



NICOLE HELFER

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Nicole Helfer is an award winning performing artist, choreographer, director and teacher. She has over 20 years of experience in the Bay Area theatre scene, both on and off the stage. She grew up in the Bay Area and received her BA and teaching credential at San Francisco State University. Her diverse training background includes many styles of dance including tap, ballet, jazz, modern, hip hop, Afro-Haitian, Cuban Salsa and Dunham technique. She has trained at the Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre and is versed in Viewpoints/Suzuki, Meisner technique and puppetry. She is also an AEA actor, trained singer and musical theatre performer. Her vast teaching experience includes working with various skill levels, ages, socio-economic backgrounds and styles of classes, courses and workshops in dance and theatre. Nicole has high-level classroom management skills and an ability to build a positive, community-based learning environment. Her clear, diplomatic, and effective communication style enables her to work collaboratively in various work environments. Recently she received an **Isadora Duncan Dance Award for her choreography for *A Chorus Line*.**

EDUCATION

- Single Subject Teaching Credential 2015 - English Arts (Valid through 07/01/2028)
San Francisco State University
- Bachelor's of Arts 2005 - Special Major: "Performing Arts in the Non-Profit Sector"
(Dance, Classical Voice, Theatre, and Non-Profit Administration)
San Francisco State University

PROFESSIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2026-present **Dance Instructor/Musical Theatre Production Choreographer**
Ohlone Community College, Fremont CA

- Developed and taught original choreography for summer musical theatre production

2026-present **Dance Instructor**
San Francisco Conservatory of Music - Vocal Academy, San Francisco CA

- Daily dance training and choreography for high school students in a summer intensive

2024-present **Dance Instructor**
ODC Dance Commons, San Francisco CA

- Weekly Broadway-style Adult Tap Combo classes
- Tap Workshops (10 week series) - Adult Beginning & Advanced Beginning

2026-present **Musical Theatre Production Choreographer/Dance Instructor**
Redwood High School, Larkspur CA

- Developed and taught original choreography for musical theatre production
- Dance training and choreography technique classes in the Theatre Department

2025-present Rising Stars Conservatory Program Director

San Francisco Playhouse, San Francisco CA

- Developed and premiered a 6-day musical theatre summer training intensive for middle school and high school students

2023-2025 Theatre Instructor, Spring Musical Director/Choreographer

Westmoor High School, Daly City CA

- Developed, implemented, and taught high school theatre curriculum (play analysis, acting, movement)
- Kept up-to-date gradebooks and attendance
- Directed/choreographed and produced spring musical, collaborated with various arts departments and clubs

2022-2023 Artist in Residence

Ruth Asawa School for the Arts, San Francisco CA

- Taught classes in Musical Theatre Voice, Physical Theatre/Viewpoints, Acting Studio (focused around Uta Hagen exercises), Jazz dance, and rehearsal technique

2014-2022 Chair of the Theatre Department

Oakland School for the Arts, Oakland CA

- Developed, implemented, and taught middle and high school curriculum for a department of 175+ students. High school curriculum included a two-track conservatory-style program for Musical Theatre (dance, voice, acting) and Acting (Acting, Shakespeare, Physical Theatre), which each followed a 4-year cycle of training. Also developed theatre elective courses (theatre history, Meisner, directing, devised)
- Developed theatre and dance curriculum that amplifies artists of color and supported student devised work.
- Managed a team of 5+ full-time and part-time theatre teachers
- Maintained positive community culture within the department of students and teachers by providing mental health and restorative practices embedded within the weekly schedule and cultivated productive relationships with students, guardians, and colleagues.
- Worked collaboratively with other departments within the school to produce large-scale mainstage plays and musicals. Worked with parent teams to build parent volunteer community support for productions.

