

# **2013 National Dance Week Schedule and Instructors: May 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>**

## **Workshops at River Valley Dance Academy**

### **3700 N. Chestnut Street, Chaska MN**

The National Dance Week Celebration at RVDA is a time when current students can check out new styles of dance they have not yet had an opportunity to be a part of, OR, work with visiting instructors to expand their knowledge base in styles of dance they are familiar with. It is also a time we open our doors to the community to invite others in to our studio to check us out, and see what we are all about. National Dance Week is celebrated throughout our nation in many different ways, in order to increase the awareness of the art of dance. We hope you will join us!

#### **This years' instructors are:**

**Patrick Kasper:** We are excited to welcome Patrick to our guest instructors for NDW this year. While locally, he works on casting and choreography for Valley Fair, he is best well known internationally as a motivational speaker, and fitness guru. Patrick has been an energetic force in the fitness industry for over 15 years. He has shared his message on Oprah, on cruise ships, television, radio, presented workshops at festivals, schools, corporate events, and conventions all over the world. His Positive Motion Program inspires people of all ages to live happier and healthier lives. At RVDA this weekend, Patrick will work with our youngest dancers on a hip hop style/fitness routine, but also share his presentation on Positive Motion. With our older more advanced students, he will provide a keynote address on inspiration, motivation, and team building, but will also provide a class and mock audition for dancers considering the field of live entertainment.

**Sue Gunness:** (Classical Ballet) Sue has been instructing at our National Dance Week Celebrations since they began 14 years ago. She is a Dance Specialist at Gustavus University, and also served as an instructor at MSU for many years. Having studied with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Sue served as the Ballet Mistress at Continental Ballet Company for several years, she has instructed at Minnesota Dance Theatre, and runs her own Dance Company (PAC) in her hometown. Sue is a wealth of information, a true artist, and an inspiration not only to budding ballerinas, but to her fellow instructors. If you love classical ballet, you won't want to miss the opportunity to take class with Sue.

**Julie Kerr Berry:** (African Caribbean/Modern) MSU Dance Department Chairperson Julie Kerr Berry, (and a recipient of Dance Educator of the Year Award ,as posted in Dance Teacher Magazine) returns to deliver her amazing African Caribbean class, with live Drum accompaniment provided by Tim Berry, local musician and music educator. A collegiate style class, great opportunity for our dancers to see what lies ahead at the college level. Modern dance is Julie's love as well, as she strives to teach her dancers to learn how to use their floor. If you are looking to work hard, Julie's classes are a "not miss". Julie is a dance educator, professor, and a choreographer, who received her degree in Dance from Temple University.

**Rachel Caughey:** (Jazz, leaps and turns) Rachel attended Wayzata high school, where she was a member of her Varsity Dance Team all four years, and is honored to have won three State Titles. She is now a Senior, and second year Captain on the University of MN Dance Team. Throughout her years on the team she has won eight National Titles, as well as two Gold and one Silver medal at Worlds her freshman year. When Rachel isn't dancing, she is working toward her degree in Elementary Education at the University of Minnesota. She is excited to work with the students at RVDA to continue to push them to become the best dancers they can be.

**Bryce Davidson:** (Break Dancing) has been teaching athletic disciplines for over 10 years. In his 8 years as a break dancing instructor, he has had the opportunity to teach students of all shapes and sizes from 4-47! He has taught workshops for dance studios, elementary and high schools, and special events. While teaching is Bryce's first love, he also loves to perform! He has danced on stage with hip hop legends Afrika Bambaataa, KRSOne, Kurtis Blow, B-boy Crazy Legs, and across the twin cities with The Collective hip hop dance crew. When Bryce isn't dancing, he is doing caricatures for events and parties, performing improv, and practicing yoga.

