



Lisa Hays



Lisa began dancing at the age of four with The Dorothy Frankovitch School of Theatrical Arts in Las Vegas, Nevada. By the age of ten, she was giving solo performances in pointe and flamenco dance. She competed for a short while with a traveling gymnastics team always doing well in the floor category due to her dance training.

At 12, Lisa began dancing at UNLV with The Nevada Dance Theater under Artistic Director Vasili Sulich where she danced with the youth company in NDT's performances of Hansel and Gretel and The Nutcracker. Later in high school, she was promoted to the corps de ballet for performances of Vivaldi's Four Seasons and The Nutcracker. Lisa earned several dance scholarships in college where she was chosen for the elite song and dance troupe "Showtime Company." They toured during the summers throughout the US and Canada performing in over 70 major cities including Chicago, New York, Montreal, and yes... Nashville. It was in college that she added tap, modern, jazz, and clogging to her repertoire. She also began to compete in ballroom dance where she completed her silver medal training in both Latin and Smooth ballroom and took several 1st and 2nd place trophies competing against world ranked BYU ballroom dance team members. While in college, Lisa began teaching ballet, tap and jazz classes at the local dance studio and then taught ballroom, ballet, and jazz at The Dance Institute in Las Vegas during her summer breaks.

In 1984, Lisa married Rusel Hays and they created their seven wonderful children who now range in age from 27 to 12. During her 20 year career as a military wife there were many times when they were stationed at places without adequate dance studios, so Lisa dusted off her dance shoes and created dance programs on bases in Fairbanks, Alaska and more recently for three years in South Korea.

Ms. Lisa believes that every dancer should have a strong foundation in ballet and pulls her teaching style mainly from the Russian "Vaganova" school, but uses terminology from the more commonly found French and Cecchetti methods. "My main goal is to have a fun but well-disciplined class which teaches every child to be self-confident and to love dance."

Besides teaching at Elite, Lisa is currently competing in Irish dance and gives private lessons in flute, piano, and harp. With her husband, they created the Nashville Fencing Club, and coach the fencing teams for Ravenwood, Page, Franklin, and Centennial High Schools. For the past four years, she has taught hundreds of Ravenwood JROTC cadet's formation ballroom routines which they have performed at their annual Military Ball.

