

TDE OKC JUDGES



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!



Jamie Perrin is an award-winning teacher and has been described as a "Powerhouse" and continues to strive to inspire her students on a daily basis. She received her B.F.A. in Dance from Stephens College and she was only 23 when she graduated with her M.F.A. in Dance from Sam Houston State University. Jamie was the founder of the dance program at Tarrant County College-Southeast Campus, and served as the director of the program for eight years. During her time at TCC she was the recipient of the Chancellor's Exemplary Teaching Award for her work with the dance program. She also filled the role of Department Chair of Fine Arts. Jamie grew up dancing in Jefferson City, Missouri and attended several conventions where she was the recipient of various scholarships, including a 2-week stint to the The Edge in L.A. She has also studied dance in Chicago at the Jazz Dance World Congress, Broadway Dance Center in New York City and at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. Knowing from a young age she wanted to teach, she then headed to college and graduate school to further her dance education. Her performance credits include 2 contracts with Celebrity Cruise Lines, Six Flags Over Texas, Superbowl XXXVIII, House of Blues, The Miss Texas Pageant and has tapped alongside Tony Award winner, Tommy Tune. She currently serves as the choreographer for Six Flags Over Texas, she is on faculty at Tarrant County College-Southeast and is excited to be returning to The Dance Effect. Jamie has also been on faculty with Collin County College, Eastfield College and Contemporary Ballet Dallas. As much as she loves choreographing and performing, teaching is her true passion. She wants to share her knowledge and experience with students and in September, she opened her own studio, The Movement Academy, in Mansfield, TX. Giving students an in-depth dance education and providing them with opportunities is at the heart of her studio. She is navigating this crazy thing called life with her husband, Jason, and son, James.



Amy Pollard-Yarberry based in Wichita, KS works as a dance educator in the fields of studio and college dance, dance team, and guest choreography. She is a graduate of Wichita State University where she earned a BFA in Dance and BBA in Business Management. Amy has performed under many choreographers even touring to Taiwan and Italy with the Wichita Contemporary Dance Theater. Amy is currently an adjunct professor at Wichita State University. At Wichita State Amy currently teaches hip-hop, jazz, and modern dance. She is in her thirteenth year of teaching at a residential studio and her sixth year as the company director for the studio's competition team. In addition to her studio employment, Amy is entering her sixth season as the head coach of the Newton High School Railiner Dance Team. Amy has received many awards for outstanding choreography at local and national events. She spent ten years working with the world-renowned National Dance Alliance. In her role as Head Instructor with the National Dance Alliance she traveled around the country teaching all styles of dance to high school and collegiate dance teams nationwide. She also enjoys traveling to guest teach and choreograph at studios and dance teams throughout the country. Amy works with Innovative Choreography with their studio touring group; with Innovative Choreography, she is able to work with students all over the Midwest, bringing new and exciting workshops to dance studios. Recently Amy Pollard joined The Dance Effect, where she travels across the country to teach at their fall intensives and judge at their spring competitions. Amy's life is dance and she loves every minute of it.