

## 2026 INVITATIONAL JUDGES



**MIRANDA CALHOUN** has been the Spirit Coordinator and Head Dance Team Coach at Mount St. Joseph University for 4 years. She graduated from West Virginia University in 2020 with a Masters of Science Degree in Sports Management. Miranda is also a 2015 graduate from the University of Missouri with a Masters of Education, School, and Counseling, Sports Psychology degree along with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Dance Education from 2012. She was the Head Dance Team Coach at Bowling Green State University from 2012-2022. Miranda comes to the Mount with a decade of high-level experience in dance leadership, spirit program management, and collegiate athletics. She is also going into her 14th year being a certified judge for Universal Dance Association (UDA).

Miranda is currently working on her Doctor of Educational Leadership Degree from Youngstown State University and is the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) DEI Representative for Mount St Joseph University.



**KATIE GASKAMP** is a native of Columbus, OH and began training in ballet, jazz and contemporary at a young age. She attended Akron University as a dance and education major, later transferring to Ohio State University where she graduated with a degree in early childhood development and a dance minor. Katie has trained under Missy Lay Zimmer, Andrew Hubbard and Jennifer Rutherford since 2008. Katie has also served as a tribe member, rehearsal director and now resident choreographer for Exhale Dance Tribe in Cincinnati, a contemporary jazz company. Katie has performed alongside Bootsy Collins, Over The Rhine and assisted Zimmer & Hubbard in Cincinnati Ballet's 2013 performance with Frampton Live!

Katie is currently a Master Teacher Trainer and Choreographer for Pure Barre and is the Regional Director of Operations with Xponential Fitness. When Katie is not teaching barre or pilates, she choreographs groups, solos and local musicals around the Tri-State area.



**ANNA HILTY** is a choreographer and dance educator known for her creativity, electric energy, and deep passion for the dance team world. Originally from Eastern Washington, Anna grew up training in ballet and all-star dance, performing with Mid-Columbia Ballet and Eastern Washington Elite. From a young age, she trained under industry legends like Karl Mundt and Tabitha & Napoleon D'umo, and spent her summers training in LA at Millennium Dance Complex.

She went on to dance for the University of Cincinnati from 2009–2013, where she was a part of representing Team USA three times on the international stage. During her time in college, she dove headfirst into choreography and has spent the last 20+ years working with dancers at every level, high school to collegiate to all-star and professional, pushing them forward.

Her choreography and consulting has been featured on some of the most elite dance team stages in the country, with programs like the University of Minnesota Pom, Boise State University TEAM USA, Team Austria, The Ohio State University, Washington State University, LSU and Rutgers. She also works with powerhouse high school and all-star programs like Seton, Highland, Linn-Mar, Chartiers Valley, The Academy of Holy Angels, AZ Aces and Dance Dynamics All Stars.

Whether she's crafting sharp visuals, developing team identity, or building powerful musical moments, Anna brings a signature mix of style, intention, and heart to everything she touches. Her choreography is known for being bold, and meaningful, and her goal is always to help dancers feel confident, inspired, and proud of the work they put on the floor.

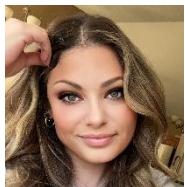
She is currently the Assistant Dance Team Coach at Boise State University. When she's not coaching, choreographing, consulting, or traveling, Anna is most proud to be a wife and mom to her husband Hayden and their two boys, Asher and Haze. At home, you'll usually find her teaching, in the kitchen cooking with music turned all the way up, or trying to keep up with the never-ending task of cleaning up after little feet.



**HEATHER HOLLIDAY** is a resident of London, KY. She began her dance career at 8 years old and started teaching and doing choreography at age 14. Heather has trained in all areas of dance including classical ballet, lyrical, jazz, modern, tap, hip hop and contemporary.

