

# ALICIA MCGEE



Alicia is the owner and founder of Precision Dance Academy. As a young adult with a passion for art, entertainment, and a love for education, she was blessed with the opportunity to open the doors to her very own dance school in 2006. She is grateful for her family's love and support, who helped her build the school from the ground up.

Alicia began dancing at the age of five and training in all dance genres as well as gymnastics. She participated in competitive dance and gymnastics and received numerous overall awards individually and with her teams regionally and nationally throughout her youth. Alicia has trained with many prestigious educators in Houston and surrounding areas. As well as spending her summers training at Broadway Dance Center in New York, The Edge in California, and Hubbard Street Dance in Chicago. Alicia has performed professionally with Houston-based companies such as The Houston Met and Amy El's company, Vault. While she is no longer performing herself, she very much enjoys watching her own daughters and students past and present take the stage. Alicia found her love of teaching at a very young age and began teaching and choreographing her own competitive dance team at 16. Since then, her students have gone on to win a magnitude of awards, such as top overall placements, critic's choice, and choreography awards for her works. Alicia enjoys continuing her education to perfect her teaching skills and learning more about the proper techniques that help progress her students safely and productively. Many of her students have and continue to be granted acceptance into performing arts high schools such as Kinder HSPVA and American Ballet Theater's Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School. Some of which were proudly accelerated a level upon entry. Alicia is beyond proud of her students who are currently dancing with college dance teams and working professionally with The Houston Ballet. Alicia enjoys watching her students grow and flourish into not only successful dancers but into well-rounded adults equipped with the confidence and growth mindset to prepare them for a successful future.

Melissa Redding started her career as a dancer at the age of three years old. She attended her first dance class at Dana's dance and gymnastics where her love for dance grew to a passion. She started doing dance competitively at the age of 10 and has won numerous amount of awards. Melissa started assisting with dance classes at the age of 12, which led to her becoming a dance instructor at the age of 18. She has been a faculty member of Precision Dance Academy for 13 years.

She has a great amount of compassion and patience for teaching young students. As she is currently studying at the University of Houston Clear Lake to pursue her dreams of becoming an elementary teacher. While not dance it, Melissa spends her free time with family, and in the kitchen cooking and baking.

# MELISSA REDDING



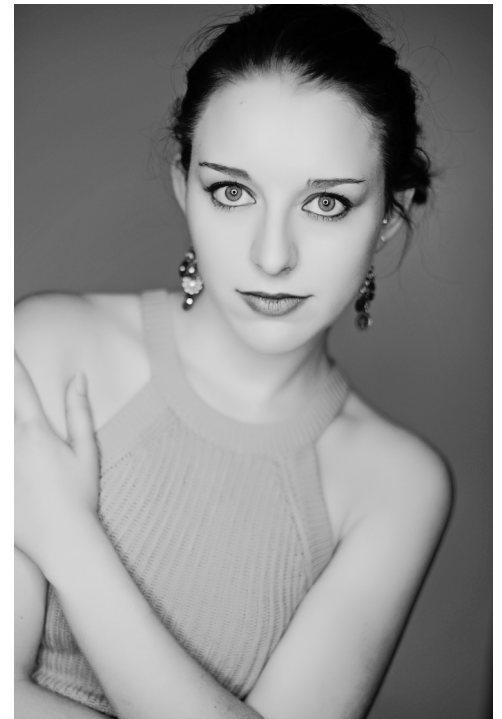
# CLYDE SPEARS



Coming soon

Meri-Ashton Van Winkle was born in Corpus Christi, Texas, and began her training in classical ballet at Ballet Academy, the official school of Corpus Christi Concert Ballet. Her dance technique extends through modern, tap, jazz, and other various technical styles. In 2006, under the direction of Nancy Sulik, she joined the Corpus Christi Concert Ballet Company as an apprentice and in 2008 was promoted to senior company member. She danced principal roles in the Nutcracker, La Raymonda, and various other works. Her extended studies have been with the Joffrey Ballet under the direction of Susan and Buddy Trevino (who instruct from Robert Joffrey's original syllabus), the Glenda Brown Choreography Project, Randy Swallow, and Ballet Master and Choreographer Thom Clower. She has worked and performed with professional ballet dancers, Katia Garza and Israel Rodriguez. In 2017, she was invited by the Austrian government to perform and present her choreography during their Young! Tanzsommer festivals, touring throughout Austria for two weeks. In 2018, she graduated with her BFA in Dance at Colorado Mesa University where she received numerous roles in choreographic repertory by faculty members and guest choreographers such as, Megan Glynn Zollinger, James Wallace, Meredith Lyons, Courtney Jones, David Taylor, and Amanda Benzin. Recently, she received her MFA in Dance at Sam Houston State University where she worked with various choreographers and artists such as, Jennifer Pontius, Dionne Sparkman Noble, Andy Noble, Joshua Manculich, Adele Nickel, Dana E. Nicolay, Betty Nicolay, Donald Shorter Jr., Colette Kerwick, Rasika Borse, and Evelyn Toh. Here she also presented several choreographic works, and her first full evening length production "All In Her Head" as her thesis research project. She received several awards for this particular work: the Graduate Choreography Award, Excellence in Dance Research Graduate Award, and Research and Scholarly Achievement Graduate Award. Her thesis and continued research involves the investigation of anxiety as a positive informative component towards the choreographic creative process, while also looking through the lens of feminine studies in regards to the expression of anxiety.

