

RIVER VALLEY DANCE ACADEMY
PRESENTS

NATIONAL DANCE WEEK

TWO DAYS OF EXCITING WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH & SUNDAY, APRIL 19TH 2020

River Valley Dance Academy 2020 NDW Workshop Celebration

Saturday, April 18th & Sunday, April 19th

The National Dance Week Celebration at RVDA is a time when current students can check out new styles of dance, they have not yet had an opportunity to be a part of, OR, work with visiting instructors to expand their knowledge base in styles of dance they are familiar with. It is also a time we open our doors to the community to invite others in to our studio to check in and see what we are all about. All are welcome. National Dance Week is celebrated throughout our nation in many different ways, in order to increase the awareness of the art of dance. We hope you will join us!

Saturday, April 18th

Studio A

#1	2:00pm to 3:00pm	Contemporary Ballet (8th-12th Grade)	Malone	\$15
Da'Rius Malone invites you on an amazing journey. Edgy, creative, empowering!				
#2	3:00pm to 4:00pm	Pointe Partnering (6th-7th Grade)	Benditt/Malone/Lewis	\$15
Join Hannah Benditt, Da'Rius Malone and Jake Lewis. Experience what pointe partnering is all about.				
#3	4:00pm to 5:30pm	Pointe Partnering (8th-12th Grade)	Benditt/Malone/Lewis	\$20
Join Hannah Benditt, Da'Rius Malone and Jake Lewis. Continue to grow your pointe partnering skills.				
#4	5:30pm to 6:30pm	Character (8th-12th Grade)	Benditt	\$15
Bring your heels if you have them and explore the fundamentals of character with Hannah Benditt.				

Studio B

#5	1:30pm to 2:30pm	Leaps and Turns (2nd-5th Grade)	Quiring	\$15
Zero in on these skills with Amanda Quiring; She is the drill master and will help you level up!				
#6	2:30pm to 3:30pm	Step In Time (Tap) (2nd-5th Grade)	Quiring	\$15
Learn choreography for Step In Time, from "Mary Poppins" with our own Amanda Quiring.				
#7	3:30pm to 4:30pm	Sassy Poms (Ages 5-8)	Quiring	\$15
Shake it off for a fun afternoon with Miss Amanda!				
#8	4:30pm to 5:30pm	Fun With Hats And Canes (Ages 5-8)	liams	\$15
Join Kirsten liams as you explore being Broadway Bound.				
#9	5:30pm to 6:30pm	Contemporary Ballet (5th-7th Grade)	Malone	\$15
Da'Rius Malone invites you on an amazing journey. Edgy, creative, empowering!				

Studio C

#10	1:00pm to 2:00pm	Horton Modern (8th-12th Grade)	Lewis	\$15
Discover the world of Ailey, as you take class with Jake Lewis! Power, Strength, Contemporary!				
#11	2:00pm to 3:00pm	Horton Modern (5th-7th Grade)	Lewis	\$15
Discover the world of Ailey, as you take class with Jake Lewis! Power, Strength, Contemporary!				
#12	3:00pm to 4:00pm	Contemporary Jazz (8th-12th Grade)	Kiehl	\$15
Rise to the challenge as Brooke Kiehl presents one of her amazing combos for you to tackle. Next Level!				
#13	5:30pm to 6:30pm	Princess Party (Ages 3-6)	liams	Free!
Join us for our annual Princess Party! Kirsten liams introduces us to Princess Elsa. We will sing, dance, and tell stories from Arendelle. Wear your favorite Princess Dress to class. Photo opportunity at the conclusion of the event.				

Sunday, April 19th

Studio A

#14	1:00pm to 2:00pm	Ballet (2nd-4th Grade)	Gunness	\$15
You won't want to miss Ballet with Sue Gunness!				
#15	2:00pm to 3:15pm	Ballet (5th-7th Grade)	Gunness	\$18
You won't want to miss Ballet with Sue Gunness!				
#16	3:30pm to 5:00pm	Ballet/Pointe (8th-12th Grade)	Gunness	\$20
Sue Gunness provides insight into technical challenges.				

Studio B

#17	12:00pm to 1:00pm	Ballroom Blitz (5th-7th Grade)	Gilliland	\$15
Rhumba, Tango, Foxtrot, and Salsa with Shelby Gilliland.				
#18	1:00pm to 2:00pm	Ballroom Blitz (8th-12th Grade)	Gilliland	\$15
Rhumba, Tango, Foxtrot, and Salsa with Shelby Gilliland.				
#19	4:00pm to 5:00pm	Tap (5th-7th Grade)	Tasler	\$15
The rhythm is gonna getcha in this high energy class with Deane Tasler!				
#20	5:00pm to 6:00pm	Tap (8th-12th Grade)	Tasler	\$15
The rhythm is gonna getcha in this high energy class with Deane Tasler!				