**Vincent Balbo:** (b Boy Hip Hop) Vinny teaches Hip Hop at the Fight or Flight Academy in Minneapolis. He is currently a Senior at the Perpich Center for the Arts, where he studies dance. Most recently you may seen Vinny perform at this years' opening at Jingle Ball. He has also performed in various local music videos, book openings, fundraisers, and local artist events. Apart from dancing, Vinny has been training in Parkour and Freerunning. Some of his other interests include acting, modeling, and film making. He will be starring in two local Independent films, including "Weekend Hat", which will be entered into the Sundance Film Festival. Vincent's modeling has included clothing for Ragstock and Paul Osorio, who was featured on the 2012 season of Project Runway.

**Jennifer Sopoci Hardin:** (Ballroom for adults and older teens) Shortly after graduating from Southern Methodist University with a B.F.A. in Theatre Arts with an acting emphasis, Jennifer moved to Tucson, AZ where she began a career in ballroom dance. Having danced ballet, tap, jazz, and modern from early childhood through college, she felt at home performing and teaching Ballroom, Latin, Country/Western, and Swing to all levels of students at the highly-respected, large independent studio "Shall We Dance" from 1999-2010. She danced professionally with various partners and students (pro/am) at many regional competitions and local events. She also enjoyed choreographing, especially formations for large groups which were performed at the second annual "Moda Provacateur" and "The Cactus Classic Dance Competition". After many years of studying and countless hours of coaching from National and World Champion dancers, Jennifer traveled to Las Vegas, with American Smooth Finalist Jo Anna Senn as her dance partner, to earn her national teaching certification through DVIDA with high honors in all levels of American Smooth and Rhythm dancing (taking the rigorous two-day, 18 hour exam while she was six months pregnant!). Although most of her time now is spent at home raising her three small children, Jennifer continues to perform in local productions with Chaska Valley Family Theatre and has appeared with her daughter in "Oliver", "It's a Wonderful Life", "The Music Man", and looks forward to puffing-up her Latin dancing feathers as Mayzie LaBird in this summer's production of "Seussical".

**Lydia Jericho:** (Vocal Instruction for Ice Cream Cabaret Workshop) Lydia will be joining RVDA Owners Jocelyn and Robert Braudt for a look into "Ice Cream Cabaret". For many summers the studio has hosted a camp for singing waiters and waitresses to learn the fine art of "spoofing" on their audience, as they deliver Ice Cream Sundaes, followed immediately by Show Tunes, presented by their servers! During Ice Cream Camp, the entertainers receive vocal training, comedic training, and choreography for the production which takes place at the end of the week. THIS workshop, allows students to see a taste of what Ice Cream Camp will be all about this year! Lydia is a voice teacher and vocal instructor from California, who has recently relocated to the area. She will be providing the "singing lessons, while Robert teaches the comedic spoofing, and Jocelyn will be providing the show choreography. The workshop this weekend gives you a feel of what "singing serverhood" is all about. It does not commit you to the week long summer camp, but once you "taste" this musical theatre event, there might not be any turning back!

**Rachel Svihel:** (Modern Dance) Rachel received her BFA in Dance from the University of Minnesota and has performed right here in the Twin Cities. She has worked as a choreographer, a dancer, and an instructor at collegiate as well as competitive venues. She has been teaching for over 15 years and truly enjoys seeing dancers grow and develop. Most recently Rachel has performed her own liturgical modern dances at various workshops and churches as well as danced with choreographers such as Vanessa Voskuil in En Masse at The Southern Theatre, and Emily Tubman as part of Zenon Dance Company's Zone Performance Program. This past fall she had the pleasure of choreographing dances for River Valley Dance Academy and Prairie Dance Alliance's performances of the Nutcracker. She still enjoys dancing and performing on her own and is happy to be a part of the staff at RVDA.

