

DANCE FACULTY



Cynthia Marafino is the artistic director and head instructor of The Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Dance Program. She has been with Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation for twenty years. She is one of the founders and co-directors of Blue Crew Dance. Cynthia has taught dance throughout the community for thirty years and has over thirty years of experience dancing, choreographing, and performing. Cynthia holds Bachelor's degrees from James Madison University in 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 artists Crystalyn Wright, Paul Santy, and Shannon Hummel. She has taken master classes with 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 dance-teaching 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: 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, Roanoke Ballet, and Eglevsky Ballet. Cynthia's choreography received national honors at the American College Dance Festival, she received the James Madison University School of Theatre and Dance Excellence in Choreography award, 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 has taught pre-school children and is currently working with Special Education and Kindergarten students through Harrisonburg City Public Schools.



James M. Marafino has taught dance for Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation for twenty years and is one of the founders and co-directors of Blue Crew Dance. He has danced for over twenty-four years and has taught for the past twenty years. James has studied with 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 in 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 and Ballet in the Valley (2007). Several of James's students have studied dance and musical theatre in college including JMU and VCU, participated in professional workshops, and trained professionally in California and New York City, including Peridance, Joffrey, ABT, Boston Ballet, Roanoke Ballet, Charlottesville Ballet, and Eglevsky Ballet. James graduated from James Madison University with a Bachelor's and Master's degrees in English. James teaches critical reading and writing in the Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication Program at James Madison University.



Delaney Clarke has been teaching dance for the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Department for three years and is a graduate of the Dance Program where she danced for over fourteen years. Prior to teaching, Delaney worked as an assistant in several Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Dance classes for four years. While at Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation, she was a member and performer of Blue Crew Dance where she had the opportunity to perform locally, collaborate with guest choreographers, and create choreography within a team building environment. Delaney has had the opportunity to work with several guest choreographers and artists including JMU dance alumni, Rockingham Ballet Theatre, JMU theatre alumni Tyler Edwards, The Harrisonburg Dance Cooperative, Cora Allegany director Amara Shafqat, and local PT specialist and artist, Sarah Gosselin. She participated in a choreographic intensive with Harrisonburg Dance Cooperative's co-founder and Texas Christian University alumni, Jerusha (Ellie) de Waal, JMU dance professor Shane O'Hara, JMU dance alumni and Bridgewater College Dance Team director Zilda Baker, and Shenandoah University's Cheryl Donald. Currently, Delaney is attending Bridgewater College and is pursuing elementary education.



Mary has been teaching dance for the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Department for three years and is a graduate of the Dance Program where she danced for over fourteen years. Prior to teaching, Mary worked as an assistant in several Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Dance classes for four years. While at Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation, she was a member and performer of Blue Crew Dance where she had the opportunity to perform locally, collaborate with guest choreographers, and create choreography within a team building environment. Mary has had the opportunity to work with several guest choreographers and artists including JMU dance alumni, Rockingham Ballet Theatre, JMU theatre alumni, The Harrisonburg Dance Cooperative, Cora Allegany director Amara Shafqat, and local PT specialist and artist, Sarah Gosselin. She participated in a choreographic intensive with JMU dance alumni and Bridgewater College Dance Team director Zilda Baker, and Shenandoah University's Cheryl Donald. Mary is also a local pageant director and has participated in several local pageants and events. Mary was named Miss Fulks Run in 2024 and Tiny Miss Virginia Teen, winning talent, at the 2025 pageant. Currently, Mary is attending Blue Ridge Community College and plans to pursue business.



Kenzy Hiner has been teaching dance for the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Department for two years. Kenzy is a graduate of the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Dance Program where she danced for over fourteen years. While at Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation, she was a member and performer of Blue Crew Dance where she had the opportunity to perform locally, collaborate with guest choreographers, and create choreography within a team building environment. She has had the opportunity to work with several guest choreographers and artists including JMU dance alumni and Bridgewater College Dance Team director Zilda Baker. Kenzy worked as an assistant in several of Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation dance classes in the summer of 2023, and has worked at a summer camp for children as an assistant camp mentor. Kenzy had the opportunity to perform in several of her high school musicals also serving as an assistant choreographer, working with Harrisonburg Dance Cooperative's co-founder and Texas Christian University alumni, Jerusha (Ellie) de Waal. Currently, Kenzy is attending James Madison University and is perusing secondary education.

