



LESLIE JOHNSON

**CO-OWNER/DIRECTOR
TEAMS CO-DIRECTOR**

- **BALLET**
- **JAZZ**
- **LYRICAL**
- **CONTEMPORARY**

Leslie Johnson grew up in Auburn, CA. She began dancing at very young age, studying extensively in ballet, jazz, contemporary, hip hop, modern, tap, and musical theater. Upon moving to Santa Cruz, Johnson founded *Flex Dance Company* in 2008 and has produced multiple full length performances, as well as performing in and choreographing work for multiple benefits, emerging artists showcases, festivals, music videos, and community shows, including an international tour in 2012. In 2010, Johnson was the Artist in Residence at *The 418 Project*. She danced for Tawnya Kuzia in *RUGGED* from its inception, toured with Cid Pearlman's Touring Project, and performed with Dietzman and Co. Leslie has taught at Pamelot School of Dance, Motion Pacific, and was also the Artistic Director at Santa Cruz Dance Company, where she directed a pre-professional teen company. In 2012, Johnson, along with David Bortnick and Mireya Nunez opened Pacific Arts Complex, later joined by co-owner Tisha Nusbaum. She's had the opportunity to teach and choreograph for dance studios, high schools, and colleges in the Bay Area, winning top awards and honors with her choreography including an invitation to the 2012 American College Dance Festival Gala Performance. Pacific Arts Complex has become such a special home to her and the best dance family she could ever ask for.

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