



Youth Dance Ensemble 2013

aadc

New Faces and New Spaces!!

2014 – 2015 SEASON

Welcome Swing City!!

by Ms. Lisa

When I opened Ann Arbor Dance Classics in 1996, it was an adventure. I had not been teaching in the area, and I had no students to enroll. But I had been living in Ann Arbor since graduate school, and I knew that this was where I wanted my studio. We opened our doors and started signing people up, but the most memorable moment of that first month was when Susan Filipiak, the owner of Swing City Dance Studio, came into my studio to introduce herself and to welcome us to the neighborhood! I have taught in and danced in a few (dozen) studios in my life, but I had never seen this happen before.

Since that day, I have taken amazing classes from Susan, and we have coordinated on occasional performances or master classes, though fewer in the more recent years, as AADC has come into its own. Still, we stayed in touch and always enjoyed the camaraderie of another local area studio.

Today, I am absolutely honored and overjoyed to welcome Susan to the AADC teaching staff. She brings unparalleled experience and energy, and we are thrilled to invite her and all of her students to come Swing with us and join the AADC dance family! We are so glad you're here!

A little more about Susan...

Susan Filipiak has intensive training in multiple dance styles: tap, ballet, jazz, modern, ethnic, swing dance and ballroom. A life-long dancer, now with 33 years of teaching experience, she has developed a detailed pedagogy designed to introduce dance skills and lift students to high levels of dance achievement. She specializes in four areas: dance for young children, tap dance for all ages, dance conditioning (ballet floor barre), and social ballroom dance. Her tap dance mentors include Brenda Bufalino, Dianne Walker, Barbara Duffy, Heather Cornell and a host of tap dance legends - Buster Brown, Eddie Brown, Honi Coles, Leon Collins, Steve Condos, LaVaughan Robinson, Lloyd Storey, Gregory Hines, et al. Her jazz dance mentors include Billy Siegenfeld, Cholly Atkins, Frankie Manning, Ed Kresley. She has choreographed for many area theater companies - Jeff Daniel's Purple Rose Theater, The Crosswell Opera House, UM Gilbert & Sullivan Society, Ann Arbor Civic Theater, Chelsea Area Players, Saline Area Players and area high school theater. She continues to work as a dance educator in local schools, bringing dance into the everyday school curriculum. In 2014 Susan was named a Michigan Traditional Artist by

Michigan State University with a grant supported by the National Endowment for the Arts focusing on perpetuating American percussive dance.



Susan Filipiak, Swing City Dance Studio

Here's what they're saying...

"Susan is an amazing teacher. She excels at connecting with kids and bringing greatness out of them"

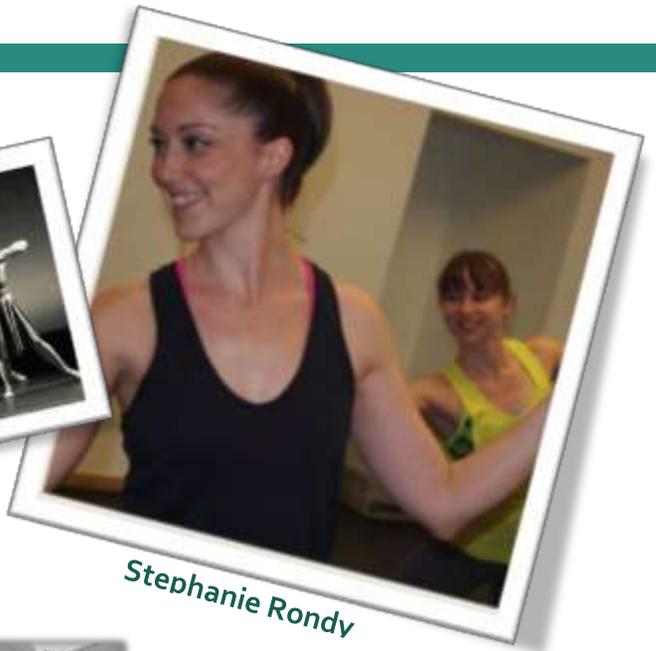
"I have seen Susan work with young students, and she takes a multifaceted approach – training both the feet and the brain. She is very patient and effective."

