



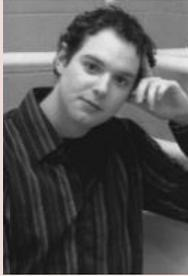
OUR DANCE FACULTY

About the Coordinator



Cynthia Marafino is the artistic director and head instructor of The Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Dance Program and is one of the founders and co-directors of *Blue Crew Dance*. Cynthia has taught dance throughout the community for twenty-two years and has over twenty-seven years of experience dancing, choreographing, and performing. Cynthia holds a Bachelor's degree from *James Madison University* within Dance and English. While in college, she received training from Cynthia Thompson, Kate Trammell, Suzanne Miller Corso, and Shane O'Hara. She has taken intensives and performed professional works by New York artists' Crystalyn Wright, Paul Santy, and Shannon Hummel. She has taken master classes with professionals such as Finis Jhung (*Joffrey Ballet*), Tara Pennick, Malcomb Bernum, & Brandon Becker (*Richmond Ballet*), Linden Herrick (*Nevada Ballet*), and Jane Franklin (*Jane Franklin Company*). Cynthia has also participated in master classes by Sabirjan Yapparov (*Kirov Academy*), *The Liz Lerman Dance Exchange*, and *Up with People*. Cynthia is a former member of several community-based dance companies including the *Harrisonburg Ballet*, *Shenandoah Contemporary Dance Theatre*, *The Harrisonburg Dance Cooperative*, and *The James Madison University Contemporary Dance Ensemble*. Cynthia has choreographed for several dance companies in the area including, *The Rockingham Ballet Theatre*, *Shenandoah Contemporary Dance Theatre*, *Blue Crew Dance*, *The JMU Contemporary Dance Ensemble*, and *The Harrisonburg Dance Cooperative*. Several of Cynthia's students have studied dance and musical theatre in college including JMU and VCU, participate in professional workshops, and train professionally in California and New York City, including *Peridance*, *Joffrey*, *ABT*, *Boston Ballet*, *Charlottesville Ballet*, and *Eglevsky Ballet*. Cynthia's choreography received national honors at the *American College Dance Festival*, her choreography won the gold at *Dance Educators of America*, and she has presented her choreography at Dogwood Dance Festival (Richmond), Court Square Theatre, and Blue Ridge Community College. Cynthia also works with pre-school children through Harrisonburg City Public Schools.

About the Instructors



James M. Marafino has taught dance for Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation for over fifteen years and is one of the founders and co-directors of *Blue Crew Dance*. He has danced for over twenty-three years and has taught for the past nineteen years. James has studied with professional artists such as Tara Pennick (*Richmond Ballet*), Suzanne McCahill-Perrine, Suzanne Miller-Corso, Shane O'Hara, Paul Taylor, Ric Rose, Derrick Alfonso Evans, and Finis Jhung (*Joffrey Ballet*), and has also taken classes of the Simonson Technique. James has attended classes at *Steps on Broadway* in New York City. He is a former member of the youth dance company *Shenandoah Contemporary Dance Theatre*, where he performed around the area and east coast for three years.

James has choreographed for several dance companies in the area including, *The Rockingham Ballet Theatre* and *Blue Crew Dance*. James has served as stage manager for Rockingham Ballet Theater's *The Nutcracker* for several years and *Ballet in the Valley* (2007). Several of James's students have studied dance and musical theatre in college including JMU and VCU, participate in professional workshops, and train professionally in California and New York City, including *Peridance*, *Joffrey*, *ABT*, *Boston Ballet*, *Charlottesville Ballet*, and *Eglevsky Ballet*. James graduated from *James Madison University* with a Bachelor's and Master's degree in English. James teaches critical reading and writing in the Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication Program at *James Madison University*.



