

Judges Bios 2025

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <p>Alisha Staggs</p> | <p>Alisha Staggs has been involved in dance for 35+ years. She has been a dancer for studio, drill, college, and on a professional level including being a dancer for the 2002 Winter Olympic closing ceremonies. Alisha has taught and choreographed for 25+ years and also coached a high school drill team for 17 years. When she isn't judging, she can be found changing smiles in the dental field, helping with pageants, or running around with her husband and his political adventures. She loves to travel with her husband and two kids and they have been to 30 of the 50 states and should visit all within the next two years. She has been a dance/drill judge since 2004.</p> |
| <p>Alysa Dummer</p> | <p>Alysa A. Dummer has been judging drill and dance competitions for 16 years. She is a certified Utah High School Activities Association technical and floor judge and judges at the region and state levels. She is an active member of the Utah Dance Judges Association and served on the executive board for five years. Alysa has 17 years of dance experience, three of those as part of a back-to-back, state championship drill team. While on the drill team, she was awarded all-state and academic all-state honors and served as a drill mistress. She graduated from Utah State University where she was a dancer in the LDS Institute's New Horizons show choir and earned her bachelor's degree in chemistry. She enjoys accompanying and singing in several local choirs. She and her husband reside in Fruit Heights and are the parents of four children.</p> |
| <p>Andrea Taylor</p> | <p>Andrea Taylor is a highly sought after dance judge for both studio and drill competitions throughout Utah. She has been a certified UHSAA dance and drill judge for over 25 years. She is the UHSAA difficulty training clinician and practicum facilitator. She currently serves on the Executive Board of the Utah Dance Judges Association, where she helps with the training of judges throughout the state. Andrea graduated from Southern Utah University with a degree in Social Sciences and Secondary Education. She taught high school - dance, aerobics and history, was a drill team coach for several years, and currently teaches at a local studio. Outside of dance, Andrea enjoys running, working in the yard, traveling, reading and spending time with her husband and 4 great kids.</p> |
| <p>Ashley Hardison</p> | <p>Ashley Hardison's passion for dance and performance athletic programs began at a young. She trained in all styles of dance, participated on an All-Star cheer team, and was a member of the Bingham High School Minerettes. Her love for dance continued as she performed with the Utah Valley University Dance Team. While on UVDT she had the privilege to be a member of the 2002 Winter Olympics Spirit Team. In addition to participating on the Dance Team, Ashley was a member of student government. Ashley graduated from UVU with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Marketing. Ashley found a love for teaching at the age of 15 and has taught at studios across the Wasatch Front while also achieving her dream of having her own studio. Ashley coached the Utah Valley Dance Team from 2005-2009, the Weber State Dance Team from 2010-2015, and then returned to UVU in 2015 to serve as the Coordinator of the UVU Spirit Squad. In this position Ashley found joy not only working with the performing athletes in their specialty of dance, cheer, and drumline but watching these students become leaders within their communities. After successfully winning 4 National Titles and a Gold Medal placing at Worlds, she decided she needed to step back from coaching to support her own children that are now very busy in their activities. She is currently a HR Manager and Contract Administrator, this allows her to focuses on judging competitions across the nation, consulting with teams, and traveling with her family.</p> |

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <p>Bambi Saunders</p> | <p>Bambi Saunders has been involved in the dance industry for over 40 years. She has received instruction in Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Tumbling, Cheer & Hip Hop. In high school, she served as drill mistress and was recognized as the Dance Sterling Scholar her senior year. She has taught dance for over 20 years including coaching at a few different high schools. In her years of teaching & coaching, she has led her teams and soloists to State placements and National titles. In 2006, she became more involved in Dance and Drill judging. Bambi has been a certified judge with the Utah High School Activities Association for 18 years as well as a member of the Utah Dance Judges Association. She is the proud mother of four children ages 11-19.</p> |
| <p>Blayke Liechty</p> | <p>Blayke has been dancing for over 30 years. Growing up, she was a successful competitive dancer where she won many different local and national awards. In high school she was both a member and officer on her high school's drill team and dance company. She was also thrilled to be named the Dance Sterling Scholar for her high school during her senior year. While studying a degree in Community Health at Utah Valley University, she continued her dance training in many genres and was a member and officer of the UVU Ballroom Dance Company where she competed in both Latin and Standard styles. Currently Blayke is a dance Studio Director, Performing Company Director and Competition Coach, award winning choreographer and ADTA Certified Acro Instructor. When she isn't choreographing or judging she loves to cook, travel and spend time with her husband, 2 daughters and her dog.</p> |
