

UDEO State High School Dance Festival Feb. 2012 Professional Adjudicator and Master Teacher Bios

A BIG "THANK YOU" to our amazing and prestigious guest professionals who are facilitating as our adjudicators and master class teachers. Only the best who are current in their field were chosen, with some even coming from out of state. Thank You for supporting the State High School Dance Festival and Dance in Education here in Utah!



Ai Fujii Nelson began dancing in Japan at the age of four where she received several national dance awards. After coming to the U.S. she earned a BFA in Modern Dance at the University of Utah. Following graduation, Ai apprenticed for Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company in New York City, and danced professionally with Ririe Woodbury Dance Company for eight seasons in Salt Lake City. Recently she danced her way to New Zealand, where she spent two years acquiring the Master of Creative and Performing Arts degree in Choreography. Ai has graced stages throughout the U.S., as well as France, Italy, Spain, Scotland, China, New Zealand, and Japan. She is currently teaching modern dance at Utah Valley University, as well as for the Virginia Tanner Arts In Education program, and the Ririe Woodbury Master Class series.

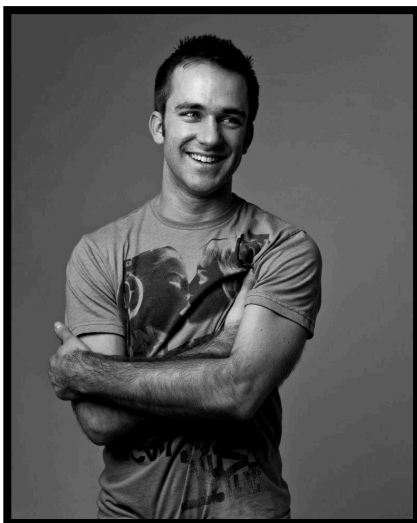


Alexandra Bradshaw is a Canadian-Californian dancer and yogini (BFA & BA University of California, Irvine; Cambridge University, UK; The Ailey School, NYC; RYT YogaWorks). Before joining Ririe Woodbury Dance Company in 2011, she performed internationally with Rami Be'er (Israel), Todd Courage, Robert Moses, Janice Garrett, Charles Moulton, Nol Simonse, Alyce Finwall, Kirstin E. Williams (San Francisco), Catherine Galasso, Brooke Broussard, David Dorfman (NYC), Donald McKayle, and Loretta Livingston (Los Angeles). As an artist, performer, and teacher, Alexandra endeavors to share her love of dance and yoga with folks from all walks and all ages.



Amy Markgraf Jacobson is an Assistant Professor of Modern Dance at Utah Valley University. Amy began her love for moving and dancing as a child with Brigham Young University's Young Dancemakers. That love for creating, exploring, and learning has guided her throughout her life as a teacher, choreographer, artistic director, mover, and human being. Her choreography has been honored and performed at several (5) American College Dance Festivals Gala Performances, choreographic showcases as well as throughout the United States, Europe, Australia, South America, Philippines, and Asia. Her teaching and choreography reaches out to elementary school children, high schools, universities, teachers and adults of all levels. Amy research focus on training and conditioning the dancer of today, mentoring student choreography, and creating new and innovative new works of her own. Amy has taught dance workshops for the

Utah State Office of Education, Utah school districts, and has been a member of the Utah State of Education curriculum Writing Team for Dance. Recent projects include collaborative projects bringing dance to elementary education students through classes and performances throughout Utah and the British Isles as well as creating a Dance Study Abroad Program. Current, projects include "Lacuna" and "Sense of Place" with fellow faculty member Angie Bancheo-Kelleher. Amy is a National Board Member of dance and the Child international. Amy holds a B.S. in Dance Education from Utah State University, a MA from Brigham Young University, and a MFA from the University of Utah. Amy is currently the Modern Dance and Dance Education Program Coordinator at UVU and the former Artistic Director of Synergy Dance Company. Amy teaches modern dance technique, dance kinesiology, modern dance teaching methods, and dance conditioning. Amy's loves include hers two rambunctious and inquisitive little men, yard work, vacations, reading, her constant attempt to stay in shape, time with her husband, movies, and discovering the little joys in life's journey.



Brad Beakes was born and raised in Southern California and began his formal dance training at Dellos Dance and Performing Arts and later attended California State University Fullerton where he was immersed in modern dance. While living in California Brad danced in Los Angeles based performances such as Celebrate Dance, Los Angeles Dance Invitational and Palm Desert Choreography Festival: Concert Under the Stars and also choreographed and performed in the American College Dance Festival. He has also danced with Mike Esperanza's BARE Dance Company and Visions Dance Theatre where he was recently recognized the 2010 Lester Horton Award winner for 'Outstanding Male Performance' in Macarena Gandarillas' piece 'Always

Remember Never to Forget'. Brad moved to New York City in 2010 to attend The Ailey School's spring semester in the Independent Study Program and shortly after joined Naganuma Dance performing throughout NYC including venues such as the Merce Cunningham Studio and SummerStage. Brad recently moved to Salt Lake City in the summer of 2011 and is currently dancing full-time for the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company.



