

SPECTRUM II TEACHERS

Connie Benson, Jenna Gray, Jessie Hunter, and Shelly Werner

Connie Benson: has been dancing for more than 30 years and teaching for 25. She has a degree in Elementary Education from the University of Idaho. Her primary training and interest is in Ballet. Connie directed her own studio in Payette, Idaho, for 15 years. Connie is a kind and supportive teacher creating a healthy and nourishing environment. She is a marvelous choreographer and her joy for Ballet is contagious. Connie has extensive knowledge in Ballet terminology and offers professional technical training. Connie will be teaching various Ballet classes plus an Introduction to Pointe Class.

Jenna Gray: originally from Flagstaff, Arizona, Jenna has studied dance in New York and is currently a student at the University of Idaho, seeking a BA in Dance. Jenna has danced since age 5. Her favorite styles of dance are hip-hop and tap. She plans on joining a performing company that travels around the world. Jenna has met and taken classes from many famous choreographers like Marty Dew and Wade Robson. She has taught all ages jazz, tap and hip-hop. "Dancing is my life and it will always be a part of me no matter what happens." Jenna will be teaching Hip Hop to all ages plus Tap Dance.

Jessie Hunter: Jessie started studying Irish dance with Jim and Lauren Mueller of Comerford School of Irish Dance Oregon. After moving to North Carolina, she studied with Meighan Carpenter of Inis Cairde School of Irish Dance. Life moved Jessie to Seattle where she returned to Comerford School of Irish Dance studying with Tony Comerford. Most recently Jessie studied with Jim & Lauren Mueller of An Daire Irish Dance Academy at the Spokane location. Jessie is excited to share the high energy and joyful movements of Irish dance. Classes will include traditional solo and group dances as well as new choreography. Jessie also teaches Scottish Highland dance. She studied highland dance with Marie Grimes and the Eugene Highland Pipe band.

Shelly Werner: Spectrum II Owner and primary instructor has been teaching for 30 years. Werner holds a BA in Dance from the University of Idaho. She is a versatile dancer who has studied ballet, dance pedagogy, fundamentals of movement, improvisational, jazz, lyrical, modern, & tap dance. Her heart is in contemporary art, music, and modern dance. Werner has taken master classes from Alvin Ailey Company, Ballet West, Tandy Beal, Ronda Bowden, Heidi Bunting, Roland Dupree, Bill Evans, Martha Graham Company, Feldencrais Technique, Laban Movement Analysis with Clyde Rae Jolie & Helen Walkley, Roth 5 Rhythms Introduction, Henning Rubsom, Paul Taylor Company, Joe Tremaine, & Ririe Woodbury Company. *"First and for most I am an artist regardless if I am painting, doing choreography, or teaching dance. I see through a visual window noticing patterns & balancing form. I examine the positive & negative space finding the area around an object as interesting as the object its self. I love to collaborate, develop new ideas, and take off in new directions."*