



## **Brenda Serrata Tally**

***Owner/Director***

Brenda Tally is an experienced arts educator, administrator, and choreographer with a passion for engaging young artists to develop their own creative voice through the study of dance technique, craft of choreography, and dance performance. She holds an M.F.A in dance performance from the University of Iowa and a B.F.A. in modern dance from the University of Utah. She began her early training in Victoria, Texas and was a member of Victoria Ballet Theatre from 1984 to 1993. She has done summer study at the Houston Ballet Academy, Joffrey Workshop TX, and Alvin Ailey American Dancenter. In Utah, Brenda also dabbled in musical theater at Robert Redford's Sundance Theatre. She served as faculty for the Joffrey Workshop TX for over ten years. At the University of Iowa, she was a Dean's

Graduate Fellow, danced as a member of Dancers in Company and her choreographic work "Habitual Ritual" was chosen to represent the university at the American College Dance Festival. She has performed with modern dance companies Duarte Dance Works, Kayle+Co, and Charlotte Adams & Dancers at the Joyce SOHO and Dance Theatre Workshop in New York City. Brenda is the artistic director of Victoria Ballet Theatre, an honor company with Regional Dance America. She has created over 20 original works, twice receiving the Monticello Foundation Scholarship and the Natalie Skelton awards for choreography from Regional Dance America. Brenda is an American Ballet Theatre® Certified Teacher, who has successfully completed the ABT® Teacher Training Intensive in Primary through Level 3 for the ABT® National Training Curriculum. She has also completed the teacher training workshop at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet. She is certified in Progressing Ballet Technique, a revolutionary program for ballet teachers and students that aids in training muscle memory to achieve optimal ballet training. Through education, community engagement and choreography, Ms. Tally seeks to further explore how to empower oneself and one's students to investigate ideas, take creative risks, communicate feelings and enact social change through the art of dance.





## **Kelli Klein Tamm**

***Faculty***

Kelli began her ballet training in Michigan under Evelyn Kreason and was a member of Michigan Ballet Theatre. Upon moving to Dallas, she furthered her dance training with Kathy Chamberlain and was a founding member of Chamberlain Ballet. She studied several summers in New York City under Melissa Hayden and was accepted and trained at

the School of American Ballet (SAB) and American Ballet Theatre. Kelli holds a BFA in Dance from the University of Oklahoma where she was on scholarship. From 1986 to 1988 she danced professionally with Dallas Ballet under the direction of Flemming Flint and Bryan Pitts.

Kelli is an experienced instructor in early childhood dance as well as beginning, intermediate and advanced ballet and pointe. She is currently the Victoria Ballet Theatre's Assistant Director and Company Manager and has also choreographed several pieces for Victoria Ballet Theatre's Fall productions. Kelli also continues to stay current in her profession by attending workshops. During the summer of 2023 she attended Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet Teachers Workshop.





## **Angelica Vela**

### ***Faculty***

Angelica Vela is a versatile dance professional and fitness instructor based in Victoria, TX. She graduated with a B.F.A in Modern Dance from the TCU School for Classical and Contemporary Dance at Texas Christian University, alongside a Pilates Teacher Certification, in May 2021. Angelica's dance journey began at Busby Dancercenter, where she honed her skills in ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, modern, contemporary, and improvisation. She is an alumna of the Victoria Ballet Theatre, where she spent 10 seasons performing in a range of classical ballets and contemporary works by renowned choreographers such as LeeWei Chao, Joshua

Peugh, and Dominic Walsh. Throughout her dance journey, Angelica has trained with prestigious institutions including The Joffrey Ballet, Texas Dance Improvisational Festival, Alonzo King LINES Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, and BalletMet. As a Dance Scholar at TCU, she performed in works by resident faculty Susan Douglas Roberts and Suki John, as well as guest artists Bryn Cohn, Francisco Aviña, Elijah Gibson, Adam Barruch, and Kurt Douglas. Currently, Angelica serves as the Administrator, Social Media Director, and a member of the dance faculty at Ballet Academy of South Texas. She also oversees the online presence and engagement for Victoria Ballet Theatre as their Social Media Director. From 2022 to 2024, Angelica contributed her artistic expertise as an Artist in Residence at VBT, enhancing various productions with her creative vision and innovative ideas. Since July 2021, Angelica has been dedicated to sharing the transformative power of Pilates as a Pilates Trainer and Group Fitness Instructor at Citizens HealthPlex. Her mission is to guide individuals on their journey of discovery, transformation, healing, and growth through the life-changing practice of Pilates.