Caine Keenan is a true yankee, born and raised in Wethersfield, CT; his early dance training took him around the Constitution State and into Massachusetts. From small town beginnings, he went on to take New York City by storm, receiving his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and having the amazing opportunities to dance in works by Nacho Duato, Trisha Brown, Nicolo Fonte, and Robert Battle. He also had a blast being in the creations of his esteemed faculty and extremely talented classmates. After graduating cum laude and the honor of the J.S. Seidman Award for "Outstanding Dance Senior," Caine went on to dance in the recreations of Master Choreographer Alwin Nikolais as a part of the Nikolais Celebration Tour. His associations with the Nikolais work lead to a full-time artist position in Ririe Woodbury Dance

Company. For the past 7 years, Caine immersed himself in the dance community of Salt Lake City and the state of Utah. From performances, to choreography, to master classes, he brought his passion for the art of dance with him everywhere in Zion, across the states, and throughout parts of Europe. He proudly directed some of the most talented young artists in Utah through RWDC's Step UP program, mentoring these students towards Sterling Scholar Awards, Scholarships, and collegiate programs. Caine has been invited to teach at many studios and schools in Utah, highlights would be his two years at eMotion Dance in Sandy, Dana Smith Dance Studio of Pocatello, ID, adjudicating and lecturing at Idaho State University, and performing the role of Peter Pan for the Dancer's Conservatory.

His proudest achievement is the recognition into 'Dance Magazine's' "25 to Watch" in the year 2010, a true childhood dream realized. After a fascinating 8 years of work with Nikolais Dance Theater and Ririe Woodbury Dance Company, Caine has moved south to Las Vegas with a dream of performing with Cirque du Soleil and hopes of finding even more opportunities to deepen his love for dance and show Sin City all he has to offer. He currently teaches full time at the Dance Zone in Henderson, NV, as well as dancing part time with Las Vegas Contemporary Dance Theater and freelancing as a teacher and choreographer.



Celeste Lara is the head instructor at Utah Valley Capoeira. She is from Utah, and began training capoeira at age eighteen. She has had years of gymnastic and musical training and competing, earned a BA in Music from BYU in 2011, and has nine years of teaching experience in both music and capoeira. She has traveled all over the country for capoeira, and continues to train with Mestrando Jamaika at Volta Miuda Capoeira in Salt Lake.



Chris DelPorto is a “big strokes” dancer. He has always been drawn to big, athletic movement and across the floor patterns. He is a Utah native who received his BFA in Modern Dance from the University of Utah. After school, Chris danced in New York for various companies, most notably Pilobolus Dance Theatre. Chris has a long time interest in partnering and has studied contact improvisation in many different venues across the country.



Corinne Penka graduated with a BFA in Modern Dance from the University of Utah in 2005. She is in her sixth year as a dance specialist for the tanner dance arts in education program. She is also a certified personal trainer at irock gym, a dancer with rawmoves, movement forum, sbdance, and my turkey sandwich, and a frequent guest choreographer / teacher at judge memorial high school. At the present moment, she is in the process of becoming certified in the xtend barre method which will be completed by march.



Jo Blake Many, many moons ago grandpa Jo dreamed of becoming a dancer. Following his dreams and pursuing his goals brought him to the University of Utah to complete his BFA in Modern Dance. Upon graduation, Jo went on to join the Ririe-Woodbury family, educating many youngsters about the strength and value of the arts, performing nationally and internationally to instill the importance of the arts, and to share the beauty of the arts. “Thank you fam, friends, jcc, kc and rawa wawa supporters! Eight years strong and still dancing to the beat. K.D.A. Keep Dance Alive!!”