## MERI-ASHTON VAN WINKLE





# NAO KUSUZAKI



Nao Kusuzaki is born in Ehime prefecture, Japan, and began her ballet lessons at 3 years old at Yatsuzuka Ballet school. After moving to the U.S. at age 10, she continued her training with The Washington School of Ballet and Boston Ballet School. Nao became a member of Corps de Ballet with Boston Ballet in 2001. In 2004 she joined Houston Ballet, and was promoted to Soloist in 2009. She has danced numerous leading roles in both classical and contemporary repertoire. Some of her featured roles include: The Sugarplum Fairy and The Snow Queen in The Nutcracker, Nikiya in La Bayadere, Madame Butterfly in Madame Butterfly, Lilac Fairy in Sleeping Beauty, Odette and Odile in Swan Lake, Jiri Kylian's Petite Mort, Sinfonietta, and Falling Angels, William Forsythe's In the Middle Somewhat Elevated, Twyla Tharp's In the Upper Room, Christopher Wheeldon's Rush, and Mark Morris's Pacific. Most recently, she was invited to stage Swan Lake and perform Odette/Odile with Victoria Ballet Theater in March, 2019. Nao is also active in the Houston community through producing Dance for Hope, a benefit Concert in response to Japan Earthquake of 2011, co-creating TSURU with Asia Society Texas Center in 2015, and directing and dancing The 45th Anniversary Ballet Performance celebrating Houston and Chiba Sister City Relations, which premiered in July 22, 2017. In November, 2017, she directed and danced in the revival of TSURU at the Miller Outdoor Theater, Houston, TX, where Nao was commended by the Consulate General, Japan. Nao is Founder of Creative Minds Collaborative Inc., a nonprofit organization which seeks to create meaning across artists, educators, and supporters of the arts utilizing dance as the main medium.

Brigitte LaBarrett is originally from Allentown, PA, training with Joffrey Ballet School, Corpus Christi Ballet, First State Ballet Theater, and Ballet Nacional, along with attending summer programs with Ballet Austin, Ballet Manila, Joffrey Ballet, Suzanne Farrell Ballet at The Kennedy Center, and The Rock School of Pennsylvania Ballet. She had the opportunity to train closely under the late Gerald Arpino and John Magnus, along with Konstantin Kolotov, Christopher Fleming, Victor Wesley, Pasha Kambalov, and Suzanne Farrell. After dancing with the Trainee company with Joffrey Ballet School and training for her teaching certification, Brigitte has gone on to teach at professional schools around the country, focusing on injury prevention, utilizing Cechetti, Joffrey and Vaganova methods and pre pointe preparation. Brigitte has performed in many classical pieces, as well as neoclassical and Latin based works, musical theater productions, notably portraying Sharpay in High School Musical, for which Brigitte was awarded Best Supporting Actress in a Musical. Brigitte is an alumni of St. John's University in Queens, NY, studying courses in Business Law & Kinesiology, she is also a certified Barre and Spin instructor from Define Mind, Rev and Body, along with Pilates and Personal Training. As a Ballet Director, she has always focused on giving her students an appreciation for ballet technique and artistry, along with encouraging diversity and passion about all genres of dance. Her students have received several awards for artistry & technique, YAGP recognition, as well as acceptance and scholarships to professional summer intensives, college programs and training programs across the country. From 2016-2020, Brigitte brought her focus to providing a unique training experience to Houston dancers as Owner and Director of CSQUARED, The Classical and Contemporary Movement Project, in Spring, TX, a valuable part of the Houston dance community, with an open door environment to every dancer, with diverse, technique based, pre professional training focus. Brigitte continues to teach Master Classes and trains dancers across Houston, in ballet, pointe, technique, PBT and jazz, continuing her goal of creating longevity and diversity in dancer education.

