

DMA TIMES



“DMA Presents - Sunday Night at the Movies” - Welcome Gala



Pictured above: The National Executive Committee

Welcome to Dance Masters of America 139th National Convention! An entire year has passed since we have crossed paths but it never seems to feel like a year. We are four days into our time in Anaheim and we have already completed our Ballet & Jazz Intensives and the preliminary rounds for our Solo Title Competitions! Our convention classes are underway and we are so excited for our dancers to take from the incredible list of master teachers.

Our Welcome Gala featured our reigning titleholder opening number, choreographed by Jason Coosner. We also featured our 12 and under opening number choreographed by Katie Oberg and a 13 and over opening number choreographed by Mandy Doyle.

Join us tonight as the Petite and Master Solo Title Contestants take the stage to compete for the titles of Petite Miss and Master Dance of America 2025. The Solo Title Competition will be held in Marquis Ballroom South & Center. Tickets are on sale at the convention registration desk. Our livestream link can be found on the website! Be sure to share with those who cannot be in attendance with us.

Director of this year’s Petite and Master Solo Title Competition: Marla Heeler
Opening Number Choreographer: Kathy Meyer

The Banquet is SOLD OUT!

If you have a white banquet reservation ticket that is no longer being used, please return it to the convention registration as soon as possible.

Reminder: Banquet reservation tickets need to be turned in no later than Tuesday, July 2nd at 5pm.



“California Dreaming” Members’ Reception

Our members gathered Saturday evening, June 30th to kick off our National Convention. It was a evening on connecting and celebrating one another as another year has passed. There are many reasons we can use #TheDMADifference and our members are definitely at the top of the list.

Congratulations to our Award Winners:

Distinguished Member

★ Ann-Marie Carlomagno-Wilson, Chapter 5

Zee Brown Memorial Award

★ Valerie Hamilton, Chapter 27

Chapter of the Year

★ Louisiana Association of Dance Masters, Chapter 6



Mark your calendars
to attend our Grand Body meetings and Town hall!
Grand Body Meetings:

- Monday, July 1st - 5pm
- Tuesday, July 2nd - 5pm
- Thursday, July 4th - 5pm

All meetings will be held in Orange County Ballroom 3-4. All Delegates are required to attend.



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Petite Miss Dance of America 2025 - Lilly Vastine
Teacher of Record: Maegan Kittrell, Chapter 44

- 1st Runner Up Petite Miss Dance: Ally Pool
Teacher of Record: Amy Feril, Chapter 48
Teacher of Recognition: Harry Feril
- 2nd Runner Up Petite Miss Dance: Macy Greenwell
Teacher of Record: Lindsey Cheney, Chapter 40
- 3rd Runner Up Petite Miss Dance: Mercer Deal
Teacher of Record: Stephanie Mayberry, Chapter 15
- 4th Runner Up Petite Miss Dance: Josie Hue
Teacher of Record: Shannon Fortenberry, Chapter 6
Teachers of Recognition: Lexis & Staci Nicoll



Master Dance of America 2025 - Shepherd Parr

- Teacher of Record: Amy Feril, Chapter 48***
Teacher of Recognition: Harry Feril
- 1st Runner Up Master Dance: Shepherd Harshman
Teacher of Record: Michelle Soutier, Chapter 15
Teacher of Recognition: Alyson Wright
- 2nd Runner Up Master Dance: Kai Kirton
Teacher of Record: Trish Thompson Creamer, Chapter 38
Teacher of Recognition: Valerie Saija-Moore



Pictured above: Lilly Vastine & Shepherd Parr

Join us for the Junior Miss and Mr Dance of America competition this evening! The Solo Title Competition will be in held in Marquis Ballroom South & Center. Tickets are on sale at the convention registration desk. Our live stream link can be found on the website! Be sure to share with those who cannot be in attendance with us.

Doors open at 7:30pm; competition starts at 8pm.

Junior Miss and Mr. Solo Title Competition Director: Valerie Hamilton
Opening Number Choreographer: Ashley Canterna-Hardy

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

DMA Elections are Wednesday, July 3rd. Be sure to stop by Grand Ballroom A, B & C to cast your vote!

Voting will be open from 8am to 1pm!

