

Sarah Walters began dancing at the age of three in the Russian method. She became a member of the Marshall Community Ballet Company and starred in the roles of Clara and the Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*. She attended Blue Lakes Fine Arts Camp and toured Europe performing *Swan Lake* with Blue Lake International Ballet. She graduated from Grand Valley State University with a BA in Dance. While in college, she performed solo roles in the *Nutcracker*, *Paquita*, *Les Sylphides*, and *Swan Lake*. She spent the summer of 2003 training with the Richmond Ballet Company in Virginia.

Sarah has been teaching for 24 years for ages three to adult. Sarah values the importance of strong technique in a Christian environment. She believes that strong technique is essential in ballet as it is key to training the body to move more freely in artistic expression. Sarah has worked alongside a local physical therapist over the last 15 years and believes strongly in injury prevention and screening in her classes. Sarah also knows the importance of emphasizing dancing for Christ rather than for oneself “I was raised in a Christian household, but dancing was something that was done outside of church and separate from my spiritual life. It was something that I did just for myself, and because of this, my own human limitations were very discouraging to me. As my eyes were opened to worship through dance, I experienced a whole new level of joy in my dancing. How amazing it is to give back to the One who gave me the love of dance!”.