Heather began her training at the Gail Fredrick School of Dance in Corbin KY. She spent the summer of 1988 at the Enid Knapp Botsford School of Dance where she got to train under the supervision of Mikhail Baryshnikov. Heather competed in the regional and national Stars of Tomorrow competition where she placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation at age 14 in ballet solo. Heather joined the London School of Dance in 1990 where she trained under amazing instructors including Jan Hurst, Jennique Wolfe and Linda Miller Hathaway. At age 16 she was recruited by a talent scout and invited to Dance at the 1994 Opening Ceremonies of the Goodwill Games held in St. Petersburg, Russia. One of Heather's favorite accolades was in 1992 when she was 1 of 16 dancers selected out of the state of Kentucky to attend The Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts in the form of dance. Heather began to travel all over the country to study with instructors such as Gus Giordano and Luigi. In 1995-96, Heather played the roles in traveling productions of *Fame* and *Grease*. Heather began dancing with the Lexington Ballet in 1996-1998.

In 1999 Heather began teaching and choreographing full time. She retired from her studio in 2019 with 14 National Titles, 3 World Titles, and 1 Summit World Title. She is a credentialed judge for the Universal Dance Association, National Dance Association, Varsity All Star, and is honored to be a veteran judge for The National and World Competitions for UDA.



**SARAH INGRAM** has been dancing since the age of three and her background includes Jazz, Lyrical, Tap, Contemporary, Modern, Ballet, and Hip-Hop. In addition to her studio training, she spent years in competitive dance, holding the position of officer for multiple seasons and Captain her senior year where she was nationally ranked in leadership. Her team also was highly ranked winning National titles in the Officer, Jazz, and Lyrical categories.

After her graduation from Northmont High School, Sarah continued her dance career by auditioning and being selected for the Wright State University dance department. While there, she trained under very respected and disciplined faculty, and appeared in multiple dance concerts and student productions. Sarah received her degree in fine & performing arts in 2006. After graduation Sarah was thrilled to travel to Las Vegas in the fall of 2006 for THE PULSE dance convention sponsored by Broadway Dance Center of NYC. She trained in all styles of dance from many of the celebrated choreographers of the hit TV show, *So You Think You Can Dance*.

Sarah coached and choreographed the Vantasia Dance Team for 14 years winning numerous awards and National titles in the Showcase America Unlimited, Ameridance, NexStar, Masquerade & Kids Artistic Revue competition circuits, including 5 Showcase National Grand Champion titles, and 17 National Gold medals in the officer and team categories. A highlight from her Vantasia career was the team making Showcase Nationals history winning the Best of the Best bronze, silver, and gold medals in 2013. Sarah was a choreographer of the year finalist for Platinum National Dance Competition for her routine "People help the People." In addition, she is also celebrating her 20th year on staff at Dance Expressions Dance Studio where she is a 6th year coach/choreographer for the Junior Expressions, Senior Expressions, and multiple competitive soloists. She also enjoyed 4 seasons as coach/choreographer for the Vandalia Butler High School Kickline.

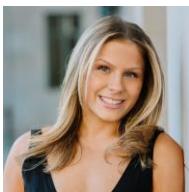
Over the years, her students have enjoyed much success and continue to show growth and excel in technique, style, and performance. Sarah has 4 personal dogs, has fostered 31 dogs and counting, and works heavily in the animal welfare & rescue field.



**MELISSA KIDD** is the owner of Dance Technician - a private strength training facility for dancers rooted in Pilates. With a global reach, she trains dancers both in person and virtually across 10+ countries, focusing on technique, strength, flexibility and injury prevention.

A former competitive studio owner of 10 years, she brings deep expertise in educating dancers from early childhood through high school. Certified in Pilates, aerial yoga, early childhood dance education, and injury prevention; Melissa blends artistry, education and movement science.

She is a seasoned adjudicator and national dance team consultant having worked with over 50 high school and collegiate teams nationwide. She has served as a USASF legality official and judge for over 7 years and has judged events such as NDA/UDA High School Nationals, College Nationals, many regional all-star and school dance events across the country, and has been nominated and been a part of The Dance Worlds as a Legality Official and on the Contemporary/Lyrical panel since 2016.



