

Miss Catherine, Founder and Director

Miss Catherine was born and raised in Chicago and has nearly 3 decades of dance training. Since the age of 3 she has been studying dance, performing all over the Chicagoland suburbs, competing for several years and sharing her love of dance with her community for over a decade. She has taught at park districts and dance studios in the Chicagoland suburbs and created, directed and implemented a worship dance program in Lake Zurich. This will be her 19th year working with inner city children in youth programs in Chicago and several years ago took over as director for children 3rd-6th grade. She has worked in the field of accounting for 13 years. She has a passion for dedication, commitment and ingenuity.

She was accepted to learn at the age of three to study under Mary Lou Troumanhouser (a student of Tommy Sutton), the former owner of The Dance Academy in Chicago. Since then she has performed all over Chicagoland including the Copernicus Center, Navy Pier, The Children’s Museum, the opening of the Norwood Park Historical Society, The Portage Theater, won top in dance routines for Waucondafest Has Talent in 2011, and was given the opportunity to perform at the Pritzker Theater in 2011 and Carnegie Hall. She has performed at festivals and shows all over the Chicagoland suburbs and competed with high honors in competitions with companies such as Starlight, Rainbow Connection, Footlites, Starpower and StarQuest, most of those competing in tap. She has studied tap extensively (studying the sought after Tommy Sutton curriculum), jazz, ballet, pointe, modern, lyrical and hip hop. After studying for over a decade at The Dance Academy in Chicago she moved to the Barrington/Wauconda area, and immediately got involved in the community. She taught all forms of dance for several years at the Island Lake Park District and studied/taught at the former Dancer’s Pointe in Island Lake. At the same time, she traveled extensively downtown to Chicago to study under teachers at Joffrey Ballet, Chicago Human Rhythm Project, Lou Conte and several others. She has taken innumerable classes and workshops with the best for tap. Her favorite teachers to study from have been Tre Dumas III, Lane Alexander, Phil Brooks and JaBowen Dixon. She has studied all forms of dance under teachers such as Mary Lou Troumanhouser, Jeannie Sok, Kathy Demaira, Cari Holmes, Nell Heflin, Dionna Pridgeon, Chris Courtney, Step Afrika!’s Jakari Sherman, Melinda Wilson, JaBowen Dixon and many more. She is a current Contributor to the Chicago Human Rhythm Project, is currently studying Music Theory in her free time, and loves to add to her extensive dance curriculum.

Continued study is the mark of a true artist. Miss Catherine wants to bring the latest styles to her students. Most recently, she has been studying at Lou Conte Dance Chicago under Melinda Wilson and private tap lessons with JaBowen Dixon, one of the top tap dancers in Chicago. She is excited to soon enroll her daughter with Bulldogs Spirit Poms and Dance. Not only is she excited to pass this love of dance to the 3rd generation of dancers in her family, she is excited to give back to the community and has a deep passion to work with children (and adults alike), training them in dance and expression and having that carry with them through the years to open doors for them as they grow.

Miss Christine, Head Coach

Miss Christine has been dancing since she was 5 years old, first attending The Dance Academy in Chicago, then Village of Island Lake’s dance program and the former Dancer’s Pointe in Island Lake. She has studied ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop and poms. She was a cheerleader in the Wauconda Bulldogs Cheer program and an All-Star Cheerleader at Cheer Fusion. She has danced and competed with the former Premier Poms, and has also coached Rec Cheer and Poms. She helped the founding of Wauconda Bulldogs Men of Cheer and choreography (2012-2017), and continued her involvement by choreographing our first Bulldogs Spirit Poms and Dance Parent/Family routine for our Windy City Bulls Game performance in 2018! She has just finished her 3rd year as a Pre-K/K teacher and is currently in school for her ECE Director’s Degree. She lives in Wauconda and loves the lake life and volunteering in the community! We are SO excited for another year with Miss Christine, she loves meeting all our new dancers and bringing her passion for teaching children and love of dance to everyone!

Miss Nicole, Assistant Coach

My name is Nicole Korstanje.  I started dancing when I was three years old.  I have experience in ballet, hip-hop, jazz, lyrical, tap, and poms.  I have four years of experience on a competition team and two years of experience on a high school poms team.  While attending the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, I continued to take dance classes.  At UW-Milwaukee, I was also part of a Dance Living Learning Community (LLC).  The Dance LLC was a community of students living in the same area that were majoring or minoring in dance.  We took classes together and helped each other perfect our dance routines.  Besides dance, I am busy raising my 3-1/2 year old daughter who has been on the “Princess Poms” team for one year.  Previous experience with children include working as a teacher’s assistant with students who have IEPs, volunteering at a horse shelter that helps children and adults with disabilities learn how to ride, and volunteering at a local preschool.

Miss Kelly

My name is Kelly.  I am 23 years old and have been dancing since I was 6.  At the age of 12, I tried out for Maja Dance through the Wauconda Park District.  I competed through TDI and other competitions.  When I was 14, I tried out for the Wauconda High School Poms Dance team.  I went my high school career learning routines and technique on pom, lyrical, jazz, hip-hop, contemporary, and open-dance.

After high school was over, I volunteered my time with the Wauconda Cheer organization.  I was a coach that helped assist the girls (ages 4-5th grade) with their tumbling, stunting, cheering, and routine.  I continue to volunteer my time through my church as well.  I volunteer with our Promiseland and Special Friends ministry.

I am currently in school to become a Registered Nurse.  I graduate this year in September with my BSN.  I recently returned back from Kenya after being on a 2-week long mission trip.  For 2 weeks, we provided medical care to those that cannot afford health care.

I am super excited to coach these young girls who have the heart and interest in dance.  I cannot wait to help spread the joy of dance and help these ladies become the best dancers that they can be!