

INTRODUCING

MERJA

SATULEHTO

CEO

CITYDANCE DANCE CENTER

Dance Center Citydance is Merja's life's work and dancing is her way of life. Merja was not involved in the founding phase of the dance school in 1990, but joined the enterprise the following year and has since been responsible for the dance school. A passionate relationship with dance and developing the dance genre in its various fields have been her guiding stars throughout. With Merja, Citydance has grown into a versatile dance school that has made thousands and thousands of people dance, and which welcomes everyone regardless of age, gender or skill level. The school is characterized by a community spirit and a supportive, warm atmosphere, where professional and passionate teachers play an important role. Merja herself is a seasoned dance professional; dancer, dance teacher, choreographer and dance judge, and an articulate presenter. Today, the focus of her work has shifted from dance teaching to administrative roles, and in addition, she works extensively in various dance networks and diligently serves as a dance judge in both national and international competitions. A true dancer never fully leaves her craft, so Merja still teaches at various events and workshops.

"DANCING IS HER WAY OF LIFE"



- Full time versatile dance professional for over 35 years
- Diploma dance teacher, International Dance Teachers Association
- Member of the FDO (Finnish Dance Organization) board for more than 20 years and long-term chairman of its Latino Show division as well as official competition supervisor & judge training leader
- Member of the Federal Board of STUL (Finnish Dance Sports Association)
- Member of STOL (Finnish Dance Teachers' Association)
- Strongly involved in the development of Oulu as a dance city, developing Citydance as well as, amongst others, Oulu University of Applied Sciences dance teacher training and Jojo - Oulu Dance Center
- Finland's Dance House dance ambassador
- Background of wide range of dance from gymnastics to jazz, show dance and competitive dance sport
- Studied dance in London and New York, in addition to Finland
- Internationally successful in dance sports in amateur and professional competitions
- Several Finnish championships, a semi-finalist in European Championships and World Championships professionals in ballroom standard and Latin dances
- More than 30 years of experience as a dance judge in various dance sports nationally and internationally (dance sports, performing arts, disco dance, latino show)
- Dancer and choreographer in several dance theater productions of the Jojo - Oulu Dance Center, such as Romantikuu (in 1999), Starlite (in 2003-2004) and So in love (in 2008-2009)
- Dancer and choreographer for three years at the TiernaShow Little Christmas Cabaret in the role of Queen Herod (2010-2012) and in several productions at the Oulu Star Theater (1999-2017)
- Featured in the dance theater production of Oulu University of Applied Sciences' Culture Department Noel Mystique in 2015
- Main judge in Dancing with the Stars for the first two production seasons in 2006 and 2007
- A judge in So You think You can dance Finnish version of Dance in 2010 and 2012



MERJA IN A NUT SHELL!