2011-2014 Dance Instructor

The Ballet School, Walnut Creek CA

- Taught various levels of tap dance classes for ages 5 - adults
- Taught various levels of hip hop dance ages 7-15
- Taught various levels of musical theatre dance 7 - adults

2007-2011 Dance Instructor

Steppin Out Studios, San Francisco CA

- Taught beginning ballet classes for 3-9 year olds
- Taught modern, jazz, contemporary classes for 10-17 year olds
- Taught tap for 13-17 year olds
- Taught hip hop classes for girls of the Walden House 13-18 year olds
- Taught jazz classes for students with special needs 19-24 year olds

2014-2016 Young Musical Theatre Program Instructor

Young REP Summer Conservatory, Walnut Creek CA

- 6-week summer conservatory-style training in dance, voice, acting, and audition technique
- Developed curriculum and taught material with group of 25-30 kids ages 11-15 years old
- Choreographed musical theatre pieces for culminating performance

2014-2016 Dance Instructor at New Traditions School

Handful Players, San Francisco CA

- Taught beginning level hip hop classes 5-9 year olds

2013 Camp Director

Diablo Youth Theatre Company Summer Camp, Pleasant Hill CA

- Managed and taught 4-week camp culminating in full production of *The Little Mermaid Jr.*
- 35 kids 7-14 years old
- Collaborated with designers, creative team and parents to produce the show

2004-2010 Dance Instructor

Dance Mission Theatre, San Francisco CA

- Taught beginning-level tap 5-7 year olds
- Taught intermediate-level modern jazz 8-10 year olds
- Taught beginning-level hip hop 5-7 year olds
- Taught creative movement 3-4 year olds

2005-2012 Dance Instructor/Choreographer/Camp Director

Kid Stock Inc., San Francisco/San Bruno CA

- Taught in-school performing arts curriculum for non-profit arts organization
- Taught mixed-level dance classes in jazz, hip hop, tap and creative movement
- Dance classes of 20-30 students 5-13 years old
- Produced and choreographed multi-grade level school productions of 60-80 students
- Taught 4-6 weeks musical theatre summer camps culminating in full productions

2008-2012 Dance Instructor/Choreographer/Camp Director

Spindrift School of the Performing Arts, Pacifica CA

- Taught intermediate/advanced tap for Spindrift Dance Company 8-17 year olds
- Developed and taught musical theatre workshop/audition intensive 8-17 year olds
- Choreographer and Camp Director for 4-week camp culminating in full productions
- Coordinated 3 instructors and 40-50 kids 8-13 years old

2009 Dance Instructor for Harvey Milk Summer Camp

San Francisco Park and Recreations, San Francisco CA

- Taught hip hop and basic dance technique 5-8 year olds

2006-2007 Dance Instructor at Paul Revere Elementary

YMCA After School Program, San Francisco CA

- Taught hip hop classes 5-13 year olds

1997-2000 Dance Instructor

Marilyn Izdebski Studios, San Anselmo CA

- Taught various leveled classes in jazz, tap, hip hop 5-17 year olds and adults

AWARDS/NOMINATIONS

My Fair Lady	SFBATCC Award - Choreography 2025
A Chorus Line	Isadora Duncan Dance Award - Outstanding Achievement in Restaging 2024
Indecent	SFBATCC Award - Choreography 2022
Twelfth Night	SFBATCC Award - Choreography 2021
She Loves Me	SFBATCC Award - Choreography 2020
Cabaret	SFBATCC Award - Choreography 2020
Me and My Girl	SFBATCC Award - Choreography 2019
West Side Story	TBA Award - Choreography 2015
In the Heights	TBA Award - Choreography 2014
Evita	SFBATCC Nominee - Choreography 2024
A Chorus Line	SFBATCC Nominee - Choreography 2023
Guys and Dolls	SFBATCC Nominee - Choreography 2023
As You Like It	SFBATCC Nominee - Choreography 2022
Follies	SFBATCC Nominee - Choreography 2022
Starting Here, Starting Now	SFBATCC Nominee - Choreography 2021
Cabaret	TBA Finalist - Choreography 2020
Groundhog Day	SFBATCC Nominee - Choreography 2020
Dames at Sea	SFBATCC Nominee - Choreography 2019
Dames at Sea	TBA Finalist - Direction of a Musical 2019
The Music Man	TBA Finalist - Choreography 2018
No No Nannette	TBA Finalist - Choreography 2018
No No Nannette	SFBATCC Nominee - Choreography 2018
Lizzie	SFBATCC Nominee - Choreography 2016
West Side Story	SFBATCC Nominee - Choreography 2016
Kiss Me Kate	SFBATCC Nominee - Choreography 2016
Tarzan	Shellie Award Nominee - Choreography 2015