

Courtney Foshee



My love for dance began before age 3 when I was able to attend my very first Ballet and Tap class at the Cullman Civic Center. At age 7, I became a competition dancer and grew up participating in conventions and competitions throughout the Southeast. This allowed me the opportunity at a young age to learn from award winning choreographers and highly acclaimed dancers.

After graduating from Cullman High School, I went on to study the Art of Dance and Business at Troy University. While in Troy, I was accepted, by audition, into Troy's Dance Repertory Ensemble (TDRE). With TDRE, I studied ballet and modern contemporary under the direction of Tracy Gilland Shillabeer (Masters in Fine Arts from Tisch School of the Arts at NYU), contemporary and jazz from former Bad Boy of Dance, Patrick Pugh, and the art of ballet from world-renowned Director and Ballet Master, Elie Lazar; along with many other dance and theatre classes and performances in various genres. I was chosen by John Mark Owns to perform a Pas De Deux in the TDRE Winter Showcase and honored by Elie Lazar to perform solo to a poem Monologue in TDRE's Juxdeposed Concert. I was also selected by audition to perform pieces consisting of a wide variety of genres, including heels, hip hop, and tap.

As Owner/Teacher for Courtney's Dance Artistry, I have put on countless shows and watched so many of my dancers grow and thrive not only in their passion and skill for dance but also in many other areas of their life. I have received awards for my choreography, as well as creative concept, costume and prop designs, among other special recognitions and highest ranking adjudication awards, as have my wonderful Elite Dancers.

I am the proud wife of Veteran Army National Guard Sergeant Kyle Wester Foshee who helps keep Cullman City safe as a full time police officer with Cullman Police Department. Kyle and I are so blessed to be the parents of Clara Jane Foshee and Evelyn Kate Foshee!

Shanna Livengood



I began dancing at the age of 5, and the art of dance has always been my happy place. Growing up, I trained at Robin's Dance Studio and Kelley's Dance Academy in Mobile, Alabama. Dance was truly a family affair—my mother owned a clogging studio called the One Step Ahead Cloggers, where my love for clogging really began to grow.

Over the years, I've had the opportunity to dance at countless festivals, parties, city functions, and competitions across the country. One of my most cherished memories is performing on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry. I was also a cheerleader in high school, which added even more to my passion for performing.

As my journey continued, I transitioned from dancer to teacher. I've taught many different styles, including clogging, tap, jazz, ballet, and acro—many of which have earned awards and titles. I truly cherish all the memories and friendships made along the way.

My husband Matt and I, along with our children Skylar and Blaine, are happy to be living in Cullman, Alabama. I'm so excited to be a part of the Courtney's Dance Artistry family and can't wait to see all the hard work of our dancers shine on stage!

Elise Payne



I am Elise Payne, and I am 20 years old. In my junior and senior years of high school, I participated in the Fast Track Academy Program at Wallace State Community College. This program allowed me to take college courses that counted for dual enrollment credit, which means I completed about two years of college level credit hours while still enrolled in high school. After graduating high school in Spring 2021, I attended Athens State University for a short time to pursue a Psychology degree. Since Fall 2022, I have been pursuing a degree in Secondary Education

English/Language Arts at the University of North Alabama. My dance journey with Courtney began with me taking classes from her at the age of five, then becoming a member of her competition team at the age of 9, and then continuing to dance at her studio until I turned 18. She gave me the opportunity of being a full time teacher at her studio and that full circle experience has had its challenges, but has been so incredibly rewarding. I am so grateful for my girls and I have loved getting to see over the course of this year how they teach me just as much as I teach them! I hope to inspire these young dancers to tap into their passion and love for dance and to chase that dream wherever God takes them, and I hope they know

Miss Elise will always be cheering them on as they do! And I thank God everyday that I am apart of such a wonderful studio as CDA!

Allie Kilette



Hi! My name is Allie Kilette and I have danced at CDA for 5 years where I am currently on the competition team and perform as a soloist. I started teaching hiphop in September of 2024 and have been doing so ever since! I currently go to Cullman High School where I am a senior. I am also the captain of the school dance team where I perform at basketball games and showcase my technique! Even though I started dance at a later age, I have found my passion and want to grow to become a better mentor and dancer each and everyday!

Teaching Assistants



Emma Beavers (Teen Dancer) - "I love helping the younger dancers and watching them grow and learn. It warms my heart to see their excitement when they perform."



Emmalyn Wilkins (Teen Dancer) - "I love assisting because I love watching the kids improve from the beginning of the year to the end."