

PERFORMING ARTS STUDIO TEACHER BIOGRAPHIES

JODY HAGGERTY (MTC Director of Dance, Choreographer, Dance Teacher, Private Dance Teacher) • Town: Berwyn, PA

Jody has been teaching dance and involved in musical theater for more than 30 years. She began her training at the age of three in Philadelphia and continued to study in New York City. Theatrically she has performed such roles as "Connie" in "A Chorus Line", Louise in "Carousel", and "Maggie Anderson" in "Brigadoon". Jody's choreography credits with MTC include ***Les Miserables, School Edition, The Little Mermaid, Mary Poppins, Aladdin, Kids & Princess Sing-Along, Anything Goes, Fiddler On The Roof,*** and ***Bye Bye Birdie.*** Outside of MTC, she has choreographed many shows including *Crazy For You, Brigadoon, 42nd Street, Phantom Of The Opera,* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie.* Besides teaching MTC's Performing Arts Studio Dance Classes, she coaches / choreographs its Showstoppers Elite Performing Group. When not choreographing for theater, Jody can be found coaching award-winning dance competition teams that have placed First Overall, won scholarships, and qualified for the World Dance Championships.

JULIA MCHALE (MTC Dance Teacher, Choreographer) • Town: Moorestown

Julia just finished her fourth summer with MTC's Summer Stage '17 as a choreographer, and as a Hip-Hop and Ballet Teacher. Her favorite MTC recent choreography credit was ***The Lion King, Jr.*** where she learned a dance style new to her called balinese and which she incorporated with ballet and jazz to form stunning choreography for the MTC Summer Stage children. She danced herself for many years with Core Academy. You can also see her on the sidelines for her second year as a member of the Philadelphia Eagles Cheerleading Squad. She is studying to obtain her bachelor's degree and her teaching certification in Early Childhood Education at Rowan University. Julia is also the daughter of Moorestown's 'Pie Lady' (Christine McHale) and you might see her working the front counter occasionally.

MARK MORGAN (MTC Founding Trustee, Producing Artistic Director, Director, Acting Teacher, Private Audition Coaching Teacher) • Town: Moorestown

MTC is celebrating its 15th Anniversary Season this year and of our 135 productions, Mark has directed 92 of them! He also has directed 20 other productions for other theater companies. He is thrilled to run this award-winning organization, after starting his community theater career back in 1981 at Upper Darby (PA) Summer Stage. Mark is very pleased that MTC has won two awards for its production of ***Hairspray, Jr.*** at the Eastern States Theater Association Festival (ESTAFest) in Wilmington, DE in April - "Outstanding Production Showcase" and "Outstanding Achievement In Choreography"! He is so proud of MTC's ***Disney's Peter Pan, Jr., Disney's My Son Pinocchio, Jr.,*** and ***Willy Wonka, Jr.*** Casts, all of which earned "Excellence In Acting" Awards under his direction at the **Jr. Theater Festivals** in Atlanta in January 2017, 2015, and 2014, respectively. He is also so excited that MTC will be taking two Casts to JTF '18 (***Hairspray, Jr.*** and ***Willy Wonka, Jr.***). Mark was honored to direct a 'pilot' production (at Disney Theatricals' request) of ***Mary Poppins, Jr.*** in May 2016, and also directed MTC's first World Premiere of ***Magic Tree House: A Ghost Tale For Mr. Dickens, Jr.*** in December 2014. He just directed a favorite show - MTC's East Coast Premiere of ***West Side Story, School Edition*** in August (after dancing in it way back in August 1984). Some favorite roles / shows include 'Dream Curly' / ***Oklahoma!*** , 'Bobby Child' / ***Crazy For You,*** 'Rooster' / ***Annie*** (twice), 'Nathan Detroit' / ***Guys & Dolls,*** 'Will Parker' / ***Oklahoma!*** (twice), 'Tulsa' / ***Gypsy,*** 'Jeff Douglas' / ***Brigadoon,*** 'Big Daddy' / ***Sweet Charity,*** 'Prince Dauntless' / ***Once Upon A Mattress,*** 'Sir Evelyn' / ***Anything Goes,*** 'Prez' / ***The Pajama Game,*** 'Dick' / ***Dames At Sea,*** 'Sir Grimsby' / ***Disney's The Little Mermaid,*** and the title character in ***The Wizard Of Oz.*** He has two Temple University degrees and he is very excited that MTC received the 'Community Enrichment Award' from the **Burlington County Regional Chamber of Commerce** at its 'Voice Of Business Awards' Dinner in April 2016. Mark teaches MTC's Audition Coaching & Acting Classes, and is the Director for MTC's new elite ensemble, **Showstoppers.**