**Gena Buckley:** (Jazz/ Kick/ Audition Prep) Gena has been instrumental in the growth of the Jazz program at River Valley. She is the coach of our Performance Company Jazz Teams, the Coach of the Lakeville North Lakeliners High School Jazz Team, and has been an instructor at RVDA for 11 years. Formerly a MN Vikings Cheerleader for four years, Gena has also served as a judge for the MN State High School League, and has offered her expertise teaching master classes and workshops around the state for dance teams. Gena has modeled for The Line Up and Just for Kix dance catalogues, and has been seen in a national commercial for Big Lots! Check out Gena's audition prep class if you're interested in learning more about trying out for our performance companies, or your high school dance team.

**Kirsten Iiams:** (Ballet, Musical Theatre Dance, Pre School Dance Party) We are so excited to have Kirsten Iiams on staff at River Valley Dance Academy. Fun Fact: Kirsten was the original Pink Ballerina Bear in Radio City Music Halls Christmas Spectacular! Kirsten has performed at Radio City Music Hall, with Ballet of the Dolls, at the Hayloft Dinner Theatre, and most recently for many seasons with Chanhassen Dinner Theatres. You may have seen her in *Joseph, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, The Producers, 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Easter Parade, Singin in the Rain, West Side Story, Beauty and the Beast, Anything Goes, Annie, Cats, The Sound of Music, Camelot, The Music Man, My Fair Lady, Oklahoma, Can Can, Good News, or Brigadoon*. She is a member of Actors Equity, and the Screen Actors Guild. She has trained with the Joffrey Ballet, Hartford Ballet, Riverside Ballet Arts Theatre, Ballet Folk, with Nanette Charisse, Michael Owens, and Luigi. Originally from Moscow Idaho, Kirsten was the Artistic Director of the Bismarck Dance Theatre; a youth Performing Company from 1994-1997. She has been teaching dance since 1978, and providing choreography since 1990 for dance and theatre groups.

**Amy Hovord:** (Pre School Dance Party) Amy has been teaching with RVDA for five years, specializing in working with pre school and early elementary students. She attended the University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire, earning degrees in Elementary Education, Special Education, and Dance. Amy attended Eastview High School, where she was a member of the State Champion Lightning Dance Team.

**Hannah Crees:** (Pre School Dance Party) Hannah is a former member of our Performance Teams right here at River Valley Dance Academy. She has been assisting classes at River Valley for six years, substituting for two, and we look forward to Hannah joining our staff as an instructor in 2013-2014. She has been instrumental in working with our adaptive dance program, and is loved dearly by many of our pre schoolers. Hannah has performed at DisneyWorld, attended classes at Broadway Dance Center in NY, participated in the Behind the Scenes Broadway program, and has received additional training through The Pulse, and Showstopper Dance

Conventions. In 2011 Hannah danced the role of “Spanish” in Nutcracker, and in 2012, the lead role in our production of “The Snow Queen.” She has also performed roles in La Fille Mal Garde, Coppelia, Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella, and Giselle. This summer you can catch Hannah as a featured dancer, and Bird Girl in CVFT’s production of “Seussical”. We are excited to have Hannah assisting with the pre school dance party during this years’ National Dance Week Celebration.

**Deane Tasler:** (Tap) We welcome Deane back for his 7<sup>th</sup> year at our National Dance Week Celebration. Deane is a Carlson Grad, has been seen in “Beauty and the Beast”, Anything Goes, West Side Story, 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Singin in the Rain, and “Swing” at Chanhassen Dinner Theatres. He also had the pleasure of joining the Metropolitan Ballet’s productions of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”, and “Rodeo” at the Historic State Theatre. He continues in Musical Theatre as a choreographer/director for Ashland Productions, and choreographer for Maple Grove Senior High, where his work has been recognized at the annual Spotlight Awards. Deane has exclusively been teaching Tap for the past six years, and is currently on staff at four Twin Cities’ dance studios. He has earned awards in choreography in 2009, 2011, and 2012 with the IDC, and Bravo Competitions.

