

TDE OKC JUDGES



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.



Jessica Connelly, was born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska where her love for the art of dance began. As an adult, she moved to Los Angeles to continue her training and begin her dance career. While in LA, she did a work-study with Debbie Reynolds Dance Studio. She started performing with Princess Cruise Lines and has been traveling, teaching, and performing ever since! In addition to the Cruise Ships she has performed and choreographed for Dinner Theatres around the globe, as well as Musical Theatre presentations. Jessica was trained in Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Lyrical, Contemporary, Musical Theater, and loves to teach them all!! She had the privilege of assisting a cast-mate in opening a Dance Studio in London. Red Star Theatre Arts is thriving and educating students through the ISTD method of ballet. She has recently moved to Park City, Utah where she is training with Ballet West Academy and working with the students at Dance Tech! She is continuing her education in the Ballroom styles with Ballroom Utah and hopes to be a Ballroom competitor someday! She finds value in learning from students and other Dance Instructors. Seeing students' progress is one of Jessica's greatest joys!



Tara Carpenter grew up dancing at her mother's dance studio in Texas starting at the age of three. She has trained in all styles of dance from some of the top teachers in the Nation at Houston Met Dance Center in Houston, Broadway Dance Center in New York City, and Millennium Dance Complex in LA to name a few. She attended the University of Houston studying dance and marketing. Tara was the Director of The Dance Factory for 15 years where she led the competitive dance teams to success earning numerous high scores, choreography, and teacher awards. She was also the Director of the award-winning Duchesne Dance Team in Houston, TX. Her choreography has been performed at Disney World and at the Tanzommer Dance Festival in Innsbruck, Austria. Tara currently teaches ballet, contemporary, jazz, hip hop, and technique classes to all ages and levels. She also choreographs for award winning dance teams across Texas. Tara has traveled as a dance competition judge for the past 12 years. She is very excited to be a part of The Dance Effect family this season!



Tara W F Cacciatore (St. Louis, MO) graduated with honors from Webster University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance with an emphasis in ballet and modern. She has studied in New York City, Chicago, Washington DC, St. Louis, and The Twin Cities with renowned artists and teachers in companies she has performed with as well as guest artists and summer intensives. Tara has been featured on PBS for her solo role in Jessica Lang's "Anonymous" in the New Dance Horizon's first season of touring as well as in Dance Magazine's October 2012 issue, St. Louis Post Dispatch, News Channel Four, Twin Cities Pioneer Press, The Star Tribune, and The New York Times. Tara has taught and choreographed in universities, on professional companies, in student based studios and under her own Project: le.Lux. Before moving to St. Paul, MN she was an adjunct professor at The University of Missouri St. Louis in their theater and dance department teaching modern and jazz with an additional writing emphasis on the history of dance. She, most recently, had the opportunity to choreograph at Webster University and assist in setting work on Grand Rapids Ballet. Cacciatore choreographs full length works for her pre-professional company Project III which donates all proceeds to women's homes and teaches/choreographs for her studio as Artistic Director/Owner of Momentum Dance Project. Cacciatore's choreography can be seen on the Higher Education Channel for her full length piece commission in a co-hosted concert "(un)Bridled". Her choreography has been selected twice for The American College Dance Festival as well as adjudicated and chosen for their Gala Performance before graduating from college. Cacciatore was the recipient of the Chalot Douglas Trust Award for Excellence in the Performing Arts in 2010 and has continued to receive recognition for her choreography in awards and commissions. Tara is a former company member of four seasons with TU Dance, a contemporary modern/ballet company, under the artistic direction of Toni Pierce-Sands and Uri Sands performing locally as well as touring regionally and nationally. In her professional career she has most enjoyed performing works of recognized choreographers such as Giocando Barbutto, Katrina Hall, Francesca Harper, Jessica Lang, and Uri Sands. She has performed in acclaimed theaters like The Joyce Theater in New York, New NY and The Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. Cacciatore is also a former company member of Karlovsky & Company and Common Thread Contemporary Dance Company as well as a guest artist with a-Trek Dance Collective and ANONNYArts. Before moving to the Twin Cities, choreographers of influence include Iyun Harrison, Christine Kardell, Dawn Karlovsky, Eddy Ocampo, Jennifer Medina, Jimena Paz, and Beckah Voigt.