

## 2011-12 Faculty Bios



**DEANNE BINGLEMAN – Artistic Director/ Office & Programs Manager; Dance Instructor; Choreographer, Drama Basics instructor; Production Manager**

Dee is a mom of three busy boys 12, 8 & 7. Dee has been involved in dance and theatre since the age of three. Throughout her public and high school years Dee was actively involved on the drama teams/programs in her school both on stage and back stage. In 1995 she graduated from UW with her BA in Dance. It is her life mission to bring dance, drama (theatrical arts) to as many people as she can in as many nooks and crannies she can find (or find her). She has been teaching dance & movement to 3 year olds to adults/seniors for over 23 years and in 1998 she received a KW Leading Edge Arts Award for her contributions to the community. She has led short & long term workshops in Creative Movement; Movement for Actors; Physed for Home Schoolers; Creative Dance programs for Home Schoolers, Montessori and Kidsability; Musical Theatre Dance; Hip Hop at Bluevale Collegiate; Modern/Creative Dance to Waterloo Syncro Swimmers, over 5 years of dance and creative theatre based classes / camps at the Breithaupt Centre and several dance/creative theatre workshops for Summer programs & children's birthday parties in KW. She's performed professionally with the Doris Humphrey Repertory Company; in the 8:08 Series in Toronto and with Free Flow Dance Co. Dee was a Co-Founder, Choreographer, Performer and Board Member of the KW Choreographers' Collective, The Founder and Artistic Director of Live to Dance Performance Troupe and Dance Columnist for Culture Focus Magazine. She has had several works presented on Rogers Cable TV, in many local and Southwestern Ontario Festivals and on Breakfast Television. When her children were very little she ran a popular Home Day Care Program. In 2007, Dee created & wrote a movement based theme inspired curriculum for teachers at Kidsability to use in all five of their JK programs which involved children in wheelchairs, walkers, various learning, speech/communication and physical challenges. Summer 2008, Dee co-directed Mystery at Shady Acres. Over the years Dee has worked in several areas of theatre including Assistant Stage Managing, Props & Costume Management, Stage Crew, Fundraiser, Volunteer Management and Production Manager to name a few. Dee has always enjoyed volunteering within the community for events, coordinating Food & Book Drives etc., and helping at her children's school. Since 2008 she successfully led the Treasure Book Campaign for Lexington School helping them raise over \$5200 to date. Dee joined KWCDW as their Choreographer in September 2007 and slowly took on other responsibilities. June 1, 2009 she became the Artistic Director of KWCDW. Dee currently choreographs in Goderich at Contemporary Steps. She teaches Tap and Jazz on Monday nights at Sam's Steps. She is one of the Head Dance instructors at Renaissance School of the Arts teaching Creative, Jazz, Tap, Parent & Tot, Contemporary and Hip Hop Classes. Keep playing, dreaming, creating, having fun, follow your heart and never stop moving! Dee loves to be busy, loves to learn new things/skills and sharing it with others and most definitely looks forward to sharing her passions with you!



**NARA FARRELL – Instructor of Creative Drama & Find the Character courses; March Break “Scene It On Stage” Instructor; Summer Curtain Call Instructor & K.E.W.L. school workshop leader**

Two of Nara's passions are acting and working with children. She has her Early Childhood Education Diploma and worked for years as a Special Needs Childcare Worker. Nara has been teaching Drama for the last 5 years. Comedic acting is her specialty and she LOVES to see children having fun with acting. She has been an ongoing actor in a Murder Mystery Troupe, appeared in several Pantomime productions and in a weekly stage soap opera, through Talk of the Town Productions. She also creates her own characters with her production company, MF Arts.

Nara is one of the Artistic Directors of MF Arts specializing in recreating music video parodies and writing original comedy to film and perform live. It is a very unique company that has a strong following. In its very first year, it won two major competitions for video originality and special editing.

Alongside Erin McFadden at the editing helm, we created K.E.W.L. Skool, our sideline for children. With the K.E.W.L. Skool Summer Camp we will teach drama, visual arts, as well as filming and editing, including a masterpiece performance that can be put onto an online channel for friends and family to easily share.

**MELANIE APRIL FRIES – Dance Instructor; assisting Choreographer**

Melanie is looking forward to returning to KWCDW as a dance instructor and Choreographer. She has trained in Ballet, Modern Dance, National Character Dance and Jazz. Her early years were spent at the Harriston School of Dance with Wendy W. Vernon as her instructor. During her teens, Melanie realized that dance was her passion and began taking additional classes outside her small hometown. For this, her dedicated mom took her to the KW area for weekly classes. Her other training has included summer intensives with some of the industry's best at studio Tanesek in Montreal. There, she received instruction in Modern Dance from Cirque de Soleil choreographer Michael Montanero, and Jean-Louis Moren, former principal dancer and choreographer with the Martha Graham Dance Company. She attained an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Dance from the University of Waterloo. Melanie also directs her own studio, Contemporary Steps, in Goderich and is one of the Head instructors at Renaissance School of the Arts. She aims for each class she teaches to be inspiring and rewarding, both fun and challenging to recreational students and those students interested in making dance an integral part of their lives and future.



