



### **Christy Remington - Director**

Christy has over 30 years of dance experience, focusing the majority of her training in ballet, tap and all styles of jazz. Christy started teaching for Prima School of Dancing in 1995 and then went on to receive her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Education specializing in early childhood instruction from Colorado Christian University. She continues to further her dance training through education programs and dance teacher trainings around the country including Mississippi, Colorado, California and New York. To her credit, Christy was the Director of a performance group and taught a wide range of dance classes on an outreach project to Cambodia for the organization Y.W.A.M. (youth with a mission). She has served over 12 years on the Black Hills Dance Theatre board. B.H.D.T. is a nonprofit organization that provides quality dance education and performance experiences to all audiences in the Black Hills Region. Additionally, Christy is an ABT® Certified Teacher who has successfully completed the ABT® Teacher Training Intensive in Primary through Level six of the ABT National Training Curriculum. Miss Christy brings to the classroom a love for her students and a desire to pass along her life-long passion for dance.

### **Laura Lisnik**

Laura Lisnik started dancing when she was three years old at Prima School of Dancing in Rapid City, SD. Dancing her whole life, Laura pursued and earned her B.A in Dance from The University of Montana, Missoula. She has also studied in New York City at Dance New Amsterdam, Broadway Dance Center, and in Denver at Cleo Parker Robinson Dance. She has performed with MoTrans Dance Company, Epiphany Dance Company, and with New York Choreographer Antonietta Vicario. Laura has also choreographed and produced her own shows in Montana, as well as showcasing her solo "Filtration" at the American College Dance Festival. Her teaching credentials include teaching at Kids and Company, Ballet Arts of Academy, University of Montana, Creative Dance Kids, Leap Dance Studio, On Pointe School of Dance and we are now pleased to have her teaching back at Prima School of Dancing.

### **Alyssa Record**

Alyssa grew up in Minneapolis and studied comprehensive theatre, movement and voice at Fuller Young People's Theatre, dance at Youth Movement, and attending MCAE Arts high school studying ballet, modern & jazz. She attended SUNY Purchase as a modern dance major her freshman year of college. She left SUNY to pursue a dancing career with Shattering Feet Dance Co in Minneapolis, as a full-time company member and instructor. She enjoyed dancing with them 2+ years and left to attend University of MN. While in MN Alyssa was very fortunate to also work with Paula Mann, Jane Shockley, Erin Thompson, Hijack, regularly performing at Walker Art Center, Bryant Lake Bowl, Studio 6A, Southern Theatre as well as other local venues. Alyssa taught ballet, tap & jazz at Jill's Dance in Douglas WY before moving to Rapid City in 2008. As the lucky Mom of 4 great kids (3 Prima dancers!) she loves being around kids and is excited about this opportunity to share her love of dance and the great training others so graciously shared with her!



### **Sarah Covington**

Sarah performed with Dance Arts Theatre for many years and was cast in several lead roles including Clara from the Nutcracker and Aurora from Sleeping Beauty. She won the Gold for her solo pointe piece in the Hawaii International Dance competition in 2004. Sarah was part of a performance company that performed in variety of locations including Disneyland and cruise lines. She was also featured in a guest performance with Ensemble Ballet Theatre in Washington. While pursuing her education she was a dance instructor for studios in both Arkansas and Tennessee. She has also served as a technique instructor at a gymnastic academy, coached peewee cheerleading, and prepared choreography for Music Makers Children's Theatre. She recently moved to the area with her family and is taking a break from the corporate world to spend more time being a mother and is returning to her dancing roots by joining Prima's teaching staff.

### **Aly Strong**

Aly began her dance training at Prima School of Dancing in 2002 as a preteen, and she quickly knew it was going to be a lifelong passion. She studied Ballet, Pointe, Jazz, Modern, Hip Hop and Musical Theatre throughout her high school years. She also attended many summer study programs for dance including at Ballet Magnificat! in Mississippi. Upon graduating, Miss Aly moved to New York City to dance with the Joffrey Ballet School's Trainee program. At the Joffrey Ballet School she was privileged to learn from world-renowned dancers and teachers. After training with the Joffrey, Aly returned to Rapid City and began teaching for Prima. Aly is also a certified STOTT Pilates instructor, which gives her a comprehensive knowledge of the human body's anatomy and kinesiology. As a teacher at Prima, Miss Aly strives to above all else share the joy of dancing with her students! In the classroom, she uses her professional experience and knowledge of the body's anatomy and kinesiology to give each student a high quality dance education. Miss Aly's passion to dance began at Prima as a student and now she is thrilled to share that passion with Prima's students as a teacher.

