

Introducing Hawkins New Instructors for the 2023-2024 Season

Karie Aubin



Karie is a local actor and theater/Improv teacher. She has been studying improv for 3 years and been the Improv club president for two years at American River College.

In addition to working professionally Karie has completed several degrees in acting and production. She has 3 mostly grown children and resides in Folsom.

Andrew Cervantes



Andrew Cervantes is currently Yemaya Salsa Dance Company's dance director and choreographer. He won L.A.'s top male soloist competition in (year) and he is also a 3x World Latin Dance Cup Champion in the same gender division. He has choreographed for individuals and teams who have won Latin dance championships as well.

With over 15 years of experience, Andrew exudes tremendous showmanship and energy both on stage and on the dance floor. He has the ability to lead and follow and is known for his style of following, styling techniques and fast spins.

Andrew's Mission is to positively impact audiences from all walks of life and to deliver a powerful image of dance and artistry. He wants to leave a beautiful impression of tolerance and acceptance. He wants to show that healing through the art of dance is possible and to remind people to not be afraid to reach high in life to achieve their dream.

Regan Craig



Regan recently graduated high school and will attend Folsom Lake College in the fall. She began dancing when she was three years old, and she was a student at Hawkins for eight years. Regan received training in ballet, jazz, modern, contemporary, and tap; however, she is most passionate about ballet and modern dance. She danced with the Ballet Troupe for two years and then with the Hawkins Classical and Contemporary Ballet Company for six years.

Regan also danced with the Jazz Troupe for two years, MODt for three years, and the Tap Company for three years. She is excited to teach young dancers and for what the future holds.

Monica Estey



Monica began her dance journey at the young age of 5 attending classes at Linda Parker School of Dance in Fair Oaks. After several years of dance, she began participating in competitive cheer and dance with River City Heat Allstar Cheer and Dance from the age of 12 to 16. During this time she also trained actively in tumbling and gymnastics at Technique Gymnastics in Rancho Cordova. Following high school Monica began taking ballet and hip hop dance classes at American River College from 2008-2010. Shortly after, Monica was given the opportunity to begin working at her first dance studio with Elizabeth Ercila at Fancy Feet Dance Academy. It was then she quickly fell in love with teaching and spreading her love for dance. Since then Monica has taught at multiple studios including; Come Dance With Me Studios, TuTu Performing Arts, and Step 1 Dance and Fitness. Miss Monica later decided to return to American River College to obtain her Associate degree in Dance from 2017 - 2020. During her time at ARC, Monica was able to study under the amazing Katherine Bailey, Lisa Ross and Michelle Greene-Clark. Her love for dance did not stop there, while studying dance and teaching full-time, she also formulated and participated in a tap group called, "The ARC Steppers". Currently, Monica is a member of a local Sacramento performance group named Jazzy Belles, and still continues to teach adult tap classes in Carmichael.

Katie Kerwin-Gielniak



Katie earned her degree in the performing arts, holding a B.F.A. from New York University's prestigious Tisch School of the Arts CAP21 Conservatory. She has had experience performing professionally and teaching voice and dance for over 25 years. She offers private training in vocal technique, audition, and performances ages 5 to professional adult. Her vocal background from NYU is classical with training in musical theatre/pop vocal performance styles. She also teaches classes in Theatre Jazz and Broadway and contemporary tap dance styles from beginner to advanced. Katie is a Bay Area native, but after college joined the artistic staff and acting company at the professional Show Palace Dinner Theatre in Florida in 2003 as an assistant to the Artistic Director.

In 2004, she became the Resident Choreographer for the Show Palace where she directed, choreographed and performed in many shows there. Katie's teaching expertise is Vocal Technique and Performance in both Classical and contemporary Musical Theatre as well as as CCM, Tap (Broadway and Contemporary), Theatre Jazz, Musical Theatre Performance, and Acting. You may have seen her in TONY award winning director Walter Bobbie and Broadway choreographer Randy Skinnners production of Irving Berlin's WHITE CHRISTMAS in San Francisco at the Orpheum Theatre in 2005, and subsequent performances at the FOX Theatre in Detroit in 2006, and the Ordway in St. Paul in 2008.

You can also hear her singing in the ensemble of the Broadway cast album of the show which was released in the fall of 2006. Katie is a proud member of the Actor's Equity Association and is currently the Musical Theatre Director of Westlake School for the Performing Arts in Daly City, and recently finished serving as the Artist in Residence Director of the Musical Theatre program at the Ruth Asawa School for the Performing Arts in San Francisco as a founding member of the musical theatre program. Katie also founded Broadway Babies and Kids located in San Carlos which is a musical theatre performing arts school with a unique training curriculum My Grown Up and Me (R) specifically designed for early childhood development, as well as continued training through early adulthood to professionals. Several of Katie's students have been accepted to prestigious universities, and achieved successful careers in the medical field, law, business, and entrepreneurial endeavors as well as in the performing arts with Disney, Cruise Lines, Dance Companies, Film and Television, and Broadway!

Isabella King



Isabella King has been a dancer for twelve years. She started her training with jazz, tap, and ballet and over the years found her passion for contemporary, modern, and pointe work. She finished her training at Hawkins School of Performing Arts and was a part of the Hawkins Contemporary Jazz Company and Hawkins Classical and Contemporary Ballet Company. She has received many opportunities such as performing in different parts of the world and learning various roles of different ballet and contemporary shows. She is currently a company dancer for Sacramento Contemporary Dance Theater.