| <p>Brittani Bailey Hale</p> | <p>Brittani began dancing at the age of 3. She trained in ballet, tap, jazz, contemporary, modern, hip hop, acro, and musical theater. She danced up through college on competitive dance teams and trained an additional 3 years in New York with Steps and ABA. She has performed in productions with several local and regional companies.</p> <p>For the past 18 years, Brittani has worked as a technical coach and choreographer with competitive dancers. As a studio competition director, her teams and soloists have placed 1st in Lyrical, Contemporary and Jazz and Best Overall at Regional and National Competitions.</p> <p>She received a degree from Utah State University and for the past 16 years has been a UDJA certified judge. Dance is Brittani's passion and she believes in taking every opportunity to enhance the art of dance and support these athletes in this amazing sport.</p> |
| <p>Brittney McMurray</p> | <p>Brittney McMurray</p> <p>Brittney has been involved in the dance world for over 20 years. She has knowledge in Jazz, Ballet, Tap, Hip-Hop, and Lyrical/Contemporary. Brittney started dancing at a local dance studio at the age of 3 and danced there until high school. She then spent 3 consecutive years on the Fremont high school drill team and was Vice President her senior year. After high school she spent her extra time subbing in dance studios and helping with choreography. Brittney has been a member of the Utah Dance Judges Association (UDJA) for 6 years and has loved every second. Drill team has had a special place in her heart for over 15 years. She loves the sport and loves to share her passion of drill with others.</p> |
| <p>Casie (KC) Dekker</p> | <p>Casie (pronounced K.C.) Dekker has danced since she was three years old, starting out in the bay area of California. She grew up in the studio, only having two days off a week by the time she was nine. When she moved to rural Utah at the age of twelve, her dance opportunities were limited, but the love was always there. She was able to be on her high</p> |

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| | <p>school drill team for 3 years, serving in leadership roles her junior and senior years. She was also awarded the 3A Scholarship Award from the Utah Dance and Drill Association as a senior. Casie has a bachelor's degree in elementary education and loved incorporating dance curriculum into her classroom when she taught. Years later, she holds dance parties with her four kids regularly, in between chasing them all over the state with their activities. She was able to come back to the Utah drill world as an assistant coach to her alma mater for a few years, as well as being a dance teacher at a local studio. She continues to choreograph and mentor and loves every bit of it. Casie has been a member of the UDJA and a certified UHSAA drill judge for 4 years now and looks forward to every new year. There's nothing better than seeing a team's dedication and hard work come together on the floor with each performance! And after the busy drill season, she looks forward to traveling anywhere with her husband of 21 years! Good luck to all the amazing athletes competing this year!</p> |
| Cheylynn Hayman | <p>Cheylynn Hayman has been a UHSAA-certified drill team judge for the last two years. She began dancing when she was five years old. After training in jazz and ballet and competing in power tumbling, Cheylynn danced with the Morgan High Troyettes for two years, and as a member of the University of Utah Crimson Line for three years under the direction of Lori Rupp. Cheylynn is a strong supporter of dance education and serves as a member of the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company Board of Trustees. Professionally, Cheylynn is a shareholder with the Salt Lake City-based law firm Parr Brown Gee & Loveless where she has practiced law for almost 20 years. Cheylynn also serves her community as an elected councilmember for Centerville City and as Chair of the Utah Judicial Conduct Commission. In her spare time, Cheylynn loves to golf and may be a wee bit of an Orangetheory addict.</p> |
| Courtney Carsey | <p>Courtney has been involved with dance her entire life, training in various genres and participating as a dancer, choreographer, coach and judge. She was a 5A all-state drill team member, University of Utah Crimson Line dance team member, and previous drill team coach for 9 years. Highlights from her dance career include performances at President Obama' inaugural parade in Washington D.C., NCAA Fiesta and Sugar Bowl performances, and various NCAA basketball tournaments and appearances. This is her 4th season as a judge and serves on the UDJA board. She is a high school teacher who recently completed her Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction. Family means the world to her and they love to travel and watch sports together, especially college football. Their favorite vacation spots include Bear Lake and Disneyland which they are frequent visitors to, but are always looking for new places to explore. Her favorite thing about the sport of drill is what it gives back to the student athletes- lessons of teamwork, dedication, discipline, commitment, passion and friendships. It is a unique experience unlike any other dance opportunity that athletes will cherish for a lifetime.</p> |