CAROL ANN MURRAY (MTC Founding Trustee, Managing Director, Vocal Director, Music Teacher, Private Voice Lesson Teacher) • Town: Moorestown

Carol Ann has been involved in 168 productions during her career, and has been a Vocal Director for 63 of MTC's 135 productions to date. She has been a musician her whole life, starting piano at the age of six and lending her Soprano vocals to numerous organizations over years including Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia, the Chamber Choir of her Alma Mater – The College of New Jersey – and the choir of First Baptist Church of Moorestown. Her last MTC Lead Role was as 'The Ghost Of Christmas Present' in MTC's *A Christmas Carol* in December. Moorestonians have also seen her as 'Ursula, the Sea Witch' / *The Little Mermaid*, as 'Winifred Banks' / *Mary Poppins*, 'Bonnie' / *Anything Goes*, 'Golde' / *Fiddler On The Roof*, 'Muzzy Van Hossmere' / *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, 'Mrs. MacAfee' / *Bye, Bye Birdie*, 'Maggie Jones' / *42nd Street*, 'Ethel McCormack' / *Footloose*, 'Nellie Forbush' / *South Pacific*, 'Truly Scrumptious' / *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, 'Sara Brown' / *Guys & Dolls*, 'Mrs. Potts' / *Beauty & The Beast*, 'Anna Leonowens' / *The King & I*, 'Ado Annie Carnes' / *Oklahoma!* (MS '05), 'Vi Moore' / *Footloose* (MS '04), and 'Marian Paroo' / *The Music Man* ('99). Other favorite roles / shows: 'Babe Williams' / *The Pajama Game*, 'Julie Jordan' & 'Carrie Pipperidge' / *Carousel*, and 'Joanne' / *Godspell*. Carol Ann teaches MTC's Private Voice Lessons, and oversees MTC's Music, Costumes, Props, and Development departments, and is the Vocal Director for MTC's new elite ensemble, **Showstoppers**.

ERICA SIRDASHNEY (MTC Stage Director, Literacy Teacher) • Town: Berlin

Erica was an elementary school teacher for over 20 years specializing in English and Literacy. She is thrilled to have just directed her first MTC production (*Willy Wonka, Jr.*) last month, and thanks everyone for the warm welcome. Erica has directed numerous shows locally and is thrilled to have built her own literacy program based around theater and musical theater. She is especially excited to bring *Willy Wonka, Jr.* to the **Junior Theater Festival** in Atlanta, GA in January 2018. Her Academy A group production of *Disney's The Lion King, Kids* was awarded an "Excellence in Acting Award" at JTF '17. She is very pleased to be able to bring her Reader's Theater Literacy Program to MTC.

OLIVIA WEST (MTC Dance Teacher, Choreographer) • Town: Moorestown

Olivia just finished her third summer with MTC's Summer Stage, this year being her first as a choreographer and dance teacher. She was thrilled to be able to choreograph Session IV, *Broadway Kids III*. No stranger to dance, Olivia has been featured in many itheatrics choreography DVDs and has been a part of numerous itheatrics workshops. She also 'brought home' a choreography award for her amazing dance routines in *Disney's The Little Mermaid, Jr.* from the Junior Theater Festival in 2014. This past year she was able to perform on Broadway in a musical number from *Chicago* because of itheatrics and she had an internship with a casting firm in New York City. Olivia is a sophomore in college, attending RCBC at the moment before transferring to another institution of higher learning. She is honored to be able to teach MTC dance classes and choreograph *Elf The Musical, Jr.* this Fall with **Kelsey Marcoccia**.