

## MDAA GUEST FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES FALL 2018



**BALLET:** Justin Koertgen is an instructor of dance at Interlochen Arts Academy, he previously danced with the Dayton Ballet for twelve seasons. Justin attended the Interlochen Arts Academy from 1995 -2000. Highlights from his time with The Dayton Ballet include the roles of "Dracula" in Dayton Ballet's *Dracula*, "Romeo" and "Tybalt" in Septime Webre's *Romeo & Juliet*, and the title role in Christopher Fleming's *The Who's Tommy*. Justin has also danced for Ballet Montana, Hawaii Ballet Theatre, and Ballet Fleming. Justin is a certified ABT instructor. Justin Has taught all over the country

including Huntsville Ballet, Mercyhurst University, City Center Ballet, and Interlochen Center for the Arts. He has worked as the Ballet Master and the Rehearsal assistant for the Dayton Ballet. Justin's choreography has been showcased at Interlochen Center for the Arts, Mercyhurst University, Dayton Ballet, and for the Traverse City Dance Project.



**JAZZ:** Susan Quinn (Williams) began her training in ballet at the St. Petersburg (FL) School of Ballet & Dance Arts under the Direction of Margaret Bryant, Lester Jacobsen, Mary Alice Hall and Shel Bryant, with scholarships for summer training at the Joffrey in New York City. She trained under the famed Gus Giordano in jazz, modern, ballet, and pas de deux, becoming a faculty member of his Chicago-based professional school, Principal Dancer with his company Gus Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago, and later its Associate Artistic Director. Susan co-owned a professional school in Pensacola, Florida and became founding co-director of First City Dance Theatre, the only jazz company funded by the Florida Commission on the Arts at that time. She has been a Master Teacher for Dance Masters of America, Dance

Educators of America, and Dance Power Express, and was the Co-Director of the Arizona Jazz Dance Showcase for 20 years – not to mention an integral player in raising over a million dollars for the University of Arizona's School of Dance. For two decades Susan served as Associate Professor at the University of Arizona School Of Dance and received the University's College of Fine Arts Teaching Excellence Award. Susan was honored to receive the 2005 Jazz Dance World Congress award for her contributions to Jazz Dance. She was invited to join the esteemed faculty of the 2012 Jazz Dance World Congress, held at Point Park College in Pittsburgh, PA. She has been hired as an independent scout and recruiter for university dance programs across the country and is sought after for her seminars for dancers auditioning for universities. Susan travels every summer with a small group of disciples who teach the renowned Gus Giordano jazz dance technique collaborating with Gus Giordano's daughter, Director Amy Giordano at the Gus Giordano Dance School in Chicago, IL. She recently retired the professional dance studio, First City Dance, in Pensacola, Florida and has resumed her Master teaching nationally and internationally.



**MODERN: Paula McArthur** has over 30 years of teaching with experience and versatility in teaching many forms of dance. Her range of expertise includes contemporary, ballet, jazz, tap, ballroom, Latin, creative preschool movement, improvisation, and body conditioning. She taught dance for 17 years for the musical theater department at Drake University; and has also taught for Penn State University and Iowa State University. In her mid-life crisis, she opened her own school (Des Moines DanzArts Studio) and works directly with the Civic Center to co-sponsor Dance and Broadway master classes with touring professional companies. Still an active performer she currently works with husband and wife choreographic duo Cynthia Adams Ken James (Fellow Travelers Group). The weekend before coming to Montana she will be performing in the Dumbo Dance Festival in Brooklyn New York. Ms. McArthur began her professional career in ballet, performing with the Des Moines Ballet. She

also trained at the Joffrey Ballet School in NYC and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School in Canada. Ms. McArthur earned her BFA from ISU where she turned her attention to modern dance. She was honored with both the Anna R. Toman and Charlotte Wilkason awards from ISU. She continued her study at the Bates Dance festivals, Doug Varone intensives and summer programs at NYU. Since becoming a modern dancer she has worked, trained and/or performed for such choreographers and companies as Bill T. Jones, Bill Young, Doug Elkins, Doug Varone, David Dorfmann, Claire Porter, Kathleen Hermsdorf, Michael Foley, Tony Coray, Kevin Wynn, Ben Munisteri, Joanna Mendl Shaw, Ron K. Brown, Rennie Harris, Larry Keigwin and jazz with Cathy Young.



