

## Caitlin



Caitlin began tumbling everywhere at age 6 and competed in gymnastics until she discovered acrobatic dance at age 12. A year later she enrolled in a jazz class and her dance career began. She studied lyrical, jazz and acrobatics, winning numerous national awards and titles on the competition circuit. As a high school sophomore, Caitlin transferred to the Baltimore School for the Arts, entering the world of ballet for the first time at age 15. She fell in love with ballet, training with Elena Tchernichova at the Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory for a year and a half. Returning to graduate from BSA, Caitlin was asked to join the North Carolina Dance Theatre under the direction of Jean Pierre Bonnefoux and Patricia McBride. During that year she filmed the Disney movie "Step Up" in the role of the featured ballerina. She performed many soloist roles in classical ballets and after 27 Nutcracker performances the following year, she had to undergo major reconstructive hip surgery, potentially ending her dance career. Fighting back she returned to the ballet company, also finding great joy in contemporary works, which led her to join the Uptown Dance Company in Houston in 2008. That year she auditioned for the hit Fox show "So You Think You Can Dance" and became a top 12 finalist on Season 5. After the 40 city tour, Caitlin moved to LA to pursue a career in the entertainment industry and has been working non-stop, dancing, teaching, choreographing, hosting, filming, and even doing stunt work. Dancing on many TV shows, including America's Got Talent, Glee, the Academy Awards, TV Land Awards, Fresh Beat Band, performing live with Paula Abdul, Kanye West and David Archuleta, filming commercials doing "par cours," Caitlin is loving life! She looks forward to continuing her training and passion for dance while exploring new and exciting opportunities to broaden her career.

*What motivated Caitlin as a child?*

*What drives Caitlin to continue to pursue beauty and excellence in performance and dance?*

Born a gifted natural athlete, Caitlin faced the challenge of having learning disabilities as a child. Her abilities as gymnast and then dancer were her source of confidence, helping to overcome her learning issues and to succeed in school. Beginning dance at such a late age, Caitlin constantly faced the intensity of trying to catch up with dancers who began their training at 3 and 4 years old. She loves inspiring dancers who face challenges of all kinds, to remind them that with passion and drive, anything is possible.

**"Never underestimate yourself when faced with challenges;  
it's amazing what you can accomplish when you join  
your heart, mind and passion!"**

## The Washington DC and Baltimore Chapter of WPO

**Kick off the 2012 Education  
Year with**

**"DANCE TOGETHER"**  
...dancers inspiring dreamers...



**September 7, 2011**

**Arena Stage at the Mead Center for  
the Performing Arts**



# Noelle

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Former Dance Masters of America national title holder, Noelle Marsh, discovered dance at the age of three. She was a natural, she began dancing competitively at age five. With a fierce work ethic and a passion for dance, her talent grew, and so did her aspirations. In 2010, she tried out for Season 5 of “So You Think You Can Dance”, finishing among the top 25 women. Undaunted, Noelle returned to the studio to work harder than ever, and returned for Season 6. This time she finished in the top ten and attracted a legion of fans. Drawn to Noelle’s innovative performances, she has had been asked to work with many notable choreographers, including Mia Michaels, Wade Robson, Travis Wall, Brian Friedman, Mandy Moore, Sonya Tayeh, Jason Parsons, Tabitha and Napoleon, and Lauren Adams.

Trained in Contemporary, Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Acro, Musical Theatre and Hip Hop, Noelle has won choreography awards on local and national levels, including the Senior Choreography award at both "Jump" and "NYCDA" nationals. Over the last year, Noelle has made guest appearances at different studios across the country as a teacher and choreographer. She has appeared in magazines such as People, Entertainment Weekly, In Touch and Dance Spirit. Her work in television has continued and includes the ‘MTV Music Awards’ with Chelsea Handler; ‘America’s Got Talent’; the ‘82nd Academy Awards’, dancing opposite Neil Patrick Harris; Blake McGrath’s music video ‘Relax’; ‘The Ellen Degeneris Show’; and performing with Jennifer Lopez in “Louboutins.” Noelle has also worked as an assistant to Mia Michaels on ‘So You Think You Can Dance’ in Canada and the U.S. and continues to work as a professional dancer and choreographer based in Los Angeles.