Dancers thrive in DMA's Ballet and Jazz Intensive

Prior to the start of our National Convention, our dancers were learning from incredible faculty at our Ballet and Jazz Intensives. Faculty for our Ballet Intensive included Peter Chursin, Alicia Cutaia and Dawnell Dryja-Black. Faculty for our Jazz Intensive included Alicia Cutaia and Alexandra Yonkovich.

Congratulations to our intensive scholarship winners and runner ups!

- ☆ Ballet Intensive Scholarship Winner: Kaitlyn Cho; Teacher of Record: Jordan Micek
- ☆ Ballet Intensive Runner Up: Alexandra Zuccaro; Teacher of Record: Jordan Micek
- ☆ Jazz Intensive Scholarship Winner: Vivian Mosolygo; Teacher of record: Dawnell Dryja-Black
- ☆ Jazz Intensive Runner Up: Emma Poquette; Teacher of record: Dawnell Dryja-Black



Pictured above [L to R]: Kaitlyn Cho, Alexandra Zuccaro



Pictured above [L to R]: Emma Poquette, Vivian Mosolygo

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to attend our Grand Body meetings and Town hall!

Grand Body Meetings:

- Tuesday, July 2nd - 5pm
- Thursday, July 4th - 5pm

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Town Hall - Grow Your Membership!

Thursday, July 4th at 2pm. As a reminder, all Delegates are required to attend. Chapter officers and members are encouraged as well! Bring your ideas from your chapters and let's work together to take DMA into the future.

The town hall will be held in Orange County Ballroom 3-4.

Revolution Dancewear

Join Amelia Fazio, Suzanne Blake Gerty and Julia Hilliard from Revolution Dancewear to discuss all of your studio needs! Visit them in their Hospitality Suite in the Oasis Tower - Room 1744.

No Appointment Necessary

Drop in at any time to receive your free Revolution swag!

*Join us **Wednesday, July 3rd** for an Informal Q&A with Revolution from 9am-12pm. Take a **FIRST LOOK** at some of their 2025 Costumes, ask any the questions you may have, all while enjoying coffee and pastries.*

Be sure to thank our Revolution Ambassadors for their sponsorship to all of our Solo Title Competitions opening numbers. We cannot thank them enough for providing all of our opening number leotards and shirts for our contestants.

DMA Parking Vouchers

Stop by the DMA Registration Desk to receive a DAILY parking voucher. Bring your daily parking fee down to \$32 - which is a 20% discount - from the standard daily parking rate. Be sure to share with your members, families and friends.

***Are you following
Dance Masters of America
on social media?***

Check us out on Facebook and Instagram

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Junior Miss Dance of America 2025 - Mia Himel

Teacher of Record: Lori Rayborn, Chapter 6

Teachers of Recognition: Teddi & Isabelle Rayborn

1st Runner Up Junior Miss Dance: Harper Burgess

Teacher of Record: Dawn Slemons, Chapter 16

Teacher of Recognition: Kathy Meyer

2nd Runner Up Junior Miss Dance: Avery Capizzi

Teacher of Record: Liz Brady-Marcinko, Chapter 10

3rd Runner Up Junior Miss Dance: Lauren Persia

Teacher of Record: Trish Thompson-Creamer, Chapter 38

4th Runner Up Junior Miss Dance: Alaina Clarkson

Teacher of Record: Michelle Soutier, Chapter 15

Teachers of Recognition: Alyson Wright



Junior Mr. Dance of America 2025 - Tanay Basneth

Teacher of Record: Lindsay Roberts, Chapter 40

Teacher of Recognition: Jamie Harvener

1st Runner Up Junior Mr. Dance: Rocco Slaughter

Teacher of Record: Charlee Campbell-Slaughter, Chapter 34

2nd Runner Up Junior Mr. Dance: Harvey Goodman

Teacher of Record: Mandy Doyle, Chapter 16



Pictured above: Mia Himel, Tanay Basneth

Join us for the Teen Miss and Mr. Dance of America competition this evening! The Solo Title Competition will be in held in Marquis Ballroom South & Center. Tickets are on sale at the convention registration desk. Our live stream link can be found on the website! Be sure to share with those who cannot be in attendance with us.

Doors open at 7:30pm; competition starts at 8pm.

Teen Miss and Mr. Solo Title Competition Director: Michelle Rexroad

Opening Number Choreographer: Jamie Harvener

Mark your calendars

Grand Body Meetings:

- Thursday, July 4th - 5pm

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Town Hall - Grow Your Membership!

