

Meet The Dance Faculty



Gillian Bourke

Gillian is a company dancer with StrikeTime Dance and has choreographed for Hope College, RMHS Orchestis and Vibe Dance Company. She holds a degree in dance education and kinesiology from Hope College. 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!



Susan Cohen

Susan has been teaching dance for over 10 years in the Chicagoland area. She has taught ballet, pre-pointe and pointe classes, along with creative movement and preschool dance curriculum. Susan's choreography has been seen on many competition stages throughout the years, and she is thrilled to be sharing her experience and love with the dance families at AHPD!



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.



Luis Grant

Luis has danced with Dance Troop, Xtreme Dance Force, Fatally Unique, and trained at Columbia College Chicago. He competed in the semi-finals for season 6 of America's Got Talent and has been featured with recording artist Shuree Rivera, Israel and Newbreed, Blanca, Matthew West, and NF. He performs and choreographs for the Mega Church Elevation, and he is the founder of 3DanceCompany.



Jennifer Hicks

Miss Jennie has trained at Dorothy's Dancing Unlimited, Dena Marie's studio, Lou Conte Dance Company, and Hubbard Street Dance Company. She has been a member of our dance faculty since 2005 and served as a director of our award-winning Vibe Dance Company for over 8 years, where her choreography has received numerous awards.



Kate Kinyon

Kate holds a BFA in Musical Theatre and dance from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point and has been a dance educator for over 20 years. She has created and taught dance curriculum in the Chicago Public Schools and has previously owned her own performing arts school. She serves as the movement consultant for the national headquarters of KinderCare Learning Centers.



Kirsten Markham

Kirsten has been teaching dance for over 25 years in the Chicagoland area. She received her dance training through Ruth Page and Gus Giordano in addition to receiving her degree in Early Childhood Education. She choreographed a dance team for 10 years with North Shore Dance and Drama and was a company member of the Barefoot Hawaiian dance troupe.



Carla Ricchio

Carla has been with the Arlington Heights Park District Dance program since 2002. 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. Alyssa received her Bachelor's degree from North Central College.



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



Lexie Van Skyock

Alexia has danced since age 6 through Jenny's Dance Centre and received her Associate of Arts from the College of Lake County. She holds a B.A. in Dance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, studying modern, jazz, hip hop, improvisation and collaboration, ballet, and Umfundalai. Alexia has evolved this passion into her love of teaching, and enjoys sharing her excitement for movement in both dance and fitness environments.



Maggie Walsh

Maggie was a member of the Bonnie Lindholm Dance Company where she studied and performed throughout the Chicagoland area. In high school she performed and choreographed with Orchestis. She has choreographed for the Harper College Dance Company and the Harper Pom and Dance Team. Maggie is thrilled to have the opportunity to share her love of dance with the next generation!



Danielle Wilder

Danielle has been dancing since age 4 and holds a BFA in Dance Performance and Choreography from Hope College. She was a backup dancer and choreographer for Shuree Rivera and has danced in music videos, commercials, and multiple dance companies. She currently dances with Praize Productions and teaches throughout the Chicagoland area. She is excited to be teaching in Arlington Heights!