

## KIDS UNLIMITED DIRECTORS



**Carol Sottosanti** was taught the fundamentals of singing from her father, an opera singer, who taught her a variety of music. She sang throughout school in choirs and trios. As a featured soloist, she received a full scholarship to the U of A in Vocal performance.

Taking time to raise a family, music remained an important part of Carol's life and came out in all of her children. Unable to find a program that allowed young performers to gain stage experience, she put small shows together with several other moms; it was then that Kids Unlimited was born. The name came from the belief that "Kids" can do anything. That was in 1986, and Carol is still the full time Artistic Director, overseeing all

of the programs at KU Studios. Within the last decade she added the Ensemble program to KU; the goal being to find the connection to the music. There are now 3 levels of Ensemble, with the Advanced Elite Ensemble singing in 4 parts, and is the highlight of her teaching every week. She is also a hardworking vocal coach and teacher who specializes in working with children and teens. She continues to coach many students competitively with great success, and has a reputation for finding the right song for the right person. Carol also enjoyed many years of extra and stand in work on various movies and tv series. She has done quite a bit of casting in this area as well.

For her work with Kids Unlimited, Carol's awards are many, two of which include the prestigious "Lumie" and "Ordinary Women Doing Extraordinary Things" from the Eller Business College. Most recently she received an award for "Making Children's Lives Better." She would tell you the greatest reward, after being part of Kids Unlimited, is the confidence children and teens come away with and the friendships they make.

Carol has seven successful children, sixteen beautiful grandchildren, and a wonderful husband, known affectionately at KU as "the Dad" (though now he's grown into a Grandpa). She feels truly blessed to have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young performers, while continuing her passion in music, and still believes the best is yet to come! Musicians do NOT retire!

## KIDS UNLIMITED DIRECTORS



### **Kelli (Cable) Workman**

*(Vince and Carol's daughter)*

*A founding member and Co-Director/Resident  
Choreographer of Kids Unlimited*

At nine years of age, Kelli began performing professionally in Musical Theater at the TCC Music Hall working for the prestigious Southern Arizona Light Opera Company. At just 11, she was cast as Baby Louise in *Gypsy*, with Tony award winner Betty Buckley playing Mama Rose. Throughout her teenage years, Kelli continued working solidly on stage and of course with Kids Unlimited. She doubled as the groups'

choreographer and teacher.

Some of her favorite shows include *West Side Story*, *42nd St*, *Crazy for You*, and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, *Triumph of Love*, and *Godspell*. She has sailed to over 30 countries as a lead singer, dancer, and Cabaret artist; she continued regional theater, as well as choreographing and dancing for *The Legendary Superstars* at the Santa Ana Star Casino. She toured 15 cities in China as a featured singer with the Art-i-fact Dance Project. She also had the pleasure to be part of the original casts for Gaslight Music Hall's *Rock and Roll*, *Vegas*, and *Christmas revues*.

Kelli is a Fletcher Pilates Instructor, having taught at Bodyworks Pilates for over ten years and remains part of the teaching faculty for Fletcher Pilates. Kelli's passion for teaching extends beyond the big stage; she feels the most vital tools are taught in the classroom and KU's small shows in the community.

Kelli felt the pull to fill her artistic cup and has moved to NYC to pursue the arts. While she is always missing her KU family, she is still very much involved co-directing and advising alongside her mother (Carol) and mentoring the KU teachers.

Congrats to my KU fam on another successful show!

## KIDS UNLIMITED DIRECTORS



### **Jennie Marshall-Wright**

*(Vince & Carol's daughter)*

*A founding member and Director/Resident*

*Choreographer of Kids Unlimited*

*Director of Kids Unlimited Arkansas*

*Vocalist, Dancer, Actress, and Mentor*

Jennie was raised to love many, if not all, music genres! Music has always been the constant in her family. She began performing professionally as a teen for Southern Arizona Light Opera company in Tucson, AZ where her love of theatre was born. Classically trained in voice and dance throughout her teens, and landing a scholarship to the prestigious American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA) in NYC, NY, Jennie continued her training in Musical Theater and acting fields, landing film and theatre roles, post education.

Some of her favorite roles: stand-in for Luisa in the movie musical "The Fantastiks" and dear to her heart, Betty Rogers in "Will Rogers Follies", Chava in "Fiddler on The Roof", Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz", and Stephanie Mangano in the Broadway National Tour of "Saturday Night Fever". Performing overseas with the USO in South Korea for The US troops was a highlight in her career.

Additionally, Jennie has worked with several production companies for major cruise lines and has had the pleasure of working in Nashville, TN with Mr. Gary Musick, in Los Angeles with Mr. Barry Manilow's management at Stiletto Entertainment, and in Florida with Christy Coachman and Robert Cling with RCCL, Carnival Cruise Entertainment Team and on Board with Holland America's musician department based in Seattle, WA entertaining over 15 years of world travelers! and seeing over 40 countries. Singing backing vocals for actor / songwriter Mr. Paul Williams was a favorite, too!

