

# MILFORD DANCE ACADEMY

## MEET OUR STAFF TEAM



### ***TEACHER / CHOREOGRAPHER***

**Kristen Knight** is the owner and artistic director of MDA. Being the Owner, she is the person that makes it all happen. Kristen has been dancing since the age of three. Kristen has been trained in Jazz, Tap, Ballet, Modern, Lyrical, Musical Theater, Singing and Pom Pon. She has had the opportunity to study with some of the greatest dancers in the world. After High School, she continued her education and training in Dance through Dance Educators of Michigan and Dance Educators of America, where she also competed, winning over-all awards and Titles. In her younger dance years Kristen, has won such titles as “Little Miss Snowflake Talent”, Little Miss Valentine Talent”, “Miss Southern Showbiz of 1982 and First Runner up for “Junior Miss Dance of Michigan” and has performed on Cruise Ships. In Kristen’s pre-teen years, she became a member of **THE KID CONNECTION**, a Tri – Talent Production, where she had the opportunity to perform for various shows, T.V. spots and being a sponsor for radio commercials, the Detroit Free Press and The Detroit News. Kristen became a member of the **YOUNG AMERICANS**, singing and dancing throughout the state of California. With her vocal ability and dance training Kristen has become a multi-Talented Artist. Throughout her years of teaching, Kristen has received numerous awards for her choreography and creativity, winning Choreographer of The Year for 2012. She has been recognized and honored by having one of her Tap Routines filmed in Las Vegas and aired on National Television. She has also been recognized and published in Who’s Who among Dance Teachers. Kristen continues to win Choreography Awards for her excellence in Tap, Lyrical & Jazz, and was also awarded Best Choreography for a Bollywood Routine in 2015. She is very grateful to be able to share her talents with children and adults of all ages. Kristen has been awarded the ADCC AWARD for 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 at Turn It Up Dance Challenge, Energy National Dance and Groove Dance Competition. She was also awarded Studio of Excellence Award for Encore Performing Arts in 2017 and won the Top Studio Award for Highest scoring routine at Energy National Dance and Encore DCS in 2017 and 2018. And 2019 at STARQUEST International Dance Competition, Energy National Dance and Dance Xplosion. She continues to teach with her passion and years of experience and training to bring out the best in her students.





***TEACHER/CHOREOGRAPHER***

**Brittany Ladd** has been dancing for over 20 years and teaching for over 10 years. Brittany is an alumna of the StarLine Dance Company and competed for 10 years receiving several scholarships and awards. She furthered her education and training by receiving a Double Bachelors of Art in Dance Teaching and Dance Performance from Columbia College Chicago. Brittany successively graduated with honors, scholarships and grants from Columbia College. She studied dance histories, choreography, technique, performance, teaching and anatomy courses. She has studied dance all throughout Michigan, Illinois and New York areas. Brittany has furthered her experience and education under renowned dance artists such as Andrea Miller, Banu whom is affiliated with the Merce Cunningham Company, Stephen Petronio, Vicky Shick from the Trisha Brown Company, Joe Goode and Mia Michaels. Brittany also danced professionally with a Detroit Dance Company from 2011-2013. Her expertise's are in teaching, performance and choreography of all levels and all styles. Brittany is skilled in Modern, Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Pointe, Lyrical, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Theatre and Gymnastics. Brittany's true talent is her sincerity and passion for teaching dance to children. Over the past few years at Milford Dance Academy, Brittany has been awarded "Choreography of the Year" in 2012, along with most innovative choreography in 2013 and accepted numerous top score, choreography and outstanding technique awards in 2014. Brittany continues to win Best Choreography Awards through our 2015 & 2016 Competition Season, where she has been recognized for her creativity and excellence in dance. She is a strong individual who likes to push the boundaries of her own choreography and teaching techniques. Brittany emphasizes technique, strength and passion in her classes at Milford Dance Academy. In 2017 and 2018 and 2019 some of her routines scored the highest score in the entire competition and awarded for creativity. MDA is very honored to have Brittany teaching our Competitive and Recreational Programs.