### **Nicci DeMarce**

Miss Nicci brings over 30 years of dance experience, teaching and choreography to Prima. Her professional education began as a scholarship student at the American Conservatory of Dance, Chicago, IL for three years; also taking class at the Lou Conte (Hubbard Street Co.) and Gus Giordano studios while dancing/performing in Chicago. She was able to study and perform with Especially Tap Chicago's artistic director, Julie Cartier and founder Bruce Stegmann. She had the honor of becoming Miss North Dakota 1994, performing tap, jazz and lyrical across ND, MN and MT, and performed a tap solo at the Miss America pageant. Nicci also studied Latin dance, Salsa & Merengue, for a year in Costa Rica, Central America, working as a ballroom dance instructor at a resort. For 10 years, Nicci taught Jazz, Tap, Modern, Hip Hop and Latin ballroom genres of dance for all ages at the Aberdeen Arts and Cultural Center. She served as a member of the South Dakota Dance on Tour, SDAC committee, for 5 years selecting professional companies for annual tours, residencies and performances.



### **Rebecca Myers**

Miss Rebecca grew up in the Rapid City area, graduating from Central High School and continuing her education at Black Hills State University where she pursued a degree in Math and Chemistry Education at the Secondary Level, with a minor in Theater Performance her emphasis was in directing. She wrote and produced *The Outsiders* as her Senior Capstone project for her degree and directed various shows while at BHSU. Becca also performed in 2 seasons of Summerstock Summer Stage program at BHSU, along with designing and building sets for the productions. She is still actively involved in the Black Hills Community Theater by taking rolls onstage, as well as behind the scenes. Her passion is Directing and Stage Management and she is able to have the opportunity to stage manage *The Glass Menagerie* for the 2015-2016 season. Rebecca has taught Drama and Musical Theatre at Prima the last 3 years. Rebecca teaches 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math within the Rapid City Area School District. Miss Rebecca has also recently received her Masters Degree from BHSU in Curriculum and Instruction emphasis in Math Leadership.

### **Jill Bunkowske**

Jill has an extensive educational background, which includes a Master's Degree in Education. She is a retired elementary educator with over 35 years of experience. She has trained in Cecchetti Ballet and has over 30 years of experience teaching many forms of dance. Her current dance emphasis is Early Childhood. Jill is co-owner of NUCLEO Fitness and is a Level 2 Certified STOTT Pilates Trainer and is also an Indoor Cycling certified instructor. Prima is thrilled to welcome Jill into our program as she brings such a wealth of knowledge and experience in dance, Pilates and fitness education.

### **Shawna Robbenolt**

Shawna danced with Mountain West Ballet Company as one of its founding and youngest members – performing in a number of productions for 15 years. Other training includes Ballet West Conservatory, the University of Utah Ballet Department where she earned a BFA in Ballet with a performing emphasis and danced with Utah Ballet Company. Shawna is an accomplished performer - some of her favorite roles include Swanhilda in *Coppelia*, Sugar Plum Fairy in the *Nutcracker*, Emerald Pas De Deux, *Punch & Judy Pas de Deux*, *Paquita*, & *Symphony in C*. Shawna also has a passion for choreography and has had some of her original works showcased in *The Millennium Celebration*, in Salt Lake City, Utah, Sandy Dance Alliance, and numerous studio and school productions. She was also the Director & Choreographer for Balleraena Dance Studios Winter productions for 5 years (2008-2012) including: 'The Nutcracker.....Sweet!' and 'Alice Dancing In Wonderland! Shawna has taught dance for over 20 years. She has taught ballet and jazz technique at various studios in Utah, Colorado, Sioux Falls, and we are certainly pleased to have her here now at Prima!