

FORT SMITH TDE JUDGES



Michelle Rambo has been teaching dance for over eleven years, which includes styles of hip hop, jazz/funk, contemporary and jazz. She has bachelor's degrees in Fine Arts in Dance Performance from the University of Central Oklahoma and Kinesiology from East Central University (ECU). She became the first recipient of the ECU Dance Scholarship, where, for two years, she was captain of the Collage Dance Ensemble. She became the Artistic Director for ECU dance minor program. Michelle has received several accolades for her creativity in choreography. She has received choreography awards for a contemporary routine in 'Amongst Us' and in hip hop routines 'Elevator' in 2009 and 'She Ain't Got' in 2010. She received the Dance Spirit Magazine's Video of the Month Viewer's Choice Award for 'She Ain't Got' in August 2010. In 2011, her high school hip hop routine, 'Do You Remember', received the Dance Teacher Magazine's Video of the Month Editor's Choice Award. Her choreography recently won state in hip hop pom category for Seminole High School in 2015. Michelle has performed in the National Dance Association's Gala Performance in Baltimore, Maryland and Wichita, Kansas. She has performed in the Oklahoma Centennial Parade and Neiman's Children Christmas Parade. Michelle has had the privilege to teach alongside some of the best: Keith Clifton, Jackie Sleight, Rhonda Miller, Huggy Ford and Lauren Gaul, just to name a few. Michelle has been fortunate to choreograph for the well-known professional Race Dance Company located in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She has choreographed national hip hop pom routines for McLennan Community College and University of Oklahoma (OU). She recently taught at the Soul De Soul dance convention as a guest artist in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She has taught at the American College Dance Association at Southeast Missouri State University and Anderson Indiana University. Michelle's talents have been showcased during the pre-game performance for the Oklahoma City Thunder Basketball and at Disney World in Orlando, Florida. Currently, Michelle has been focused on judging for The Dance Effect Competitions and Act 1. She continues to spread her energy, knowledge and her love for teaching master classes to everyone who appreciates the art of dance. Michelle is setting her sights on new horizons in other parts of Oklahoma and Texas, while starting her new dance faculty position in the Musical Theatre department for the University of Oklahoma (OU).

Jamie Perrin is an award winning teacher and has been described as a "Powerhouse" and continues to strive to inspire her students on a daily basis. She received her B.F.A. in Dance from Stephens College and she was only 23 when she graduated with her M.F.A. in Dance from Sam Houston State University. Jamie was the founder of the dance program at Tarrant County College-Southeast Campus, and served as the director of the program for eight years. During her time at TCC she was the recipient of the Chancellor's Exemplary Teaching Award for her work with the dance program. She also filled the role of Department Chair of Fine Arts. Jamie grew up dancing in Jefferson City, Missouri and attended several conventions where she was the recipient of various scholarships, including a 2 week stint to the The Edge in L.A. She has also studied dance in Chicago at the Jazz Dance World Congress, Broadway Dance Center in New York City and at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. Knowing from a young age she wanted to teach, she then headed to college and graduate school to further her dance education. Her performance credits include 2 contracts with Celebrity Cruise Lines, Six Flags Over Texas, Superbowl XXXVIII, House of Blues, The Miss Texas Pageant and has tapped alongside Tony Award winner, Tommy Tune. She currently serves as the choreographer for Six Flags Over Texas, she is on faculty at Tarrant County College-Southeast and is excited to be returning to The Dance Effect. Jamie has also been on faculty with Collin County College, Eastfield College and Contemporary Ballet Dallas. As much as she loves choreographing and performing, teaching is her true passion. She wants to share her knowledge and experience with students and in September, she opened her own studio, The Movement Academy, in Mansfield, TX. Giving students an in-depth dance education and providing them with opportunities is at the heart of her studio. She is navigating this crazy thing called life with her husband, Jason, and son, James.



Amy Pollard-Yarberry, based in Wichita, KS works as a dance educator in the fields of studio and college dance, dance team, and guest choreography. She is a graduate of Wichita State University where she earned a BFA in Dance and BBA in Business Management. Amy has performed under many choreographers even touring to Taiwan and Italy with the Wichita Contemporary Dance Theater. Amy is currently an adjunct professor at Wichita State University. At Wichita State Amy currently teaches hip-hop, jazz, and modern dance. She is in her thirteenth year of teaching at a residential studio and her sixth year as the company director for the studio's competition team. In addition to her studio employment, Amy is entering her sixth season as the head coach of the Newton High School Railiner Dance Team. Amy has received many awards for outstanding choreography at local and national events. She spent ten years working with the world-renowned National Dance Alliance. In her role as Head Instructor with the National Dance Alliance she traveled around the country teaching all styles of dance to high school and collegiate dance teams nationwide. She also enjoys traveling to guest teach and choreograph at studios and dance teams throughout the country. Amy works with Innovative Choreography with their studio touring group; with Innovative Choreography, she is able to work with students all over the Midwest, bringing new and exciting workshops to dance studios. Recently Amy Pollard joined The Dance Effect, where she travels across the country to teach at their fall intensives and judge at their spring competitions. Amy's life is dance and she loves every minute of it!

Gretchen McCutcheon, just another small-town girl with big dreams, to a globe-trotting professional performer, Gretchen McCutcheon has gotten to live (dance!) some of her wildest dreams. Despite a severe spinal surgery where doctors told her she may never walk again, much less dance, she refused to let anyone else dim her future, and so at just 16 years old, her professional dance career kicked off! Her extensive training in ballet, jazz, theatre, contemporary, tap, hip hop, and ballroom has led her to stages all over the world. Some of her recent credits to date include The Carolina Opry Christmas Spectacular, (feat. Dancer), Good Vibrations! (feat. Dancer and contemporary soloist), Viking Ocean Cruises (Lead female dancer), MTV's TRL (feat. Dancer), various music videos, live events, and gigs throughout NYC, and her favorite credit-- Disney Cruise Line! Gretchen has called The Walt Disney Company home for two years and counting, and has had the pleasure of performing in 6 different Disney Cruise Line shows. Getting to be a Mainstage Dancer/Jedi/Sword-fighter/Puppeteer with Mickey, all the princesses, and even some Stormtroopers made all the hard work growing up in the dance studio, conventions, and competitions worth it. When not traveling for performances, Gretchen spends her time in New York City, training and working closely with some of the industry's top choreographers. She hopes to pass on her knowledge, inspiration, and maybe even a little magic to the next generation of up and coming dancers! For more information about Gretchen or to contact for bookings, visit www.GretchenMcCutcheon.com