Thursday, July 4th at 2pm.

As a reminder, all Delegates are required to attend. Chapter officers and members are encouraged as well! Meeting will be held in Orange County Ballroom 3-4.

Dance Masters of America
2024 Lifetime Achievement
Award Recipient

Mimi Costa-White



Mimi Costa-White was born in 1945 and made her stage debut tapping up and down stairs at age 3. In 1953 her mother opened a dance studio. At age 10, she began ballet studies with San Francisco Ballet and faculty member, Lynette Panganiban, continuing through age 17. At age 11, she performed with New York City Ballet's production of The Nutcracker in San Francisco. From 1959 – 1964 Mimi attended a two week Cecchetti Council Intensive held in Carmel, led by Olga Fricker. She also attended San Francisco State University and danced with the S.F. State Dance Ensemble. In 1968, Mimi attended the week intensive introducing Dame Margot Fontaine's Children's Syllabus presented by Valerie Taylor, soloist with the Royal Ballet. She began studies with Mary Conmee, one of the first to bring the Royal Academy of Dancing syllabi to the west coast. In 1970 took the RAD Major exams admitting Mimi to RAD membership.

Mimi became a member of DMA in 1978. After going through the chairs in Dance Masters of California, she was elected President in 1984. Served as DMC delegate for many years. In 2000, she was elected to National Area Vice President. In 2002, she was elected Dance Masters of America 2nd Vice-President, moving through the chairs to National President in 2006. Mimi is a TTS graduate. She attended all 3 years at TTS West was held at the University of San Francisco, and tested in Ballet, Jazz, Tap and Acro. Mimi also attended SHIP for 10 years as national officer chaperone and attended Teachers Training School for 10 years; 4 as class secretary, 2 as president and 4 as Administrator 2 in charge of faculty and curriculum. She completed writing The Art of Teaching Ballet, DMA's official ballet manual 2008. Mimi attended TTS West as President and Administrator 2 for 3 years, at Long Beach State University.

Mimi was honored by the Governor of California for contributions to the youth of California promoting the art of Dance. She has choreographed over 30 musicals for community theater and high schools.

Mimi began teaching ballet at family studio at age 14, beginning again after college. At retirement Mimi closed the studio after 62 years in business, the last 37 years under her ownership.

Dance Masters of America
2024 President's Award
Recipient

Shely Pack-Manning



Shely Pack-Manning has been a dance educator for over 50 years and has taught on the San Mateo Coastsides in California for 30. Originally from Pittsburgh, PA, at age 16 she chose to join Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre even after being awarded a scholarship to attend Carnegie Institute of Technology - now Carnegie Mellon. She went on to dance professionally with The Pittsburgh Ballet Theater and "Timepiece" a Pittsburgh based modern dance company.

Shely was honored to serve many years on the Board of Directors for Dance Masters of America. She was also the Chairman of the Modern Dance Education Committee and was on faculty for TTS Long Beach and Buffalo. She was the DMA Miss and Mister Dance Solo Title Director for 4 years before she was elected onto the DMA Advisory Board. Shely was honored to serve as the President of Dance Masters of America 2012-2014.

She earned her BA in Performing Arts from St. Mary's College of California and her Masters in Leadership through Grand Canyon University. Shely has taught master classes and judged throughout the United States and Canada for many organizations including American Dance Awards, Dance Masters of America, many DMA Chapters. Shely was awarded the 2012 Arts Educator of the Year by the San Mateo Arts Foundation and has been recognized by the National Foundation for the Advancement in the Arts for her teaching and influence in encouraging and supporting students who have been recognized for their exceptional artistic achievements in the Arts Recognition and Talent Search Program.

Shely has had many award winning students throughout the years, including the 2000 Miss Dance of America, 2001 Teen Mr. Dance of America, 2003 Mr. Dance of America, 2006 Teen Mr. Dance of a America, and the 2009 Junior Mr. Dance of America and was the Teacher of Recognition for the 2015 Petite Miss Dance of America. Shely's students can be seen on Broadway, National and International Touring Companies, music videos, television shows and commercials, cruise ships and professional ballet and modern dance companies.

