tampa, FL, where she teaches, choreographs, performs, and curates her contemporary company Bishop | Dance.



Donna Lynch began her training at Knecht Dance Academy in Levittown, PA under the direction of master teacher Fred Knecht. She was a member of their competition team, and studied ballet, pointe, modern, tap, and jazz. She is a certified member of Dance Masters of America, a graduate of the DMA Teacher's Training School, and a current member of the Mid-Atlantic Dance Masters Chapter 17. Donna has 12 years of studio teaching

experience, teaching ballet, pointe, and contemporary for Innovations Dance Center in York, PA. She continues to train students privately and choreograph competition routines at Adrenaline Dance of York. Donna is currently a freelance teacher and choreographer for a high school musical theater program, a director of the board for DMA Chapter 17, and Treasurer for the Unity Dance Organization.



Corinne Wilson is an Orlando based dancer and choreographer. She has choreographed numerous musicals, dance films and dance concerts nationally and internationally and has been teaching for well over a decade. Favorite choreography credits include, Freaky Friday the Musical (Florida), Grease the Musical, Life/Art Dance Film Festival, (Colorado) and Expressions Film Festival (India). She has a BFA in Dance Performance and Choreography from Elon University and studied with the Rockettes for five summers. She interned at McDonald Selznick Associates (MSA) - Los Angeles, one of the top dance agencies in the country. She was the Interim Head of Dance for a performing arts school in Dublin, Ireland, and has performed for Dance. Art. Media. Studios in Denver, Colorado, St. Luke's Theatre and at Osceola Arts in Orlando. She has written over 200 pages of classic jazz dance analysis and created numerous jazz works based on this research.

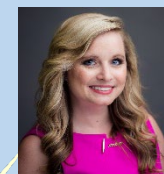


Antwan Sessions, native of Charleston, South Carolina started his dancing career while attending North Springs High School in Sandy Springs, Georgia. There he found his passion for dance. While searching for outside training, Antwan joined "Total Dance" in Adamsville, Georgia where he studied Ballet, Modern, & Jazz dance. Since then he has attended several dance school under full scholarships, which included Renaissance International School of Performing Arts (RISPA) in Milton, Georgia, Atlanta's Resource for Entertainment & Arts (AREA) in Atlanta, Georgia, and Metropolitan Ballet Theatre in Alpharetta, Georgia to name a few. Antwan's passion for dance has allowed him to perform and teach in places like Denver, San Francisco, Mexico, Canada, China, Europe, Africa and so many more. Some of Antwan's credits include: Assisting for Georgina Louchiey who's the Artistic Director/Co Owner of RISPA. He's danced for Tracy Vogt of Philadanco, Kim Robards of Kim Robards Dance, Kiki Ely of ATLA, Stephan Reynolds of Cirque Du Soleil, and Jeffrey Page former choreographer for So You Think You Can Dance and Beyonce. Not limiting himself to concert dance, Antwan was the principal dancer for Sea Beach Resort in Egypt for a year, and he also danced with former Danity Kane member D. Woods in her music video "Best You Got". He toured China with pop artist Christah Ray as well as artist Nikk Jane. He is now the Founder of his own Contemporary Ballet Company Lamorris Namari, and Artistic Director/Owner of Namari Dance Center



Courtney Eierman is a native of Atlanta who has been dancing since the age of 3. She received her BA in Business Management and Dance Minor from the University of Central Florida in 2013. During her junior year, she founded The Knights and Damsels Dance Company – the first technique-based dance organization at the University of Central Florida. Courtney's true passion is teaching dance, setting choreography & judging at dance competitions. She has taught dance to students of all ages since 2010. When teaching, Courtney encourages students to balance technique with style. She breaks down each movement so that her students have a better understanding of their alignment and intention. Courtney hopes every student comes to every class with a positive energy and leaves every class feeling inspired. While she enjoys teaching all forms of dance – from lyrical to jazz to hip-hop – she is most well-known for her award-winning Contemporary choreography. Her students have been

awarded prizes ranging from Apogee, People's Choice, Top Scores, Title Winners and more. Courtney has choreographed for some of the country's top talent and is currently the competition team manager at Skyra Studios – A performing arts academy in Central Florida. She also travels as an adjudicator and master class instructor.



