

# TDE NATIONALS DFW JUDGES



**Brooke Gebb** is a native of Arkansas and holds a BPA in Dance Performance from Oklahoma City University. Prior to beginning her teaching career, she traveled performing on cruise ships, off-Broadway, regional, dinner theatres, and theme parks. She began her teaching career in the public school system, teaching dance at Lake Mary High School in Lake Mary, Florida. She eventually transitioned to K-5 education and became the Dance Coordinator and Fine Arts Chair at the Pinewood Fine Arts Magnet School in Orlando, Florida where she rewrote and oversaw the dance curriculum for the entire Orange County Public School District. Teaching credits also include Dance Masters of America, Lyric Academy, Cotillion NWOKC, New York Film Institute, The Dance Effect, I Love Dance, the University of Oklahoma and numerous studios across the country. She performs locally with the Oklahoma City Philharmonic POPS and sings in a band. Brooke is married to Dr. Paul Gebb an Associate Professor of Dance and Entertainment at OCU, and they have three young children.



**Jessica Connelly** was born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska where her love for the art of dance began. As an adult, she moved to Los Angeles to continue her training and begin her dance career. While in LA, she did a work-study with Debbie Reynolds Dance Studio. She started performing with Princess Cruise Lines and has been traveling, teaching, and performing ever since! In addition to the Cruise Ships she has performed and choreographed for Dinner Theatres around the globe, as well as Musical Theatre presentations. Jessica was trained in Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Lyrical, Contemporary, Musical Theater, and loves to teach them all!! She had the privilege of assisting a cast-mate in opening a Dance Studio in London. Red Star Theatre Arts is thriving and educating students through the ISTD method of ballet. She has recently moved to Park City, Utah where she is training with Ballet West Academy and working with the students at Dance Tech! She is continuing her education in the Ballroom styles with Ballroom Utah and hopes to be a Ballroom competitor someday! She finds value in learning from students and other Dance Instructors. Seeing students' progress is one of Jessica's greatest joys!



**Tara Carpenter** grew up dancing at her mother's dance studio in Texas starting at the age of three. She has trained in all styles of dance from some of the top teachers in the Nation at Houston Met Dance Center in Houston, Broadway Dance Center in New York City, and Millennium Dance Complex in LA to name a few. She attended the University of Houston studying dance and marketing. Tara was the Director of The Dance Factory for 15 years where she led the competitive dance teams to success earning numerous high scores, choreography, and teacher awards. She was also the Director of the award-winning Duchesne Dance Team in Houston, TX. Her choreography has been performed at Disney World and at the Tanzommer Dance Festival in Innsbruck, Austria. Tara currently teaches ballet, contemporary, jazz, hip hop, and technique classes to all ages and levels. She also choreographs for award winning dance teams across Texas. Tara has traveled as a dance competition judge for the past 12 years. She is very excited to be a part of The Dance Effect family this season!



**Ms. Lauren Alston** is a native of Columbia, South Carolina. Her dance career began under the direction of Donna Lewis (Founder of Dee Crump School of Dance) and later flourished under the direction of Dale Lam (Director of Columbia City Jazz Conservatory). While under the guidance of Dale Lam, she was taught by many reputable choreographers including: Stacey Calvert (Principle Dancer at New York City Ballet), Nick Lazzarini (Winner of So You Think You Can Dance), Travis Wall (Emmy Award Winner and Co-Owner of Shaping Sound), and Mandy Moore (Emmy Award Winner). Ms. Alston's professional career began at age 16, when she was invited by the Chinese Cultural Council to tour various cities in China for 32 days and perform over 40 shows. Soon after, she performed in several music videos and commercials, to include but not limited to Huggies and Carolina Imports. As she continued her quest to fulfill her artistic zeal, she became Creative Director for DJ Bois Obscur, Co-Director of Columbia City Jazz's Company II, Hip Hop and Jazz Competition Team Director at Griffin School of Dance, national and regional judge and instructor for several dance competitions, and Head Dance Team Coach at Newberry College. As her ambition continues to cultivate, Ms. Alston looks forward to sharing her passion and insight with more eager artists.