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Teen Miss Dance of America 2025 - Dawn Peyton
Teacher of Record: Lindsey Cheney, Chapter 40
 1st Runner Up Teen Miss Dance: Lexi Zhu
 Teacher of Record: Leyla Boissonnade, Chapter 13
 Teacher of Recognition: Elizabeth Lemberger
 2nd Runner Up Teen Miss Dance: Sofia Pelikan
 Teacher of Record: Grace Pack, Chapter 1
 Teacher of Recognition: Shely Pack-Manning
 3rd Runner Up Teen Miss Dance: Kelsey Williams
 Teacher of Record: Lisa White, Chapter 37
 4th Runner Up Teen Miss Dance: Reagan Dymond
 Teacher of Record: Ashley Canterna-Hardy, Chapter 17



Teen Mr. Dance of America 2025 - Kadence Brock
Teacher of Record: Crystal Julo, Chapter 28
 1st Runner Up Teen Mr. Dance: Ezra Summers
 Teacher of Record: Mandy Doyle, Chapter 16
 2nd Runner Up Teen Mr. Dance: Zac Smith
 Teacher of Record: Holly Quesada, Chapter 13



Pictured above: Dawn Peyton, Kadence Brock

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Doors open at 7:30pm; competition starts at 8pm.

Miss and Mr. Solo Title Competition Director: Ann-Marie Carlomagno-Wilson
 Opening Number Choreographer: Lindsey Cheney



Congratulations to our Scholarship Winners Teen Miss & Teen Mr. Dance of America Title Competition

Charlotte Klein Memorial Award: Presented by Dance Masters of New England, Chapter 5 for the highest lyrical talent score achieved by a Teen Miss & Teen Mr. Dance of America contestant. Congratulations to:

Teen Miss Dance Contestants #6 - Sofia Pelikan

Teacher of Record: Grace Pack, Chapter 1

Teacher of Recognition: Shely Pack-Manning

Georgia Dean Young Memorial Award: Presented by Dance Masters of New England, Chapter 5 for the highest musical theatre talent score achieved by a Teen Miss or Teen Mr. Dance of America contestant. Congratulations to:

Teen Miss Dance Contestant #14 - Lexi Zhu

Teacher of Record: Leyla Boissonnade, Chapter 13

Teacher of Recognition: Elizabeth Lemberger

Dotty McGill Memorial Award: Presented by Dance Masters of Pennsylvania, Chapter 10 for the highest tap talent score achieved by a Teen Miss Dance of America contestant. Congratulations to:

Teen Miss Dance Contestant #16 - Kaylee Ryan

Teacher of Record: Kandi Melendez, Chapter 18

Marjorie Barth Memorial Award: Presented by Dance Masters of Pennsylvania, Chapter 10 for the highest acro talent score achieved by a Teen Miss or Teen Mr. Dance of America contestant. Congratulations to:

Teen Miss Dance Contestant #19 - Ashtyn Neufeld

Teacher of Record: Marilyn Downing, Chapter 35

Marlene Merritt Memorial Award: Presented by the friends of Ms. Merritt for the highest ballet talent score achieved by a Teen Miss or Teen Mr. Dance of America contestant. Congratulations to:

Teen Miss Dance Contestant #16 - Madison Halstead

Teacher of Record: Ami Yaro, Chapter 34

Helena Hosch Memorial Award: Presented by Louisiana Association of Dance Masters, Chapter 6 for the highest contemporary or modern talent score achieved by a Teen Miss or Teen Mr. Dance of America contestant.

Congratulations to:

Teen Miss Dance Contestant #17 - Dawn Peyton

Teacher of Record: Lindsey Cheney, Chapter 40

Dance Masters of America National Past President's Award: Presented by Dance Masters of America Past President's Council for the highest jazz talent score achieved by a Teen Miss or Teen Mr. Dance of America contestant. Congratulations to:

Teen Miss Dance Contestant #15 - Brooke Kronemeyer

Teacher of Record: Trish Thompson-Creamer, Chapter 38

Teacher of Recognition: Valerie Saija-Moore

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Town Hall - Grow Your Membership!

Thursday, July 4th at 2pm.

As a reminder, all Delegates are required to attend.

Chapter officers and members are encouraged as well!

Meeting will be held in Orange County Ballroom 3-4.

