

DANCE FACULTY 2018-2019

JANIE CAROTHERS* - Dance Department Chair

Teaches modern dance, composition, jazz, musical theatre, dance nutrition & survey, dance history, senior projects, senior lab, production and repertory

COURTNEY D JONES* - Dance Faculty - Full-time

Teaches modern dance, jazz, musical theatre, composition, modern dance partnering and repertory

DANCE CONSULTANTS

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TALYA ARBISSER - Dance Photography

- ADRIAN CIOBANU Ballet, Men's Ballet, Partnering
- JEANNE DOORNBOS Ballet, Pointe, Character, Ballet Repertory
- JODEE ENGLE* Dance Composition, Improvisation, Modern Dance, Modern Dance Partnering, Repertory
- MARC GESSNER Lighting Designer
- LAURA GUTIERREZ* Modern Dance, Body Health & Fitness, Repertory
- HARRISON GUY Modern Dance (Horton)
- DANIELLE HAMMACK* Modern Dance (Graham), Repertory
- KIM KELLY Tap Dance
- ILYA JANOS KOLOZS- Modern Dance Accompanist
- MICHAEL MERTZ Ballet Accompanist
- KRISTY NILSSON* Ballet, Pointe
- CANDACE RATTLIFF TOMPKINS Modern Dance, Jazz, Body Health & Fitness, Tap
- SHANI STERLING* West African Dance
- DENISE SMOKOSKI WILLIAMS Ballet, Pointe, Repertory

*HSPVA Dance Graduate



DANCE FACULTY BIOS

JANIE CAROTHERS - Dance Chair is a 1984 HSPVA Dance graduate and has a BFA in Musical Theatre from Webster University in St. Louis Missouri. She has performed with Princess Cruise Lines, Theatre Under the Stars, Webster Dance Theatre, Texas Dance Theatre, Davidson Dance Group, Chrysalis, WEAVE Dance Company and Hope Stone Dance Company. As a dancer, she has studied and worked with Matt Mattox, Luigi, Seán Curran, Susan Stroman, Pamela Hunt, Buddy Vest, Gary Hubler, Llory Wilson, Jane Weiner, Joffrey Ballet and the American Ballet Theatre. Mrs. Carothers spent several summers choreographing shows for the Galveston Outdoor Musicals including West Side Story, Show Boat, and A Chorus Line. She was chosen twice as one of the choreographers for Choreographer's X6 at the Jewish Community Center's Dance Month and has choreographed for Impact Dance Company, Academy Dancers and the Texas Tap Ensemble in Houston. Her choreographic works, In the Beginning & Hooped were selected for the National High School Dance Festival in Miami. Mrs. Carothers has attended the Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts Summer Teacher Dance Workshop, the National Dance Educators Organization (NDEO) summer teacher workshop in New York and Oklahoma City University's Summer Dance Educator Workshop. She also choreographs for the HSPVA All-School Musicals and was nominated for a 2017 Tommy Tune Award for Best Choreography for Urine Town... The Musical and has enjoyed collaborating with all the departments to pass on her love of musical theatre. She has had the privilege of performing with HSPVA in Scotland as a student and traveling with the HSPVA Concert Dancers to perform in China, Miami, Long Beach, Madison, Dallas, and Austin.

COURTNEY D. JONES - Dance Faculty is a proud graduate of HSPVA class of 1999 and a Presidential Scholar in the Arts for Choreography. In 2012 she was named one of Dance Magazine's 25 to Watch. Professional credits include Broadway's 1st National Tour of WICKED! Jennifer Muller/The Works, Hope Stone Dance, The Kevin Wynn Collection and the Freddick Bratcher and Company Contemporary Dance Theatre. In 2004 she received her BFA from SUNY Purchase with a minor in Psychology, graduating with honors. In 2008 she joined the cast of Show Boat accomplishing a long-standing goal to perform at Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall! Ms. Jones is proud of the professional relationship she has developed within the theatre community. Additional artistic credits include Failure: A Love Story, Auntie Mame, Panto Pinocchio, In the Next Room, Panto Rapunzel and Zombies and Panto Cinderella(Choreographer), We Are Proud....(Choreographer) with Stages Repertory Theatre; Urban Cowboy the Musical a A Chorus Line with Theatre Under the Stars and Die Fledermaus, Show Boat, The Passenger (Movement Director) and Madame Butterfly (Movement Advisor) with Houston Grand Opera. As an educator Ms. Jones is highly sought-after teaching consultant. She served as an Adjunct Faculty member at the University of Houston for three years teaching modern dance technique, is a national guest and master class teacher at numerous and notable universities and festivals including Bates Dance Festival, The Joffrey School (NYC), Colorado Mesa University, Bowdoin College, Dancers Give Back Dallas and Rice University. In 2014 she Co-Founded the Houston Dance Collective, a volunteer organization that provided weekly professional level modern dance classes to the Houston dance community. Ms. Jones is a guest artist with Hope Stone Dance and a freelance artist under her own CDJ Dance Project. Her work has been commissioned by Counter Current Festival, the YES! Dance Invitational, DanceNOW Festival, Barnstorm Dance Fest, The Regional High School Dance Festival, Colorado Mesa University, Arlighton Heights High School and the Dance Gallery Festival.



