

AMANDA COULSON – Profile

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Amanda is the Director/ Owner of Dancin! Performing Arts and Events Center, and the Artistic Director of the Reno Irish Dance Company.

She brings a lifetime of performance experience to both companies.

Amanda began dancing at the age of 4, studying ballet, tap, jazz and Irish dance at Ransley's Studio in Sydney, Australia. As a child and teen, she performed in musical theater productions, stage and television, became a tap champion at 12 years and placed 5th in the Australian National Irish Dancing Championships.

She also completed her R.A.D Ballet Exams and B.B.O Tap exams to advanced levels, and continued studying to achieve her teaching status. At 17 years of age, when called *'too tall for dance'*, she was offered a soloist position with the Sydney Festival Ballet Company (William Gill) in Sydney Australia, toured with Apar's International tour of 'Casino de Paris' in Sydney & Melbourne, played the singing/dancing role of 'Virtue' in Anything Goes, and became the youngest dancer with the 'Bluebell Girls' at the 'Lido' in Paris, France.

At 19, she accepted the principal lead dancer role at 'La Scala Theater' in Barcelona.

She studied voice with the infamous Maya Mayska from the Liceo Opera in Barcelona, The Conservatory of Music in Madrid, Clyde Wright from Mahalia Jackson, Max Aronsten and Max Speed from the Australian Opera Co. and also the Theater College of Hobart in Tasmania.

She toured Europe and Australia with her own singing act during the late '70s, under the Management of Bernard Hilda from London Management, working with such major artists as June Allyson, Rita Hayworth, Glenn Ford, Elizabeth Schwarzkoff, and Lovelace Watkins.

She came to America as principal dancer for Ron Lewis/Frederick Apar productions, The Stardust Hotel, MGMs 'Hello Hollywood Hello', and has had the great pleasure to work with such master Director/Choreographers as Matt Mattox, Gino Landi, Winston Hemsley, Rich Rizzo, Michael Peters, Scott Salmon, Henry LeTang, Ann Garvin, Bob Fitch as well as Ron Lewis.

She collaborated with Berry Gordy from Motown, on the original writings of 'The Life of a Dancer', Captained the Suzanne Sommer's Act and her National Television Special, and also choreographed Industrials and Conventions for the M.G.M , Bally's and Hilton Hotel Casinos. She directed many Special Events, Video and Television Programs including the hugely successful fundraiser for Reno Mayor Pete Sferrazza... 'The Roast' at the Reno Hilton in '93, the Miss Nevada Scholarship Pageant for Television, and the R.S.C.V.A's Television Commercial, 'The Sky's the Limit', which received the 1987 West Coast Directorial Award.

Amanda originated the highly successful CityKids TV show in 1990 and went onto understudy Juliet Prowse in her starring role in the Broadway Musical "Sugar Babies" with Mickey Rooney, Rip Taylor, Carol Lawrence and Bob Fitch.

Amanda opened Reno's Dancin! Performing Arts Center, and soon created the Reno Irish Dance Co. During this time she also coached Toni Tennille in performance dance for her starring role in 'Victor Victoria', and shortly after became the local coordinator for the Moscow Ballet Company.

Amanda continues to travel whenever possible, performing, writing, directing, choreographing, teaching workshops, coaching and judging competitions. She is expanding her 'Fit2dance' Program that highlights 'injury prevention' for dancers to include the latest 'cutting edge' studies of the 'Brain on Dance' and the benefits for 'Women on Dance'.

She recently opened the new Dancin! Performing Arts Center in Portola, CA. and in her personal life, enjoys family and friends, Salsa dancing, Music and learning to play piano.

Amanda offers a wide variety of dance and performance classes at Dancin!, representing her love and appreciation for diversification in the Performing Arts.

"Dancing and Performance isn't glamorous...It's hard, disciplined work. But, if you love it...It can be the most exhilarating, rewarding experience that any young person can have!"