| Emilee Stokes | <p>Emilee has been judging dance and drill for 15+ years and is a member of the Utah Dance & Judges Association. She also had the opportunity to coach drill team for 17 years served as the Utah Dance & Drill Association President and Secretary. While growing up, she trained in a wide variety of dance styles and was a member of drill team and dance company in high school as well as the dance sterling scholar. She continued dancing in college and was a member of the University of Utah dance team and earned a bachelors degree in health education and thereafter spent many years in the classroom, teaching dance, and coaching drill team. She has an awesome husband and 3 amazing kids.</p> |
| Hannah Duran | <p>Hannah Duran has been a certified Utah High School Activities Association Drill Team Judge for over 5 years. From a young age Hannah has been involved in some form of</p> |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| | <p>dance. Whether it be performing, teaching, coaching or judging. Hannah graduated from Weber State University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Dance. Hannah was also an assistant drill team coach from 2017 to 2018, with their team winning the overall state championship. Hannah has a passion for the hard work, discipline, and athleticism that drill team requires.</p> |
| Janae Howell | <p>Janae Howell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - She lives in Clinton UT with husband Aaron and 3 kids Ruby, Brooks and Daxson. - Graduated Weber State University with a Bachelor of Science and has a Master Degree in Education - Janae was a 3 year drill team member, drill mistress and an all-region drill member - She has danced for over 30 years specializing in Jazz, Ballet and Tap - She has over 20 years of teaching dance at studios, camps, as well as guest teacher/choreographer - She is a choreographer of award winning group and solo routines - She is a certified Utah drill team judge - Has judged drill team and studio competitions for several years in Utah and Idaho - Janae loves dancing and teaching dance. She loves to see the amazing effects of creativity and emotion dance has on people |
| JoLynn Judd | <p>JoLynn Judd received her bachelor's degree in Social Science Composite Teaching from Weber State University. Her 20+ years of training and experience in dance includes study, training, choreography, and performance throughout Utah, Idaho, Texas, and California; specializing in jazz, modern, hip-hop, cheer, tap, and ballet. Being a diverse choreographer, she has been involved with musical theater school productions of the "Lion King" and "Aida". JoLynn participated as a three-year drill member, two-year cheerleader and was a former member of Ballet West production of "Cinderella". She has coached a drill team for 6 years, with three national titles. As a 20+ dance instructor, JoLynn currently teaches at a local dance studio, where she is the director of the Royal Crew, Pro Hip-Hop Team and the Contemporary Elite Teams, which have won numerous "high point" and "overall" awards. This is her 25th year as a certified UHSAA Drill Team Judge and a member of UJDA. JoLynn currently teaches 8-9th grade social sciences and lives with her wonderful husband, 13yr old son and 10yr old daughter</p> |
| Katie Schmidt | <p>Katie Schmidt has been dancing and cheering her entire life. She has been coaching over a decade both in high schools and private studios. She has had several nationally ranked teams in those years. She has been judging both cheer and drill for over a decade both in and out of state. She is a current member of UDJA. She has a BS in Business Administration from the University of Utah. Along with her passion for dance she also enjoys spending time with her husband and two beautiful girls.</p> |
| Kayla Bingham | <p>Kayla Bingham is a member of the Utah Dance Judges Association and has been a UHSAA Certified Drill Team Judge for the past 10 years. She was a 2 year member of her High School drill team, serving one year as a captain. She has many years experience in choreographing and coaching both dance and tumbling. Kayla is a licensed Cosmetologist and works out of her home. She resides in Garland, Utah with her husband Zackary and their two incredible little boys.</p> |
| Kayleigh Edwards | <p>Kayleigh started dancing at the age of 8 and has trained in various styles of dance such as, Ballroom, Jazz, Ballet, and Hip Hop. She was a member of her high school drill team for 2</p> |

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| | <p>years. She has been judging for about 6 years and loves seeing the amazing talent we have here in Utah. She currently works at a tumbling studio which she loves!</p> <p>Kayleigh is married and has 4 children. She has always made movement a priority in her life and loves getting outside and being with her family!</p> |