Kay Andersen, Associate Professor of Dance, Chair of Department of Theatre Arts and Dance, Southern Utah University. Kay Andersen received his Bachelor of Arts from Southern Utah University and his Master of Arts from New York University in dance and dance education with an emphasis in performance/choreography. His career as a dancer/teacher/choreographer has spanned four decades and six continents. For twelve years he was a soloist and teacher with the Nikolais and Murray Louis Dance Company in New York City. With the company he performed worldwide, participated in the creation of important roles, taught at the studio in

New York City and presented workshops throughout the world. He has toured internationally performing in venues such as the Paris Opera, Kennedy Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music (NYC), The Joyce Theater (NYC), Spoleto Festival (Italy, USA), American Dance Festival (Korea, USA), Carlton Festival (Brazil), Italica Festival (Spain), Athens Festival (Greece), Aix en Provence Festival (France), Kuopio Festival (Finland), Jacob's Pillow (USA), and many more, as well as serving as a cultural ambassador to India representing the USIA Department. He worked as a performer/choreographer for Televisa of Mexico City where he appeared in a weekly television special as well as tours throughout the republic of Mexico. He has been a guest performer with Imago Dance Theatre of Florence, Italy, and New York based companies such as: Shapiro and Smith Dance, Linda Nutter Dancers, Erroll Simpson and Company, Zipolitos, among others. In Los Angeles he performed extensively with Burch Mann's American Folk Ballet and was a member of the company for twenty four years. He recently choreographed for the Utah Shakespearean Festival, the Hubei Opera and Dance Drama Theatre of Wuhan, China, is an associate professor of dance at Southern Utah University, and continues to teach and choreograph domestically and internationally.

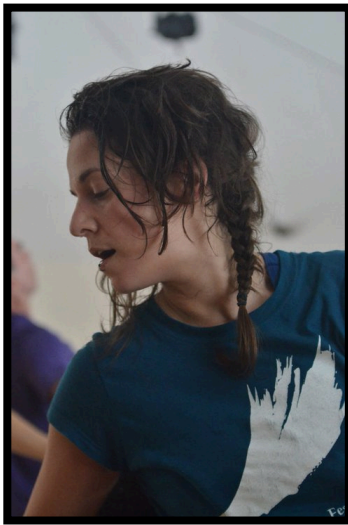


Kim Strunk is currently an Associate Professor of Dance at Utah Valley University. She had a distinguished performing career with Repertory Dance Theatre (1984-1996) and subsequently received her Master of Fine Arts from the University of Utah Modern Dance Department. Kim is known for her energetic and culturally rich classes in Central and West African Dance. Her passion for African dance, music and cultural has taken her to Guinea, West Africa and

Congo for enriching, engaged experiences that greatly influence her teaching and scholarship. She also traveled to Paris, New York, California, Hawaii, Maui, and New Mexico for multi-cultural workshops and conferences with master teachers from across the continent of Africa and the African Diaspora. In 1994 she founded Diverse Dance LLC, a company that promotes African dance through workshops, conferences, master classes and humanitarian work.



Leah Nelson has a great love for Contact Improvisation and enjoys teaching it to whomever is interested. She's practiced Contact for 10 years, and has experience teaching it to high schoolers, college students (at The Juilliard School) and adult dancers & non-dancers. She and Cortney McGuire have a duet dance company "fivefour", and they've been collaborating and performing in numerous venues throughout the country (mainly in New York) for the past 6 years. Since settling down in Salt Lake from NY, 8 months ago, she has become involved in "Movement Forum", performed with Ashley Anderson, and created and performed a solo and a "fivefour" virtual duet. She believes that Contact Improvisation is not only helpful for creating choreography, but it's also a meditative experience where one can learn a lot about him or herself.



Lily Picts performs and creates kinesthetic, experiential performance utilizing the human form and moving body. Research interests include exploring architectural space; performativity; the gallery context; audience's perception, expectation, and interaction with art; as well as what includes, excludes, enables, and invites audience participation towards co-creating, as active contributors, a participatory role within the creative process. As a performer, Lilly works with directors exploring similar interests and she remains curious in being seen, not seen, understood, misunderstood, heard, not heard, documented, perceived, and interpreted. As an internationally respected teacher, Lilly has worked extensively with dancers of all ages with and without disabilities in dance and contact improvisation festivals and events, and in

professional, community, academic, and teacher training environments. Lilly has an MA in Choreography from Middlesex University, UK, and is currently completing her PhD in Dance at Texas Women's University; she has studied extensively with Nancy Stark Smith, and has an ongoing relationship with Earthdance retreat center in Western Massachusetts.



Monica Campbell danced professionally with Los Angeles' Diavolo Dance Theater from 1999-2006. Additionally, she acted as Rehearsal Director from 2002-2004 and Associate Artistic Director from 2004-2006. Campbell went on to complete an MFA in Modern Dance from the University of Utah in the Summer of '09. While at the University of Utah, Monica was awarded a Graduate Teaching Assistantship as well as a Graduate Research Fellowship for her choreographic work "Tabula Rasa" which premiered in Fall '09. Other professional credits include dancing with Molissa Fenley and Dancers at the Lincoln Center Out of Doors Festival,

Malashock Dance & Company and the Regina Klenjoski Dance Company.