Currently Mentoring Customer Service agents in the world of Hospitality you can find Jennie in the vibrant downtown historic district called Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas.

*Mom, Dad, and our family! and to all our volunteers over the years that make this organization KIDS UNLIMITED one of a kind in Tucson!*

*HAVE AN INCREDIBLE SHOW WEEK!*

*Ms. Jennie*

## **ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR AND MENTOR FOR TEACHING PROGRAM**



**Thea Hinojosa** (Taya) is a Tucson native. Taya began her performing journey at age 5, when she discovered and joined Kids Unlimited. When Taya aged out of the program at 18, she began teaching classes. Taya has spent the last eight years working closely under Directors Carol Sottosanti and Kelli Workman, learning and growing constantly. Her favorite part of KU are the small shows around town, seeing the reactions from the local audiences and the growth in the students from each experience.

In her adult musical career, Taya was ensemble and co-dance captain for the AZ OnStage production of Producers, and Donna Sheridan in PCC's Mamma Mia. Early 2020, she co-directed/co-choreographed SAPAC's production of Hot Mikado (alongside Kelli Workman, a dream as always). Taya choreographed alongside Kelli again for CYT's Matilda. Most recently she co-choreographed CYT's Newsies, a wonderful collaboration with her home studio, KU, in April of 2022.

KU will always be a second home and has a very special place in her heart. It is one of her greatest joys to watch the little ones grow up and find themselves on stage. Taya has a wonderful husband, Allen, and a beautiful toddler, Adilene, whom she loves very much. This year, they welcomed their second baby girl, Aria, and have been soaking up all the baby snuggles. Allen, thank you for continuing to support me through all my endeavors and for being the best dance dad to our Adi girl!



**Jennings Strouss**  
**LAW FIRM**

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member of The Law Firm Alliance (LFA)**

## PERFORMING CLASS INSTRUCTORS/MENTORS

<b>Sparkling</b> .....	Brittni Obregon, Tabitha Roberts
<b>Twinkling</b> .....	Faith Clare, Maya Lamoreaux, Jaela Quijada
<b>Shining I</b> .....	Brittni Obregon, Melodie Jones
<b>Shining II</b> .....	Helen Ahern, Tabitha Roberts
<b>Starlight</b> .....	Jessica Lumm, Faith Clare
<b>KStar</b> .....	Bailey Cruce, Jessica Lumm
<b>Jr Co Performing</b> .....	Carol Sottosanti, Helen Ahern, Jaya Rodriguez

## VOICE INSTRUCTORS/MENTORS

<b>Prelude</b> .....	Carol Sottosanti, Maya Lamoreaux, Jaela Quijada
<b>Intermezzo</b> .....	Carol Sottosanti, Faith Clare
<b>Molto Allegro</b> .....	Carol Sottosanti, Faith Clare
<b>Bel Canto</b> .....	Carol Sottosanti, Michelle Ahern

## DANCE INSTRUCTORS

<b>Shannon Bedortha</b> .....	Green/Blue Ballet, Green/Blue Ballet Tech, Pre-Pointe, Purple Ballet, Orange/Purple Ballet Tech
<b>Grace Clare</b> .....	Int Tap
<b>Maya Lamoreaux</b> .....	Hip Hop
<b>Jessica Lumm</b> .....	Adv Tap, Adv Jazz, Int/Adv Tap, Adv Lyrical
<b>Kaitlyn Smith</b> .....	Pink Ballet/Beg Jazz Combo, Beg Tap, Int/Adv Lyrical, Int/Adv Jazz, Orange Ballet, Int Jazz

## KIDS UNLIMITED TEACHERS



**Helen Ahern** started performing with KU in 2014 at seven years old. Her favorite thing about KU is the lifelong friendships and the confidence she gained. She began mentor teaching in 2018 and continues to teach performing classes. Helen performed her last show with KU in 2022 when she graduated from Ironwood Ridge High School. She is currently pursuing an Elementary Education degree at the University of Arizona.

## KIDS UNLIMITED TEACHERS



**Michelle Ahern** was classically trained in voice and dictation by Sammy Cowan, director of the Victoria Community Children's Choirs. She has performed in the musical productions of *The King and I*, *Annie*, *The Music Man*, *Oklahoma*, *The Wizard of Oz* and *Annie Get Your Gun*. She performed in the A Capella Choir while attending Austin College in Sherman, Texas. Michelle has also been the co-director of the King's Kids Choir musicals at the Oro Valley Church of the Nazarene for the past nine years. Michelle holds an M.A. in Deaf Education from the University of Arizona and an M.Ed. in Educational Administration from Grand Canyon

University. She has been teaching here at ASDB for 24 years.