***TEACHER/CHOREOGRAPHER***

**Sara Burman** began dancing at the age of 4 years old and started training competitively at 7 years old at American Dance Academy in Commerce Township and South Lyon, Michigan. Sara has been trained in the styles of ballet, pointe, modern, contemporary, lyrical, jazz, tap, musical theater, acro and Pom. Sara also trained under Jodie Randolph with the pre – professional dance company X2 for its ' 2015-2016 season before High School Graduation and was a part of her high school's Pom team for two seasons. After graduating from Lakeland High School in 2016, Sara began her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in dance at Wayne State University with plans on graduating in 2020, studying not only dance technique but also anatomy, dance kinesiology, trends in dance as well as proper movement analysis and alignment. She is also in the process of becoming a certified Stott Pilates instructor. While pursuing her degree, she joined the professional company Contexture dance Detroit for it's 2018 and 2019 season, dancing under Tracy Halloran. Sara was awarded two BEST CHOREOGRAPHY Awards for 2019. Sara is looking forward to another great year at Milford Dance Academy and is excited to teach competitive as well as recreational students!



***TEACHER/CHOREOGRAPHER***

**Kali Finley** has been dancing since the age of 3 and is an alumna of the StarLine Dance Company. When she graduated in 2011, she continued her passion by teaching. She has trained in all styles of dance for over 15 years, competing throughout the State Of Michigan & Nationwide while receiving many awards for her excellence in tap. Her choreography has been recognized at Tribute National Talent in 2014. Her creative routines and choreography has placed in top ten overall placements at numerous competitions, received judge choice awards and other top number awards such as Rising Star X – Caliber from Dance Xplosion Talent in 2016. Kali continues to train our beginner through intermediate competitive and recreational students to where they have excelled with their abilities. Kali is excited to still be a part of our MDA Family and looks forward to creating and teaching our students.



***TEACHER/CHOREOGRPAHER***

**Christina (Chrissy) Jolokai** has been dancing since she was 14. Growing up in Chicago she studied technique with Impact Dance Studio and Eurythmic Dance Company where she had the privilege to perform choreography set by Randy Duncan, Connie Fagen, Jeff Fagen, Corey Nagel, and Jeff Hancock. There she was able to study Ballet, Jazz, Hip-Hop, Contemporary, Lyrical, African, Salsa, Funk, Spiritual, and Musical Theater. She also had the opportunity to choreograph two numbers for Eurythmic Dance Company in 2006 for the production "Twisted." Christina was on the Pom Pon team from 2002-2006 and captain of the team in 2005 and 2006 where her choreography won the team 2nd and 3rd at State competition for Kick and Pom routines. Chrissy received her Major in Psychology and Minor in Dance at Grand Valley State University. She studied Ballet, Jazz, Modern, Improvisation, Choreography, and Partnering. She was honored to work among amazing choreographers and teachers such as Calin Radulescu, Shawn T. Bible, Mary Loman, Lisa Catrett- Belrose, and Shuana Steele. Christina attended ACDFA dance conferences once a year. She also danced with Grand Rapids arena football team while teaching dance and exercise classes. Christina then toured around the world with the Chicago Honey Bear Dancers; a triple threat production show that travels the world to perform for corporate events. She choreographed for the company in 2010. To this day her Jazz routine "Firework" is still used in their production show. In 2012 she danced with Detroit Dance Collective as an apprentice and was asked to return as a company member for the following year. Christina looks forward to the many years at MDA. She teaches both competitive and recreational classes and loves working with all the kids to help them excel in the art of dance. Chrissy has been awarded for her choreography here at MDA. She hopes to help students find their passion in dance just as her teachers did for her many years ago.





***GYMNASTIC COACH***

**Roby Knight** is the owner and director of Tumble Tot Gymnastics. Operating for over 30 years, Roby has had the opportunity to instruct more than twenty thousand children of all ages in seventy-five schools, community centers, parks and recreational programs throughout the state of Michigan. He has trained cheerleaders from different schools in helping them learn their tricks for their teams. Roby has been a great Gymnastics Coach to the dancers here at MDA, where he has helped them with their flexibility and tricks for their choreography. He has also assisted multiple gymnasts in their goals in becoming competitive. Roby's instruction is performed in three levels to insure adequate and individual attention for all children. Roby Knight is trained in teaching children safe tumbling with his dedication for fun learning. If your child wants to learn a trick, Mr. Roby is the Gymnastics Coach for you!!



**Jeannette Finley – SECRETARY/OFFICE MANAGER**