

The Dancer's Workshop



About the Owner,

Many of you are not familiar with me because you are new to the studio or area and have not been active in the dance community in Lee county. I thought I should take a few minutes to let you know why I am so passionate about dance education and all I want to offer for your children.

My mother, Betty Newell, the former co-owner of The Dancer's Workshop, celebrated her 50th dance recital in 2005. I was born to dance and have loved each and every minutes since the age of 3. being the product of a dance instructor was not always easy, I assume this is why my older siblings did not choose this for a profession, however, I knew this was the path I wanted to follow. Unlike most parents, my mom knew that in order for me to be a great teacher, I would have to train in many styles and from many different instructors. At that time, this was not something you could gain from a Dance Degree in college. Instead, she decided to send me to study with many of the dance colleagues through out the united States.

I began teaching at 18 and took a few years off at 20 to be a mom and travel with my former husband who was in the military. During this time I studied the Dance Masters of America Syllabus in order to take my exams and become certified to teach when I returned to N.C. I took and passed my exams with scores of 99.6 and above in each subject in 1990. My mother was the current President of CDM at the time. I ran for a position on the board of directors in 1992 and after serving 4 year terms as director, second vice president, first vice president, president, and past president, I now currently remain on the board as director for Carolina Dance Masters , Chapter 15.

My talent and passion in the beginning was with the older and more advanced students. My choreography won on the national level many times and my students began to be very well known in the dance world. They have continued to amaze me with all they are accomplishing. Several are dancing professionally. Many have gone on to pursue Dance Degrees in College, two have brought home Miss Dance of America Titles to N.C. and we had our first top ten finalist on SYTYCD. Wow!!

I soon realized that a great teacher can teach anyone to dance! My new challenge was to make sure that everyone in my studio had a quality dance education and enjoyed every step they took. I love the fact that my students who have no intention, at this time in their lives, to dance for a living, love to come to the studio and share in all the joys that dance has to offer. I can't take the credit for all of this, it goes to the wonderful teachers we have on faculty that want to share, not only their knowledge, but their enthusiasm for something that has brought them so much joy.

I, as well as my faculty, attend continuing education conventions, seminars and study sessions several times a year to maintain not only our credentials, but our enthusiasm for the art. We want to have the information to keep us on the up and coming edge of the ever changing world of DANCE.

We take pride in our motto and stand by it 100%
Experienced Excellence in Dance Education. Our #1 Goal, Smiling Faces!

I know you may not always see me in the studio, or I seem pre-occupied, this is only because I am still a very active teacher, not just the owner. Please feel free to contact me at any time at home 919-775-9518 Or by email at misstori@dancersworkshopnc.com with any and all questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely, Tori Melby