**Shannon Eileen Bedortha** spent the beginning of her ballet career at Ballet Austin. She danced many prominent roles there including Clara in *Nutcracker*.

Once she graduated from Austin High School, in 2006, she moved to Pittsburgh PA to be an apprentice with Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre and trained there for 4 years.

In 2010, Shannon was offered a company position with Ballet Tucson where she danced for four seasons in many classical ballet roles for many well-known classic pieces: *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *the Nutcracker*, as well as many contemporary original choreography

pieces by a variety of renowned dancers.

Shannon currently resides in Tucson, AZ with her boyfriend and two dogs. She works at a busy downtown restaurant. In her free time, she loves to bake and hike, but currently, her favorite thing is to teach ballet!



**Bailey Cruce** is very excited to be teaching at KU again. After living in LA and New York Bailey is bringing her expertise as a performer and choreographer back to her KU family. She is currently active in the film and tv industry, and is preparing for a feature film as a major supporting role. Bailey is also happy to be stage managing the KU show for the third year in a row. She has been a part of the KU family for 23 years and is always excited to be part of the shows.

## KIDS UNLIMITED TEACHERS



**Faith Clare** is 20 years old and has been performing with Kids Unlimited since she was 9 years old. She has enjoyed being a mentor teacher since she was 15 and has continued to teach at KU. She currently attends Pima Community College where she is studying to get a Fitness and Wellness certificate.



**Jessica Lumm** is a recent graduate of the University of Arizona with a major in biology. She began performing at the age of 4 with Kids Unlimited. She now teaches dance and performing classes at KU. Throughout her studies at University High School, Jessica choreographed as well as participated in performances with the Primavera Dance class. Her senior year, she lent her talents assisting with choreography for University High's production of Oklahoma. In addition to her experience in choreography, she has performed in University High's productions of Mary Poppins and Oklahoma. Jessica has also loved being

a part of Tucson local theater where she was dance captain in Arizona Onstage Productions' performance of The Producers and she was assistant choreographer in SAPAC's performance of Hot Mikado. Jessica has been thrilled to be a part of this KU presentation and is excited to be a part of how KU continues to inspire its students for the upcoming semesters!



**Brittni Obregon** started performing with Kids Unlimited in 2003 at the age of 5 and began teaching as a mentor teacher in 2012. After graduating from Flowing Wells High School in 2016 she devoted her time to teaching different classes at KU. Brittni danced for the Tucson Sugar Skulls (IFL) as a Sugar Doll for one season in 2022. After dancing with the team she attended Pro Action Dance Camp, where she got to dance alongside NFL cheerleaders, NBA dancers, and other professional dancers. She is currently in school studying Human Development and Family studies and would like to pursue a career in Occupational Therapy.

## KIDS UNLIMITED TEACHERS



**Kaitlyn Smith** grew up in Ohio where she began her dance training at the age of four. She has studied a wide variety of styles, but ballet and lyrical are closest to her heart. She began teaching ballet and lyrical at age sixteen as well as choreographing for her high school's show choir and dance team. Katie received her BFA in Photography and Fine Arts from Columbus College of Art & Design in 2016. While in Columbus, she spent 5 years teaching creative movement, tap, jazz, musical theatre, lyrical and ballet to students of all ages and skill levels. In 2017 Smith moved to Tucson to receive her MFA in Photo | Video | Imaging from the University of Arizona but went home each summer to teach

dance classes in Columbus. Outside of Kids Unlimited, Smith is an artist and an educator. Her artwork has shown internationally, and she is currently an adjunct professor at both the University of Arizona and Cochise College.

## LET US ENTERTAIN YOU

As a member of KU, our performers have the opportunity to perform in all of our "small shows". Community service is a large part of the KU experience, with performances for the Salvation Army Thanksgiving & Christmas dinners, Casa de Los Ninos Family Fiesta, TORCH, nursing homes and community centers throughout the Tucson area.

## UPCOMING SHOWS

*(schedule subject to change)*

June 2nd & 3rd . . . . . Talent Showcase 2023  
November 10th & 11th. . . . . KU Fall Show 2023  
May 31st & June 1st. . . . . Talent Showcase 2024  
June 10, 2023. . . . . Children Museum Arts After Dark  
November 23, 2023. . . . . Salvation Army - Thanksgiving Day Dinner  
December 8, 2023. . . . . KU Holiday Party  
December 9, 2023. . . . . Walk Like MADD  
December 9, 2023. . . . . Rincon Country East  
December 16, 2023 . . . . . Rincon Country West  
December 25, 2023. . . . . Salvation Army Holiday Dinner