| Kelsey Jenson | <p>Kelsey is a dedicated mom of three. When she is not gluing on eyelashes or bringing oranges to the soccer field, she enjoys a good romantic comedy and ice cream. Kelsey trained in jazz, ballet, hip hop, tap, and contemporary for 14 years, she was a member of her high school drill team for three years and went on to coach for an additional three years. She has choreographed numerous award-winning Pom and dance routines. In addition to her coaching experience, she has served as a judge for drill and local dance competitions for seven years.</p> |
| Kristen Myers-Coverstone | <p>Kristen is a native Oregonian beginning dance and gymnastics as a toddler. She trained at local studios and gyms until she became a 4-year varsity Dance Team member and captain at Rex Putnam High School in Portland, OR. Kristen graduated from Oregon State University with a degree in Public Health. During college she continued staying involved with Dance Team interning to become a performance judge and was certified in 2000. Since then, she has served Dance Teams with 25 years of judging local DDCA competitions as well as the OSAA State Finals (Oregon) and UHSAA State Finals (Utah). Kristen has also been involved with the OJDTC for the past 15 years to which she received a service award in 2018. Kristen has served for a total of 20 years on the Judges Affiliation Leadership Team holding numerous positions such as Judges Intern Director, Judges Education Director, and Judges Commissioner. Kristen was the recipient of a DDCA Service Award in 2021.</p> |
| Krysten Reynolds | <p>Krysten attended Southern Utah University and got her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education with minors in dance, music and reading. She also has a Masters Degree in Administration and Instructional Coaching.</p> <p>She has an extensive background in dance including clogging, ballet, jazz and ballroom. She coached the Canyon View High School Drill Team for 15 years. She had many accolades during that time including winning region, state and national titles. She was a two time 3A coach of the year and was also named the Utah Drill team Coach of the year in 2011. She currently is a state certified drill team judge and works as a Instructional Coach in Cedar City, Utah with her husband and three adorable little girls Reagyn, Taytum and Emmy.</p> |
| Laura Christensen | <p>Laura Christensen has trained and competed since a very young age in many genres of dance including Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Drill, Contemporary, Lyrical, Hip Hop and Pom. She was a member of her HS Cheer Squad and a member of her local dance studio where she enjoyed competitive dance. She pursued an Associate of Arts Degree at Western Wyoming Community College in Rock Springs, WY. Laura has been teaching dance for 24 years. For 22 years she was Head Coach of Rock Springs High School Dance Team, leading them to 6 State Championships and 13th at NDA Nationals in Florida. She received 4A Wyoming Coach of Year in 2018/2019 and 2021/2022 at the State Championships. She was recently nominated for Wyoming Woman of Influence in the Arts for the State of Wyoming. She owns and operates Artistry in Motion Dance Studio for the past 19 years in Rock Springs, WY. She is a first-year certified judge for Utah Dance Judges Association and Utah High School Activities Association. She has choreographed for studios, High School and solos throughout her career. She enjoys judging various competitions throughout the dance</p> |

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| | <p>season and is so honored to be a part of such prestigious programs that help further her career in the world of dance. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, reading, spending time with her husband, four children and several grandchildren. She is thrilled to be a part of dance in Utah and all of the talent it offers! She is passionate about sharing her love of dance and judging.</p> |
| Laurel Peterson | <p>Laurel Peterson has been the dance teacher at Dixie High School for 39 years, and coached drill team for 31 years. She currently teaches Dance and Yoga. During the time she wasn't coaching, Laurel has been a UHSAA judge for ten years. Laurel attended Cedar High School Southern Utah University and was a member of both drill teams. She has a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education with a dance emphasis as well as a Master's degree in Education. Laurel has been involved in dance and drill for her entire career and most of her life. She loves drill and loves watching all of the teams perform.</p> |
| Lesley Gee | <p>Lesley Gee is a choreographer, dance teacher, and UHSAA Certified Drill Judge of four years.</p> <p>Lesley has been dancing for the past 23 years: training in ballet, pointe, jazz, modern, contemporary, tap, and hip-hop.</p> <p>After graduating from Murray High School in 2016, Lesley earned her Associate of Arts from Snow College before transferring to BYU, where she completed her Bachelor's in Dance. She has been a member of Murray Dance Company, Snow College Badgerettes, BYU Kinnect Dance Company, BYU Dance Ensemble, and Kinuko Modern Dance Company.</p> <p>In addition to her professional dance pursuits, Lesley is a wife, mother of two girls, and owner of an allergy-friendly baking business.</p> |