DANCE CONSULTANT BIOS

TALYA ARBISSER – Guest Teacher of Dance Photography is an award-winning documentary photographer whose work has been shown across the country. She began her career as a photojournalist specializing in sports photography. In her classes, students will be guided to develop their individual styles learning elements required to making great images.

ADRIAN CIOBANU – Mr. Ciobanu was born in Cluj, Romania where he graduated from the Liceul de Choregrafie, Octavian Stroia with honors, under the direction of his father, Florin Ciobanu. He then went on to work with the Romanian Opera Ballet for one year before moving to the Hungarian Opera Ballet. During his five years there, Mr. Ciobanu was promoted to Principal dancer. He toured extensively throughout Europe and in 1996, Mr. Ciobanu moved to Sarasota and became a member of the Sarasota Ballet dancing many major Principal roles and creating many roles as well. His repertoire includes many major classical ballets, and contemporary ballets by such choreographers as Robert North, Alberto Alonso, Katherine Posen, Stephen Mills, Todd Allen, Ament Istvan, and many others. Since 2002 Mr. Ciobanu has been teaching and coaching for the Sarasota Ballet School, Dance the Next Generation, and local and regional schools. In 2003, Mr. Ciobanu was promoted to Principal of the Sarasota Ballet Academy. In 2008, he was promoted to Ballet Master of Sarasota Ballet while still working extensively with the Academy. He worked with such stagers and choreographers as: Hans Van Manen, Monica Parker, Alexander Grant, Dominic Walsh, Sandra Jennings, Joyceanne Sidimus, Julian Moss, Andre Prokovsky, Gilles Maidon, Jackie Hollander, Donald Mahler, Margaret Barbieri, and others.

JEANNE DOORNBOS – was born in Oklahoma and received her early dance training there from Charlotte Lyke and June Runyon. She attended the North Carolina School of the Arts, studying under Duncan Noble, Sonia Tyven and Robert Lindgren, and the University of Oklahoma, studying under Miguel Terekhov and Yvonne Chouteau. She joined the Houston Ballet in 1973 and danced with the company for 15 years, first in the corps de ballet, then as a soloist, and finally as a principal dancer before retiring in 1988. During her tenure with the Houston Ballet, Miss Doornbos performed soloist and principal roles in the major classics and in works by Antony Tudor, George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, Glen Tetley, Helgi Tomasson, Choo San Goh, Ben Stevenson and others. Since retiring from performing, she has taught at the Houston Ballet Academy, the Fort Worth School of Ballet, the University of Houston, and Houston's Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

JODEE ENGLE – is a Dance graduate of the High School for Performing and Visual Arts and received her early training from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Clear Lake, TX. After HSPVA, she attended the University of North Carolina School of the Arts where she received her B.F.A. in Contemporary Dance. While at NCSA, she had the pleasure of working with well-known choreographers such as Sara Hook, Mary Cochran, Murray Lewis, Bill Young, Lar Lubovich as well as performing the works of Jose Limon and Alwin Nikolais. JoDee was also a member of the Pluck Project, a student initiated and student produced project in which the graduating class presents an evening-length concert of their own work in New York City. Now back in Houston, she has had the pleasure of dancing with the Sandra Organ Dance Company, Dominic Walsh Dance Theater, Hope Stone Dance Company, VAULT, Houston Grand Opera, Psophonia, Leslie Scates, Priscilla Nathan-Murphy, and the San Diego Opera, among others. JoDee teaches all around the Houston area is a founding member of the Houston Dance Collective.

