



## Ohio Dance Masters 2019 Educational Workshop

### Meet our Distinguished Faculty



Megan Dragoo ~ Broadway Tap  
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**MEGAN DRAGOO** was born and raised in Versailles KY where she grew up studying dance and teaching at her mother's studio, Jane's School of Dance. She grew up competing in the Dance Masters of the Bluegrass Chapter as well as the Ohio Dance Masters Chapter. Megan held many titles and won numerous awards & scholarships during her training. She graduated in 1998 from Woodford County High School and moved straight to New York City to pursue a dancing career. She danced with the Radio City Rockettes from the years 1998 – 2001 and from 2004 – 2007. During that time she made many television appearances such as: The Today Show, Good Morning America, Macys Thanksgiving Day Parade, The Presidential Inaugurations in both 2000 and 2004, Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree Lighting Special, Wheel of Fortune, and The Grand Reopening Gala for Radio City Music Hall 2000. As A Radio City Rockette she was also chosen for numerous choreography workshops for new routines for the Christmas Spectacular and Special Events. Megan worked with many professional choreographers, her favorite being Duke Ellington's granddaughter Mercedes Ellington. During the years away from the Radio City Rockettes, Megan was an original cast member of the Tony Award winning Broadway Musical Revival of 42nd Street from the years 2001 – 2004. As a cast member of 42nd Street she also appeared on television shows such as: The Today Show, Good Morning America Macys Thanksgiving Parade, The Late Night Show with David Letterman, The Rosie O'Donnell Show, and the 2001 Tony's. During her 2nd year with the show she was offered the role of Phyllis Dale. Megan believes strongly that her dance education and experiences with Ohio Dance Masters and Dance Masters of America helped to prepare her for her professional dance career.



## Erika Hunt ~ Ballet

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**ERIKA HUNT** is a native of Northeast Ohio and began her training in 1990 at the University of Akron Dance Institute. While at the Institute Erika had the pleasure of working with a diverse and talented faculty including Ana Lobe, Tatyana and Roman Mazur, Richard Dickinson, Jane Startzman, Lana Carroll, Andrew Carroll, MaryAnn Black, Amy Miller, Christina Foisie and Felise Bagley. Erika supplemented her early training with summer studies at both Pittsburgh Ballet Theater and Jennifer Muller/The Works. She continued her dance education at the University of Akron, graduating magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2008.

Erika has performed in multiple professional and pre-professional capacities throughout the region including performances with Ohio Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, University of Akron Dance Company and appearances regionally as a guest artist. Erika has over 10 years of teaching experience in ballet and pointe and has passed her Cecchetti Grade 1 through Grade 4 teacher's examinations. Her focus as an instructor is helping students develop and understand the technical framework that can support the full range of dynamics and artistic expression available within the ballet vocabulary."



## Justin Chaple ~ Latin Jazz

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**JUSTIN CHAPLE** is originally from San Bernardino, CA and began dancing at the age of 7. He grew up competing on the east and west coast winning national awards along the way. After high school he was a professional dancer for the cruise line industry for 6 years; working for Holland America, Norwegian and Royal Caribbean. During that time he was dance captain and company manager of up to 16 cast members. Justin performed in shows featuring themes from Los Vegas to Broadway where he traveled the globe. On land, Justin has worked for Arthur Murray international teaching and competing in the genre of ballroom, he was trained by world winning international Latin and Smooth champions. Justin is certified in tap and jazz with DMA. He is currently a doctor of physical therapy during the and is working towards lending the art and science of human movement.



Katie Ford ~ Acrobatics

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**KATIE FORD** is currently an Early Intervention Specialist with *Columbus City Schools*, Coordinator of Ninja/Warrior Zone programs, Dance Acro instructor, and a special needs rock climbing coach. She earned her undergraduate degree in Early Childhood/Special Education from *Ohio University*, received her Autism Certificate from *George Mason University* and her Masters in Inclusion and Leadership from *The Ohio State University*. Katie has taught as an Early Intervention Specialist for over 17 years, she has coached gymnastics since 1995, and has taught preschool level up to optional level gymnasts. She is a certified member of *Dance Masters of Ohio and Dance Masters of America*.