

# MEET THE DANCE INSTRUCTORS:



## ISAIAH ALATORRE

Isaiah J Alatorre started his dance training at the age of 12 in the south suburbs of Chicago. After high school, he went on to become a scholarship student at the Lou Conte Dance Studio under the direction of Claire Bataille. He has worked with Chicago Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Goodman Theatre, Fairfax Ballet, Ruth Page Civic Ballet, and with Drury Lane Theatre in West Side Story. Mr. Isaiah has taught in many capacities at dance studios in the Chicagoland area, including serving as Ballet Master creating ballet syllabus and Choreographer for competition dance. We are excited to have him working with the Arlington Heights Park District!



## MICHELLE JACKSON

Michelle has studied Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Pointe, Lyrical and Hip hop since the age of three. Post high school, she continued her passion for dance as a dance major on scholarship at Oklahoma City University where she also studied voice and musical theater. She has performed at local dinner theaters in Chicago as well as a Chicago Luvabull Dancer for the Chicago Bulls during the "Michael Jordan Days"



## 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!



## JILLIAN LENNA

Jillian found her love for performing through dance at a young age. She started her technical dance training at Gotta Dance Studio, where she was a member of the Starlite Dance Company. She has studied with renowned choreographers such as Mia Michaels and Brian Friedman, and trained and competed with Xtreme Dance Force, winning numerous awards both at a regional and national level. 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. Jillian loves working with students of all levels and helping them become true artists while sharing her passion for 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



## 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.



## MIRANDA GENTILE

Miranda has been dancing for over 20 years. She began her training at Gotta Dance Studio and competed nationally for Midwest Dance Authority and Stepping Out Dance. She has studied dance at College of DuPage and Columbia College in Chicago, receiving her AFA in dance. Miranda dances professionally with the Kate Jablonski Dance Company and the Meraki Dance Company, and she has completed her Yoga Teaching Certification. She is excited to watch the dancers at AHPD grow and find their own voices in dance this year!



## 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.



## VICTORIA GERACI

Victoria has been dancing for over 17 years. She began her training at Dorothy's Dance Studio and continued at Golden Work of Art Dance Company, studying many styles and competing. She has performed with Giordano Dance Company and competed with Inspire Dance Company. Victoria has attended Harper College and currently is happy to share her love of dance as an instructor around the Chicagoland area.



## 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.



## 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.



## 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!