

# *The Nutcracker*



Fri, November 25 at 6pm · Sat, November 26 at 1pm & 6pm · Sun, November 27 at 1pm  
Sat, December 3 at 1pm & 6pm · Sun, December 4 at 1pm

The STAR Theatre, Kittery, Maine

# A Note from the Artistic Director

Dear Guests,

Welcome to The Dance Annex's Nutcracker 2022!

It is time to celebrate the joy of the season and the sixth year of this special production. We are so excited for this! And we are delighted to share it with you!



Our production has continued to grow, and this year is our largest yet. We are thrilled to have so much interest and enthusiasm each year. The youth cast is larger than ever and the energy of these 65 performers coalescing into this one event, is indeed thrilling. The excitement and momentum produced is palpable, and I hope you enjoy this show as much as I have enjoyed the process. It is truly a time for celebration! And gratitude...

To all of our dancers and dance families, a warm and heartfelt thank you. Your support and dedication is appreciated every day. We would not be here today without your patronage and continued commitment. We are so lucky to have the most amazing ROCKSTAR dancers and families at The Dance Annex!

Behind the scenes, it is the dedicated help and support from our amazing volunteers that make this and every production possible. From the bottom of our hearts: Thank you!! To the STAR Theatre, our amazing Dance Annex staff, our production team, incredible cast and technical crew: thank you for sharing your talents with us! I could not be more proud of this gifted, dedicated cast and crew.

Lastly, thank you for coming today and supporting local, live performing arts, especially now. These productions could not succeed without an audience to support them. Together we can continue to bring live concert dance arts to the greater Seacoast community.

Enjoy the show! And may the magic of The Nutcracker carry you through the holiday season!

Julie Hebb  
Artistic Director, The Dance Annex

# The Nutcracker

Directed & Choreographed by Julie Hebb

Music by Peter Illych Tchaikovsky

Performed by the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra

## Guest Artists

Ruth Whitney & Boris Richir (November 25-27)

Naomi Sawyer & Assaf Benchetrit (December 3-4)

## The 2022 Company

Corinne Allaire  
Nigella Anderson  
Elyssa Bigos  
Evan Bigos  
Isabella Boucher  
Saige Braman  
Poppy Brown  
Waverly Burke  
Maisey Burlingame  
Olivia Chisolm  
Emma Cole  
Aime Crawford  
Lillian Cummings  
Avery David  
Maisy Del Deo  
Onyx Del Deo  
Jillian Dorazio  
Audrey Eastman  
Summer Flaherty  
Kacie Friberg  
Michael Friberg  
Courtlynn Goettler  
Donald Goettler  
Amelia Gordon  
Andrew Grassie  
Angela Grassie  
Allison Grassie  
Andrew Grassie  
Madilynn Greene  
Caroline Guay  
Claire Hopkins

Madison Jenkins  
Imogen Lightner  
Catherine Lin  
Shelbea Makela  
Amelia Martell  
Maeve McEachern  
Brinn McKenney  
Tierney McKenney  
Cooper Mendoza  
Katherine Meyers  
Brooklyn Miranda  
Nathan Moyer  
Evie Neel  
Jimi Neel  
Maya Neel  
Sage Patten  
Ava Peltz  
Avery Rice  
Alice Robidoux  
Cat Robinson  
Cora Robinson  
Ian Rodgers  
Stephanie Salmi  
Maya Schrimper  
Emma Smith  
Penelope Staley  
Willoughby Staley  
Janelle Abbott Staley  
Ava Wharton  
Maira Wetterman  
Izabel Yaxley

# ACT I

## SCENE I: THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

*It is Christmas Eve and there is magic in the air. Toymaker and magician Herr Drosselmeyer is in his workshop, adding finishing touches to the gifts he will bring to a very special holiday party. The Stahlbaums are hosting an extraordinary celebration at their home. Their daughter Clara and her friends and their guests dance and play around the Christmas tree. The festivities are suddenly interrupted by the arrival of a mysterious guest. In addition to the spectacular toys, Drosselmeyer brings Clara a magical wooden doll, the Nutcracker.*

