



SHANNON SZUMINSKY
“Miss Shannon”

Miss Shannon received her dance training through Dussich Dance Studio in Merritt Island and Florida Dance Masters. She has 25 years of dance experience and has taught for over 10 years. She has had the opportunity to learn and teach many forms of dance, but her love and passion has always been tap. Miss Shannon has some exciting news to share this year with her first baby, Mackenzie. She looks

forward to when she can bring her little one to learn dance at EPSOD as well. Miss Shannon is very happy to be returning to Elizabeth Parsons School of Dance to share her talent and love for tap with our students.



ASHLEY SCHRADER
“Miss Ashley”

Miss Ashley began training at the age of three at James Dance Center, and has since then studied under the direction of Judy James, Lindsey Moncrief, Annette DuBose, Juan Sanchez, and Ilene Danek. At eleven, she was chosen to perform in the touring cast of “Dragon Tales Live” as the lead role of Emmy, traveling across both the United States and

Korea. At 13, she played the role of Clara at Columbus, Ohio’s “Radio City Christmas Spectacular.” She has trained at various summer intensives across the country, such as Joffrey Ballet, San Antonio, and the University of Arizona. Miss Ashley has also been honored as Disney’s “Dreamer and Doer” and awarded as a Merit Scholar in the top 10 percent of the United States under The National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts. In addition, she was a winner of the National PTA Reflections Program in dance choreography, named All Star County Dancer of the Year, and has also held the titles of Florida Dance Masters Jr. Miss 2006 and Miss Dance of Florida 2008. At this time Miss Ashley is currently a live performer for the Walt Disney World Resort in their various shows and parades.



MORGAN CARR
“Miss Morgan”

As soon as Morgan could walk, she started to dance! She grew up dancing at The Dancer’s Pointe in Orlando from the time she was five years old. She studied ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, hip hop, musical theatre, lyrical, and contemporary. Miss Morgan competed and performed with the Pointe of Impact Dance Company for 10 years, performing tap solos for

6 of them. She was a Boone High School Bravette for four years and was Captain and choreographer her senior year. She is currently teaching tap, hip hop, ballet/tap, and ballet at the Dancer’s Pointe. You may recognize Miss Morgan’s face as she began substituting at our studio last year. She is currently continuing her education at Valencia College pursuing a degree in American Sign Language and Interpretation. Miss Morgan has always had a passion for dance and is looking forward to sharing that passion with the students at Elizabeth Parsons School of Dance.



Emily Drilling
“Miss Emily”

Emily Drilling began her training at Images in Dance while living in Batavia, New York. While training with Images, she received the opportunity to become a company member for Images Evolution and traveled to Ladek, Poland to perform at the Ladek International Dance Festival. After high school, Emily moved to Philadelphia to continue her dance training at The University of the Arts, she

trained in all forms of dance, with the last two years solely focused on Ballet. Emily has performed in ballets such as “La Bayadere” under Anastasia Babayeva, excerpts of William Forsythe’s “Vile of Parody of Address” set by Douglas Becker and in the Koresh Dance Company’s “Come Together” Spring Festival for two years with Evolution Dance Company’s excerpts of “Soul Force.” Emily teaches and sets choreography for multiple schools and workshops on the East Coast and works full time for Orange County Public Schools as the Dance Instructor for Catalina Elementary.



SARA DECOURSEY
“Miss Sara”

Miss Sara started her dance training in Gainesville at Joni Messler Studio of Dance. Miss Sara moved to Orlando to earn a degree in Radiologic Technology and continued her dance education here at EPSOD. She has also participated in various summer intensives in New Hampshire and South Carolina. Miss Sara is thrilled to be a part of EPSOD and is thrilled to

be joining the teaching staff!

*Elizabeth Parsons
School of Dance*

Faculty



2016 ~ 2017

*Thirty-Six Years of
Encouraging Artistic Development*

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Meet Our Faculty 2016-2017



ELIZABETH PARSONS
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
“Miss Elizabeth”

Miss Elizabeth studied at the American School of Ballet where she received her training under Melissa Hayden, Muriel Stuart, Antole Oboukoff, Pierre Valdimiroff, and Antonio Turnovsky. She also studied tap with Jack Stanley and Ron Daniels and jazz with Gus Giordano and Luigi. For nine years she performed and taught at the Edith Royal School of Dance in Orlando, Florida.

Miss Elizabeth continued studying and teaching for Joseph Giacobbe in New Orleans and the High School of Performing Arts in Houston, Texas. She worked on her Masters Degree in dance at the University of Houston under James Clouser and joined the faculty of the Atlanta School of Ballet in 1978 where she opened a branch for them. Later, she was choreographer of University of Central Florida Theatre Department. She founded the Dr. Phillips High School Visual and Performing Arts Dance Program. She has been area director for and continues to be a member of Florida Dance Masters and is a member of the Florida Dance Association, as well as a member of the International Ballet School. Miss Elizabeth is Director of her own school and company, which was founded in 1981.



MEREDITH BRIGHT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
“Miss Meredith”

Miss Meredith began her dance training at the age of four. In 1986, her family moved to Orlando and she began dancing here at Elizabeth Parsons School of Dance. Except for a few years in Alabama, EPSOD has been her second home! In addition to dancing at our studio, she worked in the office during High School and College. She graduated from

the University of Central Florida with a degree in Early Childhood Education. While teaching at Windy Ridge School near Windermere, her love of dance kept her around and involved with the studio. Over the years, she progressed from Administrative Assistant, to Office Manager, and now Executive Director. Miss Meredith is a member of Florida Dance Masters and also serves on their Board of Directors as Secretary.



AMY FIDLER
“Miss Amy”

Miss Amy began her intensive dance training at age 13 with Ruth Petrinovic in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Through Ruth’s connections in New York City, Amy had the opportunity to work with many renowned choreographers of that time; people such as David Howard, who also received his teacher’s training from Ruth; Vicente Nebrada and Donald Saddler of Broadway fame. In 1972, she was accepted as a

trainee to the Harkness House of Ballet Arts in New York City. Deciding that teaching was where she wanted to be, Amy entered the University of Cincinnati and graduated cum laude in 1976. Amy then returned to teach and receive further teacher’s training under Ruth who is now a Master Teacher. While teaching there for 10 years, Amy assisted in many productions such as *The Nutcracker*, *Cinderella*, and *Sleeping Beauty*. Since 1988 she has been teaching for Miss Elizabeth and now has over 30 years of experience in teaching children of all ages and levels of proficiency.



VERONIKA COSTA
“Miss Veronika”

Miss Veronika has studied dance under Judy Bassing, Laraine Susa, Joe Tremaine, Ken Phifer, Bev Fletcher, Ron Daniels, Henry LaTang, Louis DePron, Paul Draper, Jack Stanly, and several others. She has performed for dinner shows, beauty pageants, private organizations, seminars, and educational functions. Since 1982, Veronika has been a Post Graduate of Dance Masters at Kent State University. For several

years she performed and choreographed for DanceZone, Inc., which is a professional touring company in New Jersey.



ULA BINKYS
“Miss Ula”

Miss Ula has studied at the Professional Ballet School of Vilnius in Lithuania, a rigorous and well-known ballet school in Europe. During her studies she performed in several children’s roles for the Opera and Ballet Theatre Company. She has performed with multiple companies since 1992. During one of the tours, she had the privilege of performing in the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, Russia. Miss Ula’s teaching

experience began in 1994; since then she has taught in several dance schools to various age and performance levels.



DENISE AHLERT
“Miss Denise”

Miss Denise began dance lessons at the age of two and was with the Ballet Royal as a student of Edith Royal. As a young dancer and throughout her adult life she danced numerous performances in local theaters and many Nutcracker productions, as well as performing on cruise ships, numerous conventions, television shows, musicals and pageants. She

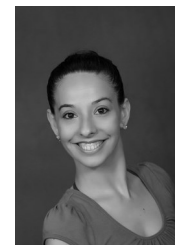
began her professional career at the age of 16 performing for Walt Disney World, Tokyo Disneyland, and traveled the world dancing and choreographing for Princess Cruises. Miss Denise has been working with Walt Disney for the past 30 years and has been a choreographer and teacher to the characters, dancers, singers, actors, and musicians preparing them for their shows, and special events for nearly 20 years.



JENNIFER SABAT
“Miss Jennifer”

Miss Jennifer began her dance training at the age of three with a local dance company. At the age of six she transferred to Elizabeth Parsons School of Dance and began her training under the instruction of Miss Elizabeth. She continued her dance training with Elizabeth Parsons School of Dance for the next 20 years.

During her freshman year of college she received her dance teaching certificate through Florida Dance Masters and has enjoyed teaching ballet, jazz, tap, and acrobatics to students of all ages. She graduated from the University of Central Florida with a degree in Early Childhood Education and has been teaching at a local elementary school since 2006. Miss Jennifer is grateful to be back with her dance family and is excited to pass on the knowledge, technique, and love for dance that EPSOD has taught her throughout her life.



ANDREA FARIA
“Miss Andrea”

Miss Andrea was born in Brazil and began dancing at age three with Cristina Helena, Pablo Moret, Tania Soares and with Joaquim Hans-Tappendorf in Germany in 2003. She has received multiple awards at ballet competitions in Brazil, France, and was awarded with a gold medal in "Danza Nino 97" in Buenos Aires.

Andrea was also a finalist at NY International Ballet Competition in 2005. Her repertoire includes Swanilda in Coppelia, Kitri and Cupid in Don Quixote, Myrtha and Peasant pas in Giselle, Medora in Le Corsaire, Lisa in La Fille Mal Gardee, Sugar Plum Fairy in Nutcracker, Chopiniana as well as works by George Balanchine. Andrea has also been invited to teach summer programs in different ballet schools all over America. Over the last 10 years, Andrea has taught ballet technique, pointe, variations, and private classes. She has taught in places like Columbia Classical Ballet, Milwaukee Ballet, and Orlando Ballet.