

BALLET · JAZZ · HIP HOP · TAP · BALLROOM · BURLESQUE

AZDA Studio Dance Instructors. All photos by Pure Child Photography, Miki DeVivo



Ballroom Dancing with Samantha



Madelyn Golner, "AZDA Face of Dance" Contest Winner 2008.



Taryn Toe-stand

# AZDA

THE NORTH VALLEY  
STUDIO FOR ASPIRING &  
RECREATIONAL DANCERS

Performance to a dancer is what the Olympics are to a gymnast. It's the opportunity to entertain an audience who appreciates a mastered skill, personal discipline and an art that moves the soul. Dancers are motivated by the upcoming performance and Samantha Scotto, owner and artistic director of AZDA (Arizona Dance Addiction), understands that and offers a competitive and professional high-performance dance studio for aspiring dancers.

Her passion for dance, the history of the art and the discipline to achieve the greatest potential for each dancer, led to her opening AZDA in August 2008. The studio provides the highest quality in instruction for children and adults in ballet, jazz, ballroom, tap and hip hop.

Samantha expressed that dance instructors have

a critical role in a dancer's future. "Our instructors are highly trained and committed to instructing our students in mastering dance techniques and inspiring students to succeed. They have a purpose, they have to be professional and inspire. I have zero tolerance for negative instruction. It's true that an excellent dancer does not make an excellent instructor. There is a difference.

"Taking class from consistent teachers is pivotal in learning and developing as a dancer, having a guest artist teach a master class offers students a challenge and a chance to learn from someone with a relevant career in the industry."

Instructors are selected for the age and dance genre. Samantha personally instructs the three to six year old ballet classes and explained that she wants "to instill proper form, technique and attitude toward the art. I want our youngest dancers to get the experience of performing and embracing the history of the dance."

"Ballet changed my life growing up. The discipline and poise taught in ballet class was a great education in perseverance, dedication and accountability. I developed the love for ballet at a young age because my instructors took a personal interest in me and made tedious ballet training applicable by having us become a youth ballet company. Not all dancers are given the opportunities I was given, such as performing with Principal dancers of American Ballet Theater at the age of 15. My hopes are to pass along this very special experience to my dancers and watch them become beautiful people, on the stage and in life,"

reflected Samantha.

While many of the students at AZDA are passionate about dance, there are young and adult students who enjoy dance for fun and fitness and to learn a particular type of dance for an upcoming function, like ballroom dancing.

"Ballroom dancing has changed a lot and has become increasingly popular," explained Samantha. "Today, ballroom dancing is the kind of dance you see on Dancing with the Stars.

"Ballroom dancing is huge in Utah and is developing in Arizona. Ballroom for kids gives them a confidence and poise that not a lot of other disciplines do, especially for teenage boys. It teaches them how to dance with a girl and how to respectfully touch girls in a non-sexual way, which is very important today.

More and more adults are enjoying the trends of ballroom dancing as well and we offer classes for both beginner and advanced students."

In addition to the ballroom dance and beginner classes for younger children, AZDA offers excellent instruction for the aspiring, professional dancer. "AZDance Group rehearses here, they are a non-profit, professional ballet and contemporary company in the Valley. Artistic Director, Kenda Newbury, also provides performance opportunities for her Movement E-Motion dance group. These students have different abilities such as Down Syndrome and Autism," explained Samantha. "During the summer we hold several Dance Intensive Programs where committed dancers have an opportunity to participate in dance



Top: AZDA's "Petit Fleurs" during a Studio Showcase  
Right: Dancers prepare for the Anthem Veteran's Day Parade



training 5 hours a day 4-5 days a week, as well as master classes from professional dancers from Ballet Arizona, American Ballet Theater and the Pussycat Dolls! These programs are broken into two different workshops during the summer including a Ballet Intensive program and a Dance & Culture program that focuses on all the basics plus dance history, lyrical and musical theater."

