

# Introducing

## The CENTER STAGE STAFF



**Penny Walter... Director** Penny has over 30 years of experience with youth based performing arts groups such as Drill Team, Dance line, and Color guard. Her award winning groups have performed at the World Series and Super Bowl XXVII. Penny focuses her attention to the day to day operations of the studio, attending to the needs of the students and parents. With Center Stage entering its tenth year she continues to be extremely proud of our friendly and nurturing family environment where children come first. Welcome to Center Stage !



**Lisa Broz** Lisa has been dancing for the past 19 years and is entering into her eleventh year of teaching. She has been trained in ballet, lyrical, jazz, tap, character, musical theatre, modern and pointe at local studio's, the U of M, and national dance conventions. Aside from teaching at Center Stage, Lisa judges for Co. Dance and Star Light Competition around the United States. She is also listed with Kly-maxx Dance Agency as a freelance choreographer and professional dancer. She has most recently performed with Aveda, Living Word and Unite Dance. Lisa and her husband Chris are entering into their seventh year of marriage and welcomed their first child Kinley Teagan on February 14, 2010.



**Michelle Wanous** Michelle has been dancing since the age of four and has taught for the past sixteen years. She is an accomplished teacher in pre-school through Adult levels. Her specialties are Jazz, Tap, Lyrical and Competition dance. Michelle also was a previous high school math teacher and dance team coach at Bloomington Jefferson. Michelle and her husband Mark have three children sons, Samuel and Tyler and daughter Abby.



**Shannon Fahey** Shannon, originally from New York, received her degree in dance from Mercyhurst College in Pennsylvania. Following her education, Ms. Fahey went on to perform with several ballet companies on the east coast in ballets such as, *The Nutcracker*, *Coppelia*, *Giselle*, *A Mid-Summer's Night Dream*, *Peter and the Wolf* and *Cinderella*. Prior to moving to Minnesota, Shannon taught at several dance studios in New York and continued to do so when she arrived in Minneapolis. She has been teaching ballet and pointe for fourteen years and is pleased to be a part of the Center Stage staff.



**Julie Malinosky** Julie has been dancing for the past 24 years and is in her ninth year on the staff at CSDS. She trained at local dance studios in Jazz, Tap, Ballet, Lyrical, Character, Kick line and POM, and was a performing line member for many years. During High School she was on the nationally ranked Eden Prairie POM squad and went on to dance at the U of M. Julie has performed at the Super bowl and appeared in both Nike and Fox Sports Net commercials. She graduated from the U of M with her license in Elementary Education. Julie and her husband Matt will be celebrating their fourth anniversary in July and became the proud parents of son Tony in December 2009



**Jessie Lusignan** Jessie has been dancing since the age of three. She danced on competitive teams since the age of ten and has been awarded several awards including the LA Agent award, convention scholarships, Starlight distinguished performer 2003 & 2004, American Dance Idol regional finalist 2003 and the CSDS senior distinguished performer 2003. Jessie is entering her seventh year of teaching at Center Stage. Jessie graduated from the Art Institute International Minnesota where she earned her degree in interior design. Excitement is in the air for Jessie as she plans her upcoming wedding in May of 2011.



**Cindy O'Rourke** Cindy O'Rourke is a new teacher at Center Stage this year. Cindy has been dancing most of her life. She has been trained in ballet, jazz, tap and lyrical, and has been part of the Continental Ballet company. Some of her training includes Zenon dance school, Minnesota Ballet Theater, and Continental Ballet School. Cindy comes to Center Stage with a lot of teaching experience which includes: teaching at various dance schools in MN, coaching a high school dance team, working with gymnasts and ice skaters, and choreographing various community and school musicals. Cindy cherishes her husband Tim, and their 6 wonderful children. Cindy loves teaching dance to children in hopes of touching each life in a positive way.



**Kristen Bertelson** Kristen, a freshman at the University of Minnesota, began dance at age 4 under the instruction of Michelle Wanous and Lisa Broz, and competition dance at age 5. While dancing in Center Stage Dance Studio's performing lines, Kristen has been named Center Stage's Jr. and Sr. Distinguished Dancer, Starlight Productions' Distinguished Performer, LA Dance Magic Teen and Senior Magic Performer, and Hall of Fame's All Star Performer. She has been a teaching assistant at the studio since she was 14 and this past year, a teaching assistant for LA Dance Magic Conventions and a member of Breaking Boundaries Contemporary Dance Company.



**Jennifer Walter** Jennifer is the office manager, responsible for student registration, student accounts, staff administrative support and will take care of any questions or concerns you might have. She has also worked as a full time pre-kindergarten teacher in Eden Prairie for the past eleven years and enjoys working with students of all ages.



**Tina O'Connell** Tina keeps students and parents informed throughout the year as editor of our monthly newsletter, website and keeper of the studio bulletin boards. She is also helps out in the office and does the majority of rhinestoneing on our performing line costumes. Tina is currently taking time off from teaching elementary school to devote her time to raising her family, daughters Anna, Julia and son Joey with husband Matt.