Studio C

#21	1:00pm to 2:00pm	Mamma Mia (5th-7th Grade)	Ferrell	\$15
Musical Theatre Choreography with Michael Matthew Ferrell.				
#22	2:00pm to 3:00pm	CHICAGO (8th-12th Grade)	Ferrell	\$15
Musical Theatre Choreography with Michael Matthew Ferrell.				
#23	3:00pm to 4:00pm	High School Musical (2nd-4th Grade)	Ferrell	\$15
Musical Theatre Choreography with Michael Matthew Ferrell.				
#24	4:15pm to 5:15pm	Newsies (Kindergarten-1st Grade)	Ferrell	\$15
Musical Theatre Choreography with Michael Matthew Ferrell.				

Meet The Faculty

Da'Rius Malone



Da'Rius Malone, from Chicago, IL, began his training under the direction of August Tye at Hyde Park School of Dance. Da'Rius is a 2014 graduate of The Chicago High School for the Arts (ChiArts), where he won the award for Scholar-Artist and had the privilege to perform works from leading Chicago dance companies such as DanceWorks Chicago, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Muntu Dance Theater, and Joffrey Ballet. Da'Rius continued his training at The Boston Conservatory at Berklee. Da'Rius is a 2018 graduate with his BFA in Contemporary Dance Performance with an Emphasis in Ballet. After his time at The Boston Conservatory Da'Rius was asked to join Jon Lehrer on his European Tour as a guest artist. In 2018 Da'Rius then became a company member at James Sewell Ballet. Da'Rius has performed works by Doug Varone, Joshua Manculich, Merce Cunningham, and Danny Buraczeski. He has also danced in several world premieres of choreography by Gabrielle Lamb, MADBOOTS and Yuri Yanowsky, Da'Rius has performed excerpts of Don Quixote and Raymonda restaged by former Boston Ballet principal dancer Adriana Suarez and Gianni DiMarco.

Da'Rius has also trained with the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company (Israel), Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Alonzo King Lines Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Ballet Austin, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater and 10 Hairy Legs. Da'Rius wants to use his dance education and experience as a professional concert dancer to create a platform to make a positive impact in life.

Jake Lewis



Jacob Lewis is a native of St. Louis, Missouri and received his dance training at the Center of Creative Arts (COCA) led by Lee Nolting. In 2010, he was inducted into the National Honor Society for Dance Arts and was a finalist for the NDEO Artistic Merit, Leadership, And Academic Achievement Award. He attended the Ailey/Fordham BFA program and during his time performed in Alvin Ailey's *Memoria* during Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre's NY City Center Season. In 2017 he joined TU Dance and was one of the original members in the collaboration with Bon Iver, *Come Through* that has been performed at the Palace Theatre, Hollywood Bowl, and Kennedy Center. Lewis has worked with choreographers Darrell Grand Moultrie, Dwight Rhoden, Mark Morris, Victor Quijada, Robert Battle, and Robin Mineko.

Hannah Benditt



Hannah Benditt graduated from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance earning her BFA in Dance Performance And Choreography with a dual emphasis in Ballet and Modern. Originally from Minneapolis, Minnesota, Hannah began formal training at Minnesota Dance Theatre (formerly Ballet Arts Minnesota). She has attended American Ballet Theatre, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Washington Ballet, Paul Taylor Dance Company, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre and Milwaukee Ballet summer intensives. Upon graduating from UMKC, Hannah danced professionally with Common Thread Contemporary Dance Company in St. Louis, MO and most recently at The Minnesota Opera. She also performed with Consuming Kinetics Dance Company, Kansas City Ballet and independent artists throughout the Midwest. Benditt enjoys performing works by George Balanchine, Paul Taylor, Antony Tudor, Jessica Lang, Uri Sands, Sally Rousse, Zoé Henrot, Peter Davison and more. Currently, Hannah enjoys sharing her love of dance by teaching and choreographing throughout the Twin Cities.