Something unique about AZDA is the Adult Beginner Class Series, including ballet, jazz, tap, Burlesque, hip hop and Pilates. "There are so

many women who want to learn to dance but due to the busy-ness of life do not have time. Each type of dance class is three to five weeks long and hip hop is year round meeting every Tuesday evening. We'll start the five week ballet course in January 2009, then Burlesque for four weeks and so on. Adult students can pick the classes and weeks that best fit their interest and schedules.

"Our Burlesque class, which is held upstairs in our private dance studio, has become one of our mom's and women's most intriguing classes,"

explained Samantha enthusiastically. "When they realize they don't have to be in perfect shape and each woman learns to dance in a sensual way (not a strip class by any means), she develops a high level of confidence and appreciation for her femininity.

"We have Scandal-esque, an adult performing troupe, coming to the studio to instruct women in the art of Burlesque in a fun atmosphere. Burlesque is a mix of Jazz technique with a provocative "cabaret" flair.

"We also have a Mommy Hip Hop and Jazz class that takes place during Boogie Woogie Babies, our toddler combo class. In addition to learning to dance moms get an overall workout to help with toning.

While the studio has an abundance of dance options for the beginner and advanced student, their focus is on preparing for performances. Throughout the year they schedule and train for performances during every season of the year. Dancers will perform at the Glendale Glitters, Tempe Marketplace Holiday Show, Desert Ridge Marketplace Show, Anthem Days, end of the year concert and more. With all these scheduled shows Samantha expressed that students at her studio learn to understand accountability. As part of a dance team and part of a performance, students learn that dance is not just an "after school activity," it's a team commitment, and a very rewarding one at that.

At AZDA, aspiring and recreational dancers have many opportunities to perform and master dance techniques, create memories and build dreams. "AZDA has become the new favorite studio of Anthem and Deer Valley dancers for technical training and performance opportunities."

**AZDA**  
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Dance Education & Performance  
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Samantha Scotto, Artistic Director & Owner



## Upcoming AZDA Classes

**Cupid's Night Out - Saturday February 14th**  
Parents drop off your young dancers for a night of dance and tumbling while you enjoy your Valentine's Day date! Pizza will be served! Ages four and up are welcome. \$25 per student, \$5 discount for a second sibling. Call for times/details and to register for the night.

**"Sweets for your Sweetheart..." Friday, February 6th.**  
Call to register. Burlesque introductory one hour and 15 minute class just in time to romance your sweetheart for Valentine's Day! Have fun, meet great women and learn a new form of dance. Class will be led by Valley-known "Scandal-esque" troupe member, Lady Fontayne.

**Adult Workshops for Students 21 and Over**  
• **January 13-February 10th: Adult Ballet Workshop.** Tuesdays 6:30-7:45pm. 5 week workshop, \$65.  
• **February 24th-March 17th: Adult Burlesque Dance Workshop.** Tuesdays 6:30-7:45pm. 4 wk. workshop, \$55.  
• **March 24th-April 7th: Adult Tap Workshop.** Tuesdays 6:30-7:45pm. 3 week workshop, \$40.

**April 14th- May 5th**  
**Adult Pilates Workshop.**  
Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm. 4 week workshop, \$70.

For Summer Program information please contact the studio directly, pre-registration discounts available. Look for summer schedule in early March 2009.

**"Face of Dance" AZDA Magazine Model Search**  
AZDA will be looking for a new face for our magazine advertisements. If your dancer has that special sparkle, is dedicated to dance and loves to be the star, enter AZDA's contest. Our winning dancer will be featured in our newsletter, on our website and of course as our "Face of Dance" in all our advertisements.

**Dance-A-Thon Saturday, February 28th 2:00-5:30pm**  
Charity fundraiser for our dance scholarship program, Operation ASPIRE, helps pay for dance classes and costumes for students who show commitment and passion and whose families are experiencing extreme medical/financial hardship. The event includes dance relays, line dancing, choreography and dance contests.