**JOY GAROFALO- Director for James & the Giant Peach,  
Instructor of Curtain Call Summer Camp.**

Joy has been with KWCDW for five seasons in varying roles, such as director, assistant director, and class instructor. She helped successfully co-leading Curtain Call camp for a third year instructing & inspiring those 6-12 with an action-packed summer under the themes of the Magic & Mayhem & Pirates Take KW! Joy is currently a creative writing student at Conestoga College, but teaching theatre to children will always be one of her great loves! She is pumped about the upcoming season!

**KENNETH LEFEBVRE –Director of Lion, Witch & the Wardrobe, Instructor for  
Interactive Storytelling & Improv Performance Troupes**

Ken has directed over 100 plays in both Professional and Amateur companies for people of all ages & skill levels with titles from A-Z! From The Mulgrave Rd. Co-op in Guys borough, Nova Scotia to The Renaissance Festival in Huntingdon, Quebec, through to Theatre François du Toronto, Theatre Terra Nova in Hamilton, the Huron Country Playhouse in Grand Bend Ontario, and Theatre 808 in Calgary, Alberta. Children's companies he has worked with include The Simcoe, Young Players, Kid's Stage in Toronto, The National Touring Players of Canada and The Pump house Theatre In Calgary. Ken spent a number of years traveling to Elementary schools in the Grand Valley area with Learning through the Arts leading special workshops on core curriculum subjects using artist methods. Some of Ken's fondest memories in the theatre include directing a production of Salt Water Moon for the Newfoundland Club of Cambridge, Peter Pan for Simcoe Young Players, Zastrozzi for Theatre 808, A Child is Crying on the Stairs for the Gane Yos Centre of the Six Nations and The Dreaming Beauty and Godspell at the Sanderson Centre in Brantford. His most successful production was The Two Row Wampum which was a collective creation using equal numbers of Iroquoian and Canadian artists of European background that toured to Montreal, Toronto, and Winnipeg (as well as over a dozen smaller centres) and was seen by over 20,000 viewers. Ken is happy to be working with the talented kids and teachers at KWCDW.



**Amy Neufeld – Drama Explorers Saturday Programs**

Originally from Ontario, Amy Neufeld has spent the last ten years in Edmonton Alberta working as an actor, teacher and administrator. A graduate of Wilfrid Laurier University in English and Grant MacEwan University's Theatre Arts program focusing on musical theatre, Amy has acted with various companies in Alberta, and taught at the Citadel Theatre, for Freewill Players, and for



Deb Stanson

*'Moving force' is the best way to describe Deb's 10 year association in Wellington County with directing, producing and even writing plays; encouraging and linking the players; creating, leading and linking organizations; and orchestrating building renovations, all of which has put the Centre Wellington literally in the theatrical spotlight.* **(Bryan Hayter, Elora Arts Council, July 1998)**

A graduate of the University of Waterloo, Deb has been involved in theatre for over twenty years. She is a lifetime member of the Elora Community Theatre, (produced and directed over 30 plays) worked with the Wellington County Children's Theatre and was founder and Director of the Wellington Youth Theatre Projects. She volunteered with the John Howard Society for four years, working with youth in the Wellington County area by introducing them to theatre. She is past president of the Elora Community Theatre and served on the board as President of "Theatre on the Grand", a professional summer theatre company.

Classical music has played an important role in her arts life. For four years she was the administrator for Music at Speedside and Strings over the Caribbean, as well as volunteering for the Elora Festival and Guelph Spring Festival. Moving to the Windsor area (1999), she was the Business/Marketing Manager for the Windsor Classic Chorale, retiring in 2004. Deb has volunteered as a Board Member with the Youth Connection and the Boys & Girls Club of Windsor and Essex County and has been a committee member and co-chair of the Art Auction for the Hospice of Windsor and Essex County (2003 & 2005).

From a shared passion for theatre and working with youth, the Riverfront Theatre Company was founded with her daughter Cassandre Young in 2004. They have produced the plays, "Our Town" (July 2005), the musical, "Wonderland" (May 2006), the original musical, "In Search of the Golden Spoons" (December 2006), "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (May 2007), "Peter Pan" (December 2007), "Snow White and the 7 Dwarves" (May 2008) and "Anne of Green Gables" (May 2008). "The Little Mermaid" (November 2008) "Narnia, the Musical" (April 2009). There are now over 100 active members in the Riverfront Theatre Company, ranging in age from 5 to late teens.

In February of 2009, Deb directed "Anne of Green Gable" once again for Elora Community Theatre and the production was adjudicated and chosen as one of five finalists for Theatre Ontario's, Western Ontario Drama Festival in Woodstock, Ontario. "Anne" was nominated for 9 awards and received 2 awards.

Theatre Prospero. She believes strongly in a learning through play approach to teaching, and absolutely loves to play theatre games! In addition to teaching many classes, she has also written several scripts for her students to perform. She is happy to once again call Kitchener-Waterloo home and looks forward to an exciting year teaching new faces!

Deb is currently the Vice-President for Elora Community Theatre and will be directed "Twelfth Night" for Kitchener Waterloo Youth Theatre last fall. May 2010 she brought Peter Pan for KWCDW participants to the stage with outstanding success!

**MATT RICHARDSON – Stage Fighting Workshop Instructor/Choreographer**

**CASSANDRE YOUNG – Director of SNOW WHITE +**

**Headshots and other staff bios will be added as they are received.**