

## INTRODUCING OUR JUDGES . . .



**Emily Kinker** is a certified Dance Masters of America instructor, choreographer and competition adjudicator born and raised in Cincinnati OH. She has trained with several professionals in Cincinnati, New York, California and Las Vegas throughout her life and has won multiple awards for her dance choreography. Emily has also won 3 collegiate UDA national championships while dancing for the University of Cincinnati from 2003-2007. After earning her degree in Interpersonal and Industrial Relations, she cruised the high seas for 5 years with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines as Dance Captain. Emily made her television debut during a live broadcast for the 66th annual Tony Awards performing the role of “Brenda” in Hairspray, the Musical. Emily is the choreographer for our Encore Shining Stars Performance.



**NOELLE RODRIGUEZ** started her training and love for dance at the age of 2 in the Michigan area. She was a member of a competitive dance team and became a regionally and nationally ranked competitor as she traveled and competed around the country performing and training in all styles. Upon her high school graduation, Noelle continued her dance education by attending Oakland University in Rochester MI. As a member of the Oakland University’s Dance Department, she was a member of The Oakland Dance Theatre, Oakland’s Repertory Dance Company and performed with the professional company Patterson Rhythm Pace. Noelle graduated with her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Dance and was hand selected by the School of Music, Theater, and Dance as the Matilda award recipient for “Distinguished Dance Student”. Since her graduation in 2017, Noelle has performed in numerous shows around the Detroit area, taught many master classes and workshops at studios and conventions. Her students are highly awarded, and she is recognized as an award-winning choreographer year after year. Noelle has worked with many choreographers including Mario Bermudez Gil, Catherine Coury, Ann Cooley, Joshua Ekblom, Stephanie Batten Bland, Amy Cova, Marcus White, Stephanie Pizzo, Gregory Patterson, Sean Webb, Sayiga Eugene Peabody and many more. Trained in all styles of dance her true passion is held within the movement of the piece being executed. Noelle is teaching a fun jazz master class!



**Kristin McSwain**, born and raised in California, Kristin has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies from Fresno Pacific University with an emphasis in Performing Arts. In addition, Kristin has her Teacher Credentials in English and Physical Education. Kristin began dancing at age two and has continued ever since. She has been trained in various genres including ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical, ballroom and musical theatre. Kristin has taught dance for over 18 years in diverse settings including public schools, dance studios, musical theater programs, and churches. Her dancers have won many top awards at various competitions. She wants to encourage her students to reach their maximum potentials and continually see the joy and passion that comes through the gift of dance. Kristin moved to Ohio with her family in 2010. She is married to her best friend Daniel McSwain (who happens to be our music announcer) and they have two daughters Isabella and Adisyn.



**Deanna Johnson-Saunders**, lives in Michigan and danced professionally for many years with the Jack Reed Agency with numerous performances throughout Canada and the United States performing with Tom Jones Engelbert Humperdinck, Paul Lynde, to name a few. She trained with Joe Tremaine, Doug Caldwell and Laurie Johnson and teaches all forms of dance with a strong Checchetti syllabus in ballet. Deanna has owned and operated two successful studios that are in operation by her former students. Her dancers have been highly awarded regionally, nationally and internationally and many have continued at the collegiate and professional level. She ran a weekly tv show on a local cable network “Tapping with Deanna”, teaching beginner to advanced tap technique. She was also on the Flint Olympian Gymnastic team, trained by Coach Jim McGraw where she was 10<sup>th</sup> all around in the State of Michigan and 7<sup>th</sup> all around in the Jr Olympics on the elite team.

## **BEST OF THE BEST CHALLENGE RULES**

The top score in each division (regardless of age or level) will automatically be entered. This includes duet/trios, small groups, large groups and line/productions. Other dancers chosen by the judges by sounding “siren” at the end of the dance, will also be in the dance-off. There will be one winner chosen.

## **TITLE COMPETITION RULES**

The top 5 scores from each age division (Petite, Junior, Teen and Senior) will be given the chance to compete for title. Dancers will perform in reverse order, based on their scores (highest score performing last). Judges will pick one winner from each age division.