

**Name:** Mickaela Maxwell

**Board Position:** Director

**Hometown:** Thunder Bay, ON

**How are you involved in Manitoba's Dance Community?** I am the Assistant Director at Doreen Bissett School of Dance, where I teach our elite competition teams in tap and jazz.

**How long have you been involved with Dance Manitoba?** I attended my first dance festival as a dancer in 1994, and have not missed one since! I have also been on the Board for three years.

**Favourite thing about Dance in Manitoba?** That it is for everyone! No matter what your age or experience level is, you can find a way to participate in the dance community.

**Favourite thing you've ever seen on stage?** Broadway musicals! I just love the theatre and the singing, dancing and beautiful costumes! My favorites are Wicked, The Book of Mormon, the Lion King and Aladdin!

**Favourite song to dance to?** Jump For My Love by The Pointer Sisters. It's also featured in a classic scene in Love Actually, one of my favorite movies.

**If you had one piece of advice for young dancers, what would it be?** We ask a lot of the body when we are a dancer, and unfortunately it has limits and cannot do what we want it to do forever. So do as much as you can while you can. Push yourself, try new things, be open to new experiences and styles, and take as many classes as you can. And while it's great to keep up with the latest trends and tricks, make sure you also do research and study the past and the greats of each genre – they paved the way for us to be able to do what we love now and they are AMAZING.

**Any family/pets you'd like to acknowledge?** My new kitten Biggie Smalls – I love him to bits!

**Favourite pastime other than dance?** Makeup and beauty! I have a YouTube channel where I post makeup tutorials, product reviews and hauls – go find me at "Mickaela Dawn" on YouTube.

**If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?** One place I would really love to visit is Bora Bora, and stay in an over the water cabin.

**Who inspires you?** My dancers inspire me every single week. They are so amazing and so talented, and it pushes me to create work that is worthy of them, that challenges them and that gives them memories to last a lifetime.