

# MEET THE DANCE INSTRUCTORS:



## GILLIAN BOURKE

Gillian is currently studying dance education and kinesiology at Hope College. She is a company dancer with StrikeTime Dance and has choreographed for Hope College, RMHS Orchesis and Vibe Dance Company. She has been studying dance since the age of 3 and excited to share her passion with dancers of all ages.



## AMY BRAHENY

Amy has her Bachelors degree in Dance from the University of Iowa. She has studied with the Berkshire Ballet Theatre, The Rodriguez Dance Theatre and more. She has choreographed for annual company performances, community education workshops, recitals and has instructed master classes in ballet, pointe and modern dance



## ANNA ERDMAN

Anna studied at the Dance Academy of Antioch, Talent Forum, and Framework Dance Chicago. Her emphasis has been Tap, Jazz, Contemporary, Ballet, Point, Hip Hop and Modern. Anna has recently completed her Associates in the Arts from College of Lake County with a focus in dance. Anna has also received honors for her tap dancing, including a scholarship to attend Chicago Human Rhythm Project



## KELSEY FORTIER

Kelsey is an artist, performer, actor, dancer and poet, based in Chicago. Her dance training began at DeMaira Dance Studio and she continued her studies at Southern Illinois University. In 2015 she was chosen to work with Lou Conte Dance at Hubbard Street Studio. She performs professionally around the Chicagoland area and recently worked with Design Dance Company and Northlight Theatre. Kelsey is a passionate performer and instructor and cherishes spreading expression with others on stage, in classroom and studio.



## JENNIFER HICKS

Jennifer has been studying dance since the age of four. She became a teacher for Dena Marie's School of Dance in 2002. She has danced at the Lou Conte Dance Company and the Hubbard Street Dance Company. Throughout high school Jennifer was part of the Orchesis team and choreographed variety show dances.



## JILLIAN LENKA

Jillian is trained in contemporary, jazz, hip hop, and modern dance. She has competed and trained with Xtreme Dance Force and Gotta Dance Studio. She has studied with renowned choreographers such as Mia Michaels and Brian Friedman. Jillian graduated from Columbia College Chicago, where she had the opportunity to study in LA and at the Dublin Conservatory of Music & Drama in Dublin, Ireland. She is currently pursuing a career in theatre and film in Chicago.days."



## CARLA RICCHIO

Carla has been with the Arlington Heights Park District Dance program since '02. She has over 30 years of dance training and performing. Carla attended several Master classes with Randy Duncan and attended dance classes at Gus Giordanos for years. Carla enforces a fun, positive and serious learning experience for her dancers.



## ALYSSA SUGISAWA

Alyssa has studied dance for over 10 years with experience in Ballet, Pointe, Jazz, Tap, Modern, Lyrical, Hip-Hop and Musical Theatre. She has danced at Dorothy's Dance Unlimited and Dena Marie's School of Dance. She taught as an assistant for Dena Maria's School of Dance in 2006. Alyssa received her Bachelor's degree from North Central College.



## HEATHER TOMAINO

Heather has studied many forms of dance since childhood. She received her degree at Texas Christian University, where she continued her education in dance. Heather has taught dance at many studios in the Chicagoland area, including dance schools in Itasca, Schaumburg and Palatine. She continues her dance education, attending numerous master classes in multiple techniques and enjoys sharing her dance knowledge.



## ASHLEY VALENCIA

Ashley grew up dancing in Centennial, CO at Centerstage Starz Theatre and Dance Studio. She received her BFA in Dance from Stephens College in Columbia, MO, studying ballet, modern, jazz, tap, flamenco, Russian character, West African and choreography. Ashley has danced with Damsels, Matter Dance Company, Chicago Verge Dance Theatre and studied with Chicago Tap Theatre. Ashley is excited to be back in Chicago to continue to teach and dance!



## AMY WILDE

Amy grew up in Arlington Heights where she danced at the Arlington Heights Park District with Synergy Dance Company and at John Hersey High School with Orchesis. She then attended Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, graduating in 2013. Amy is currently a second year member with Outlet Dance Company. She is also involved in continuing her dance education and recently received the Basic Level Certification for the Giordano Technique with Nan Giordano. Amy is excited to continue to share her passion for dance with her students.