



### *Jessica Connelly*

Jessica Connelly was born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska where her love for performing began. As an adult, she moved to Los Angeles to continue her training and begin her dance career. She started performing on Cruise Ships and has been traveling and dancing ever since! In addition to the cruise lines she has worked in Musical Theater and Dinner Shows. Jessica was trained in Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Lyrical, Contemporary, Musical Theater, and loves to teach them all!! She has recently moved to Park City, Utah where she is training with Ballet West Academy and teaching the students at Dance Tech! Teaching and seeing students' progress is something Jessica loves and finds inspiration from.



### *ILAN NUNEZ*

Ilan Nunez, son of New Orleans and Ambergris Caye, Belize, was born to music and has had a life experience which has cemented his life's calling in entertainment. Ilan was born in the city of Jazz, but was raised on the beautiful island of San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, a combination which only served to enhance his own inborn ability for rhythm and celebration. Ilan began his basic dance training at the age of nine with the only dance company in San Pedro town. Even at that age, his love for his craft was noticed by the company's director and she decided to push him further than any other student. This push gave Ilan an edge which called for further expansion. In his teen years, Ilan and his brother moved back to the US with their mother. She moved the family to San Antonio, Texas to have them continue an education in a less informal environment. It was here that Ilan also entered into a more formal training for his interests, where he took quickly to classes in dance, vocals, and acting, and where the expansion of talent and effort became the foundation for a career. Ilan attended the North East School of the Arts High School and then Point Park University, so gaining the extra confidence and technical ability needed to persevere his career as a dancer. Ilan has since had the privilege to work with major companies and artists, both as a dancer and choreographer. He has also had the opportunity to teach youth dancers on competitive teams all over the US and abroad. And in all circumstances, he has continued to learn and grow. Ilan's desire to cover as many learning bases as possible, even took him to do a session at sea with the Norwegian Cruise Line. This period added to his overall experiences in the industry and it was after this first-time experience that he decided to make his move to Hollywood where he now is signed with Movement Talent Agency. Since his move Ilan has danced for the LA Opera, starred in The Fair Wells premier music video "Where is your heart" and tried his hand at acting in an upcoming dance film. Some of Ilan's favorite roles have been as Greg in "A Chorus Line", as the Evil Prince in "Mask of the Red Death Ballet", and as a backup dancer, for singers from "The Voice" and "American Idol", as part of Larrwell Productions. Be sure to keep an eye out for Ilan Nunez as he keeps fulfilling and conquering on his journey through his life's calling.



Jesi, known as Jesi to her students and clients, has been a professional in the dance, fitness, cheerleading and gymnastics industry for the last 20 years. She has seen the industry as a business owner, director, producer, choreographer, judge, coach, educator, scientist, elite trainer, performer and lifelong student. Jesi brings a unique perspective to the industry as a qualified professional in kinesiology/exercise science with extensive experience not only in the dance industry, but also in entrepreneurship, film, and fitness. Her expertise is transforming performance from the inside out. She likes to call it "Scientifically creating the WOW-factor". Jesi graduated magna cum laude from Wichita State University in Kinesiology/Exercise Science (BA) in 1999. She went on to graduate with her Masters of Education (MEd) in Exercise Science in 2014 with a GPA of 4.0. Her research emphasis was in Dance Science. She has an Associate's Degree in Science (AS) and a minor in Business Administration. She was named Most Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Exercise Science at WSU (1999). She was also a Shocker New Venture "Tradeshow" Finalist (2014). Jesi has currently been spending her time working in film, such as Short Straw and Fragmentation. She also works privately with pre-professional adult and college age dancers preparing for collegiate and professional auditions throughout the US as well as entertainers who specialize in acting, music or modeling, but are pursuing dance as a necessary additional talent. One of her greatest joys is taking a student with little training and helping them become a reputable dance performer. Her knowledge as an exercise scientist is used to develop sport specific muscle strength and flexibility to attain skills correctly and quickly while minimizing the potential for injuries. Before focusing on dance, performance and education as a profession, Jesi was a certified personal trainer and group fitness instructor for gyms such as The Wichita Racquet Club (Genesis Health),

Fitness Inc., and The Birch Group. Clinically she has spent time in the Wichita State Human Performance lab and is proficient in laboratory and field-testing. She has also completed a certificate program for Jazz Dance Teachers through BJDW and has held certifications from National Cheer and Dance Association, American Heart Association, The United States Association of Gymnastics and Body Pump. Group fitness classes that Jesi has taught throughout the last 20 years include Pilates, yoga, barre, bosu, spin, boot camp, tabata, theraband, stability ball, weight training circuits, HIIT, cancer wellness, Body Pump and self-designed dance strength and conditioning classes. Jesi helped open Extreme Athletics Cheerleading and Dance Academy as Dance Director and partner in 2000. She went on to open Dance Ascension as co-owner and Artistic Director with her husband in 2003. They competed nationally throughout the competitive studio and all-star dance circuit. After beginning their family together, Jesi altered her business focus from studio owner to freelance choreographer, researcher, educator and performance consultant. Her choreography experience includes competitive dance pieces in contemporary, jazz, partnering, lyrical, acro, hip-hop, pom, and spirit. She has choreographed college, high school and all-star cheerleading routines. For gymnastics she has choreographed floor routines for levels 7-10. Other choreography includes pageant numbers, audition solos, theater productions, recital pieces, talent show cases and wedding duets. She instructs all levels, all ages and most styles of dance but especially favors contemporary, jazz, acro, commercial jazz and partnering. In cheerleading she coaches all skills of coed and all-girl cheerleading but specializes in flying and basket toss skills. In gymnastics she can instruct fundamental apparatus and beginning-advanced floor tumbling, but specializes in floor choreography, core training/stabilization, elite stretching and ballet for gymnasts. Jesi's well-rounded education and varied experience has given her a perspective that is unique. Jesi has presented research for the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM). She has been a personal trainer for 20 years. She has coached cheerleading and dance at the collegiate level for Newman University and at the high school level for Kapaun High School and Valley Center High School. She has taught, choreographed and coached in a variety of schools, studios, cheerleading and gymnastics gyms throughout the mid-west. She created dance curriculum and served as interim Dance Director for the Greater Wichita East YMCA. In college, Jesi danced for Barton County Community College (1995-1997) and cheered for Wichita State University (1997-1999) on their competitive national teams. She trained in ballet and modern dance in the WSU dance department but fine-tuned her dance training by taking class with some of the best-known dance professionals in the industry such as Travis and Denise Wall, Jess Hendricks, Wade Madsen, Stacy Tookey, Sonya Tayeh, Tabitha and Napoleon D'umo (NappiTabs), Ray Leeper, Chebar Williams, Mark Meismer, Joe Tremaine, Ivan Koumaev, Anthony Morigerato and many more. Jesi was an officer of the Student Government at Barton County. She was Captain and a member of the leadership board for Wichita State Spirit Squad. She personally competed at Collegiate Nationals (NCA, NDA) in dance or cheerleading for four years and placed in the top 4 for 3 of those years. She has also placed in the top 25 in the nation for NCA Partner Stunt Nationals (1999).