

Dancemakers Northwest 2010-2011 Teaching Staff

Denise Smithhisler started dance lessons at age 7. She opened Puyallup Valley Dancer in the fall of 1983. Some of the studio's memorable performances include Seattle Seahawks halftime, Tacoma Stars halftime, Seattle Super Sonics pre-games, Disneyland, and Silverwood Theme Park. Dance has offered her the opportunity to have a healthy & positive effect on hundreds of students. Denise lives in Edgewood with her husband Randy and two daughters. Denise is co-director of Dancemakers with Melissa, her former Dancer student.

Melissa Cook has been dancing since she was 7 years old and has been teaching for 15 years. In 1999 Melissa became co-director of Dancemakers Northwest. She has been educated in many styles of dance including ballet, jazz, hip hop, tap and lyrical. Over the years Melissa has enjoyed teaching and choreographing for a variety of local projects such as school musicals, dance teams, a Microsoft commercial and Live Music Entertainment's productions of That 80's Show and Galaxy 54. Since 2006 Melissa has been an AFAA certified group fitness instructor and has received many certifications to teach a variety of fitness formats. Melissa feels very fortunate that she is able to share her love of dance and fitness with so many of her students. Melissa lives in Bonney Lake with her husband and 2 sons.

Melanie Hardwick has been dancing since she was three years old. She has been educated in many styles of dance including ballet, tap, jazz and hip hop. Melanie's love has always been hip hop and jazz. During the summers of 1993-1999, Melanie has taken a variety of dance classes from well known instructors in Las Vegas. She also studied with Mia Michaels, Brian Freidman, Wade Robson, Shane Sparks, on the pulse tour 2006 & 2007. This will be Melanie's 10th year teaching at Dancemakers Northwest. Melanie lives in Bonney Lake with her husband and two daughter's, Desiree and Kinley.

Rayanna Miller has been teaching dance for 30 years. She brings with her years of dancing and teaching experience specializing in ballet and tap. Rayanna began dancing with Arlene Wagner and became a member of the Les Jeunes Ballet Company directed by Lladre Ladre. She is a former member of Dance Masters of America. Rayanna trained at American Ballet Theater and Joffrey Ballet in New York for one summer. Her love for children lead her to teach pre-school and Sunday school. Rayanna lives with her husband of 23 years and her four sons.

Aimee Nolan began dancing at the age of three. She is trained in ballet, jazz, musical theatre and her favorite, TAP! She is not new to the Dancemaker staff, although she has taken a two year hiatus. During the day she teaches as a Movement Specialist in the Fife School District and by evening she is actively involved in local community theatre. She also coaches the Puyallup High School Dance team. Aimee holds a BFA in theatre and as a MA in education. She lives in Puyallup with her husband Jason and daughter Audrie.

Michelle Gariando - began dancing at the age of 6. She has trained in Ballet, Jazz, Hip Hop and Lyrical. Michelle has attended Summer dance camps at studios throughout the Puget Sound as well as taken master classes in Ballet and Modern at Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle. She has performed with the Dancemakers Northwest performing group at several local events as well as competitions. She looks forward to sharing her love of dance with anyone who is passionate about the art.

Monica Boldizar has been dancing since she was 3 years old and began teaching at the age of 14. She is trained in ballet, tap, jazz, hip-hop, lyrical, modern, and kickline and has taught all formats in her 12 years of teaching. She has performed in many dance shows and competitions and has also had the opportunity to back up dance for Sir Paul McCartney when he came into town in 2002 for his world tour. Monica is enthusiastic to share her passion for dance.

Melissa Harm has been dancing since she was 5years old. She is educated in many styles of dance Hip Hop, Jazz, Salsa Melissa brings many years of cheer experience as the former choreographer of Franklin Pierce High School Cheer Squad as well as the successful Wolverine Cheer Program. She also has a Certification In Hip Hop Hustle Group Fitness. This is Melissa's 2nd year teaching with Dancemakers NW. Melissa is excited to share more of her passion for dance at Dancemakers NW. Melissa Lives in Bonney Lake with her Husband and two children Ailana and Ethan.