Claire Long



Claire grew up in Sacramento, where she trained for 10+ years under Amberlee Prosser's direction at KM Dance Arts. Here she focused on ballet, tap, jazz, musical theatre, and contemporary. Furthering her studies, Claire attended Santa Clara University and received a BA in Theatre Arts with a Dance Emphasis and a BS in Biology. In college she explored modern dance, vocal instruction, and choreography. Her most recent choreographic work, Voyage, premiered in April of 2023.

Claire looks forward to pursuing a career in dance medicine. She wants to become a physical therapist, assisting dancers with injury. She is currently a physical therapy intern, and is a first year company member of Sacramento Contemporary Dance Theatre. This will be her first year teaching at Hawkins, and she is unbelievably excited to join us.

Brenna Mulligan



Brenna has spent the past 12 years gracefully perfecting her craft and inspiring others with her talent. As a seasoned dancer and dedicated instructor, she has become a guiding light in the realm of dance, nurturing budding talents and encouraging self-expression.

Brenna discovered her passion for dance at an early age, captivated by the art form's ability to communicate emotions and stories without uttering a single word. With unwavering determination, she embarked on a journey of self-discovery and continuous growth, honing her skills in various dance styles such as ballet, contemporary, jazz, and acrobatics.

Throughout her illustrious career, Brenna has earned numerous accolades and recognition for her exceptional talent. Her performances have graced renowned stages across the globe, leaving audiences in awe with her dynamic presence and seamless execution. Her expressive movements and unwavering dedication to her craft have earned her a reputation as an artist with an undeniable charisma.

Driven by her deep-rooted desire to share the magic of dance, Brenna transitioned into the role of an instructor. With an innate ability to connect with her students, she imparts her vast knowledge and expertise to aspiring dancers of all ages. Through her patient and nurturing approach, she instills in them a sense of discipline, creativity, and self-confidence.

As Brenna's journey continues, she remains dedicated to pushing the boundaries of her artistry and nurturing the next generation of dancers. She is incredibly excited to be teaching contemporary, improv, and acro at Hawkins this upcoming season and can't wait to start the new dance season!

Megan Odell



Megan Odell is an educator, researcher, and performing artist originally from Sacramento (the ancestral lands of the Nisenan peoples) with 11 years of teaching experience in performing arts organizations and traditional classroom environments around the U.S., as well as Sri Lanka. This will be her first year teaching at Hawkins! Megan holds a BA in Theatre and 2 Minors in Vocal Performance and Education Studies from Denison University (Granville, OH) as well as an MA in Education, specializing in Teaching Secondary Social Sciences from UC Berkeley. Outside of Hawkins, Megan teaches 10th Grade World History as well as the World Dance and Music electives at Westlake Charter High School in Natomas.

Prior to pursuing a career in education, Megan trained in various forms of dance, music, and acting at schools such as Stella Adler Conservatory (NYC), Sacramento Theatre Company, and Sacramento Ballet Company. She has also performed in productions with these companies, as well as the Contemporary Theatre of Ohio (Columbus, OH), Rum House (NYC), Serenbe Playhouse (Atlanta, GA), and Atlanta Lyric

Theatre (Atlanta, GA). She has served as a Choreographer and Instructor of Dance and Vocal Performance at schools and studios in Sacramento, Oakland, Columbus, Atlanta, and Colombo (Sri Lanka). Megan strives to create safe, courageous, and inclusive learning spaces where students can use the arts as tools for self-expression and community building.

Megan Picas



Megan Picas was born and raised in Orange County, California where she grew up dancing on a competition team ages 5-18 and a pre-professional company in her teenage years. In her adult years, she moved to Los Angeles where she worked professionally on contemporary companies and participated in performances, competitions, teaching/choreographing, community events, photo shoots, video shoots, music videos, and more until life circumstances lead her to Folsom. Currently, she is a working dance instructor, yoga instructor, and physical therapist assistant who aspires to share the gift of art, movement, and knowledge to connect with people.

Anna Prenares



Anna has been teaching Dance for over 25 years. She holds a BA in Dance from San Jose State University and was part of the SJSU faculty from 2006-2011. She was the owner and director of Vision Dance Center in San Jose for 13 years. As studio director Anna has had the pleasure of working with many young dancers and has become a well known Bay Area teacher, dance judge and choreographer.

Her professional dance career started in 1997 in Las Vegas where she performed in shows at the Luxor, Harrah's, Tropicana, and Flamingo Hilton. During her dance career she traveled to Laughlin, Wendover, and Japan. She choreographed a show called 'Stampede' that ran for 6 months at Harrah's hotel. Anna was featured on VH1 with Sting and on Discovery channel High Rollers Show.

Anna has also had the pleasure of working as Choreographer for La Cage Aux Folles with Sunnyvale Community Players 2018. She taught as a guest teacher for Westmont High School Musical Theater Program 2018-2020, and was the Wilcox High School Dance Team Coach and Advisor for 7 years.

Anna is thrilled to join the Hawkins team and looks forward to continuing to share her love of dance with her new students.

Natalie Quillici



Prior to moving to Sacramento, Natalie founded and produced the Bay Area's first Site-specific Dance festival and performed in several historic San Francisco Venues with the Urban Contemporary company LooseChange SF. After earning her Master's in Dance from California State University, Long Beach, she moved to Sacramento to continue her choreographic journey. Featuring strengths with a passion for storytelling, she has spent the last decade in the Sacramento Area working with local theatres including but not limited to: Natomas Performing Arts Charter School, Fair Oaks Theatre Festival, and CYT Folsom. She is excited to continue sharing her creative process and technical skills here at Hawkins.