

# MILFORD DANCE ACADEMY

## MEET OUR STAFF TEAM

### *OWNER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, TEACHER / CHOREOGRAPHER*



**Kristen Knight** is the owner and artistic director of MDA. Being the Owner, she is the person that makes it all happen. Kristen has been dancing since the age of three. Kristen has been trained in Contemporary, Jazz, Tap, Ballet, Modern, Lyrical, Musical Theater, Singing and Pom. Kristen Knight has been a part of the dance industry for over 50 years. She has had the opportunity to study with some of the greatest dancers in the world. After High School, she continued her education and training in Dance through Dance Educators of Michigan and Dance Educators of America, where she also competed, winning over-all awards and Titles. In her younger dance years Kristen, has won such titles as “Little Miss Snowflake Talent”, Little Miss Valentine Talent”, “Miss Southern Showbiz of 1982 and First Runner up for “Junior Miss Dance of Michigan” and has performed on Cruise Ships. In Kristen’s pre-teen years, she became a member of **THE KID CONNECTION**, a Tri – Talent Production, where she had the opportunity to perform for various shows, T.V. spots and being a sponsor for radio commercials, the Detroit Free Press and The Detroit News. Kristen became a member of the **YOUNG AMERICANS**, singing and dancing throughout the state of California. With her vocal ability and dance training Kristen has become a multi-Talented Artist. Throughout her years of teaching, Kristen has received numerous awards for her choreography and creativity, winning **Choreographer of The Year for 2012**. She has been recognized and honored by having one of her Tap Routines filmed in Las Vegas and aired on National Television. She has also been recognized and published in Who’s Who among Dance Teachers. Kristen continues to win Choreography Awards for her excellence in Tap, Lyrical, Contemporary & Jazz, and was also awarded Best Choreography for a Bollywood Routine in 2015. She is very grateful to be able to share her talents with children of all ages. Kristen has been awarded the ADCC AWARD for 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2024 & 2025 at Turn It Up Dance Challenge, Energy National Dance, Platinum National Dance, Encore DCS, Groove Competition and many more throughout each competition season. She was also awarded Studio of Excellence Award for Encore Performing Arts in 2017 and won the Top Studio Award for Highest scoring routine at Energy National Dance and Encore DCS in 2017 and 2018, and 2019 at STARQUEST International Dance Competition, Energy National Dance and Dance Xplosion, I Am Dance and many more competitions. In 2018 MDA was awarded THE STUDIO OF EXCELLENCE AWARD IN BOTH AGE DIVISIONS, Highest scoring studio at several regional and National Competitions. Kristen has been awarded the SPIRIT AWARD at several Regional Competitions for her students displaying excellence sportsmanship. Kristen continues to teach and choreograph with her passion and years of experience and training to bring out the best in her students.

## TEACHER / CHOREOGRAPHER



**Brittany Ladd** has been dancing for over 25 years and teaching for over 12 years. Brittany is an alumnus of the StarLine Dance Company and competed for 10 years receiving several scholarships and awards. She furthered her education and training by receiving a Double Bachelors of Fine Arts in Dance Teaching and Dance Performance from Columbia College in Chicago. Brittany successively graduated with honors, scholarships and grants from Columbia College. She studied dance histories, choreography, technique, performance, teaching and anatomy courses. She has studied dance all throughout Michigan, Illinois and New York areas. Brittany has furthered her experience and education under renowned dance artists such as Andrea Miller, Banu whom is affiliated with the Merce Cunningham Company, Stephen Petronio, Vicky Shick from the Trisha Brown Company, Joe Goode and Mia Michaels. Brittany also danced professionally with a Detroit Dance Company from 2011-2013. Her expertise's are in teaching, performance and choreography of all levels and all styles. Brittany is skilled in Modern, Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Pointe, Lyrical, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Theatre and Gymnastics. Brittany's true talent is her sincerity and passion for teaching dance to children. Over the

past few years at Milford Dance Academy, Brittany has been awarded "Choreography of the Year" in 2012, along with most innovative choreography in 2013 and accepted numerous top scores, choreography and outstanding technique awards in 2014. Brittany continues to win Best Choreography Awards through our 2015 & 2016 Competition Season, where she has been recognized for her creativity and excellence in dance. She is a strong individual who likes to push the boundaries of her own choreography and teaching techniques. Brittany emphasizes technique, strength and passion in her classes at Milford Dance Academy. In 2017 and 2018 and 2019 some of her routines scored the highest score in the entire competition and awarded for creativity. Brittany also was awarded **CHOREOGRAPHY OF THE YEAR** at Energy National Dance for 2021. Brittany continues to receive Best Choreography every dance season for numerous routines along with Best Technique. Her Creativity and dedication to each student and routine is outstanding. MDA is very honored to have Brittany teaching our Competitive programs.

