

MELISSA BATESTING

HIP HOP PROGRAM CO-DIRECTOR: APT

WSPA ALUMNI CLASS 2010

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Melissa Batesting's dance journey began at Westlake School for the Performing Arts in 2007. Starting as a beginner in the General School Hip Hop program, she eventually found her way into APT and The Company. Growing up within the program, Melissa developed a deep connection to the WSPA community and discovered not only a love for performing, but also a passion for teaching and helping others grow through dance.

Now in her thirteenth year of teaching, Melissa continues to approach dance with the curiosity of a student, finding new ways to learn, explore movement, and grow creatively. Her experiences teaching and performing beyond WSPA have further shaped her perspective, bringing new knowledge and inspiration back to the community that raised her.

Melissa's teaching philosophy centers on empowerment, trust, and the belief that every student is capable of growth. She values building strong foundations, setting clear expectations, and creating an environment where students feel supported and challenged to reach their potential. Through her teaching, she encourages individuality, creativity, and a strong work ethic, helping students develop confidence both in and outside of the studio.

Today, Melissa co-directs APT and oversees the General School Hip Hop program, continuing to invest in the students, teachers, and community that have been such an important part of her own journey.