

MEET THE NEWSIES CHOREOGRAPHY TEAM!



Maycee Dominguez was raised in Ocala. She started dancing at age two at Mary Ellen's School of Dance and is versed in many different styles. At age six, Maycee started competing in regional and national dance competitions. She has earned many top scores and titles throughout Florida. After graduating high school, she continued her dance training in Los Angeles. Maycee had the amazing experience of training with some of the top choreographers and dancers in the industry, such as Brandon Dumlao, David Moore, Hollywood, Sienna Lyons, Kenya Clay, Natalie Gilmore, and more. For four years she worked for Walt Disney World Entertainment as a character performer and had the opportunity to be a part of the show *Fantasmic!* at Hollywood Studios. Maycee has won numerous choreography awards since beginning her choreography career at age 16. She has directed the Ocala Dance Force Company for five years prior to jumping on board with The Dance Company of Ocala and The Dance Collective, TDC's resident elite competition team in 2019. She had two consecutive nominations for an Industry Dance Award for "Best Open Dance Piece" in back-to-back seasons in 2021 and 2022 with her pieces *Pep Talk* and *Otto*.

Brooke Loftis began dancing at the age of four and has received extensive training in ballet/pointe, lyrical, contemporary, modern, tap, jazz, and hip-hop. She is a qualified member by examination with Dance Educators of America, Inc., and holds a current membership with National Dance Education Organization. She received her Associate of Arts Degree in Dance from Santa Fe College while she was a member/student choreographer with the Dance Theater Santa Fe. Brooke now owns The Dance Company of Ocala, a local dance studio of approximately 450 dancers ranging from recreational to pre-professional training for dancers ages 2-18. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in psychology with a concentration in childhood development from The University of Florida. Upon graduation, she spent time in Atlanta, GA as a professional dancer, where she was represented by Bloc South Dance Agency. Brooke returned to Ocala to take the position as the Director of Dance for the Marion County Center for the Arts at West Port High School, a magnet school for the arts. During this time, she completed her Master of Arts Degree in School Counseling and became a School Counselor with West Port High School and Florida Virtual School. She connects her background in psychology and dance when working with her dancers and finds the two fields of study are closely intertwined. She has worked as an award-winning choreographer for many years with numerous dance studios and dance companies throughout the

state of Florida. She was also a faculty member of the Dancer's Spotlight Dance Convention (based in Charlotte, NC). Brooke is no stranger to the theatre, as she spent many summers in her youth at OCT through the Arts for All program under the leadership of Greg Thompson. She also appeared in the ensemble of *Once Upon a Mattress* and played Cha Cha DiGregorio in *Grease* at OCT during her high school years. OCT has always held a special place in Brooke's heart, and she is ecstatic to return as a choreographer for this production.

Debbie McCreight has been teaching dance for more than 40 years. She was the owner of The Dance Factory, which opened in Ocala in 1985 and closed in 2015. Debbie passed along the studio to her daughter, Brooke, who opened The Dance Company of Ocala. Originally from Toledo, Ohio, the McCreight family moved to St. Petersburg and then to Ocala in 1985. Debbie was the Artistic Director of Dance Ocala from 1995-2007. She was co-writer of three original stories presented by Dance Ocala: *Merlin's Daughters*, *Julie's Dragon*, and *Beyond Beauty*. Debbie was the Jazz Corp Director at Fort King Middle School for nine years. She has worked with Mt. Moriah Baptist Church for 12 years on their annual pageant. Debbie also was OCT's choreographer for *The Wiz* in 1996, *Dream Catchers* in 1998, *South Pacific* in 1999, *Annie* in 2001, *Honk Jr.* in 2003, *The Music Man* and *All Shook Up* in 2008, *Once Upon A Mattress* in 2009, and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* in 2013. She choreographed the Ocala Theater Company's world premiere children's musical *Odyssey 2000* in 2000, directed and choreographed *Dream Catchers* in 2002, and choreographed *Dream Catchers II* in 2002. She also choreographed the Ocala Youth Theater's production of *Grease* in 2005. Debbie has continued her study of dance by attending numerous workshops each year, studying under some of the great dancers seen on Broadway and in movies and music videos, so she can share new dance techniques and the love of dance with her students.