**TARYN PFEIFENBERGER** grew up in Shelby Township, Michigan, where she danced both competitively and as an All-Star dancer. She achieved nine world championships at the USASF World Championship, along with multiple national titles. In high school, Taryn was a four-year member of the Eisenhower Varsity Dance Team and served as captain her senior year. During her tenure, the team secured six national championships, and in 2018, she represented the U.S. National Team in both Jazz and Hip Hop.

Recently, Taryn completed her fourth season with the University of Minnesota Dance Team, earning four national championships in D1A Pom and Jazz. This year, she again represented the U.S. National Team in both Pom and Jazz, winning gold for Pom and silver for Jazz.

She also choreographs for teams nationwide, with her work earning top placements at the national level. Dedicated to inspiring the next generation of dancers, Taryn travels nationwide to coach, choreograph, and share her passion for the sport.



**LAUREN BYRD SALGADO** grew up in Tennessee where she trained at the Oak Ridge Academy of Dance. She attended the University of Memphis as a member and captain of the Memphis Pom Squad from 2009-2014. Lauren was also a member of Team USA Hip Hop 2012 and won the UDA College Hip Hop National Championship in 2011 and 2012. She went on to dance professionally in the NBA for six seasons with the Memphis Grizzlies.

Lauren was also a veteran and head instructor for UDA for five years at the high school and collegiate levels. She is a former coach of the JV program at Arlington High School where she led the team to an NDA Junior Grand Championship. Lauren has been a part of a variety of judging panels for various brands as well as special events on the national, collegiate, and international levels for over ten years. She has been on panels for many regional and national competitions such as UDA High School Nationals, UDA College Nationals and also the judging panel at The Dance Worlds. She currently resides in Atlanta, GA.



**LAUREN STORM** discovered her love for dance at a young age in Dayton, Ohio, immersing herself in a wide range of styles. As a competitive dancer with both her studio and high school team, she quickly fell in love with competitive dance, laying a strong foundation for the dynamic career that would follow.

Lauren continued her pursuit of excellence at the University of Cincinnati as a member of the varsity dance team, where she contributed to two UDA National Championships and three ICU World Championships in both hip hop and pom divisions. Upon graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Communication, Marketing, and Public Relations, Lauren launched her professional career with Exhale Dance Tribe in Cincinnati, training and performing for three seasons.

Seeking further growth, she relocated to New York City to train at the renowned Broadway Dance Center. While in NYC, she performed at prestigious venues including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and had the privilege of presenting works by acclaimed choreographers Keenan Cooks, Sheila Barker, and Phil Orsano. During this time, she also shared her passion by teaching and choreographing at studios across the city.

In 2020, Lauren returned to the Cincinnati area, where she continues to inspire the next generation as a teacher and choreographer for multiple studios and competitive programs.



**STEVEN THORNTON** is a Lexington native who originally made his debut in the cheer community but quickly found his home in the dance world. His dance career began at the University of Kentucky where he had the privilege of dancing, finding himself as a choreographer, and even coaching a season.

As he finished up at UK he went on to teach nationally for NDA and explore the judging side of the sport.

Over the last 25 years he then choreographed for and coached a number of programs across the nation in multiple divisions and styles. He's even been fortunate enough to achieve numerous regional, state and national titles.

After spending 10 years in Denver with Peak Athletics, Steven has relocated back to the Tri-State area where he continues to share his passion and love for helping dancers and programs achieve their goals of finding their voice and spot on the dance floor.



**BRANDI TUCKER** grew up in Central IL dancing with Art In Motion Dance Studio on the competitive team. She spent her weekends traveling to conventions and workshops all across the Midwest. Once she graduated high school, she went to Louisiana State University where she was a member of the LSU Tiger Girls Dance Team.

After graduating from LSU with a degree in Physical Therapy, she started traveling across the world teaching and choreographing for studios and dance teams. She has since formed her own choreography company called BTUCK Choreography, LLC where she and a team of choreographers work with studios, high school, college and all-star dance teams.

Since the beginning of her choreography career, she has taken home 23 National Championship titles, 5 NDA Innovative Choreography Awards, and 2 DTU Battle Cups. Her choreography has won numerous overalls and special awards throughout the years. She has a passion for teaching and loves nothing more than sharing that love for dance with the next generation.