

Dance with feeling

Teller's former teacher branches out

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Gwen Bittner



Matthew Beck/Chronicle

Acting and dance instructor Beth Bedee, left, works with students Wednesday evening at Sharper Image Performance Dance Studio in Crystal River. Bedee, who taught actor Miles Teller's drama class at Lecanto High School, instructs students on the routine "Ten Duel Commandments" from the production "Hamilton."

For the Chronicle

It's safe to say Beth Bedee knows a little something about acting — Bedee was actor Miles Teller's drama instructor at Lecanto High School.

It's safe to say she knows a little something about dance, too. Bedee began teaching an Acting and Movement class at Crystal River's Sharper Image Performance Dance Studio in August, looking to teach local dancers to become more emotive and effective on stage.

"My girls take dance at Sharper Image and so Miss Alyssa, who is the director at the studio, she knew my drama background and she asked if I would consider teaching a class, you know, just to help the girls with their performance on stage when they're competing, with their facial expressions in character," Bedee said.

Bedee agreed and started teaching the class weekly. The students are mostly part of the Sharper Image dance competition team and take several other classes at the studio.

"They take all sorts of dance classes," Bedee said.

And while form is what most people think of when they think of dance, Bedee wants to impart that form needs to have function.

"We started with just moving the body, not dance, but using your body, your arms, posture to communicate a character," Bedee said. "Then we moved into using the voice with practicing pronunciation, articulation to communicate a character; practicing facial expressions."

Bedee's 45-minute class is hosted at the studio at 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays. The class is open enrollment; anyone can join.

"It's currently about 20 (students), but if there were more, then we would consider opening up another class," Bedee said. "It really can be as many as want to be."

To enroll in the class, contact Sharper Image Performance Dance Studio at 352-563-5550, visit sharperimagedance.com or visit the studio at 6621 State Road 44, Crystal River.