Campbell has shown her choreography in Salt Lake City, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, Idaho as well as Cordoba and Madrid, Spain. She premiered her first evening length work, *The Final Hours* in Salt Lake City as the Sugar Space Artist in Residence for Fall 2009, and recently premiered two new works at the American College Dance Festival 2011's adjudicated and informal concerts. Campbell is currently a Lecturer in Utah Valley University's Department of Dance where she has set new works on Synergy Dance Company, Repertory Ballet Ensemble and Contemporary Dance Ensemble, and is currently the Artistic Director of Synergy Dance Company.



Natosha Washington graduated from the University of Utah's Modern Dance Department in 2004. Natosha is co-artist director with the wonderful Nicholas Cendese of RawMoves, is in her seventh year teaching dance at Judge Memorial Catholic High School, and currently dances with My Turkey Sandwich dance company. Natosha has had the honor to have choreography shown at the Kennedy Center which won for best performance and was featured in Dance Magazine in 2004. She has choreographed for Repertory Dance Theater, University of Utah, Utah Valley University, Brigham Young University, BYU-Idaho, throughout the Utah Valley area, US and various other countries. When Natosha isn't choreographing or dancing she enjoys the good company of her friends and loved ones over a glass of wine and delicious food!



Nichole Ortega began her classical ballet training in 1975 with Sandra Allen. From 1984 to 1990, she continued her training with Jacqueline P. Colledge, as a member and soloist with the Utah Regional Ballet Company. Nichole completed her undergraduate degree in Health Education and Dance Education at Brigham Young University, and earned a Master of Arts in Dance, from California State University, Long Beach. For ten years, Nichole acted as a secondary dance educator, developing the dance program and Dance Company at Payson High School in Payson, Utah. Currently, Nichole is in her eighth year at Utah Valley University where she is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Dance. She teaches Ballet, Dance Education, and other core courses and acted as Artistic Director during the two inaugural years of UVU Repertory Ballet Ensemble. Nichole is an active member of the National Dance

Education Organization, was President of the Utah Dance Education Organization from 2008-2010, and is currently the President of the Utah Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters. She served two years as the Secondary Endorsement Dance Representative for the Utah State Office of Education and has choreographed for Synergy Dance Company, Contemporary Dance Ensemble, Utah Regional Ballet, Utah Regional Ballet II, Boise State College, and Scera Shell Outdoor Theater. She was awarded an NEA grant, along with Angela Banchemo-Kelleher and Kim Strunk, to re-stage Dance for Walt Whitman by Helen Tamaris. Nichole has been published twice in The Academy

Journal and once in The Journal of the International Arts in Society, and has shared her research at several conferences, including her most recent presentation at the International Arts in Society Conference in Berlin, Germany.



Ryan Di Lello is a current professional and finalist on the Latin American "DANCING WITH THE STARS" and recent finalist on the hit FOX television show SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE. He and his wife Ashleigh are known for being the first and only married couple to ever make the show. They soon after became stars of the Broadway show BURN THE FLOOR. Ryan has made guest appearances on many popular shows including ABC's DANCING WITH THE STARS, DROP DEAD DIVA, and THE ELLEN DEGENERES SHOW and soon he will appear in an upcoming Hollywood movie with Cameron Diaz. Ryan has extensive experience as a choreographer. His work has been used by Hollywood films, ABC's DANCING WITH THE STARS, FOX's SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE, Royal Caribbean International, competitive dance teams and professional theater companies.



Shannon Vance (Salt Lake City) teaches contemporary, ballroom, musical theatre, creative dance, and kinesiology at Southern Utah University. She graduated with an MFA in Modern Dance from the University of Utah receiving the 2009-2010 Graduate Teaching Assistantship and, performed in Edgar Zendejas "Ziji" and Nicholas Leichter's, "Free the Angels". Shannon directed the Mountain View High Dance Program 2004-2007, and holds a B.A. in Dance Education from BYU, performing with the Ballroom Dance Company and *Dancensemble*. Her background also includes jazz, Latin, and hip-hop. Shannon enjoys integrating dance genres and, free-lances for various studios, competitions, and intensives.



Tara McArthur is originally from Nevada City, California, where she began her dance training. She went on to receive a B.F.A. in Dance from California State University, Long Beach, where her choreography has been performed and was chosen as a finalist in the regional American College Dance Festival at University of California, Irvine. She has danced with Keith Johnson/Dancers and previously with Ririe-Woodbury as a dancer in the Alwin Nikolais repertoire, before joining full-time in 2010. In addition to dancing with RWDC, she currently teaches contemporary technique and jazz at Creative Arts Academy in Bountiful, UT