*What drove Noelle to pursue excellence as a child?*

*What continues to motivate this beautiful dancer to work hard live into her passion?*

Dance was a consistent way of channeling the energy of anything difficult, like her parents’ divorce. Noelle grew up on a farm in a small town in North Carolina where dance was not understood, it wasn’t a sport. Determined to excel at what she loved, she travelled an hour each way to find a good dance studio. When her AP English teacher told her she would never succeed, Noelle got detention because of the following comment: “I think you are stupid for not believing in people who believe in themselves.” Her parents supporting her decision to go on the show, Noelle chose to miss both her graduation and her prom. Her dedication and passion allowed her to do it differently, she continues to inspire others to do the same.

**“Believe in yourself, don’t be afraid to pursue what you love.”**

# Melissa

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Melissa Sandvig began her ballet training at Long Beach Ballet at the age of 5 and began dancing professionally at age 15. She was also a young actress starring in commercials and afterschool specials, but soon chose to fully commit to her future as a ballerina. While in high school, she won 2nd place in the prestigious Music Center Spotlight Awards and toured with the Los Angeles Classical Ballet to Taiwan and China. After graduating she was recruited to join The Milwaukee Ballet where she danced soloist roles for 6 seasons. Melissa returned to LA to become a freelance artist and a certified Pilates instructor. After suffering a fracture in her lower back, Pilates allowed her to retrain her body and posture to protect her back from future injuries. She now loves teaching young dancers how to be healthy and to work their bodies



correctly to prevent injuries. Melissa continues to perform with Helios Dance Theater, Sacramento Ballet, LA Contemporary Ballet, Luminario Ballet, Motion Tribe, Body Traffic, Strange and Elegant Dancers, String Theory, The Los Angeles Opera, and many other companies. She is most well known for her performance on Season 5 of "So You Think You Can Dance" as the "Naughty Ballerina." Melissa was the first classically trained ballerina and the oldest contestant on the show at age 29, breaking the stereotypes about age and ballet, she made it all the way to the top 6. She has since been on the hit show "Glee," continues to perform her piece about breast cancer "This Woman's Work" for events everywhere and has performed in motion capture work for many Shrek movie dance scenes. Her husband Eric is so supportive as she continues to perform, teach master classes and pursue a career in acting.

*What drives this smart, beautiful and caring woman to continue to push herself to excel?*

*What does Melissa want to prove?*

Ballet was the kind of challenge that this straight A student could engage with, the demands both mental and physical, born with muscles that allowed her to be very good at a young age. Those muscles, however, were also always a burden as she was told over and over that she did not have the body of a dancer. Melissa's body weight was always a focus, even once being put on a probation program requiring losing 10 lbs. in 2 weeks, this as a fit professional dancer. When Eric encouraged her to audition for the Fox show, she wanted to do ballet justice being an authentic ballerina with grace, strength and muscles! She has indeed proven that beauty in movement does not have to be stick thin, Melissa inspires young dancers everywhere to be themselves, to be confident and strong about their bodies.

**“Stay positive, learn and teach and never think you are done  
with something — your second career may be  
right in front of you!”**

## Evening Agenda at Arena Stage

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- 4:00 p.m. Meet in the Kogod Cradle for dance class
- 5:00 p.m. Rehearsal time with your group ~ Ushers will direct you. “Barre” opens in the downstairs lobby
- 6:00 p.m. All invited to the WPO/YPO “Showcase of the Stars” in the Kogod Cradle
- 6:30 p.m. Buffet Dinner seating begins in the “Study” adjacent the “Barre” area
- 7:00 p.m. Judges Awards presented  
Chapter Business to follow
- 8:00 p.m. Return to the Kogod for the Performance by the All Star Dancers
- 9:15 p.m. Meet & greet, and autographs with the All Star Dancers in the downstairs lobby

