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The Dance Company becomes first area dance studio to earn safety certification

The Dance Company has become the first dance studio in the region to achieve Youth Protection Advocates in Dance certification. The certification marks its commitment to keeping kids happy, healthy and safe in dance.

YPAD is the nation's only dance certification program focusing on both safety and wellness for dance students. To earn the designation, studios must complete two training tracks. The first track centers on dance safety and educational best practices. It focuses on background checks, CPR and First Aid, abuse awareness and prevention, injury prevention and response, and safety and emergency preparedness. The second focuses on the wellness and development of youth dancers and covers social media, social media safety, today's dance culture, developmentally appropriate artistry, body image, nutrition, disorder eating, bullying, and conflict resolution. Only studios that complete both tracks are eligible for certification.

“We want to do more than just teach great dance at The Dance Company,” said studio owner Kristine Davis- Garcia. “We want to develop healthy, happy dancers with an environment that focuses on the well-being of kids. Of course, this also helps us contribute to a sustainable, safe future for dance overall.”

The Dance Company offers professional instruction in Jazz, Ballet, Tap, Lyrical, Hip-Hop, Tumbling, Contemporary, and Pointe. The Dance Company trains beginners to pre-professionals from Age 2 to young adults. The Dance Company proudly offers award winning choreographers and competition teams. With two locations in Ventura County, The Dance Company is celebrating its 23rd year in Moorpark and its 9th year in Camarillo.

YPAD was founded in Los Angeles in 2012 by hip hop professional Leslie Scott Zanolich and her husband Joseph Zanolich as a response to negative trends toward commodifying and exploiting youth and adults in performing arts. In 2014, industry professional Misty Lown became its visionary sponsor, and her More Than Just Great Dancing affiliation program became YPAD's first certified organization. Lown's studio, Misty's Dance Unlimited, also became YPAD's first certified dance studio. YPAD leadership transitioned to Lown in 2019. The Zanoliches today continue to serve on YPAD's advisory panel.

YPAD

YOUTH PROTECTION ADVOCATES IN DANCE



Certificate

YPAD SAFETY & WELLNESS CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that

**kristine Davis-
Garcia**

*has successfully completed the requirements to obtain a 2 year
Youth Protection Advocates In Dance® Safety & Wellness Certification*

Certification Education Includes:

- Background Checked & First Aid/CPR certified
- Injury Prevention & Response
- Sexual Abuse Awareness & Prevention
- Risk Management in the Dance Environment
- Social Media, Media Safety & Today's Dance Culture
- Developmentally Appropriate Artistry
- Body Image, Nutrition & Disordered Eating
- Bullying & Conflict Resolution

YOUTH PROTECTION ADVOCATES IN DANCE®