| Lisa Albright | <p>Lisa Albright has been a certified Utah High School Activities Association drill team judge for over 30 years. Lisa graduated magna cum laude from Southern Utah University majoring in Physical Education with a dance emphasis. She has taught dance at both a high school and middle school level. Lisa has also been an assistant drill team coach for eight years, with one of the teams winning the overall state championship. She has had the opportunity to choreograph for many high school musicals. She has also been a competition director for several regions and also studio competitions in the Southern Utah area. Lisa has served as president of the Utah Dance Judges Association and also the Southern and Wasatch Representative. Lisa loves the sport of drill team and is always excited to watch the teams compete.</p> |
| McKenzie Broadhead | <p>Kenzie grew up dancing in a studio and trained in jazz, ballet, and hip hop. She spent three years on her high school drill team and is thrilled to have had the opportunity to continue her involvement with the sport as a judge for the past few years. It's been so fun to watch the creativity and skills progress!</p> |
| Monique Draper | <p>Monique Draper trained and competed from a very young age in many genres of dance, tumbling and cheer. In college she danced for the University of Utah Dance Team where she graduated with her bachelor's degree. She has owned and directed her own studio, Legacy Dance for over 15 years. In addition to teaching, choreographing and running her studio, Monique is a UHSAA Drill Judge.</p> |

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| <p>Nicole Jeffs</p> | <p>Nicole has had a love for dance since she was 3 years old. She has been dancing and performing for over 30 years. She has had training in several different genres of dance that include, ballet, modern, jazz, tap, folk, and ballroom dance. She has received training at BYU, the School of Performing Arts Studio, the Limited Edition Dance Studio and the Central Utah Ballet School. In high school, she was a dance sterling scholar, president of the Orchesis dance club and captain of her high school drill team.</p> <p>Nicole continued to dance and perform in college and earned a Bachelor degree in Dance Education from Brigham Young University. She taught dance and math in a Middle School for 4 years and has been teaching dance classes in private studios for the past 20 years. She is currently teaching and choreographing at the School of Performing Arts Studio and teaching ballet classes through the Springville Community Program. Nicole is a member of the Utah Dance Judges Association and has been a certified Drill Team judge for the past 24 years. She is excited to be here today and wishes all the teams good luck!</p> |
| <p>Nicole Peck</p> | <p>Nicole Peck is a sixth-year UHSAA-certified drill team judge and member of UDJA, judging solos and invitationals, as well as for region and state competitions. Nicole is a Utah native who began dancing at the age of 2 in Bountiful. Her training began with Margie Cook, then later with The Dance Factory. As a youth, she trained in ballet, jazz, tap, clogging, studio competition through the Stars program, and modern. She attended Viewmont High School, where she was a cheerleader as a sophomore, then later dancing as a member of the Vykelles drill team and also the Dance Company, both under the direction of Bonnie Pierce. She worked at The Dance Factory in Bountiful for 10 years and is currently working at Groove The Academy in Woods Cross. Nicole is the mother of four children, three daughters and one son. She has passed on the love of dance to all her kids, especially her daughters. She enjoys camping, reading, and spending time with her family. She is thrilled to be selected again as a state judge and is always in awe of the dance talent in our great state!</p> |
| <p>Nikki Wardle</p> | <p>Nikki started her training in dance at the age of 4. She trained in ballet, jazz, modern, lyrical, baton, hip hop, and cheer. Nikki was a cheerleader, played volleyball, and danced through her younger years. During her time on the high school drill team, Nikki was awarded the Dance Sterling Scholar and also won the Gold Watch Award for the Female Student Athlete. After high school, Nikki continued her passion for dance as a member of the Utah State University Aggiettes for 5 years. After graduating from Utah State University with a Bachelor of Arts, Nikki began her coaching experiences.</p> <p>Nikki coached the Ogden High Tigerettes for 8 years. She received 5 State, National, and Region Titles while coaching. She was named Coach of the Year in 2005. She was also the past president of the Utah Dance/Drill Association (UDDA) for coaches.</p> <p>Nikki has been adjudicating for the past 30 plus years as a certified judge. In 2006-07, Nikki received the Utah and Section 7 Drill Team Contributor award. In 2013-14, she received the UHSAA Official of the year recognition.</p> <p>Nikki has a Masters of Education from Weber State University and enjoys teaching her CE Communication classes in addition to trying to keep up with her 3 children. Life is fun and busy!</p> |