**Kim Bahmer:** (Acro for Dancers) Kim has over 20 years experience as a competitive athlete in the sports of Trampoline & Tumbling, Artistic Gymnastics, and Diving. She was a National Champion in Power Tumbling at age 9 and State Champion in Diving for the state of Minnesota. Kim competed Division I at the University of Minnesota in Diving, and was a record holder, as well as Big ten Diver of the Week. She trained Trampoline & Tumbling for Cirque du Soleil in 2008. Kim has a Bachelor’s Degree in Education, and is a USAG Safety Certified Instructor. She has a passion for helping her students reach their full athletic potential.

**Joseph Bingham:** (Partnering for Pointe) Joseph danced the role of our Nutcracker in 2011 & 2012, and we are so grateful for his return to RVDA to share his talents with our students. A graduate of the University of Minnesota, Joseph studied Dance and Arts Administration. In 2009 Joseph performed the role of Dream Curly in Chanhassen Dinner Theatre’s “Oklahoma”. He performed for 8 seasons as a Company Member of the Continental Ballet Company, where some of his favorite credits include: Blue Bird in “Sleeping Beauty,” Spanish in “Swan Lake”, the Prince, and numerous other roles in “Nutcracker”, “Coppelia”, “Cinderella,” and the Champion Roper in “Rodeo”. In 2012, he danced with the Minnesota Opera. Joseph has worked as a stage manager for the Walker Art Center’s “Momentum: New Dance Works”, a Stage Management Intern for Aida at the Pantages, and as a Production Assistant for Bloomington Civic Theatre’s “Sweet Charity”. He has produced his own shows in the Minnesota Fringe Festival, “Conundrum”, and “Conundrum Rehabbed”. Currently Joseph is working independently as a Stage Manager and Lighting Designer within the Twin Cities Theatre Community, as well as a dance instructor.

### Workshop Schedule:

#### Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>

##### **Studio A**

6:30-7:30	Modern Dance	1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> grades	Svihel	\$12	NDW 101
7:30-8:30	Modern Dance	4 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> grades	Svihel	\$12	NDW 102

##### **Studio B**

6:45-7:45	Dance Party	ages 4-6	Iiams, Hoyard, Crees	FREE	NDW 103
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##### **Studio C**

6:15-7:45	Modern Dance	5 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> grades, level IV/V	Kerr-Berry	\$18	NDW 104
7:45-9:15	African Caribbean	8 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grades, Advanced	Kerr -Berry	\$18	NDW 105

#### Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>

##### **Studio A**

12:30-2:00	Intermediate Ballet	5 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> grades, level IV/V	Guinness	\$15	NDW 106
2:00-3:30	Advanced Ballet	8 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grades	Guinness	\$15	NDW 107
4:00-5:00	Musical Theatre Dance	1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> grades	Iiams	\$12	NDW 108
5:00-6:00	Dinner Break	Bring a bag dinner or sign up to order Pizza			
6:00-8:00	Ice Cream Cabaret Workshop	5 <sup>th</sup> grade and up	Braudt, Jericho	\$18	NDW 109
8:00-Midnight	Performance Company Party		Staff	\$ 6	NDW 110

##### **Studio B**

12:30-2:00	Partnering on Pointe	Pointe students level II-IV	Bingham	\$15	NDW 111
2:00-3:00	Jr. Jazz & Cheer	1 <sup>st</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> grades	Buckley	\$12	NDW 112
3:00-4:00	Kick	2 <sup>nd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> grades	Buckley	\$12	NDW 113

4:00-5:00	Audition Prep	4 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grades	Buckley	\$12	NDW 114
5:00-6:00	Dinner Break	Bring a bag dinner or sign up to order Pizza			

### Studio C

12:30-2:00	Positive Motion	3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Grades	Kasper	\$25	NDW 115
2:00-3:30	Key Note	5 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> grade Teams	Kasper	\$25	NDW 116
3:30-5:00	Key Note	8 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grade Teams/Co.	Kasper	\$25	NDW 117
5:00-6:00	Dinner Break	Bring a bag dinner, or sign up to order Pizza			

### Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>

### Studio A

12:00-1:00	Break Dancing	8 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grades	Davidson	\$12	NDW 118
1:00-2:00	Break Dancing	2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> grades	Davidson	\$12	NDW 119
2:00-3:00	Break Dancing	5 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> grades	Davidson	\$12	NDW 120
3:00-4:00	Acro	8 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grades	Bahmer	\$12	NDW 121
4:00-5:00	Acro	5 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> grades	Bahmer	\$12	NDW 122

### Studio B

12:00-1:00	Hip Hop	2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> grades	Balbo	\$12	NDW 123
1:00-2:00	Hip Hop	5 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> grades	Balbo	\$12	NDW 124
2:00-3:00	Hip Hop	8 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grades	Balbo	\$12	NDW 125
3:00-4:00	Tap	3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> grades	Tasler	\$12	NDW 126
4:00-5:00	Tap	7 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grades	Tasler	\$12	NDW 127

### Studio C

12:00-1:00	Jazz	5 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> grades level III & up	Caughey	\$12	NDW 128
1:00-2:00	Jazz	8 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grades Advanced	Caughey	\$12	NDW 129
2:00-3:00	Jazz	2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> grades	Caughey	\$12	NDW 130
3:30-5:00	Ballroom / Swing	Adults/ older teens	Sopoci-Hardin	\$15	NDW 131
6:00-8:00	Swan Lake Run Through	all dancers in Swan Lake	Braudt/Iiams	\$0	required if in Swan Lake

### Additional information:

Gentlemen taking the pointe partnering class are free. Pointe students, invite your male theatre friends!

4-6 year olds attending the dance party, this is open to the community, and FREE, so invite your friends! Please sign up those planning to attend, as we will have to have a limit for the maximum in the room.

Most of the workshops are open to the community, so help us spread the word as we celebrate National Dance Week. Invite your friends to sign up. For the ballroom class, please try to sign up with a partner, (male/ female does not matter)

There will be a maximum number of dancers allowed in each class , so sign up soon to guarantee your spot.

Can you walk in that day and sign up? Yes, if there is still availability in the class you want to take.

Is there something for your kindergartner? If they were 6 this year, they are included in the dance party. If they have danced for several years with us, check with your instructor to see if they are a match for a 1<sup>st</sup> grade workshop.

Can my dancer handle 2 or 3 classes in a row? Yes. Dancers at dance conventions dance back to back all day. Encourage them to bring a water bottle and healthy snacks in their dance bag. An apple, orange slices, a granola bar; are all great snacks to help your dancer through the day.

## National Dance Week Registration Form

**Ways to register:** Place this in the black box by the instructor's office at the studio (or) Mail to: River Valley Dance Academy, 3700 N. Chestnut Street, Suite 101, Chaska, MN 55318

Dancers Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dancers grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents names: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent cell phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Please write the class code and title of each class you are signing up for below. **Use one form per dancer.**

Code: Class Type: Cost:

I am selecting to pay per class. Total tuition enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to order Pizza for Saturday Night's dinner (2 slices and pop) \$ 6.00

I am a Team Member and am enclosing the Team Party Fee \$ 6.00

I prefer to purchase the weekend package which includes 8 classes and pizza \$105 (Savings of \$10)

I will purchase the team package which includes 9 classes, pizza & team party \$135 (Savings of \$16)

**Total Enclosed** \$

Thank you for joining us! We look forward to another Fantastic Dance Week Celebration!!!

The Dance Party for ages 4-6 is free, but please still register above. The Swan Lake Run through is not a NDW class, no need to register for that. We will anticipate seeing all Swan Lake Participants at the run through on Sunday at 6:00 p.m. Team and Company Dancers, we anticipate you taking a minimum of 6 classes throughout the weekend, as discussed at time of audition. Classes with Kasper and Berry are 2 of the mandatory team classes.