

Member Profile



Kym Degenhart

When did you start dancing?

I started dancing when I was 6 years old and completed most of my training at Ann Roberts School of Dancing in Townsville, North Queensland.

What do you love about dancing?

Dancing has brought me so much joy and has provided me with so many wonderful opportunities. As a performer and teacher, I have lived in Paris, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Sydney as well as travelled to many countries around the world. I love that dance is always evolving and you can never stop learning new things. I love the way you can step on stage or into a class and forget all of your worries - it's that intense feeling of being in the moment. Dance also provides so many of my students with a voice and a purpose they may have never had before.



What do you love about teaching and sharing dance?

I love seeing the joy on my students' faces when they have achieved their goals - whether it is after their first performance in front of an audience or finally nailing a difficult combination- no goals are too big or too small. Teaching allows me to encourage the love of dance and create opportunities for those who share this passion. Dance is really powerful and I learn just as much from my students as they do from me. It's about sharing emotions and experiences, as well as technique, to collaborate and create something meaningful. The skills a dancer gains from the art, sometimes without

realising it, extend far beyond the classroom; increasing their confidence, discipline, commitment, determination, flexibility, focus and leadership. As a teacher, I am so proud to be part of this life journey for each of my students.

Do you have a favourite style? If so, what is it and why?

Tap & Cabaret are my two favourites, though I appreciate and enjoy so many styles. I have always loved playing with rhythms, beats and syncopation. I try to challenge myself with the music I use for tap and depending on what mood I'm in, I like to swap between classic technical and newer stomp styles of tap. Cabaret is a style I performed most often as a professional dancer. It's based on ballet and jazz technique but is usually danced in heels with smart, stylish and slightly cheeky choreography. I found this style suited my body type (tall with long legs) and I always enjoyed the musical theatre feel and stage persona required.



Have you faced any challenges during your dance career so far?

Most dancers face injuries but I was fortunate enough not to suffer from anything major during my performance career. I found the biggest challenge for me was the uncertainty and inconsistency when living from contract to contract. Also, I spent nearly my whole performance career in a long-term relationship so I tried to choose contracts that would allow my partner (now my husband) to move and live with me. As overseas work got harder and harder to find for both of us together, we decided to settle in Australia. I completed my Graduate Diploma in Education and am now teaching Dance full time at Calwell High School. This has given me much higher job security while allowing me to continue sharing my passion for Dance.

What do you find inspiring?

Everywhere I look there's inspiration. My students inspire me; my friends and work colleagues inspire me; self-trained artists inspire me; music inspires me and drives a lot of my choreographic choices. Classic artists like Bob Fosse, Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly, Ginger Rogers, Cyd Charisse and Julie Andrews always provided me with inspiration growing up.

And thanks to YouTube, making dance so much more accessible, artists like these, along with their modern counterparts, are easily viewable.

What have you been most proud of in your dance career so far?

On stage, my proudest moment would be performing cancan solo on my final night at the Moulin Rouge in Paris. Performing the cancan was so exhausting and technical, but I loved the thrill of dancing it every night. Making a career out of Dance when so many people told me it wasn't possible and now being able to pass on my passion and experience to others, is something I find incredibly rewarding.

What are your plans for this year? The next few years?

I try to provide my students with as many performance opportunities as possible. This semester my students are working on routines for Limelight, Dance Festival, Calwell's Arts Extravaganza and for the WSB Hip Hop Championships in Sydney. Last year, they placed third in Australia so they have been working really hard to try to place again this year. Professionally, I've continued to teach freelance outside of school teaching but it is a dream of mine to one day own my own dance studio.

