

## Melissa Grantham

Miss Mel has been dancing since she was 3. Trained in jazz, tap, hip hop, ballet, musical theatre, contemporary, lyrical, singing and drama.

Miss Mel was one of Plie's very first students which makes her our longest standing Plie member on staff! She completed a year of full time performing arts at Plie in 2001, with tops marks in both tap and jazz.

She began teaching at Plie in 2002 and has taught at numerous dance schools across the north shore.

Miss Mel even met her husband at a Plie end of year concert and went on to have 3 adorable kids, who all now train at Plie Groove 'n' Shuffle!!

While teaching at Plie, Miss Melissa went to uni and studied psychology and sociology. When she's not teaching at Plie, Miss Mel works alongside children with disabilities at a specialist Autism School.

She is caring and nurturing in her approach to teaching. Miss Mel is passionate about getting the most out of each and every child and really fosters a love of dance in the kids.

### Q & A's

#### **What do I do other than teach dance?**

When I'm not teaching dance at Plie or at school, I am a Teachers Aide for children on the spectrum. I work at a specialist Autism School. I am so lucky that in both my jobs I get to work alongside kids and make a difference. When I'm helping others, I am happy.

#### **My biggest achievement?**

My 3 gorgeous kids

#### **Favourite style of dance?**

Musical Theatre

#### **Proudest Teaching moment?**

Every time I see the kids up on stage I am overwhelmed with emotion. Particularly my little Teeny Tinies. Many of whom may not have been on stage before or are extremely nervous. You will normally find me with tears in my eyes because I am so proud.

#### **Favourite memory at Plie?**

Too many to name!! The year of full time was amazing.

#### **First routine at Plie?**

I think it was Janet Jackson "Together Again"

**Favourite artist/entertainer?**

Michael Jackson

**Do you have a pet?**

I have a gorgeous Maltese Shitzu dog, named Chloe. She was our first baby.

**Funniest Moment on stage?**

Well perhaps not funny but I did (still do) get extremely nervous before going on stage, to the point where one year poor Miss Vicki had to grab a hat side of stage for me to vomit into before I ran out to perform.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

In my spare time I like to hang with my family and kids. We like to go down to the rock pools and search for interesting things. Any time with my family is time well spent.

**Do I still perform?**

Yes! That's what I love about Plie. 3 kids later and even though I'm getting old, it still gives me the opportunity to get up and perform.

**Favourite Dancer?**

Ginger Rogers

**Favourite Musical?**

I have so many!! But probably Chicago.

**Favourite Performance?**

Loved doing our Friday Fright Night Gig.