Kate Collins is the owner and artistic director of Art of Dance Studio and the non-profit organization Art of Dance, Inc. She is originally from Raleigh, North Carolina where she started dancing at the age of two. Kate found her passion for dance with Classical Ballet and Pointe training as a member of the company at the Triangle Academy of Ballet, taking classes under instructors from the Carolina Ballet Company. Such technical education influenced her to have a strong focus on technique and conditioning for performance-based arts. At the Academy for Performing Arts and throughout college, she studied Tap, Jazz, Ballet, Pointe, Lyrical, Contemporary, Choreography, Acrobatics, Pilates, Hip-Hop, Musical Theatre and was a member of the UNCW dance team. Most of her time was spent traveling to conventions, performances and competitions where she was awarded countless awards and scholarships through: New York City Dance Alliance, Showstoppers, SHOCK the Intensive, JUMP and many others. She was awarded a scholarship to attend Broadway Dance Center in New York under tap enthusiast Mike Minery. This memorable experience help mold the choreographer, educator and philanthropist she is today. In 2016, she created a non-profit company, Art of Dance, Inc that provides scholarships for children's dance education and college dance education. Kate has a bachelor's degree in Psychology (child development emphasis), Philosophy and Religion and feels that dance unites different types of cultures in a fundamental way. Kate truly loves teaching, performing and inspiring others to be their best. She believes that dance is an enlightening form of expression that every child can learn and grow creatively from.



Erika Hogan is originally from Sumter, South Carolina. At the age of 2, Erika began taking dance classes and has not stopped since! Erika has trained extensively in tap, jazz, ballet, modern, contemporary, and acrobatics. Erika received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Dance Performance, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Fitness and Wellness, and a Master of Science Degree in Kinesiology/Health and Physical Education from Winthrop University. Erika has performed with Royal Caribbean Cruise lines, the Southern Sports Awards, the Winthrop Dance Theater, Columbia City Ballet, Nickelodeon Productions, and she was inducted in the Dance Hall of Fame. Erika has also appeared in the television shows Army Wives, Heartland, and Outbreak along with several movie appearances. Erika is a sought after choreographer that has choreographed professional shows at Carowinds, Royal Caribbean, Pageants, and more! Erika is a Studio Owner and Artistic Director.



Meghan Burgess is a Charleston, South Carolina native. She grew up training and competing in Ballet, Modern, Contemporary, Hip-Hop, Jazz, and Tap. Meghan found her love for teaching while attending the College of Charleston where she graduated with a BA in Arts Management and Dance Minor. Meghan has had the chance to train with choreographers such as Stacy McConnell, Mia Cunningham, Mia Michaels, and many more. Meghan led multiples competition teams to Regional and National victories winning high score, overall, entertainment and choreography awards. Her students have won titles such as Junior Mister Dance of America, Junior Miss Dance USA and Mister Dance of America. Several students have gone on to dance with top collegiate dance teams at Clemson University, Winthrop University and the University of South Carolina, Norwegian Cruise Lines and Disney. She is nationally certified by Dance Masters of America in Ballet, Jazz, and Modern and enjoys traveling to share her love of dance with others. Meghan currently resides in Atlanta, GA.



Kristen Brister has over 20 years of dance experience, and has studied and taught many different dance styles in her hometown of Memphis, TN. Kristen received the bulk of her training from Nadine Smith & Jackie Chartrand at NVS Dance, one of Tennessee's top 3 dance schools. Under their direction she won numerous local and national championships in Jazz, Tap, and Pom. Kristen also studied Vaganova style ballet under Nora Curran at the Allegro Ballet Academy, and was also a member of the Oakland Youth Ballet. In high school, she found her place as Director of Pre-Dance and Director of Enrollment at a studio in Cordova, TN. Her students have received top honors at competitions and they have performed all over this area. During college, Kristen joined the faculty of a local studio and was trained under Susu Hale Prout, owner of a nationally renowned Children's Dance Program. Kristen's love of teaching the smallest dancers as well as working with the company dancers is shown every day. She is known for her positive spirit and outgoing personality. Kristen is a graduate of the University of Alabama with a BA in Dance. While at the University she thrived in her dance education classes and was invited to teach dance at many of the area public schools. She is thrilled to join the judging team at Inspire and can't wait to share her knowledge with your students.

Inspire National Dance Competition