

# DanceCats Teachers

## HILARY NELSON



Hilary has been the Dance Director at Gymcats since 2013. A competitive gymnast until age 13, injury pushed her to reapply her skill set to dance. Hilary has instructed dance & gymnastics all over the state of PA, choreographed competitive floor routines, and was a K-12 Charter School dance teacher prior to relocating to Las Vegas in 2011.

She is a Level 1 Certified Dance Teacher from Dance Teacher University through UNLV and has a B.A. in Communications with a minor in Technical Theatre.

[h.nelson@gymcats.com](mailto:h.nelson@gymcats.com)

## AUBREY COLVIN

Aubrey has been dancing since age 2 and competing since age 10. As a competitive dancer, Aubrey was named Senior Solo National Champion. After high school, Aubrey moved to Las Vegas to pursue a career as a professional dancer, singer, and actress.

Aubrey has been a dancer for *Air Supply*, *The World's Greatest Rock Show*, the Las Vegas Golden Knights NHL Hockey Team, and *MJ Live* at the Stratosphere. Currently, Aubrey is a professional dancer for popular hip hop artists.

[aubreygymcats@gmail.com](mailto:aubreygymcats@gmail.com)



## KACI SHUPE



Kaci was born and raised in Ankeny, Iowa, and has been training in dance for most of her life. She has worked with Tabatha & Napoleon Duomo and Brandon Bryant from *So You Think You Can Dance*, studied at Giordano Dance Chicago, and the Fort Wayne Ballet.

Kaci won five national championships in Hip Hop and Gameday at the Universal Dance Association's collegiate competition. She was a member of UNLV's Rebel Girls dance team until she graduated in 2020.

[k.shupe@gymcats.com](mailto:k.shupe@gymcats.com)

## MONICA BOWCOTT

Monica grew up and studied dance in Los Angeles, California. She moved to Las Vegas to dance in Cirque Du Soleil's annual charity show, *One Night for One Drop*. Since then, she has been performing in various shows on and off the strip. Monica also taught dance to adults with disabilities at Opportunity Village.

More recently, Monica was a performer and Dance Captain for the *Extravaganza* show in the Jubilee Theater at Bally's.

[mlbowcott@att.net](mailto:mlbowcott@att.net)



## CHARISSA BARNES



Charissa has been dancing since she was a child. In college, Charissa was a member of a national championship hip hop dance team which performed in music videos, half-time shows, and trained with many well-known choreographers.

She started teaching dance in Dallas/Fort Worth, TX and then moved to Las Vegas, where she continued teaching dance locally. After getting married, she took a break from teaching to raise her three children. She has been with DanceCats since 2021.

[runningmama4@gmail.com](mailto:runningmama4@gmail.com)

## LAUREN ORTIZ

Lauren has loved musical theater since she was 8 years old. At Liberty High School, Lauren was Dance Captain for the dance team and served as Choreographer and Assistant Director for the musicals and show choir competitions. Since graduating, she has been asked to return numerous times as an Alumni Choreographer.

She is currently majoring in Dance Production & Management with a minor in Theater Arts at UNLV and will graduate in 2024.

[laurenortiz69@gmail.com](mailto:laurenortiz69@gmail.com)



## RACHEL CLOW



Rachel trained in dance in San Diego, California, where she enjoyed competing and performing with her studio and high school teams. After graduating, she danced with the nationally ranked San Diego State University Dance Team and earned a spot as a principal dancer in The Garage, a contemporary ballet company.

Rachel spent 5 years as a performer and entertainer in over 30 different roles at the Disneyland Resort. In 2014, Rachel moved to Las Vegas. She holds a BA in Early Childhood Education and is a certified group exercise instructor. Rachel is the newest addition to the DanceCats team in 2024!

[racheljmca@gmail.com](mailto:racheljmca@gmail.com)