And some familiar faces too...

Join us in welcoming back **Stephanie Rondy!** After spending two years in development with American Ballet Theatre (ABT) in New York, Stephanie is returning to Michigan. We are thrilled to having her rejoin our AADC staff and continue to teach technique classes and choreograph for the Youth Dance Ensemble. While in New York, Stephanie earned a master's degree from NYU and obtained her certification in the ABT National Training Curriculum.



NYU Masters Concert



Stephanie Rondy

ALSO JOINING AADC TEACHERS THIS SEASON...

As our studio continues to grow, we are excited to add new talent to our teaching staff! Please welcome AADC alumni **Brianna Barnes** and **Patricia Sholtis** to our team. Youth Dance Ensemble senior, **Avery Moje**, will join our teaching staff this season, as well as local area competition instructor **Melanie Troha**. Visit our website to learn more about our newest staff members!

Brianna



Patricia

Avery



Melanie

What?! No Nutcracker?

Occasionally we need a little break, a change of pace, or just a weekend off in December. We will be producing a dinner theater style performance this fall, "A Night at the Museum," and we will stage our full production of "The Nutcracker" again in December 2015.



"A Night at the Museum"



Sunday
November 9, 2014
Eagle Crest Marriott
Ypsilanti, MI

NEW SPACE!!!!

Please excuse our dust!!! 18 years and three studios later, we are once again under construction! We are so proud (and thankful to all of you) to be able to announce that we are moving again! There is a lot to do, but it is all very exciting! Don't worry...we are just moving a few doors away. We are staying in the Airport Plaza, but our new space will feature –

- Over 6400 square feet! This is a 60% increase over our current space
- A fourth dance studio (no more "small" room!)
- Larger and deeper dance spaces
- A lunch area
- Additional restrooms

We are able to expand what we offer, better accommodate solos, and improve our rehearsal space for our large production numbers. Of course, there are always trade-offs. The new space has considerably more traffic than our current location. Please be careful when dropping off and picking up your dancers!

New location:

**3777 Plaza Drive
Ann Arbor 48108**



About the move....

- We cannot move into the new space until October. Please be patient with us...September is going to be hectic and crowded! We have more classes, and lots of new faces! A little kindness goes a long way, so please be courteous and respectful of others. October will be here before we know it, and it will be worth the wait!
- *"If you need any help, let me know..."*

WE NEED YOUR HELP!! We have always appreciated the support and talents that our dance family shares with us so graciously. Please keep an eye out for emails letting you know when you can help...there is a lot to do. We expect to be working every weekend in September. We are painting, assembling furniture, laying floors, and moving everything else.

- Slow down!! We are closer to Ellsworth, and we are concerned about the speed at which cars come through this part of the park. Please remind your dancer to stay on the sidewalk until you can safely walk your child to the car.
- We cannot enter the new site yet!! We know everyone looks forward to the new dance space, but please do not enter the space unsupervised. For legal, safety, and insurance reasons, we cannot have students in the space before October.

Learn a little more about us...



Respect, hard work, passion....

There are so many benefits to dance education. We strive to instill all of these traits in our dance students.



Are we a competition studio?

We are a studio that offers competition for our dancers who are interested. For those who are not, we offer a youth performance company which provides two performance opportunities annually in addition to our recital.



How are we different?

We're not sure, but we have learned that our studio philosophy and policy work great for those who choose AADC. Our dancers have lots of opportunities from performance to workshops to auditions to summer intensives.

Not everyone is going to be a dancer. AADC has been successful in serving those who dance for life and those who dance for the love. We want to see our dancer's smiling and having fun!!



Welcome to all our new and prospective students, families, and teachers! Welcome back to our AADC family and friends. Thank you for spreading the word, keep it up, and let's enjoy an amazing 2014-2015 season!

All our thanks,

Lisa, Deena, and the entire AADC staff