Cheryl Donald's love of dance began in her hometown of Rochester, New York at *Lucy VanOrden's Dance Arama*. She continued her education as a member of the dance ensemble for the *Nazareth Dance Academy*, attending dance conventions and competitions. Cheryl was a member of the five-time world champion *WGI Bishop Kearney performance ensemble*. She moved to Winchester, Virginia to study dance performance and dance education at *Shenandoah University*. As a member of the *Shenandoah Dance Ensemble*, she participated in many main stage performances of Ballet, Modern, Jazz, and Tap. As a gifted choreographer, Cheryl has produced numerous group and solo works which have been performed throughout the Winchester area,

winning her the *Liz Bergman choreography award*. Cheryl participated in an International Tour of Russia and continued her studies abroad in Spain with *Estada International De Dansa*. She has also participated in the *Jazz Dance World Congress*. Cheryl joined the staff at *Blue Ridge Studio for the Performing Arts* in 2006.



Tehya Moss is a junior at James Madison University, currently pursuing a degree in communications. While attending JMU, Tehya has been a dancer and choreographer for the *Dancing Dukes*. Tehya studied dance at the *Chris Collins Dance Studio* in Alexandria, Virginia. While at *Chris Collins*, she danced competitively in Musical Theatre, Tap, Acro, Ballet, Pointe, Lyrical, Contemporary, and Jazz. She has been trained in all seven Cecchetti levels and has taught dance classes for all ages and levels for three years. She has experience teaching jazz, ballet, hip-hop, and acro. Tehya is very excited to share her love of dance with her students.



Merinda Hamblin Hutchison has joined our dance faculty as our Irish Step instructor. Merinda began Irish dance under the instruction of Jo-Ann Carle with the *Carle School of Irish Dance*. She studied at the *Armstrong Irish Dance Academy* and the *McGrath Academy of Irish Dance*. As an adult, she began competing. She has achieved championship level while competing against dancers in their teens. Merinda has won many local and regional feisanna and has competed at the regional Oireachtas. For the past five years, she has furthered her dance education by attending *Camp Rince Ceol* in New York and the *Irish Dance Festival* in Carlingford, Ireland. She was instructed at these camps by some of the world's best Irish dancers and principal dancers in both *Riverdance* and *Lord of the Dance*. Merinda has also performed on stage with *Scythian* and *Gaelic Storm*, two very well-known Irish bands. Merinda has a love for Irish dance, and she is looking forward to sharing this passion with her students and the community while developing an awareness of the art and culture of Irish Step dancing.



Katherine Narwid is a junior Nursing Major and Dance Minor at *James Madison University*. She is from New Jersey and has been dancing for fifteen years. Katherine was a member of, and most recently Captain of, the *Front & Center Dance Studio* competition team, as well as a demi soloist for *The Central New Jersey Ballet Theatre Company*. She is versed in multiple styles including Ballet, Pointe, Jazz, Tap, Musical Theater, Hip Hop, Lyrical, and Contemporary. Katherine has danced in several ballets including *The Nutcracker*, *Giselle*, *La Bayadere*, *Swan Lake*, *Cinderella*, and *Sleeping Beauty*. Katherine has also landed key roles in several musical theater productions (*Hairspray*, *Legally Blonde*, and *High School Musical*) that included serving as assistant director and choreographer.



Liza Vanyan is currently a senior at James Madison University, double majoring in Theatre and Political Science with a minor in Humanitarian Affairs. She is a member and the Fundraising Chair of *Delta Phi Epsilon Foreign Service Fraternity* and also involved with *Stratford Players*, the student-run theatre group on campus at JMU. Liza is originally from Northern Virginia, where she danced for sixteen years, taking ballet, jazz, tap, modern, and hip-hop. She also had several opportunities to perform as a dancer in musicals, both at her high school and with community theaters, with some of her favorite roles being in *Cabaret*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Legally Blonde*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *Shrek the Musical*. For several years, she taught and choreographed at the *Potomac School Summer Program* in McLean, VA. She has also studied abroad in Russia and volunteered at *Maria's Children Summer Camp*.