Amanda Quiring



Amanda Quiring spent eleven years as a youth dancing at River Valley Dance Academy, where she was a member of our Ballet, Jazz, and Hip Hop Performance Teams. While at RVDA Amanda performed aboard the Sovereign of the Seas Cruise Ship, at Disney World, and in Branson. She danced the lead role Myrta in Giselle, and as a Step Sister in Cinderella. In 2014 Amanda received her BS in Child Development and Family Studies from Mankato State University. While at Mankato, Amanda also received a Minor in Dance, and served as the Dance Captain for the musical "Rent". Amanda has been seen tapping at the Ritz, during the MN Fringe Festival, and performing at the Bedlam Theater in "Rhythmically Speaking," with Keane Sense of Rhythm.

Amanda enjoys sharing the challenges of rhythm and sound with her students as well as the history of Tap. Amanda is bringing TAP back to RVDA, and we couldn't be more excited to have her on our staff.

Kirsten Iiams



Kirsten Iiams began as an Instructor at RVDA in 2011, and we are so excited, to have her as part of our staff. She comes to us after performing for twelve years and twenty one shows at the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre. Kirsten has danced with Ballet of the Dolls, Red River Dance and Performance Company, Riverside Ballet Arts, Radio City Music Hall, Art Park, and Cost Tours, (in the theatres of Russia, and on the Seas in between). She was the founder and Co- Artistic Director of Bismark Dance Theatre. She has taught and Choreographed for Bismark Dance Theatre, Red River Dance, The Lundstrum Center, Youth Dance Ensemble, Riverside Ballet Arts, Trollwood Performing Arts School, and Sleepy Hollow Theatre. Kirsten has assisted the Choreographer for productions of *Evita*, at the Ordway, *Cats*, *Camelot*, *The Sound of Music*, *Annie*, and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* at the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre, *Annie*, at the Children's Theatre Company, *Anything Goes* at Minnetonka, Oklahoma, *42nd Street*, *Singin in the Rain*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Hairspray*, and *The Drowsy Chaperone*, at Artistry in Bloomington. Kirsten's Ballet training includes The Joffrey Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Hartford Ballet, Ballet Folk, Riverside Ballet Arts, David Howard, and Nanette Charise.

Brooke Kiehl



Brooke is a dance performer, instructor, and choreographer. In 2017, she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Dance from Minnesota State University, Mankato with an emphasis in private studio teaching. She performed in seven MSU-Mankato dance concerts and has had the opportunity to work with Marciano Silva dos Santos, Uri Sans, Daniel Stark, and Julie Kerr-Berry. Brooke was also selected by the American Collegiate Dance Association to perform at the Kennedy Center in 2016 and 2018. Additionally, she performed with *Stark Dance* in their 2018 show at the O'Shaughnessy. Brooke grew up dancing at The Dance Connection, where she was part of their competition teams. At the 2014 National Triple S Dance Competition, Brooke was nominated for the "Encore Award". At the Jump Convention, she was recognized as the musical theater VIP winner, nominated by Al Blackstone. She also received a scholarship to attend classes at Broadway Dance Center in New York City. Brooke has had the opportunity to take class from a wide variety of artists, including, Mia Michaels, Billy Bell, Misha Gabriel, and Melanie Moore. She is passionate about teaching and loves to watch her students grow and learn with each class they take.

Sue Gunness



Sue Gunness is finishing her 21st year as Ballet Specialist in the Department of Theatre and Dance at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter Mn. Gunness has also taught Ballet at MSU Mankato for 10 years. Sue has taught advanced/pro Ballet at the Minnesota Dance Theater under the direction of Loyce Houlton as well as danced with the Continental Ballet of Bloomington where she also served as Ballet Mistress. With an on going passion for Ballet pedagogy, Ms. Gunness holds American Ballet Theatre Teaching Certification tested by Raymond Luukens ABT's curriculum author. Always a student, Gunness has studied curriculums at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, The National Ballet of Canada, Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, pedagogy conferences with faculty from The Royal Academy of Dance and The Paris Opera Ballet. Most recently Sue attended dance medicine and technique conferences with Lisa Howell and Deborah Vogel.

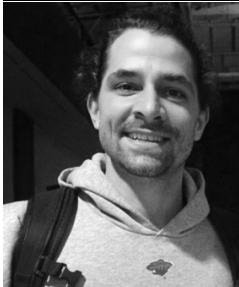
Sue is passionate that dance is for EveryBODY!!! She enjoys parrots, yoga and cooking. Gunness also holds a keen belief that excellent dark chocolate is very beneficial to dancers's feet!!!!