MARC GESSNER – has been working as a lighting designer in the Houston area for over twenty years. He has lit dance, theatre and music productions at the Jewish Community Center, HSPVA, Zilkha Theatre, The Wortham Center and various other spaces (some living and some but a memory). Prior to moving to Houston, Mr. Gessner worked in theaters in Dallas/Fort Worth, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, North Carolina, Washington D.C. and New York City. Mr. Gessner is also a writer, director and an actor. He graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BA in Communications from the University of Houston. LAURA GUTIERREZ – Consultant in ballet and modern dance, is a performing artist and choreographer based between Houston and New York City. A graduate of the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, she received a BFA in Contemporary Dance from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, where she was awarded a William R. Kenan, Jr., Performing Arts Fellowship at Lincoln Center Education. Gutierrez has performed at the American Dance Institute, Biennale de la Danse de Lyon, BAM Next Wave Festival, Jacob's Pillow Dance, CounterCurrent Festival, Brisbane Festival and in museums such as The Menil Collection, Contemporary Arts Museum–Houston, the Fabric Workshop Museum, DiverseWorks and The Guggenheim -Works in Process. While her own choreography has been seen at Lincoln Center's Clark Studio Theatre, CPR- Center for Performance Research, Triskelion Arts, Sicardi Gallery and MATCH Houston, she has been performing in works by Jonah Bokaer since 2012, and in 2014 was named one of *Dance Magazine*'s "25 to Watch."

HARRISON GUY – Guest Teacher – Horton Technique – is the Artistic Director/Urban Souls Dance Company and has captivated audiences across the nation through his inspirational and unique works of passion, beauty, and activism that is rooted in African American culture. Harrison Guy began his dance journey in La Marque, TX at Ruth Elgin Dance Studios. Building on his love for social dance and Hip-Hop, Harrison studied dance at Prairie View A&M University under the artistic direction of Kenneth Epting and Paula Williams, Energy Source Dance in Murfreesboro, TN, The Houston Metropolitan Dance Center, Sam Houston State University, Deeply Rooted Productions in Chicago, Dallas Black Dance Theater, and The Ailey School in New York. In 2004, he debuted his dance company Urban Souls Dance Company at the city-wide dance festival, Dance Houston. Since the inaugural performance, he led Urban Souls to win the dance Houston award, and best artistic achievement honors in both 2005 and 2006. In 2008 Dance Houston presented USDC with two awards; Best Choreography and The Audience Pick Award. Urban Souls was also awarded best choreography at the Houston Black Dance Festival in 2008. In 2016 he launched Houston's first African American Dance Festival and that same year he was one of the City of Houston's 12 Individual artist grant recipients. His latest collaborative project was during Round 47 at Project Row Houses, artists respond to gentrification.

DANIELLE HAMMACK - HSPVA Dance Graduate and received the Mary Martha Lappe Scholarship Award. She received her B.F.A. in Dance Performance and B.S. in Biomedical Engineering from Southern Methodist University where she performed works by Paul Taylor, Robert Battle, Alvin Ailey, and Martha Graham. Upon graduating she was hired to perform at the national Mary Kay Convention in Dallas, Texas. She then moved to Houston, TX to become a company member of Ad Deum Dance Company and Company Director of Dance Du Coeur Dance Studio where their competition team won numerous awards at national dance competitions. She has been on faculty in NYC and Houston for Project Dance, an internationally touring open-air dance concert. Mrs. Hammack was a member of The Martha Graham Dance Company for their 2014-2015 season where she performed works such as *Serenata Morisca, Chronicle, Rite of Spring,* and *Diversion of Angels*. She has also worked with Deborah Zall in the Deborah Zall Project, performing her work entitled *Shadow of Her Sister*. Mrs. Hammack was the Associate Artistic Director for Ad Deum Dance Company from 2015-2017. She is currently dancing with Noble Motion for their 2018-2019 season.

KIM KELLY - Guest Teacher - Tap - was born Houston where she trained as a dancer. Additionally, she has trained extensively with numerous dance greats like Frank Hatchett and was privileged to study with Savion Glover. She danced with Steven Boyd Dance Company here in Houston residing as Dance Director for three years and ws on faculty for DTI Dance Convention traveling the South and Midwest bringing her innovative tap style to many young dancers. Her choreography has been set on the Houston Metropolitan Dance Company and she has been training dancers in Houston and the surrounding area for over 25 years. Currently she resides as teacher and Artistic Director at Progressions Performing Arts in Spring, Texas producing dancers who have gone on to work professionally across the country.

ILYA JANOS KOLOZS – A native Houstonian, was musically gifted from a young age, his first influence being a music-loving mother. He studied piano, guitar and alto saxophone before discovering the seemingly limitless world of drums and percussion. His repertoire includes Brazilian, Latin, West African, pop, rock, jazz, and Flamenco music on instruments as diverse as djembe, cajon, drum kit, and a variety of hand percussion. A true student of his craft, Ilya plans to return to Guinea to further his knowledge of traditional West African drumming and to continue to explore the connection between drummer, dancer, fellow musician and listener.

