

Meet the Faculty



Stacy Capone
Owner/Director

BALLET

JAZZ

LYRICAL

TAP

HIP HOP

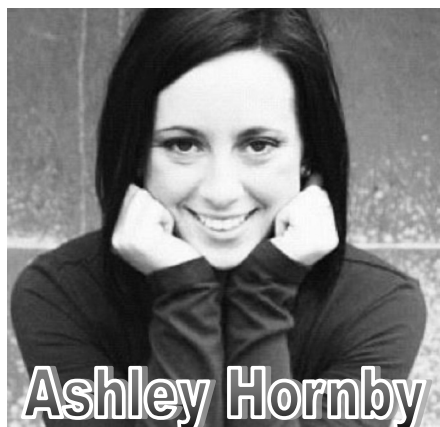
ACRO-DANCE
TUMBLING

MUSICAL
THEATER

Miss Stacy's first dance class was at the age of 4. Throughout her childhood she enjoyed gymnastics, ice skating, golf, baseball, track and field and other various sports. Her passion has always been in dance. She was a competitive dancer/gymnast growing up, but her heart was always focused on teaching as a young teen and throughout high school. In 1993 she attended Ohio States "Dance Masters of America Teacher Certification". At the age of 19 she accepted her first professional performing job in the main stage show "Totally Television" at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, VA. She then traveled to Colorado to continue her dream as a dance and gymnastics instructor. She taught for Millers Dance Studio; one of the biggest studios in Denver as a recreational and competitive instructor/choreographer, as well as other area gyms and studios. In her 5 years in Colorado, Miss Stacy was asked to be a guest teacher at Denver School of Performing Arts, and also traveled throughout the Midwest judging dance competitions with her mentor/studio owner, Sabrina Miller Helma. She won several choreography awards for her work with her performing group Tour de Force.

During her years in Colorado she studied under several master teachers including Henry LeTang, Savion Glover, Mia Michaels, Ray Leaper and the Tap Dogs. Miss Stacy returned to RI in the Summer of 2000, where she continued teaching in the studio she grew up in. She also managed a team of 18 in an Investment Company in MA, and tended bar on weekends. She started a family in 2004. In 2013 she was named Coach of the Year for RI for High School Gymnastics. In July of 2016 after the birth of her third child, she decided to open her own dance studio. Over the past 5 years Miss Stacy has received several choreography and performance awards for her competitive/performing company the DDE Dance Force. In 2022 she was hired by a production company to choreograph a RI Lottery commercial for the Patriot Cheerleaders. The commercial aired September-February on all major TV and Radio stations. Miss Stacy has partnered with Children's Wishes programs and continues to choreograph and host a DDE Dance Force holiday performance for their Giving Tuesday Live stream. Stacy has recently partnered with a local Taekwondo Complex to head their afterschool dance program for Cranston and Providence elementary students.

JAZZ/LYRICAL/TAP



Ashley Hornby

Ms. Ashley has over 28 years of dance experience. During her years as a dancer, Ashley trained in many styles including: Ballet, Pointe, Jazz, Tap, Musical Theatre, Acrobatics, Lyrical Contemporary, and Hip Hop. During these years, Ashley learned her dance education under local dance instructors; Stacie Najac, Nikki Apostol, and Jodi Lyn Papa.

As a dancer, Ashley achieved many awards at both Regional and National events, including overall high score placements, Hall of Fame Dance Challenge All Star, and an official nominee of the New England Talent Awards. Ashley has been successful as a choreographer, being awarded for her unique choreography she has won numerous awards such as "So You Think You Can Dance Best Dance Team in New England", "Broadway Bound" from Broadway Dance Center and "Best under 16 Dancer in New England" along with Special Awards for technique, stage presence, and overall choreography concepts. Her choreography has even gone on tour to perform at local dance conventions. In 2009 Ashley began teaching for a local dance studio Triple Threat Performing Arts Center where she would become the Assistant Director. In 2013 Ashley opened up her own dance studio called East Coast Performing Arts Center. Ashley has taught at local dance studios The Ballet Center, Just Dance!, APAC, and Distinctive Dance, Inc. Ashley has had the privilege of personally working with some amazing choreographers such as Dante Sciarra, Sarah K Kooj, Kelly Cannone, Angel Armas, and Victor Smalley. Ashley also holds the titles of Ms. Rhode Island US of America 2010 and Ms. East Coast US of America 2011. Ashley continues her dance education by taking local adult dance classes.

As a Dance Teacher Ashley feels that it is important for her students to feel confident, motivated and inspired at all times and that her students are in an environment they feel comfortable in. Ashley wants to her students to know her dance class is a safe space to be free and most importantly yourself!