Shelby Gilliland



Shelby Gilliland received her Ballet, Modern and Jazz training at River Valley Dance Academy where she danced the lead role in *La Fille Mal Gardée* and the Sugar Plum Fairy in *Nutcracker*. She was a member of our Ballet Company and our Competition Teams, before heading on to the University of MN. While there she continued to study Ballet and majored in Computer Science. As a member of the U of MN Ballroom Dance Competition Team she traveled to compete throughout the Midwest, and the East Coast. She and her partner competed at USA Dance Nationals, where they took a First Place in Amateur Gold Rhythm and Smooth. After graduating from the U of M Shelby was a member of the Continental Ballet Company for one season where she danced in productions of *Cinderella* and *Sleeping Beauty*. She is excited to return to RVDA to share her love of dance.

Deane Tassler



Deane's first love was musical theatre. He has appeared on the main stage at the Chanhassen Dinner Theatres in *Anything Goes*; Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*; as Bernardo in *West Side Story*; *Singin' in the Rain*; *42nd Street*; and *Swing*. He also had the great pleasure of joining the Metropolitan Ballet's productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Agnes DeMille's *'Rodeo'* at the Historic State Theatre. He continues in musical theatre as a choreographer/director for Ashland Productions and has choreographed for Maple Grove Senior high, where his work has been recognized at the annual Spotlight Awards. Since he fell in love with tap dancing, he's had the pleasure of taking class with tap greats Yukiko Misumi, Grant Swift, Jimmie Payne, Jr., Mark Yonally, Chloe Arnold, Jason Samuels Smith, Randy Skinner, Everett Smith, Derick Grant, Jay Fagan, Dianne Walker, Dormeisha Sumbry-Edwards, Star Dixon, Nico Rubio, Jumanne Taylor, Guillem Alonso, Sam Weber, and others. Deane has won several choreography awards and remains on staff at a handful of local dance studios.

Michael Matthew Ferrell



Michael Matthew Ferrell is the 2013 and 2007 Ivey Award recipient for Choreography, and the 2010 and 2015 Choreographer of the Year, Lavender Magazine. Credits include: "Hairspray", "Guys & Dolls", "Oklahoma", "42nd Street", "Singin' in the Rain" at Artistry; "Ragtime", Park Square Theatre; "Cabaret", "Aida", "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee", "Evita", "The Full Monty", "Parade", "Gypsy", "The Rink" and "Passage of Dreams for Theatre Latte Da"; "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown", "Grand Night for Singing", and "Broadway's Legendary Ladies" at The Ordway Center; "Wizard of Oz", "Annie", "Babe The Sheep Pig", "Tommy", "Spelling Bee", "Disney's High School Musical", "A Year with Frog and Toad" and "Fashion 47", "Sneetches" at The Children's Theatre Company.; "Cats", "Annie", "The Sound of Music", "Camelot", "Music Man", "My Fair Lady", "Forever Plaid", "Oklahoma", and "Can Can" at the Chanhassen Theatres. Additionally his work has been seen at The Minnesota Opera Company, Minnetonka Theatre, Sesame Street, Stages Theatre Company, Pantages Theatre, the Duluth Playhouse, Disney World Orlando, and Guthrie Theatre Cabaret shows. He is also the Founder and Artistic Director of Alive & Kickin, the Twin Cities newest musical ensemble of Rockin Senior Citizens!



National Dance Week Registration Form

Ways to register: Place this in the black box by the instructor's office at the studio (or)
Mail to: River Valley Dance Academy, 3700 N. Chestnut Street, Suite 101, Chaska, MN 55318

Dancers Name: _____ Dancers grade: _____

Parents Names: _____ Home Phone: _____

Parent cell phone # _____

Please write the class code and title of each class you are signing up for below. **Use one form per dancer.**

Code:	Class Type:	Cost:	Length:
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

My total payment for the weekend is: \$ _____ (checks to RVDA)

3-6 year olds attending the dance party, this is open to the community, and FREE, so invite your friends! Please sign up those planning to attend, as we will have to have a limit for the maximum in the room.

Workshops are open to the community; help us spread the word as we celebrate National Dance Week. Invite your friends to sign up. There will be a maximum number of dancers allowed in each class, so sign up soon to guarantee your spot.

Can you walk in that day and sign up? Yes, if there is still availability in the class you want to take.

Can my dancer handle multiple classes in a row? Yes. Dancers at dance conventions dance back to back all day. Encourage them to bring a water bottle and healthy snacks in their dance bag. An apple, orange slices, a granola bar; are all great snacks to help your dancer through the day.