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <p>Robin McClellan</p> | <p>Robin McClellan drill BIO</p> <p>Robin McClellan, has a B.A. in English from Brigham Young University, and minored in dance. She taught in the public education system for 25 years and coached high school drill teams for 15 years. She has been a UHSAA certified judge for dance/drill in Utah for 30+ years.</p> <p>Her coaching record includes 13 state titles. Other Awards: 2001 Coach of the Year 3A drill; 2009 Uintah High Teacher of the Year; 2 National dance/drill titles; served as area rep and one of founding members of Utah Dance Judges' Association; NFHS Coach of the year for Section 7 2012-2013; Nationally recognized in 2013 for Best Original Military Choreography by the Creative Precision Awards; in her last year coaching, she was named the Utah High School Athletic Association 4A Coach of the Year for 2016 Robin; Robin has served for the last 6 years on the Uintah School Board of Education, serves on the the UBTech Board of Trustees, and is a Board of Director on the Utah School Boards Association (USBA).</p> <p>Robin was also a Ms. Drill Team Utah and USA Runner-up, USU Aggiette, BYU Young Ambassador, Tokyo Disneyland Special Events Dancer.</p> <p>She resides in Vernal with her husband; they have three children and two great son-in-laws, and one grandson! Her favorite saying is: What if the hokey really IS what it's all about?"</p> |
| <p>Sara Hanson</p> | <p>Sara Hanson grew up dancing in the Boise, ID area. She found her passion for dance while traveling to perform and compete throughout the US. As a high school senior Sara was honored to receive multiple solo titles before going on to dance for the Boise State Maneline Dancers.</p> <p>Sara has spent the last 25 years teaching at studios, coaching high school dance, helping teams clean competition routines, and choreographing for dancers of all ages and styles. Along the way, her choreography has won several state and national titles. Sara has also worked with cheer teams and gymnasts, specializing in floor and beam instruction. Most recently, she has been working on and in musicals. In 2024, she choreographed for productions of Newsies, Amèlie, and Alice in Wonderland; and performed in both Cinderella and Anastasia. Regardless of who she is working with, Sara LOVES teaching and sharing her passion for dance!!</p> <p>For the last 15+ years, Sara has enjoyed judging dance competitions throughout the Pacific Northwest & Utah! She is thrilled to be back at Utah's State Dance/Drill competition and wishes all teams the best of luck!</p> |
| <p>Sharon Codner</p> | <p>Sharon Codner has been involved with high school drill team for over 40 years with 37 of them as a Utah High School Athletic Association judge and 4 as a member of her high school drill team where she helped her team to 4 region championships and 2 state championships. She was also a member of the all-state drill team. She then attended SUU (formerly S USC) majoring in Business Education and Minor in Dance Education. She teaches high school Business and Marketing Education in the Alpine District. She is a former drill team coach of 2 years as well as choreographer. She has countless years as a</p> |

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| | <p>studio judge and enjoys travelling throughout Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming judging. She has also judged dance sterling scholars on a region level. Sharon is one of the founders of the Utah Dance Judges Association where she has served on the executive board and on the general board. She was chosen as the 2018-2019 Utah Dance Judges Association judge of the year. She is married with five wonderful children, and 13 adorable grandchildren. She is honored to be a part of high school drill and to see the amazing talent and dedication that our state has to offer.</p> |
| <p>Shayell McBride</p> | <p>Shayell McBride started dancing as soon as she could walk. Training in all styles including: Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Lyrical, Contemporary, Cheer, Modern, Hip Hop, Clogging, Musical Theater, and Ballroom. Some of her highlights as a dancer include starring in Ballet West Nutcracker youth cast multiple times and being a Jr Jazz Dancers for 4 years. Shayell has dance all over the state of Utah and surrounding areas. She has taught and choreographed for many studios and found that cultivating future artists is her passion. Now she is running her own dance program for 15years in the small town of Tremonton Utah where she lives with her wonderful husband and two adorable kids. Shayell loves the sport of dance and incorporates it into all aspects of her life, including teaching her daughter to dance and making her husband dance with her even if it's just in their kitchen. She is a member Utah Dance judges association and appreciates that judging gives her the opportunity to help dancers grow and to see the amazing talent and bravery that all dancers possess. As a dance instructor Shayell loves to bring out the stories and emotions in dances, as well as providing constructive critiques for dancers and their performances. She loves working with all ages from Mom and me classes up to high school teams. She enjoys helping the dancers connect and grow with each other as team members and individuals. Shayell knows that every dancer has value and potential that can be cultivated into resilient and unique individuals</p> |