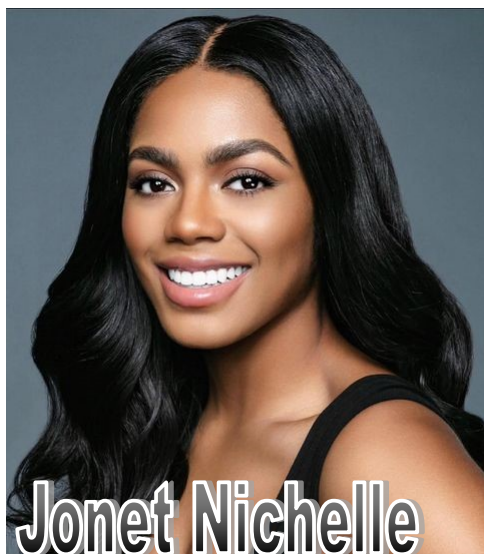
Stacie Najac

Stacie started to dance at three years old. At sixteen she began teaching, competing and choreographing for regional and national competitions. Taking as many convention classes as she possibly could, Stacie set her sights on dancing professionally. She left home, Rhode Island, in 1994 to dance in Virginia for Busch Gardens. When she was there not only did, she perform; but she was the dance captain for her show, danced in 4 television commercials, was on the faculty of Dance Williamsburg, and performed twice for the prestigious corporation IAAPA. Stacie's desire to teach brought her back to Rhode Island so that she can share all her experiences and knowledge and opened her own dance studio. Dance Unlimited, her studio, was opened for 25 years!!! The dancers that have trained here won numerous awards and scholarships along the way as well as her alumni are now Patriots Cheerleaders, actresses for national television commercials, as well as college teams.

She was the choreographer for Arpin Van Lines industry/corporate video, choreographer for the unveiling of the Cadillac CTS-V coupe at Paul Masse Dealerships, choreographer for PJ's Pub for their main events and was a model for Touchstone/Swarovski. Teaching guest classes and at national conventions/competitions gives the students the chance to see just how passionate she is about the art form and giving that student the tools to become the best they can be.

Judging dance competitions became another avenue for Stacie since she felt that she had the education and experience to pass along to dancers as well as teachers.

Whatever the goal, to be a recreational or a professional dancer, Miss Stacie trains/adjudicates everyone the same, with a keen eye and a loving heart.



Jonet Nichelle

Jonét Nichelle has been dancing for over 25 years, specializing in tap, jazz, ballet, modern, lyrical, and cheer styled dancing. Jonét danced competitively for 16 years, winning numerous awards and titles regionally and nationally. One of Jonét's greatest honors was performing for a sold out audience at Amateur night at the Apollo Theater and placed third. Jonét graduated with her Bachelor's of Science in Human Services from Post University where she was a student athlete in both Cross country and Track and Field. She has held several local titles in the Miss America Organization and was the longest reigning Miss Rhode Island USA in history. Miss Jonét is former NFL Cheerleader and Super Bowl champion for the best team in the league, The New England Patriots. Jonét is so honored and thrilled to be apart of the Distinctive Dance family, and has accepted her role as an Instructor and Assistant Artistic Director of the Dance Force.



Jamie Chatel

Jamie Chatel has been dancing since 1996, where she started at the Dance Corner with Diana Ricci. She studied through high school, she was the captain of the dance team at LaSalle Academy. She was a member of a dance group for Emerson College, where she earned her BA in Film and Marketing. As an adult, she returned to RI and still enjoys taking tap and ballet workshops. She is earning her MBA at the University of Rhode Island, she is a Data Visualization Specialist for MetLife, and she is a happiness coach and professional tarot reader!

TAP/BALLET/POINTE



Caroline Kaercher

In 1979 at the age of 3, Caroline began her ballet studies in Saratoga New York. She studied with Michael Steele and Tomislav Vukovich at the Ballet Regent School and many summers at the New York State Summer School Of The Arts with Heather Watts and Olga Kostritsky. After dancing many wonderful children's roles in various performances and leading roles at the age of fifteen, she went to study in New York City at the School Of American Ballet with Suki Schorer and Kay Mazzo. After three years of study and achieving the professional level she danced with local companies in soloist and principal roles including Opera Philadelphia, Capitol Ballet, and Boston Dance Company . Her favorite roles include Arabian, Arabian Pas De Deux, Dew Drop , Princess Aurora , and Serenade and various other solo's from ballets Coppelia, Minkus Pas de Troi, Carnival Of the Animals , Raymonda Variations , Ebony Concerto , Racmoninoff Variations , Rosini Variations , Rodeo , Cinderella , Les Sylphides . In year 2000 she began teaching and worked as a choreographer at the YMCA, Tynan's Center for Dance and Wellbeing, and the National Museum of Dance. She has a tremendous passion and joy for performing and teaching and choreographing, loves working with young dancers and young students and loves especially teaching ballet technique and being a positive force and instilling her discipline of hard work and wealth of experiences.



Kerry Reilly

Miss Kerry has been studying the art of dance for many years. She grew up studying Ballet, Tap and Jazz. Kerry's dance training continued throughout college where she attended Rhode Island College. She received her Bachelors Degree, a Minor in Dance, and performed with the RIC Dance Company for 4 years. During that time, she received several talent scholarships including the Yetta Ranch Melcer Dance Award. Upon graduation she joined Fusionworks Dance Company and performed in Rhode Island and Connecticut.

Presently, Miss Kerry works in the field of education and is ecstatic to have the opportunity to continue teaching dance and sharing her passion of the art form to the dancers here at DDE.