



JUDGES BIOGRAPHIES: 2021 / 2022



SHANNON BARRETT - Shannon has been part of the dance industry for over 30 years. Hailing from Dearborn Heights, MI, she studied various disciplines, performed for the Detroit Pistons & Rockers, choreographed local productions and has taught both competitively and recreationally at multiple studios through out the metro Detroit area. She has transformed competitive Tap Dance programs into platinum, & overall winning pieces that also won entertainment & showstopper awards in a matter of months. Her group, trio, duo and solo pieces have won high awards as well as overall awards at competitions throughout the U.S. and has received choreography awards for entertainment value, intensity and technique. Shannon has worked as a dance and cheer coach, pompon coach, dance instructor, choreographer and competition judge for over 15 years. Her students have gone on to study with Alvin Ailey, earn college degrees in Dance Education, become members of the

Detroit Tap Repertory and even become dance teachers! Shannon enjoys age appropriate choreography that pushes the envelope in a creative way. She currently teaches dance at multiple studios in metro Detroit.

JILL CASSIDY - Jill Cassidy is from the Detroit area where she works as a choreographer, dancer and fitness instructor. Jill has lived in Los Angeles where she trained with top choreographers and worked on film, television and stage. She has worked with artists such as Shirley MacLaine, Debbie Reynolds, George Clooney, Usher, Miley Cyrus and Tracy Ullman. Her award winning choreography can be seen nationally and internationally, most recently traveling to Helsinki, Finland. On top of studio and company work, Jill works with high school and college dance programs including Harvard University, Oakland University, Wayne State University and Grand Valley State. She has worked with companies such as Xbox, Chevy, Comerica Bank, General Motors, Match.com, House of Marley, Ziebart International and local Detroit radio stations Radio Disney AM910 and Channel 955. Jill was choreographer for the television series The Wannabes which aired on Starz and is currently a dancer/choreographer on tour for the show Your Generation in Concert. She works with talent at Motor City Casino and is the founder/producer of the live stage show, Motor City Choreography Collective. Jill also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications.





JENNA BELIAN – Jenna has been dancing since she was 3 years old, dancing competitively with studios, her high school team, and her collegiate dance team. She is currently a senior at Davenport University and will be graduating in May with a Bachelor of Science. She is currently a captain of the Davenport University Dance Team, helping to lead the team to a national title in 2020. Jenna has been active in pageantry, competing in the Miss America Organization for four years, holding four titles. She has competed at the state pageant four times as well, placing top 10 and winning a community service award. Jenna has held various teaching and coaching roles throughout her dance career and hopes to continue her dance career professionally after graduation. This is Jenna’s 4th year working for Dance Force Xpress and enjoys the excitement of competition day. She brings a wonderful vibe to the DFX team!

LAUREN NEUMAN – Lauren has been teaching dance and directing children's theater for over 20 years. She studied dance throughout her childhood in the Milford area and continued her dance education at Western Michigan University. She trained with Director Michael Klier writing and directing murder mysteries and children's entertainment events at venues such as The Detroit Princess Riverboat, Crystal Gardens as well as The Star Clipper Dinner Train. Lauren has directed Children's Theatre Workshops for Brighton Area Schools, Huron Valley Schools, Rochester Community Schools, and South Lyon Area Schools. Lauren also attended Eastern Michigan University to study Therapeutic Recreation. She then went on to work as a dance movement specialist for students with special abilities. Afterwards, Lauren spent five years developing a yoga teacher training curriculum that she now runs through her own yoga studio in Waterford, Michigan.



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