# Julie Janecka

## *Faculty*

Born and raised in Victoria, Texas, Julie began her dance training at Busby Dancenter at the age of two and debuted in her first performance of The Nutcracker when she was four. She progressed to the level of Senior Company Member of Victoria Ballet Theatre and performed with the troupe through 2004. Her summer training experiences included Joffrey Ballet at San Antonio, Orlando Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, Virginia School of the Arts, Tanzommer in Austria, and various choreography conference projects. Upon graduating from high school, Julie was accepted as a trainee with Ballet Austin from 2004-2006. She simultaneously attended the University of Texas in Austin, graduating in 2009 with a major in Youth and Community Studies and a minor in Dance. Julie returned to VBT as an artist in residence from 2009-2014. During that time, she launched her career in elementary education at Nazareth Academy and DeLeon Elementary. Julie then branched out from Victoria to teach in Lake Travis, Center Point, and New Braunfels. Over the past fifteen years Julie has excelled as a dedicated elementary teacher and team leader, focusing her talents in first and second grades as well as special education. She has always found a



way to incorporate dance into her life, and she has frequently provided after-school enrichment programs in dance for elementary students of all ages. Whether it be an academic classroom or a dance studio, Julie is passionate about creating an inclusive, safe, and happy environment that empowers students and fosters engagement, collaboration, innovation, and growth. She is delighted about reconnecting with Victoria Ballet Theatre while continuing to live out her passion for education and dance at Ballet Academy of South Texas.

# Cheryl McCollough

## Faculty

Cheryl was born and raised in Houston, Texas where she began her dance training at the age of eight. She received a strong foundation in ballet, pointe, tap, jazz and acrobatics from Mary Margaret and Dorothy Niland. As a student teacher, she assisted in master classes where she sharpened her skills in teaching all dance disciplines, levels and ages, from basic through advanced. Cheryl was a student of the Cecchetti Classical Ballet method of ballet and passed several grade level exams given by Gertrude Edwards-Jory of Cecchetti Council of America. She realized her true love for tap dancing when she attended tap classes instructed by Al Gilbert, a regular guest teacher at her studio and creator of the world's most used, graded tap technique syllabus. As a four year member of Allegro Ballet Company, Cheryl performed both classical and original ballets under the direction of Emma Mae Horn. She accepted a coveted invitation to dance and study with Discovery Dance Group under the direction of Camille Long-Hill, where her love for contemporary dance flourished. During her years with DDG she took classes with choreographers such as Gus Giordano and James Clouser in preparation for new ballets to be performed by the company. From Mrs. Hill, she learned the Hill method of dance which emphasizes the importance of body placement, technique, rhythm, flow of movement and above all



that the control of one's center gives power to each movement and emotion, leading to the total experience of dance. In 1983, Cheryl was welcomed as a member of The Texas Association Teachers of Dancing and in 1984, she was accepted as a member of Dance Masters of America, Inc. where she passed examinations to become a Certified Teacher of Dance in Ballet, Tap and Jazz. Cheryl has been involved with Victoria Ballet Theatre since its inception in 1984 serving in both performing and teaching roles. She performed in VBT's first major production, Swan Lake, Acts I - IV under the direction of Jorge Cano and was honored to serve as VBT's Junior Company Director. She also sat on the VBT Board of Directors for many years where she remains an Honorary Member. Cheryl's love of children and teaching led her to complete a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Houston-Victoria in 2008.



## **Phoebe Schneider**

***Academy Administrator***  
***Faculty***

Phoebe began her dance journey at Busby Dancenter at the age of nine under the instruction of Brenda Tally, Kelli Klein, and Debbe Busby taking classes in and performing in ballet, pointe, modern, jazz, contemporary, and tap. Immediately Phoebe found a love of all performing arts but especially dance. Phoebe was a member of Victoria Ballet Theatre for nine years, working her way from Junior Company Apprentice to Artist in Residence, loving every step of the way. Phoebe started teaching at the age of

fifteen and hasn't stopped. She loves getting to know her students and being able to help them develop a love for dance as well. She graduated from University of Houston – Victoria with her bachelors in Kinesiology to help further understanding of how the body moves and develops which is often tied into lessons she learned from dance. She is certified in Acrobatic Arts (Module 1), AcroDance Preschool, and PBT which she will get to teach here at BASTX. Beyond her role as a teacher at the Ballet Academy of South Texas, Phoebe also serves as the Company Administrator at Victoria Ballet Theatre. Phoebe's love for dance and dedication to student growth are evident, and she is ready to contribute her talents and passion to the Ballet Academy of South Texas, furthering her pursuit of teaching and dance.





