

LETICIA DE MARIA

Dance Teacher · Adults, Seniors, Youth & Adaptive Dance

Belmont, CA · leticiademariadance@gmail.com · leticiademaria.com

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Classically trained dancer (10-year technical dance school and opera corps de ballet, Rio de Janeiro) with 15+ years teaching dance to children, adults, seniors, and students with special needs. Builds warm, inclusive classes where beginners feel safe from the first minute and progress without pressure. Featured on Brazilian national television for programs serving mature women and students with disabilities. A versatile teacher of any style, from Ballet, Jazz, and Musical Theater dance to 70s Disco and authentic Brazilian Samba, a rare specialty in the Bay Area. Trilingual: English, Portuguese, Spanish.

CORE STRENGTHS

- Beginner-friendly adult & senior classes
- Youth enrichment (TK–8) & summer camps
- Community building & student retention
- Inclusive / adaptive instruction (all ages)
- Class planning, choreography & progression
- Positive behavior management

Styles: Ballet · Jazz · Modern · Musical Theater Dance · Tap · Hip Hop · Samba & Brazilian Rhythms · 70s Disco · Line Dance · Social Dance · Stretch & Strength

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Dance Instructor, Women's 40+ Program

Jan 2025 – Jan 2026

The Ivy Park Place · Houston & Katy, TX

- Designed and taught weekly dance classes for women over 40, most with no prior dance experience: Jazz, Samba, Hip Hop, Line Dance, social dance styles, and Stretch & Strength.
- Kept classes full and built a loyal, returning group through student socials and gatherings; students recorded video testimonials.

Dance Teacher

Jul 2022 – Jul 2024

PlayCV (Castro Valley Unified School District) · Castro Valley, CA

- Led after-school enrichment dance programs for K–5 students across district elementary schools.
- Taught Creative Rhythm, Hip Hop, Brazilian Rhythm, and Jazz, building coordination, confidence, and teamwork.
- Summer Camp (Jun – Aug 2023): workshops for TK–8th grade in Hip Hop, Brazilian Rhythm, Stretch & Strength, and kids' meditation.

Dance Teacher

Mar 2022 – Jul 2023

Volunteer Dance Assistant

Aug 2019 – Jul 2020

Ray of Light Performing Arts · Hayward, CA

- Taught inclusive dance to children, teens, seniors, and students with special needs.
- Led Children's Ballet, Jazz, Musical Theater, and Hip Hop; adaptive Hip Hop for students with special needs of all ages.
- Designed dance and stretching sessions for seniors focused on mobility and wellness.

Volunteer Assistant Teacher

Aug – Dec 2019

New Highland Academy · Oakland, CA

- Supported a bilingual (English/Spanish) early-childhood classroom (ages 4–5) with movement and creative activities.

Earlier Career: Brazil

2008 – 2018

- **Dance Teacher, Divas Dance Program** (Brasília, 2013 – 2016): dance program for women 40+ with no prior experience at Instituto de Dança Juliana Castro and a senior center; 8+ styles; events, parties, and trips. Featured on Brazilian national TV.
- **Dance Teacher & Physical Trainer, Senior Living Center** (Brasília, 2014 – 2016): adapted dance and strength classes for older adults, working with the center's physiotherapists and psychologists.
- **Dance Teacher, Up Project, Instituto de Dança Juliana Castro** (Brasília, 2013 – 2015): adaptive Hip Hop, group and private, for children, teens, and adults with physical and intellectual disabilities. Featured on Brazilian national TV.
- **Jazz & Musical Theater Teacher, Estúdio de Dança D3** (Brasília, 2014 – 2016): Jazz technique combined with musical theater elements.
- **Dance Teacher, Eu Faço Cultura** (Brazil, 2014 – 2015): Caixa-sponsored arts program bringing classes to low-income communities.
- **Ballet & Children's Jazz Teacher, Sesc Ginástico and Creche Escola Crescendo** (Rio de Janeiro, 2008 – 2012)
- **Private Dance Instructor** (Rio de Janeiro, 2017 – 2018): Ballet, Jazz, and Samba for all ages; dance and stretch/strength sessions for seniors.

PERFORMANCE

Corps de Ballet, opera Alabê de Jerusalém, Theatro Municipal and Vivo Rio, Rio de Janeiro

2007 – 2008

Dancer & Supporting Cast, feature film Histórias de Amor Duram Apenas 90 Minutos, Rio de Janeiro

2008

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Professional Dance Diploma, Centro de Dança Rio, 10-year program, Rio de Janeiro

1992 – 2002

Bachelor's Degree, Film & Television, Universidade Estácio de Sá, Rio de Janeiro

2006

Additional training: Choreographic Composition with Luis Arrieta, Joinville Festival (1999) · Hip Hop, Brigada Francesa (2003) · Horton & Graham Modern and Tap, Nós da Dança (2005 – 06) · Broadway Jazz & Tango, Buenos Aires (2010) · Music Perception (2016)

CERTIFICATIONS & LANGUAGES

Adult, Child & Baby First Aid / CPR / AED, American Red Cross

2023

Languages: English · Portuguese (native) · Spanish