

Cecchetti Ohio Ballet Day Faculty



*Denise
Gillman*

FDCCA, AISTD – Academy Founder Ms. Gillman began her early training in Michigan with Marjorie B. Randazzo; she was the recipient of the Hammond Scholarship allowing her to continue as a full-time student at the National Ballet School of Canada. Ms. Gillman is a frequent guest teacher in the United States and Europe, including faculty positions at the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School, Carnegie Mellon University, Louisville Ballet School, the International Summer School of the Cecchetti Council of America, ISTD – Cecchetti, and the Kate. Simmons School in England. Ms. Gillman is familiar with Balanchine style and has training in the Vaganova and RAD methods of teaching although her teaching preference is the Cecchetti Method. Through many years of continued education, dedication, and love of dance, Ms. Gillman has achieved an associate diploma from the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing and has also earned her Cecchetti Diploma as a dancer and teacher. Denise is a member of Ohio Dance Masters Chapter 16, Dance Masters of America, and an Examiner for the Cecchetti Council of America.



*Terri
Butkovich*

DFCCA, NEBD, CCA Board of Examiners. Ms. Butkovich began her training with Rose Marie Floyd at age 4 and studied with her for 14 years. She continued her study of dance in England and New York City with renowned teachers from the Joffrey Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, and The Royal Ballet School in London. As a student, she was awarded numerous scholarships for demonstrating outstanding talent and was invited by Kristen Ralov and Dredbjorn Bjomsson to attend the Royal Danish Ballet School. She has performed many principal roles and danced with the Boston Ballet and Contemporary Civic Ballet Company. Theresa holds the Maestro Enrico Cecchetti Diploma. She is an Executive Officer and National Examiner of the CCA. She was the director of the Rose Marie Floyd Studio of Dance and the Artistic Director of the Contemporary Civic Ballet Company for 14 years. She is currently the director of TMB Ballet which provides master classes, ballet intensives, private coaching, and choreography.



*Emily
Ward*

Emily Ward is a versatile dancer, teacher, choreographer, and creative professional from Alabama. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from Troy University, graduating Summa Cum Laude. During her time at Troy, Emily broadened her artistic perspective through international and domestic travel, studying and performing in Italy, New York City, and across the southern United States. In 2024, Emily became a company artist with Unbound Ballet Project in Charleston, South Carolina. She has since brought her talents to Northeast Ohio, where she holds multiple positions as a dancer and educator, including her work with Inlet Dance Theatre. In addition to her performance and teaching work, Emily has hands-on experience as a marketing, production, and personal assistant, which has deepened her understanding of the arts industry behind the scenes. Passionate, organized, and continually seeking growth, Emily is committed to expanding her artistic voice while contributing meaningfully to the dance community.



*Rylie
Kuhn*

Rylie Kuhn is a 19-year-old dancer and choreographer from Cleveland, Ohio. She has trained in a wide range of styles such as ballet, contemporary, lyrical, jazz, hip-hop, ballroom, acro, musical theater, and tap since the age of four. Rylie traveled with Wild Dance Intensive as an apprentice from 2021 to 2024, served as a Senior Assistant with Intrigue Dance Intensive during the 2024 to 2025 season, and is currently part of the Drift Dance Convention faculty. She continues to share her passion for dance as a choreographer across several studios in Northeast Ohio and teaches students of all ages in her hometown, where she loves making an impact and inspiring the next generation of dancers. Rylie has a deep passion for performing and is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Business Administration with hopes to continue dancing and teaching at a professional level while furthering her education.



Alanis Ladicks has been dancing since the age of 2 and choreographing for the past 5 years. She has danced for the Cleveland Cavaliers for 5 years and continues to pursue dance professionally along with choreography. Dancing with the Cavs included NBA All Star 2022, performing with DJ Khaled, Lil Baby, Ludacris and more, multiple playoff appearances, NBA Paris Game, traveling for dance team purposes and so much more.

*Alanis
Ladicks*