*For more information on this All Stars Celebrating Passion Dance Tour,  
please visit [www.caitlinkinney.com](http://www.caitlinkinney.com)*

## Legacy

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Legacy is one of the most sought after dancers in the entertainment industry today, known as a true B-Boy who also has an inspired freestyle and the versatility, drive and willingness to tackle all styles of dance. He has attracted the attention of the industry's top directors, choreographers and artists and been chosen to perform in many feature films, music videos, commercials and live stage shows. A few of his most recent credits include: Hannah Montana The Movie, Dance Flick and Step Up 3D. He has worked with Rhianna, Toni Braxton, The Black Eyed Peas, Chris Brown, Akon and been a featured dancer with both of Gwen Stefani's solo world tours. Legacy has worked



beside his friends in the well-known dance crews the Jabawokees, the Beat Freaks and the Groovalos. young dancers to follow their dreams. Legacy has recently choreographed and produced a tour show for the upcoming sensation Latin recording artist Josie Cordoba. He has trained various artists, including Chris Brown, in the art of B-Boying and he travels the world to teach and inspire

*Where does the drive and passion of this performer, choreographer and producer come from?*

*What is Legacy out to prove?*

Born in Miami, Legacy is the son of Latino parents who believed that the path out of poverty to success was education. They might have considered pro soccer as a career option, but never dance. Because the love of dancing runs so deep in his core when he was in massage school, working at the Taco Bell or at Tire Kingdom and the music would come on at lunchtime, Legacy would always be "breaking" and performing, loving this more than anything else he could do. The desire to prove that he can "make it work" in this industry fuels his endless energy towards "working to make it." He views "obstacles as opportunities," new passageways to the destination he has already chosen.

Legacy looks forward to being a producer in various fields, bringing his passion and experience to movies, live shows and artistic development. Combining creativity with his determination, Legacy will have a hugely successful career in the entertainment business because he has chosen to pursue what he loves most as his profession.

**"A Legend is Great, but a Legacy is passed down and continues to be Great!"**

## Ade

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Arizona native, Ade Obayomi, began dancing at a young age. His early credits include touring with Les Grands Ballet Canadiens de Montreal and the film "A Diva's Christmas Carol." Studying and competing in Arizona, Kansas and Canada, Obayomi trained in ballet, tap, contemporary, jazz, African and hip-hop dance. An accomplished gymnast, Ade was named Arizona State Champion in gymnastics when he was just 10 years old. His love of dance earned him a scholarship to attend Chapman University, where he also studied sound engineering. While attending Chapman, Ade auditioned for Season 5 of SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE and made it all the way to the Top 6 on the Fox hit show. Since then, he has performed throughout the U.S. on the SYTYCD National Tour and has been in high demand around the country as a contemporary and hip hop dance teacher. Obayomi performed with Beyonce on the 2010 Grammy awards and can be seen in Rhianna's "Hard" music video. He was a featured dancer on the Alicia Keys Element of Freedom World Tour. Ade was chosen as a 2010 SYTYCD All Star which led him to another 40 city National Tour!

*Where does the energy, passion and fun loving incredible attitude of this dancer come from?*

*What is Ade out to prove?*

Ade's mother put him in dance and gymnastics to channel his exuberant energy, frankly she needed a way to tire him out! Perfecting the steps kept him motivated, there was always the next level of improvement to focus on and achieve. Yet guys didn't dance, it wasn't cool to be a male dancer. Determined to push through any stereotypes of weakness or effeminism, he proved himself both good and strong. In high school, with his parents supporting the commitment it required, he moved into being seen as a strong athlete. Ade kept at it because he loved it, he continues today to inspire young men to choose dance and he couldn't be happier than pursuing his passion.

**"Nothing is impossible to a man who believes all things are possible."**