



Break it Down School of Entertainment Teaching Staff 2010



**Sammy Gunner - Dip of Dance, Cert IV Performing Arts, ATOD member, RAD Member, Zumba B1, B2, and Zumbatomics Instructor.
Principal – RAD Classical Teacher, ATOD Jazz, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Tap and Zumba**

At the age of 16, I commenced training at the Queensland Dance School of Excellence where I attained my Diploma of Dance. After two years there I then left to go to Sydney's ED5 where I completed my Cert IV in Performing Arts. While there I met many talented teachers, performers and choreographers. Next was the audition for the P&O Cruise Ship Line. The Director of the Greyboy agency, Mr. William Forsythe then offered me a position as a Dancer the coming year. After my adventures at sea it was then time for me to come back to land. I have taught at various dance schools around Brisbane and worked as a dancer/singer/actor with many different companies at corporate events. Mid 2006 I started my own small Entertainment Company called "SM Presents..." where I was able to let my creativity take control putting on events all over Brisbane. After getting married to the love of my life and starting our family it was time for me to start a new chapter in my book and build the Break it Down Family.

I wanted to have a dance school that was different in the way that I'm not just about teaching the student to dance, I want them to learn about themselves, teach them how to have goals and achieve them, to be comfortable with who they are as a person, to step out side their comfort zone but know they are safe and aren't being judged.



**Cheryl McCaffery
General Manager**

Cheryl has many years experience in accounts as a bookkeeper. The past 9 years she has been working for a finance broker in the position of Office Manager implementing many systems and the general running of the office/accounts. As well as doing this 8 years ago Cheryl along with her husband Pat set up a family business being a Dance Wear Retail Outlet- 'Sammy's Room the Danceshop' on the south side of Brisbane. The most important thing that gives Cheryl the drive for the close involvement in dance is knowing the pit falls and heartache she (as a mum) went through and therefore tries to make the transition for other parents that little bit easier.



Denise Richardson - BA (Dance), MA, ARAD

RAD Classical Teacher

Denise has worked in the performing arts industry for over 35 years variously as a dancer, actor, in production and as an educator. She has 30 years dance teaching experience in NSW and QLD, including at Bodenwieser Dance Centre (Director of Junior School), Brent Street, Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and Queensland Dance School of Excellence. She is a registered teacher of the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) and was awarded her Master of Arts (QUT) researching dance education in 2000. She worked in community arts education for the Gardens Cultural Precinct, QUT (2001-2007), and from 2008 to 2009 was project coordinator for the World Dance Alliance Global Summit 2008 (Brisbane). Denise is currently free-lance critic/writer for the national arts magazine *Dance Australia* (since 2001) and *Courier Mail*. She is author of the 2009 publication, *Brookes Street to Brooklyn: Expressions Dance Company 1984-2009*.

Sharon Kemp – Singing Teacher

Sharon has been coached in classical, music theatre, jazz, pop & folk styles. She has worked professionally in the entertainment industry in Sydney, mostly as a freelance vocalist and cabaret performer. Her band in Sydney won a MO award for service to the industry in 1997. That band performed on Good Morning Australia, The Midday Show, and live radio. They entertained at a lot of high profile corporate events such as "The Red Nose Ball", "The Cointrau Ball" & "The NAFL Grand Final". Musical theatre has always been her favourite genre. She has performed in many productions over the years. Sharon has played chorus and lead roles. Her leads include "Elizabeth" in the Sydney Premier of *Pride & Prejudice*, "Eliza" in *My Fair Lady* and a "female disciple" in *Godspell*. She has also performed many musical theatre songs as a freelance vocalist.