## TEACHER / CHOREOGRAPHER



**Sara Daher** began dancing at the age of 4 years old and started training competitively at 7 years old at American Dance Academy in Commerce Township and South Lyon, Michigan. Sara has been trained in the styles of ballet, pointe, modern, contemporary, lyrical, jazz, tap, musical theater, acro and Pom. Sara also trained under Jodie Randolph with the pre – professional dance company X2 for its ' 2015-2016 season before High School Graduation and was a part of her high school's Pom team for two seasons. After graduating from Lakeland High School in 2016, Sara began her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in dance at Wayne State University with plans on graduating in 2020, studying not only dance technique but also anatomy, dance kinesiology, trends in dance as well as proper movement analysis and alignment. She is also in the process of becoming a certified Stott Pilates instructor. While pursuing her degree, she joined the professional company Contexture dance Detroit for its 2018 and 2019 season, dancing under Tracy Halloran. Sara was awarded two BEST CHOREOGRAPHY Awards for 2019. Her

Intermediate Contemporary Trio were awarded National Champions. Sara has won several awards for her choreography and creativity. Sara is looking forward to another great year at Milford Dance Academy and is excited to teach competitive as well as recreational students!

## TEACHER / CHOREOGRAPHER



**Allie Isaacson** started her dance training at age 3 with Debbie Felton's Academy of Dance in Livonia, Michigan. She has worked with companies such as Joffrey Ballet School, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Forces of Nature Dance Company, Ballethnic Dance Company, and Contra-Tiempo Artist Dance Company. After graduating high school she continued her pre professional training at Wayne State University where she was awarded the Maggie Allesee Talent Scholarship. Allie is majoring in dance, working towards her Bachelors in Fine Arts and a Masters in Administration Arts. She loves working with students of all ages and pushes to provide positive environments and creative energy for all. Allie is very excited to share her creativity and experience with her students and be a member of the MDA Staff Team!

## TEACHER / CHOREOGRAPHER



**Mackenzie Adams** began dancing at the age of 3 and went on to train and compete for 15 years at Sheryl's School of Dance in Novi, Michigan. Mackenzie has been trained in a wide range of styles including ballet, Cecchetti, pointe, contemporary, lyrical, jazz, modern, tap, hip hop, and pom. During high school, she was a dedicated member of the Harrison Dance Company, where she had the opportunity to work with guest choreographers from across the country, attend and perform at the National High School Dance Festival, host the Oakland Dance Festival, and earn membership in the National Honor Society for Dance Arts. Throughout her dance training, Mackenzie also had the opportunity to perform in BalletMet's production of *The Nutcracker* at the Detroit Opera House for two years. Most recently, Mackenzie graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Human Resource Management. While at MSU, Mackenzie was a four-year member of the MSU Elite Competitive Dance Team. Throughout her time on the team, she competed at both DTU and NDA Nationals, proudly representing MSU at

the collegiate level. Mackenzie is thrilled to be joining Milford Dance Academy for her first season and is eager to share her passion for dance with the MDA family!



## ***GYMNASTIC COACH***



**Roby Knight** has been teaching gymnastics for over 35 years. Roby has had the opportunity to instruct more than twenty thousand children of all ages in seventy-five schools, community centers, parks and recreational programs throughout the state of Michigan. He has trained cheerleaders from different schools in helping them learn their tricks for their teams. Roby has been a great Gymnastics Coach to the dancers here at MDA, where he has helped them with their flexibility and acro-tricks for enhance their routines within their choreography. He has also assisted multiple gymnasts in their goals in becoming competitive. Roby's instruction is performed in three levels to insure adequate and individual attention for all children. Roby Knight is trained in teaching children safe tumbling with his dedication for fun learning. If your child wants to learn a trick, Mr. Roby is the Gymnastics Coach for you!

## ***OFFICE MANAGER / SECRETARY***

**Kelly Rodriguez**



## ***SECRETARY***

**Megan Miller**



## ***SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS***

**Molli Langolf**



**Lydia Lesnew**



**Julia Kenny**

