

DFW TDE NATIONAL JUDGES

Michelle Rambo

Michelle Rambo has been teaching dance for over eleven years, which includes styles of hip hop, jazz/funk, contemporary and jazz. She has bachelor's degrees in Fine Arts in Dance Performance from the University of Central Oklahoma and Kinesiology from East Central University (ECU). She became the first recipient of the ECU Dance Scholarship, where, for two years, she was captain for the Collage Dance Ensemble. She became the Artistic Director for ECU dance minor program. Michelle has received several accolades for her creativity in choreography. She has received choreography awards for a contemporary routine in 'Amongst Us' and in hip hop routines 'Elevator' in 2009 and 'She Ain't Got' in 2010. She received the Dance Spirit Magazine's Video of the Month Viewer's Choice Award for 'She Ain't Got' in August 2010. In 2011, her high school hip hop routine, 'Do You Remember', received the Dance Teacher Magazine's Video of the Month Editor's Choice Award. Her choreography recently won state in hip hop pom category for Seminole High School in 2015. Michelle has performed in the National Dance Association's Gala Performance in Baltimore, Maryland and Wichita, Kansas. She has performed in the Oklahoma Centennial Parade and Neiman's Children Christmas Parade. Michelle has had the privilege to teach alongside some of the best: Keith Clifton, Jackie Sleight, Rhonda Miller, Huggy Ford and Lauren Gaul, just to name a few. Michelle has been fortunate to choreograph for the well-known professional Race Dance Company located in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She has choreographed national hip hop pom routines for McLennan Community College and University of Oklahoma (OU). She recently taught at the Soul De Soul dance convention as a guest artist in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She has taught at the American College Dance Association at Southeast Missouri State University and Anderson Indiana University. Michelle's talents have been showcased during the pre-game performance for the Oklahoma City Thunder Basketball and at Disney World in Orlando, Florida. Currently, Michelle has been focused on judging for The Dance Effect Competitions and Act 1. She continues to spread her energy, knowledge and her love for teaching master classes to everyone who appreciates the art of dance. Michelle is setting her sights on new horizons in other parts of Oklahoma and Texas, while starting her new dance faculty position in the Musical Theatre department for the University of Oklahoma (OU).



Thomas Renner

Thomas Renner is a Texas native who has been singing and dancing his way through life since birth! He holds a Bachelors of Fine Arts from The Boston Conservatory, now known as The Boston Conservatory at Berklee. He also holds a certification as a certified personal trainer from National Academy of Sports Medicine teaching full time fitness in Dallas at Flywheel Sports where he educates, mentors, and facilitates training to new instructors. Prior to teaching fitness, he taught all levels of dance at Park Cities Dance while performing at numerous regional theaters in the Dallas area. His passion has always been helping other achieve their full potential in life, fitness, and dance. Today, he continues that as he pursues yoga training this Fall. He's a proud Son, Uncle, Cat Dad, and friend and for being full of energy, humor, and most of all FUN. He's elated to join The Dance Effect family! Let's rock on!



Lauren Alston

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 Dance School). 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 Trey Holloway (Back up Dancer for Whitney Houston). 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, Riverbanks Zoo and Garden, and Carolina Imports. As she continued her quest to fulfill her artistic zeal, she became Co-Director of Columbia City Jazz's Company II, Hip Hop and Jazz Competition Team Director at Griffin School of Dance, Creative Director for DJ Bois Obscur, and national and regional judge and instructor for several dance competitions and convention. As her ambition continues to cultivate, Ms. Alston looks forward to sharing her passion and insight with more eager artists.

