



Mary Knestrick Owner / Creative Director

As a child, Mary began her dance career in Virginia. Since then she has danced for various dance studios and companies in Virginia and Florida. During her college career, she was the Dance Director for an after school program in Gainesville, FL in which many of her students went on to win state and national titles. In May of 2009, Mary graduated with her Masters Degree in Education from the University of Florida with concentrations in Special Education & Children's Literacy. In August of 2009, her very own studio and business was born.

During her now 8 year career as a business owner, Mary has become heavily involved in the Gainesville Community. She loves participating as a Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce Diplomat, and in 2011 she received a very special award from the Chamber: Business of the Year: Women in Leadership. Throughout the community and beyond, she has had the opportunity for her choreography to be performed at the University of Florida, the Half Time Show of the Harlem Globetrotters, Orlando Magic game pre-show, Walt Disney World and community events & fundraisers are just to name a few. Aside from running her studio and directing her competitive dance company, Mary loves traveling to judge for various competitions and feels very blessed she gets to watch so much dancing so often! During the summers, she enjoys traveling to set choreography work around the country for other competitive dance companies and studios.

In this short period of time, she is proud to see her students graduate and continue their arts education in big ways! This is her favorite part of her job: the success, growth, and happiness of her students. As a member of the National Dance Education Organization, Mary's latest interests now include working to bridge the gap between the dance competition world and Higher Education dance programs. She strongly believes all dancers can work hard and continue their dance education and career in various avenues, and looks forward to having more opportunities to help dancers navigate successful career paths in the arts.

During her career, Mary has had the opportunity to dance under many choreographers and master teachers she immensely admires. She has also participated in classes and workshops at the Broadway Dance Center and the Alvin Ailey School of Dance in New York City, NY. Mary has been honored with numerous awards and recognition for choreography, performance, student technique, as well as overall high score awards at various regional and national competitions. Mary believes that all students should have the opportunity to "Find Their Light". This is something one of her favorite dance instructors Ms. Anna always told her and her classmates when she was young- and well, it stuck. Girls, boys, women, men, young, in-between, and older- everyone is welcomed and encouraged to find their niche at her studio. Mary hopes to pass this message on to all dancers she comes in contact with in and beyond her studio walls, and that they will in return inspire others to "Find Their Light" for the unforeseeable future.