| <p>Stacey Squires</p> | <p>Stacey Squires has been involved with Dance since the age of 5. She received her Bachelors degree in Dance and Health Education from Utah State University, and her Master's Degree in Teaching from Grand Canyon University and is currently working on her Masters Degree in Educational Leadership at BYU. While at Utah State, she was a member of the Danceworks Dance Company. After graduating, she moved to Tooele High School where she was the head drill team coach for six years. She also advised the Dance Company and color guard. She then moved onto Pleasant Grove High School to be the Dance Company Director and later coached the Vikettes for 9 seasons. As a coach of the Vikettes, she helped her team win three Region Championships, and placed several routines in the top 5 at State. Stacey has been a member of UDJA since its beginning. She also served as the VP of Finance for three years. Stacey has judged drill team and dance for over 20 years. She also served as the UDDA President and was named 5A coach of the year in 2014. Currently Stacey loves to spend time with her family and teaches yoga, dance, aerobics, and dance company at Pleasant Grove High School. She has been married to Barry Squires for 22 years and has four amazing and busy children.</p> |
| <p>Trisha Turner</p> | <p>Trisha Turner is in her thirteenth year as a UHSAA judge and UDJA member. Involvement with high school drill and studio dance judging is exciting and keeps her connected to the dance community. In her youth, as a member of the Drill Team and Dance Company at Viewmont High School, she cultivated a love of the sport. Trisha is an alumna of Weber State University for Dance teaching, English teaching, and master's in English Literature. She loves dance because of its duality as a great sport and art form. Trisha is a lucky</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| | mother of four children: ages 16, 14, 12, and 10; she is also a proud teacher at Farmington High—Go Phoenix! |
|--|--|

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <p>Brandi Arave</p> | <p>I Started dancing at 3 yrs old at Jackie Hearn School of Dance in Ogden, studying jazz, tap and ballet. I was part of my high school drill team Ogden High Tigerettes for 3 years. After graduation I spent one year as a Chautenelle on the dance team at Weber State College (as it was called back then 😊)</p> <p>Soon I was married and started my own family, 2 girls and 1 boy. I started judging dance studios 10 years ago and 7 years ago I started judging high school drill teams. I wanted to be part of a sport I have loved for so long!! Helping the new generation become the best dancers/performers they can be makes me so happy! The talent every year amazes me, and I look forward to seeing what these teams come up with next!</p> <p>During my free time I love to traveling, go to MIXX Fit aerobics classes, playing pickle ball, hang out with family and caring for my 3 handsome grandsons ❤️ We will have a new addition join us in April, a GRANDDAUGHTER ❤️ I am extremely happy to add this little girl to our family!!</p> <p>Good luck to EVERYONE at state and cherish these memories forever!!!</p> |
| <p>Brandy Rowley</p> | <p>Brandy Rowley has been involved in dance for over 40 years. She has training and experience in many varieties of dance. She has taught at studios, throughout Northern Utah. Brandy was a high school drill team coach for 9 years and has been a UHSAA Certified Drill Team Judge for over 20 years. She is a member of the Utah Dance Judges Association, and currently serves as the Northern Utah Representative.</p> <p>Brandy is the director of the Dance It Out Studio in Tremonton, Utah. She works as a Paraprofessional in the Special Education Department for the Box Elder School District. Brandy resides in Tremonton with her husband Matt and their 4 children, where they also raise sheep and volunteer as 4H directors.</p> |
| <p>Ember Pilati</p> | <p>Ember Pilati is an alumnus of Southern Utah University with a Bachelor’s degree in Dance Education. She owned and directed a Regional and National Championship Dance Studio for 7 years and has been a UHSAA Drill Team and studio judge for over 20 years. Her extensive dance training includes: Modern, Jazz, Tap, Ballet, Lyrical, and Contemporary dance. She has created Regional and National Championship Choreography in all levels for over 18 years. Ember served as a Vice President for the Utah Dance Judges Association for 5 years where she has helped train and provide professional development workshops for dance judges throughout Utah.</p> |
| <p>Shauna Blake</p> | <p>Shauna Blake is from Monroe, Utah and has been an active member of the Dance and Drill Team community for over 30 years. She was a 4-year member of her high school drill team serving as Captain for 2 years and also the Dance Sterling Scholar. Shauna is well versed in many genres of dance and performance styles which include jazz, clogging, tap, baton and cheer and owned and operated a successful dance studio for 15 years.</p> <p>Shauna was a high school drill coach for 22 years winning 12 Region titles, 11 State Championship titles, and was also awarded the National Federal High School Coach of the Year in 2007. Shauna has over 20 years of choreography and judging experience and is an active member of the Utah Dance Judges Association currently serving as the Southern Representative. She loves to work with students of all ages and</p> |

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| | <p>has recently finished her Master's Degree in Education.</p> |