**TAP:** Katherine Kramer has enjoyed a long-standing career performing as both a contemporary and jazz tap dancer, collaborating, improvising and sharing the stage with many outstanding dancers and musicians, including the late tap masters, Honi Coles and Gregory Hines and her mentor, Brenda Bufalino. Her one-woman show, *Rhythms of the Heart*, toured from 1992 – 2000 and she has been seen and heard at dance and music festivals here and abroad, including *Sitka Jazz Festival*, *Soul 2 Sole Festival*, *Discover Jazz Festival*, *Portsmouth Percussive Dance Festival*, *Tap Rio* and *Tapcity in NY*. She is the recipient of the 2018 Hoofer Award from the American Tap Dance Foundation, a Fulbright Grant, an Artist's Innovation Award from the Montana Arts Council, a Creation Fund Grant

from the National Performance Network, and an Al Smith Choreographic Fellowship from the Kentucky Arts. Her choreography has often been based on unique and multi-disciplinary collaborations; with Miami puppeteer, Pablo Cano, with filmmaker, Susannah Newman, with the community of Helena, MT, a commission by National Performance Network, *Stop Look Listen*, and with Robert Redford on his film, *The Horse Whisperer*. Over many years as an educator, Katherine has developed a specialty in coaching dancers in musicality and musicians in physicality. She has developed a training method, *Whole Body Music*, which has been shared with countless dancers, as well as jazz and classical musicians, including clinics with the *New World Symphony* in Miami, FL. For the past decade she has worked as a mentor and coach with the prestigious national organization, *Youngarts*, supporting a new generation of young people making their way into their professional careers as artists. She has had the unique honor of conducting tap workshops in Havana, Cuba for *Danza Contemporanea* and *Conjunto Folklorica de Cuba*, and in Fortaleza, Brazil worked with Valeria Pinheiro and *Co. Vata*. Katherine founded, produced and was artistic director of an annual summer music and dance festival, *Rhythm Explosion*, in Bozeman, MT, which included many outstanding artists, including the late Jimmy Slyde and Daniel Nagrin, as well as tap divas, Brenda Bufalino, Sarah Petronio and Dianne Walker. A gypsy at heart and currently based in Madison, WI, Katherine is at work developing a multi-year writing/video/performance project, *Taproot*, which traces the footsteps and tells the stories of an itinerant dancer and the “wagon train” of friends supporting her journey.



**HIP HOP: Marquez Johnson** holds a Master of Fine Arts in Dance degree from the University of Arizona as well as a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication. Marquez is currently on faculty at the University of Arizona's School of Dance as a co-director for Step-Up; an outreach dance program through the College of Fine Arts. As well, he has assisted in the development of a hip-hop dance course slated to begin in the fall semester of 2019. He has recently returned from Perry-Mansfield Summer Performing Arts Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado as a teaching artist for the Emerging Artist program in June and July of 2018. He has been able to perform works by Jose Limon and Ohad Naharin while also being a rehearsal assistant for Las Vegas based choreographer, Miguel Perez and

Michele Gifford in the re-staging of *The American* by Charles Wheeldon. Currently, Marquez is in his 9<sup>th</sup> season as a principal company member with Artifact Dance Project under the direction of Ashley Bowman and Clair Hancock. As well, he is a faculty member with local dance studio Danswest Dance teaching jazz and lyrical. Marquez is excited for the opportunity to teach hip-hop and participate in the Montana Dance Arts Association.



**HIGHLAND: Louise Steinway** comes to us from Vancouver, BC, Canada. She has a passion for fiddle music and a love for Scottish Country dancing, which she started doing as a teenager. Louise played the fiddle and piano for Scottish Country dances (SCD) with the Vancouver fiddle Orchestra for 10 years, and played for many ceilidh dances as well. While studying biology at Simon Fraser University, (famous for their bagpipe band) she and a friend started their own Scottish Country dance class and began learning the art of Scottish dancing. Dancing with the Vancouver Scottish Country Dance demonstration team 2012- 2017, under the direction of

Rebecca Blackhall-Peters, she performed at the BC Highland Games, community festivals, senior homes, Burns Suppers and St Andrews celebrations. A highlight of her Scottish Country Dancing was in 2013 at Summer School in St. Andrews, Scotland, when she danced with the demonstration team. In 2015 Louise earned her full teaching certificate, under the direction of Mary Murray, from the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS). One dance examiner commented, "It was a pleasure to watch you dance". Louise taught the Delbrook Children's class for 2 years before marrying Isaac Callender and moving to Great Falls. To execute the proper foot work for Scottish country dancing requires good technique, focus, attention to detail and stamina. But the most important aspect of SCD is the smile on your face, which shows you enjoy dancing!

IN-STATE TEACHER BIOGRAPHIES WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON!