



Encore Dance Center

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Faculty Biographies

Christina Beile has studied dance for almost all of her life, and has been teaching tap, ballet, jazz, and hip hop for almost ten years. She has taught dance at New Trier High School, and is currently completing her Master's degree in Dance Education. She has also performed in various pieces at Western Michigan University where she received her degree in dance. Christina teaches Jazz, Tap, and Hip Hop classes.

Katie Draper received her Bachelor's degree in Dance from Columbia College in Chicago. While at Columbia, she performed and studied under many great teachers of Chicago. She has been teaching in the Chicagoland area for over five years and is currently in the process of receiving her Master's degree in Dance. Katie teaches Ballet, Pointe, Jazz and Hip Hop.

Alyssa Edwardson has studied dance throughout her life, and has been a member of a hip hop company for over ten years. With this company she has competed and won many national titles, as well as performed throughout the country. She has been teaching dance for the past few years, and we welcome Alyssa to our faculty where she will be teaching Hip Hop and Jazz.

Lisa Funke received her Bachelor's and Master's degree from National-Louis University, where she studied Elementary Education, Curriculum and Instruction. She has studied dance for many years and is finally able to combine her fantastic teaching skills into dance education. In addition to teaching dance, she teaches enrichment classes. Lisa teaches Petit Feet classes.

Ellie Huber has been around our studios for years. She took class here throughout her life through high school. We were so happy when she decided to return to us a few years ago to work as an Assistant Teacher. Once completing her training, she began officially teaching dance for us last year, although she continues to assist as a second teacher in our larger classes. Ellie teaches Jazz and Hip Hop classes.

Carli Kander received her Bachelor's degree from Northern Illinois University, where she studied health education as well as dance. She has studied dance for over 20 years, and is in her third year of teaching dance. Carli teaches Jazz, Hip Hop, and Company classes.

Anne Kasdorf received her BFA in dance from Ohio University. She is currently a member of several Chicago dance companies, including Zephyr Dance and The Space/Movement Project. In addition to performing and teaching, she also freelances for Dance Spirit Magazine. Anne teaches Pre-Dance, Ballet, Jazz, Tap and Company classes.

Kelly Kledzik has studied the art of dance for most of her life, and has been teaching dance for over ten years. She is a former Luvabull for the Chicago Bulls and has choreographed for many outstanding organizations, such as the Spotlight Company. Kelly will be teaching Jazz, Hip Hop, Poms, Tap, and Company classes.

Sandy Kliver has studied the art of dance for most of her life, and has been teaching dance for over ten years. She has coached many local performing dance teams, and continues her dance education attending many dance conventions designed for dance teachers. Sandy teaches Ballet and Pointe classes.

Rachel Lloyd (Director) received her BFA in Dance from Barat Conservatory of Dance, where she studied under Rory Foster and Eileen Cropley. She continued her dance education, taking workshops with Twyla Tharp and has danced professionally in Chicago and with the Barat Repertory Dance Company. Rachel teaches Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Hip Hop, and Pre-Dance classes.

Lauren Mackey received her Bachelor of Arts in Physical Education with a minor in Dance from Luther College. In addition to becoming a physical education teacher, Lauren has also pursued dance both as a teacher and dancer. She has been teaching for over five years, specializing in Jazz and Hip Hop. Lauren teaches Jazz and Hip Hop classes.

Lauren Martinez has danced throughout Chicago, including performing with Jon Bon Jovi and on the Oprah show. She has also been seen in many commercials featuring dance. She has been teaching dance throughout the city for over five years, specializing in Hip Hop and Salsa. Lauren teaches Hip Hop, Jazz and Tap classes here at Encore.

Nina Renner started dancing when she was young, training under many teachers, including Randy Duncan and Timothy O'Flinn. She continued her dance education at Western Illinois University as a Dance Major, and has been teaching dance for the past ten years. Nina teaches Jazz, Hip Hop, Company and Pre-Dance classes.

Nicole Scatchell is a graduate of Columbia College Chicago where she received her BA in Dance and a minor in Business. She has trained in Ballet, Jazz, Modern and Hip Hop for most of her life. She is currently dancing with Zephyr Dance as well teaching arts integration programs in the Chicago public schools. Nicole is also the developer and teacher of a not for profit organization called Chicago Dance Institute, which places Dance into the regular curriculum of schools. Nicole teaches Jazz and Hip Hop classes.

Gerri Silver received her Bachelor's of Fine Arts from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she studied ballet, jazz, and modern dance. She has enjoyed sharing her passion of dance with her students while teaching for over ten years. She strongly shares Encore's philosophy that each time our dancers step into the studio, we are compelled to lead them in an inspirational and fun experience. Gerri teaches Ballet, Jazz, Hip Hop and Poms classes.

Melisa Walls has been studying dance throughout her life, although her dance passion is tap. She received her Bachelor's degree from Northern Illinois University, where she continued her studies in tap. She is both a fantastic tapper and a gifted tap teacher. Her warm and genuine personality is loved by both her students and all of us at Encore. Melissa teaches Pre-Dance, Jazz and Tap classes.