



# NOTES

A Newsletter For The Friends and Supporters of Dance, Etc., Newtown Dance Etc., 117 Mount Pleasant Rd., Newtown, CT 06470 • 203-426-8717 •

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## Start Polishing Those Apples

Start polishing those apples, dance students. Dance Etc. is welcoming four new teachers this year. You'll get to know them in class, but here's a little bit about them to get the conversation started.

**Jill Gorrie**, a graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, is a performer, dance teacher and choreographer who resides in New York City. As a performer, she has traveled throughout the United States with the Broadway national touring production of "State Fair" starring John Davidson, as well as with numerous regional productions such as "The Will Rogers Follies", "Guys and Dolls", and "Crazy for You", to name a few. She has been the assistant director/choreographer for three productions at the Westchester Broadway Theatre and is currently working on choreographing a new musical to be produced in Europe. Jill was the dance captain for the international touring company of the musical "Grease" and was responsible for staging the productions in Berlin, Zurich, Frankfurt, Istanbul, and for German Chancellor Schroeder. She has been an assistant casting agent for the European touring productions of the musicals "Grease" and "Hair".

Jill is on the national faculty of Dance Masters of America, and her choreography has been awarded national titles throughout the dance competition circuit. She frequently teaches master classes and workshops both domestically and abroad, including a trip to teach in South Africa this past spring. She was principal dancer in the recently released film "The Stepford Wives" starring Nicole Kidman.

**Teresa Joy Diaz-Hennessey** has been dancing for 18 years. She has competed for 8 years regionally and nationally. Teresa is currently a member of the Sacred Heart University Dance Team (3rd year). She has danced in Scotland and England with the Regional Center for the Arts. Coached Monroe Pop Warner Cheerleading Team for one year. She is a dancer and motivator for Sound Solutions Entertainment Inc out of Norwalk, and coach of the Bassick High School Dance Team.

**Evin Elise Diaz-Hennessey** has been dancing for 13 years. She has competed for 10 years regionally and nationally and is a Solo Title winner at StarQuest, Stars of Tomorrow, and Star Power talent competitions. Evin has performed in the off-Broadway production of "Annie" as Duffy at the Goodspeed Opera



### Classes Starting September 7

Fear not, dance students, classes begin on Tuesday, Sept. 7th!

House and in high school productions "Annie" and "Once on this Island". She was also a Pop Warner Cheerleader for 2 years and is a member of the Masuk High School Varsity Cheerleading team.

From New York City, **Valerie Smith** began her dance training with Nationally renowned teacher Anna Marie Leo in Delaware at the early age of three. Her studies also include the New York School of Ballet, Houston Ballet, Cleveland Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, Eglevsky Ballet, The College of Performing Arts in Pennsylvania, The Performing Arts Center in Los Angeles California, The Edge in Los Angeles, Broadway Dance Center in NYC, and Steps NYC. She danced with Eglevsky Ballet and Wilmington Ballet Companies. Her Broadway credits include the National/International tours of Beauty and the Beast, 42nd Street, Evita, Meet Me in St. Louis, along with the Radio City Christmas Spectacular in New York City. She has performed regionally in numerous shows, some of her favorites are: A Chorus Line, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, West Side Story, Crazy for You, Bye Bye Birdie, Anything Goes and My Fair Lady. Valerie has also appeared with many stars, such as: Gregory Hines, David Copperfield, Tony Danza, Barry Bostwick, James Earl Jones and country singer legend Glen Campbell. Her credits also include Television, Film, Commercials, and Industrials. To add to all of her performing credits, Valerie is a teacher and choreographer. She has taught dance throughout the United States at Universities, Performing Arts High Schools, Theatre Programs for

children and Studios. She has choreographed various musicals for Casino, Regional, Dinner, Children, High School and University Theatres. Valerie is a faculty member of the Performing Arts High School in Virginia and is thrilled to join the staff of Dance Etc.!

## Sam Davies Gets Solar Powered

Dance Etc.'s own Samantha Davies auditioned for the Mohegan Sun's Solar Power Dance Team this past spring and spent the summer performing at the games of the WNBA's Connecticut Sun, which is based at Mohegan Sun. The Solar Power Dance Team performs at all 17 Sun home games, as well as making various appearances throughout the year. The dance team also joins the Sun players, coaches and front office staff on various community events.

You can still see Sam perform with the Solar Power Dance Team at the Connecticut Sun home games on:

- FRIDAY September 3RD 7:00 pm CONNECTICUT SUN VS NY LIBERTY
- SUNDAY September 12th 2:00 pm CONNECTICUT SUN VS SEATTLE STORM
- FRIDAY September 17th 7:00 pm CONNECTICUT SUN VS NEW YORK LIBERTY
- SUNDAY September 19th 12:00 Noon CONNECTICUT SUN VS INDIANA FEVER

All games will be held at the Mohegan Sun Arena . For tickets call 1-877-sun-tixx or 860-862-4062 or visit [www.connecticutsun.com](http://www.connecticutsun.com). Tickets

are \$16.00 to \$50.00. The best seating sections are 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119

Thanks, from Jen

Thank you to everybody for the "studio gift" given to me at the recital in June. I used the funds collected to get the dance floor refinished. Thank you, too, on behalf of all the dance teachers for all of our other generous gifts we received at the recital. Your support and affection really means a lot.

—Jen