| <p>Tracie Thornley</p> | <p>Tracie Thornley Bio,</p> <p>Tracie has been a certified Utah High School Routine Judge for 24 years. She is a 10-year member of UDJA and has served as public relations and President. She also has judged sterling Scholar in Dance for the State of Utah for the past 9 years. She has been judging studio dance, cheerleading and High School Competitions for the past 27 ears.</p> <p>She has had 15 years of training in Jazz, ballet, hip hop, cheer and drill. She was a 4 year member of her high school Drill team serving as drill leader and president. She also danced on scholarship at Utah State for 2 years for the sunburst dancers. She has worked with many groups on cleaning and perfecting their routines over the years. On the side she rhinestones and helps create costumes for drill and college teams.</p> <p>She is married and lives in Pleasant View Utah and has 4 grown children which has given her 10 grandkids. She loves watching and judging dancers. Every year she looks forward to seeing how the teams stretch their creativity in the world of dance. She says it is a privilege to be associated with all these talented dancers.</p> |
| <p>Marie Welch</p> | <p>Marie Welch has been involved in the dance industry for over 50 years. She has trained in Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Contemporary and Hip Hop. Marie attended college on a dance scholarship and went on to graduate with a Minor in Dance. While attending college, she was a member of the Dance Team and Orchesis Dance Company. She served as a main choreographer for both - excelling in jazz, ballet, and contemporary dance styles. After attending college, her love for dance continued and she was able to teach at local dance studios. She went on to become a High School Drill Team Coach and enjoyed coaching for over 8 years. During this time, she was afforded the opportunity to choreograph for high school musical productions and other high school and college dance teams. Currently, she assists her daughter with production and staging at Ash Dance Co. in Diana, Texas. Marie has been a certified Utah High School Athletic Association judge for over 20 years. She has judged Drill, Cheer and Studio competitions in Utah, Idaho, Nevada, and Arizona. Marie is a member of Utah Dance Judges Association where she has served on the Executive Board for 10 years. She currently serves as the UDJA President.</p> <p>She has been affiliated with the Miss Utah Scholarship Pageant and has served as a Pageant Chairman and Co-Chairman for local scholarship pageants for over 4 years. As a Pageant Chairman, she was able to use her choreography skills for Production Numbers and Contestant Talent Routines. Marie currently works for SkyWest Airlines where she has been a Flight Attendant for over 30 years. She recently served as President of SkyWest Inflight Association where she supported and represented over 4300 flight attendants. Her love for travel has given her the opportunity to see the world and enjoy many journeys. She is the proud mother of 4 children and 6 grandchildren and currently resides in Lehi, Utah.</p> |

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <p>Liane Oyler</p> | <p>I started dancing at the age of 6 years old. Ballet was my first class and I loved it! Around the age of 8-9yrs old I was ready for more experience and started Jazz and Tap classes! I absolutely feel in love with all these different styles of dance and couldn't wait for more. When my family moved to Utah, I was lucky enough to find "Stars" and danced for Pat Rhodes. I spent 3 wonderful years dancing for "Stars" and lucky enough to be on a competition team! I soon realized how much I loved competing. Our family moved out of the country to the Philippines for two years and I had to quit dancing which broke my heart:(I was able to be a cheerleader for the Jr. High Football teams but that wasn't quite the same. As my dad was in the Air Force, he was able to ask to come back to Utah after 2 and 1/2 years. I was so happy and began searching for dance studios to get back into dance. I danced for 2 years in Studio and my Junior year made the high school drill team at Bonneville High School. I graduated and ended up dancing on the college drill/dance team for three years! I danced at college football games and basketball games! After college came my career and my husband and family!</p> <p>I've been married to my husband for 42 years! We have 4 children and 9 grandchildren! I've been a certified drill and studio judge going on 8 years now! My passion to watch and help dancers grow with my judging is something I absolutely enjoy. I look forward to this year of judging and can't wait to see all the beautiful dancers. Remember dancers, to love dancing and have fun while dancing!</p> |
| <p>Tricia Buchanan</p> | <p>Tricia Buchanan is a third-year judge. She began dancing at the age of 3 and went on to be a member of the drill team in high school and college. For the past 16 years she has been a studio coach and choreographer. She has also worked as a cosmetologist for 18 years and as a Registered Nurse for the last six years. As a mom to 4 kids, any spare time is usually spent attending their many theatre performances and dance competitions.</p> |
| | |
| <p>Shandee Belnap</p> | |
| <p>Olivia Giles</p> | |
| <p>Jana Palmer</p> | |