Grand Body Meeting:

• Thursday, July 4th - 5pm

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and Instagram



**FRIDAY
JULY 5TH**

IMPROVE DANCE DOWN

**\$20
TO ENTER**

FRIDAY BEFORE OVERALL AWARDS

**12 AND UNDER
1:00PM**

**13 AND OVER
2:30PM**

**ALL PROCEEDS GOING TO:
DANCERS AGAINST CANCER**

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Miss Dance of America 2025 - Anna Yordanova

Teacher of Record: Jordan Micek, Chapter 1

1st Runner Up Miss Dance: Abigail Moser

Teacher of Record: Ashley Canterna-Hardy, Chapter 17

2nd Runner Up Miss Dance: Meryl Rhyne

Teacher of Record: Michelle Soutier, Chapter 15

Teacher of Recognition: Alyson Wright

3rd Runner Up Miss Dance: Mia Miranda

Teacher of Record: Sarita Trujillo, Chapter 13

4th Runner Up Miss Dance: Addison Milsom

Teacher of Record: Penny Koza-Lemansky, Chapter 10

Teacher of Recognition: Laraine Susa



Mr. Dance of America 2025 - Carter Creamer

Teacher of Record: Trish Thompson-Creamer, Chapter 38

1st Runner Up Mr. Dance: Dallas Phillips

Teacher of Record: Lindsey Cheney, Chapter 40

2nd Runner Up Mr. Dance: Max Stavnezer

Teacher of Record: Tamala Taylor, Chapter 16

Teacher of Recognition: Madelyn Gumber



Pictured above: Anna Yordanova, Carter Creamer

Register for the Dance Down!

Register for our Dance Down at the convention registration desk!

\$20 to enter - all proceeds go towards Dancer's Against Cancer

1:00-2:30pm - 12 and Under

2:30-4:00pm - 13 and Up

Grand National Competition

Join us for our Grand National Competition! Competition starts at 5pm in the Marquis Ballroom South & Center

Congratulations to our Scholarship Winners Miss & Mr. Dance of America Title Competition

The Charles Hughes Memorial Scholarship Award: Presented by Dance Masters of America to the highest tap score achieved by a Miss or Mr. Dance of America Contestant. Congratulations to:

Miss Dance Contestants #22 - Mia Miranda
Teacher of Record: Sarita Trujillo, Chapter 13

Charleen Locascio Scholarship Award: Presented by Chapter 6 to the highest contemporary or modern score achieved by a Miss Dance of America Contestant. Congratulations to:

Miss Dance Contestant #20 - Abigail Moser
Teacher of Record: Ashley Canterna-Hardy, Chapter 17

Emily Sachs Memorial Scholarship Award: Presented by Chapter 25 to the highest contemporary or modern score achieved by a Mr. Dance of America Contestant. Congratulations to:

Mr. Dance Contestant #1 - Dallas Phillips
Teacher of Record: Lindsey Cheney, Chapter 40

The Sherry Gold Memorial Scholarship Award: Presented by Chapter 5 as a "Judges' Choice Award" for the best choreography of a Miss or Mr. Dance Contestant's routine. Congratulations to:

Miss Dance Contestant #22 - Mia Miranda
Teacher of Record: Sarita Trujillo, Chapter 13

Ann Freeman Scholarship Award: Presented by Chapter 15, to the highest jazz or musical theatre score achieved by a Miss or Mr. Dance of America Contestant. Congratulations to:

Miss Dance Contestant #7 - Grace Reglin
Teacher of Record: Marilyn Downing, Chapter 35

The Joan Wine Memorial Scholarship Award: Presented by Chapter #16 in loving memory of Joan Wine, National President 1982-1984, to the highest lyrical score achieved by a Miss Dance of America Contestant. Congratulations to:

Miss Dance Contestant #18 - Anna Yordanova
Teacher of Record: Jordan Micek, Chapter 1

The Gene Wright Memorial Scholarship Award: Presented by Chapter #18 in loving memory of Gene Wright, Mr. Dance of America 1992, to the highest lyrical score achieved by a Mr. Dance of America contestant. Congratulations to:

Miss Dance Contestant #15 - Carter Creamer
Teacher of Record: Trish Thompson-Creamer, Chapter 38

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Facebook and Instagram

SAVE THE DATES!

***Dance Masters of America
140th National Convention
Coronado Springs, Orlando, Florida
June 29th-July 5th, 2025***