Elanore Haynes – ARAD, Dip. of Dance, Certificate IV Performing Arts,

Bachelor of Nursing

Classical Juniors Teacher, ATOD Jazz

Elle has had a very well rounded career over the past years. She completed her Diploma of Dance as a student of Queensland Dance School of Excellence where she attended while completing years 11 and 12 High School. Graduating from high school she pursued a professional career as a dancer. After fulltime training at ED 5 in Sydney where she attained her Certificate IV in Performing Arts, she performed in a number of productions and participated in charity functions. Elle has been a member of the Brisbane Bullets Cheerleader Squad, Brisbane Broncos Cheerleader Squad and a Dancer and Entertainer with 'SM Presents...' She has been a contemporary teacher with Club PJ's at Cleveland in 2004. Elle completed her Bachelor of Nursing in 2009 and is currently a Registered Nurse at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital where she always strives to achieve above and beyond care outlined by the ANMC competencies and standards. Elle has very high standards and is always striving for excellence in every facet of her vast career. Even in her rolls as Sales Assistance and Assistant Manager with Sunburn Swimwear and Amart Allsports, she achieved awards for her 'Outstanding Sales', 'Performance Recognition for Excellent Customer Service' and 'Employee of the Month' for several months. Elle holds a Current Senior First Aid Certificate and Current CPR Certificate. "Dancing is a passion of mine and has been since I started at three years of age. It continues to be a big part of my life as my outlet for keeping fit and healthy."



Asher Bowen-Saunders- ATOD Intermediate Jazz, Intermediate Hip Hop Teacher

Asher has danced in multiple styles (Jazz, Tap, Contemporary, Hip-Hop, Ballet, & Indonesian) for 13 years. Asher, student-taught for the Ferny Grove School of Dance for 3 years and has been a teacher in different styles for 3 1/2 years. She has been a Gymnast and Acrobat for 14 years and has been a member of a Queensland Champion Acro Trio team (level 5) and a multiple award-winning Cheer Team- (Mitchelton Magics) who were last years Queensland State Champions. Asher also assists in choreography for this team. Asher has recently created from scratch and choreographed for 2 Dance Performance Teams at Ferny Grove High School, who received a Highly Commended at the 2010 Brisbane Eisteddfod Schools section. She is currently completing Grade 12 and a 'Certificate III in Fitness Leadership' at TAFE incorporating assessments, class instruction & resuscitation. She received 2nd in the Solo section at the Wynnum-Manly Eisteddfod in 2010. She was last years "Break it Down School of Entertainment" Choreographic competition winner and 2008's "Entertainer of the Year". She has performed for 10 years in stage productions with 'Hoozatt? Entertainment' at Major Australian interstate festivals in various acting & dance roles.

"Ever since I was little: teaching dance has been one of my goals in life. I love to choreograph and pass on knowledge and passion of dance to younger dancers. I always looked up to the 'Big Girls' when I was little and am thrilled to now find myself one of them".



Debbie Denti – Zumba B1, B2 and Zumbatomic Instructor

Zumba Instructor, Assistant Teacher to ATOD Intermediate Jazz, Intermediate Hip Hop

I have had a varied career in events and tourism but I have always loved to workout and dance. Over the years I've enjoyed learning various types of dance. Latin dance and its many styles and rhythms were introduced to me over 5 years ago via a group called Latido. Since then I have enjoyed dancing, teaching and performing Latin dance at various charity and community events.

As a child I did Jazz and Ballet in the UK and obtained certificates from The Royal Academy of Dance. As an adult I have attended Hip Hop classes and Adult Jazz classes at various locations as well as Broadway and Musical Theatre classes with Harvests Rain, Velocity Dance. I have attended Bollywood course/workshop, and I have been dancing and teaching Latin based community classes for 5 years. I have my Certificate III in Fitness and Aerobics and run fun, simple exercise classes for the local community. I have my first aid certificate which is up to date as well as my blue card. I have certificates in Zumba B1, B2 and Zumbatomic. Becoming a Zumba instructor and teaching Zumba is the perfect opportunity for me to combine the two things I know and love. I am very excited to be part of the Break it Down family.