## **Sarah Mills**

### ***Executive Assistant to the Director Faculty***

Born and raised in Wichita Falls, Texas, Sarah Mills began her dance journey at Dance Etc. Dance Company at the age of four. She is trained in tap, hip hop, jazz, contemporary, and ballet, and has studied at renowned programs such as Millennium Dance Complex in Los Angeles, Streetz Dance Convention, Monsters Hip Hop Dance Tour, and Dance Unlimited in Buda, Texas. A former competitive dancer for five years, she spent three of those years as part of an elite hip hop competition group, further developing her versatility and performance skills.

Sarah began working with young dancers at just 15 years old, and quickly discovered a deep love for teaching. She finds so much joy in helping kids build confidence, creativity, and a love for movement. Creating a positive, encouraging environment where every dancer feels seen and supported is something she values deeply.

She is certified in Acrobatic Arts (Module 1) and has a strong passion for musical theatre choreography. Her previous work includes Elf the Musical, Something Rotten, and High School Musical. In 2025, she was honored with the Best Choreography in a Musical award from BroadwayWorld Austin, Texas. Sarah continues to share her passion for dance with heart, joy, and a genuine love for every student she teaches.





## **Kennedy Valasquez**

### ***Faculty***

Kennedy began training in the Early Childhood Program and advanced through the upper school at Busby Dancercenter studying under Debbie Busby, Brenda Tally, Kelli Klein Tamm and Courtney Bosier Hawthorne. At the age of 9 she joined the Victoria Ballet Theatre Company and participated in productions of “Fall for Dance,” “The Nutcracker,” and “Spring Gala,”. During her time with VBT Kennedy attended four Regional Dance America (RDA) Southwest Festivals and two (RDA) national festivals in Montreal, Canada and Phoenix, Arizona. She has performed at Regional Dance America

Southwest and has studied under many renowned dance masters at the same. Kennedy has choreographed four pieces as an emerging choreographer for VBT titled “The Light Within,” which was performed in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, “Compelling Urgency,” “Swarming Compulsions,” which were performed in Dallas, Texas and her last choreographed piece “Clarity” which was performed at RDA adjudication. Kennedy also received a full scholarship to attend the National Choreography Intensive (NCI) in Tallahassee, Florida in 2017 where she was able to learn and work with world renowned dance teachers and choreographers. Kennedy’s senior year she was awarded the Spirit of VBT award voted on by her dance peers, and graduated top 15 percent from Victoria East High School in 2017. After graduating Kennedy attended Victoria College and earned her Associates of Arts, and continued with VBT as an Artist in Resident, an Emerging Choreographer, and an intern as VBT’s Social Media Director. Now she is the instructor and D.E.M.I. Director for the Victoria Ballet Theatre’s Dance Education Movement Initiative (D.E.M.I.) outreach program that partners with the Victoria Boys and Girls Club, teaching and giving the opportunity of dance to their students.



## **Alyssa Dyson**

### ***Faculty***

Alyssa Dyson began her early training in Dallas, Texas under Nancy Schaffenburg and Natasha Krassovka. Here she learned the Royal Academy of Dance technique. In 1985, she went to the Dallas Ballet Conservatory and focused on the Bournonville style of dance with Vivi Flindt, Flemming Flindt, and Thom Clower. Alyssa enjoyed Ballet Dallas and performed principal and solo roles in ballets such as Nutcracker, Les Sylphides, The Firebird, Don Quixote, Coppelia and many more. After Dallas, she danced with Stadt Theatre Trier in Trier, Germany for 4 years. There she danced in the ballet company and in musicals which included West Side Story,

Romeo and Juliet, Rocky Horror picture show and many more. Alyssa has toured with several ballet companies over her career to exciting places such as Taiwan and has training from modern and jazz teachers such as Clare Duncan, Max Stone, Ann Reinking, Ray Bussey, Gus Giordano and Frank Bays. Along the way, Alyssa has taught all levels in the professional school of Ballet Dallas, started the Youth Dance Program in Bitburg, Germany, taught at the Ballet Ensemble of Texas, and started the dance program at Hill Country Christian School. She brings with her a passion for dance and a love of learning to Ballet Academy of South Texas. With over 30 years of professional teaching and dance experience, Alyssa is excited to share the technique and artistry of ballet.

## **Brenda “Momo” Serrata**

### ***Director of First Impressions***

Brenda Serrata was raised in Victoria, TX where she graduated from Nazareth Academy and continued to the University of the Incarnate Word where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. As a registered nurse Mrs. Serrata worked over 40 years in Victoria, retiring from Citizens Medical Center in 2016. She is married to Robert “Popo” Serrata, and together they have three grown children and three grandsons. She is happy to come out of retirement serving as receptionist for BASTX where she brings years of experience in client care and assistance.

