



MELISSA GUMBS

Melissa is from Manchester and started dancing in the genres and forms of Jazz, Ballet, Tap and Modern/Contemporary and continued training in Commercial and Street Dance in Liverpool and Manchester.

In 2008 Melissa gained a scholarship for 3 years to attend the *Northern Ballet School* and was given a place on the Jazz course.

From 2011 Melissa started her professional dance career with ***Carnival and Norwegian Cruise Lines*** and was a member of the company dancer for 5 years. Through this period Melissa was able to travel the world and perform an array of dance shows and musical theatre productions, allowing a great understanding of styles, forms and creative concepts in dance theatre from travelling to Europe, Caribbean, Alaska and around the USA. Melissa was also a dancer on the touring productions of ***Thriller Live UK*** performing at theatre venues throughout the UK and internationally, visiting China.

Melissa shares all her experiences through teaching to enhance the ability, confidence & motivation of students. Melissa co-founded a Jazz company with her twin sister Martina called '***MM Jazz Company***' based in Manchester.

As a practitioner in 2021, Melissa graduated with her *PGCE Teaching Degree* an invaluable part of her direction and passion for dance education, to be able to give back to the next generation of dancers in the North of UK.