KRISTY NILSSON – Ballet and Pointe Consultant began her training with Victoria Vittum and Gilbert Rome at Ballet Center of Houston and graduated Cum Laude from Houston's High School for Performing and Visual Arts. Ms. Nilsson was a Dance Pedagogy Honors student at the University of Oklahoma and later performed with the Charleston Ballet Theater and Atlanta Ballet under the direction of John McFall in over seventy performances. Ms. Nilsson has choreographed more than 100 concert works (including 11-full-length/narrative ballets) which have been performed by 29 companies in 12 states in the U.S. and Canada. Her choreography has won recognition from the National Women's Choreography Project, Regional Dance America, and the Georgia Ballet. Ms. Nilsson is a full-time ballet and modern dance instructor and has taught thousands of year-round students, with hundreds more at summer intensives and master classes and is delighted to be teaching at Kinder HSPVA, one of the dance "homes" that shaped her career and love for dance.

MICHAEL MERTZ – Ballet Accompanist is a veteran educator and professional musician. He has appeared throughout North America, accompanying and composing music for theatre, television and advertising. Locally, you may have seen and heard his work in productions at Alley Theatre, Theatre Under the Stars, Stages Repertory Theatre, Main Street, Bayou City Concert Musicals, University of Houston (in collaboration with Tony Award winning composer Jerry Bock), University of St. Thomas and College of the Mainland. Mr. Mertz brings a wealth of experience working with young people in the Houston area as an instructor in Voice, Piano and the Performing Arts. He has accompanied ballet classes at HSPVA since 2007.

CANDACE RATTLIFF TOMPKINS – Dance Consultant in Modern Dance, Tap, Jazz and Body Health, graduated from Texas Christian University with a BFA in Ballet and Modern Dance. After graduation, Candace was invited to join Jane Weiner's Hope Stone Dance Company, and continues to enjoy her time as a company member. As a freelance dancer, Candace has also performed in works by Andy and Dionne Noble, Leslie Scates, Amy EI, Erin Reck, Sandra Organ Solis, and Laura Gutierrez, and Catalina Alexandra. As a self - proclaimed Houstonian artist, Candace has performed in the Cullen Theater, Zilka Hall, Bayou Music Center, Miller Outdoor Theater, Jones Hall, the CAMH, as well as churches, schools, hotels, and even on the streets in Houston Heights! She has also performed internationally in Ireland. Additionally, Candace teaches ballet and contemporary modern in the greater Houston area.

SHANI STERLING – Consultant in West African Dance, is a HSPVA dance graduate, who believes "movement expresses what words sometimes cannot." She holds a B.S. in Dance from Lamar University (Summa Cum Laude) and a MFA in Dance Performance and Choreography from Florida State University. She has studied at the Houston Ballet Academy, The Alvin Ailey School in New York and the Cultural Traditions program at Jacob's Pillow, which was a tribute to Katherine Dunham. She received Honorable Mention in 1993 Arts Recognition and Talent Search and was a scholarship recipient to the Ailey School the same year. Mrs. Sterling was also awarded the Outstanding Performer for the South-Central Region of ACDFA. She first traveled to Ghana in 2005 through West Virginia University with Dr. Paschale Younge and Dr. Zelma Badu-Younge. She is a Fulbright Scholar, having lived in Ghana, West Africa 2006-2007. While in Ghana, she studied with Sulley Imoro and performed extensively with The Saakumu Dance Troupe. She also worked with the National Dance Company of Ghana, where she taught technique class and set choreography on the Company. In addition, she performed "MUSU: Saga of the Slaves" at Cape Coast Slave Castle as a guest artist with The National Company of Ghana. She has worked as Rehearsal Director with Urban Souls Dance Company and is a Dance Professor at Houston Community College where she is a full-time faculty member teaching African American Dance, World Dance and Modern Dance at the Spring Branch Campus.

DENISE SMOKOSKI WILLIAMS- Consultant in ballet and pointe with extensive training in the Cecchetti Method of Classical Ballet while studying at the Rosemary Floyd Contemporary Civic Ballet in Royal Oaks, Michigan. During her high school years, she was the recipient of four consecutive summer scholarships from the American Ballet Center with Robert Joffrey in New York. In 1971 she received an additional full year scholarship at the Joffrey School and studied under Meredith Baylis, Bill Griffith, and Ann Parsons. Ms. Williams joined the Houston Ballet in 1972 and performed & toured for four years as a soloist and principal dancer. Principal roles performed by Ms. Williams include *The Nutcracker's* - Sugar Plum Fairy, *Pas de Quatre, Waltz and Variations*, and the *Don Quixote*, Pas de Deux. Other featured modern dance roles include, May O'Donnell's *"Suspension"*, Jan Simond's, *Moonscape*, and the role of Miranda in James Clouser's rock ballet, *Caliban*. Ms. Williams has taught at the University of Houston at Clear Lake and has been teaching at HSPVA for 42 years.