# BRIGITTE



# AMANDA



Amanda has over 25 years of experience dancing competitively, professionally, and teaching in many genres. She has worked in several entertainment industries including Six Flags New England, Universal Studios Resort Orlando, SeaWorld San Antonio, and Walt Disney World Resort. Currently Amanda is an acrobatics/dance instructor, choreographer and avid aerial artist who enjoy performing. As of January 2021 Amanda began attending University of Houston Clear Lake working toward her masters in Exercise Physiology. She is so excited to have the opportunity to teach and inspire young dancers with her passion for dance at Dance Productions!

Brooke Trahan has been dancing since the age of 3, with a focus in tap, jazz, and musical theatre dance. Brooke first started her dancing career in her hometown of Alvin, Texas and eventually ended up training at several studios across the Houston area. She is trained in tap, ballet, jazz, contemporary, hip-hop, lyrical, pointe and modern. Throughout the years, she has studied from numerous choreographers and Master of Dance in places such as New York, Houston, California, and other various locations. These instructors include Anthony Morgeriata, Jason Janas, Desiree Robbins, Jade Whitmire, and more. Growing up, she was always a part of a prestigious competition team which earned her numerous top place awards. She was also a member of Dance League's company and traveled across the nation performing. Once she turned 15, Brooke became a member of Artistic Soul Dance Company and helped assist her mentor, Jade Whitmire. Brooke remained a member of the competitive company for the remainder of her high school years. Brooke's love for teaching began at age 16 when she began teaching tap classes and choreographing for students aging from 4-18. She has taught students all around the Houston and Lubbock areas and remains an active part of the Houston dance community. Brooke now studies at the University of Houston Clear Lake as a healthcare administration major and looks forward to sharing her knowledge and love for dance!

# BROOKE TURNER





# LYSABETH NORDIN



Lysabeth started out dancing at the age of 7 at Precision Dance Academy and continued her dance education there until the age of 14. Lysabeth was apart of the award winning teams and traveled all across Houston competing and participating in conventions and dance competitions. Lysabeth continued her dancing at Clear Creek High School and was on the Clear Creek Cavaliers Drill team for 4 years and served as a Jr.Lieutenant her 3rd year and as 1st senior lieutenant her 4th. Along with continuing her studio training at Evolution Dance Company. Lysabeth then furthered her education to Blinn Junior College where she majored in Business. She was also a team member of the Blinn College treasure dance team where she became a 2X NDA national champion and served as a Sophomore Representative. Lysabeth continued on her dance education at Sam Houston for a small period of time and was apart of the award winning Orange Pride Dance Team and in the dance program. During this time she had the opportunities to assist choreographers all around the Houston area. Currently she works at dance company, Ascension Dance, and also teaches in dance studios.

RISA D'SOUZA is a Houston native, where she began her training in the MET too Youth Company performing works by Pattie Obey and Kiesha White. She attended the HSPVA and in her senior year, had the opportunity to dance in Tidal Intersections by Katarzyna Skarpetwoska with METdance Company in 2010. She holds a BFA in dance from Point Park University where she performed works by Randy Duncan, Alejandro Cerrudo, Ohad Naharin, Toru Shimazaki, Doug Bentz, and Garfield Lemonius. She was also awarded a scholarship to the 2013 Parsons Dance Summer Intensive. Upon graduation she danced with Reed Dance where she got to perform works by Terence Green and Christopher Huggins. She danced with METdance for five seasons performing works by Kyle Abraham, Josh Manculich, Mario Zambrano, Rosie Herrera, Joshua Peugh, Camille A. Brown, Joe Celej, Larry Keigwin, Jess Hendricks, jhon stronks, Kiki Lucas, Katarzyna Skarpetowska, and many more. She debuted with the Houston Symphony in 2019. Risa has had the opportunity to perform on the Inside/Out Stage at Jacob's Pillow, Jo Long Theatre, Colorado Springs Theater, Arts Midwest Conference, Austin Dance Festival, Dallas Dance Fest, Green Box Arts Festival, Spring to Dance, Ohio Dance Festival, and Red Rocks Dance Festival. Risa is a founding member of Houston Contemporary and is currently in her 3rd season. She teaches, choreographs, and performs all over the Houston area

# RISA D'SOUZA

