

## MARLENA ARELLANO

Marlena has been an educator in the dance industry for twenty-one years; she is a gifted choreographer who has diverse stylistic abilities, who also carries a deep passion for building proper technique into the dancer's body. Further, she has experience directing a studio for almost a decade in addition to successfully running her very own professional company Project Unveiled, where she fell in love with the fusion of dance, film, lighting and photography all blended into a professional showcase where she collaborated with other Los Angeles based choreographers. Most recently, Marlena was awarded the Industry Dance Award: Best Jazz Performance for her piece 'Limit To Your Love', danced by the talented seniors of South County Dance.

Marlena's started dancing at the late age of 9. She grew up a competition dancer under the direction of Keri LaGrand (Tremaine Convention Faculty) and realized at the age of 16 that she had a talent for teaching and choreography. She received a scholarship at the infamous Edge dance studio at the age of 17. While in L.A. she booked jobs for Debbie Allen, Wade Robson, MTV, Tito Puente Jr., TJ Maxx, Jose Cuervo, VH1 and more. She also performed at the famous Hollywood Bowl and Carnival. Her wide versatility of training equips her with a unique ability to continue to evolve with the ever-changing industry. From the start as a choreographer, she has received many National Champion titles and Choreography Awards. She is also very proud to share that many of her students have had gone on to have amazing dance careers in the Industry in addition to some of her dancers being offered spots at prestigious colleges such as Julliard, USC, and more. Marlena also judges for MOVE Dance Productions and enjoys giving feedback to the inspiring youth around the country. Her fun, humble, laugh at herself personality, always brings positive energy to her students. She loves teaching and hopes to inspire her dancers with the heart to understand the importance of foundation and technique. She shares a heartfelt guidance for every child to understand that they are not meant to be like others, but to be true to who they are and build upon their natural strengths and always work harder. Her twenty years of experience as an educator and choreographer is definitely her gift to share.