Clara.....Amelia Gordon (Nov 25-27); Willoughby Staley (Dec 3-4)  
Herr Drosselmeyer.....Donald Goettler  
Frau Stahlbaum.....Janelle Abbott Staley  
Herr Stahlbaum.....Andrew Grassie (Nov 25-27); Michael Friberg (Dec 3-4)  
Maid.....Katherine Meyers  
Party Mothers.....Corinne Allaire, Kacie Friberg, Angela Grassie  
Party Fathers.....Evan Bigos, Michael Friberg, Jimi Neel (Nov 25-27)  
Party Girls.....Avery David, Amelia Gordon (Dec 3-4), Caroline Guay, Allison Grassie,  
Madison Jenkins, Willoughby Staley (Nov 25-27), Izabel Yaxley  
Party Boys.....Andrew Grassie, Imogen Lightner, Penelope Staley  
Party Teens.....Cora Robinson, Maya Neel  
Soldier Doll.....Maisy Del Deo  
Ballerina Doll.....Audrey Eastman (Nov 25-27); Ava Peltz (Dec 3-4)  
Mouse Doll.....Shelbea Makela

## SCENE II: THE BATTLE SCENE

*It is almost midnight and the house is quiet. Clara sneaks down to the living room to visit her beloved Nutcracker and falls asleep holding him under the Christmas tree. She awakens to find mice all around her and the Nutcracker gone. The clock strikes midnight. Drosselmeyer appears, and the magic begins. The tree grows to an enormous size and the now life-sized toy soldiers arrive to defend Clara. A battle between the Nutcracker and the Mouse Queen begins. When the Nutcracker is wounded, Clara bravely intervenes to help him defeat the Mouse Queen. Before her eyes, the Nutcracker is transformed into a Prince.*

Nutcracker Prince.....Ian Rodgers  
Mouse Queen.....Shelbea Makela  
Mouse Lieutenants.....Maeve McEachern, Nigella Anderson  
Mice.....Poppy Brown, Aime Crawford, Lillian Cummings, Catherine Lin,  
Tierney McKenney, Penelope Staley  
Soldier Officers.....Onyx Del Deo, Avery Rice  
Battalion.....Olivia Chisholm, Waverly Burke, Summer Flaherty, Andrew Grassie,  
Claire Hopkins, Brinn McKenney, Alice Robidoux, Maya Schrimper

### SCENE III: THE LAND OF SNOW

*Drosselmeyer and the Nutcracker Prince guide Clara to the Land of the Snow, where they are greeted by the Snow Queen, while snowflakes and frost dance all around them.*

Snow Queen & Snow King.....Elyssa Bigos & Nathan Moyer  
Snowflakes.....Saige Braman, Audrey Eastman (Nov 25-27), Angela Grassie,  
Courtlynn Goettler, Shelbea Makela (Dec 3-4), Stephanie Salmi  
Winds.....Emma Smith, Evie Neel, Maeve McEachern  
Frost.....Nigella Anderson, Isabella Boucher, Madison Jenkins

*Intermission*

### ACT II THE KINGDOM OF THE SWEETS

*Clara and the Nutcracker Prince arrive at the Kingdom of Sweets, where they are welcomed by the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier. To honor Clara and her efforts to save the Nutcracker Prince, the Sugar Plum Fairy commands that all of her subjects dance for her. Spanish Chocolates, Peppermint, Arabian Coffee, Ribbon Candy, Chinese Tea, Waltzing Flowers, and Candied Gingerbreads all present Clara with beautiful performances before bidding her farewell. Clara finds herself back at home on Christmas morning, with her beloved Nutcracker doll.*

Clara's Arrival at the Enchanted Palace

Palace Heralds.....Saige Braman, Courtlynn Goettler  
Palace Couriers.....Isabella Boucher, Avery David, Allison Grassie  
Paiges.....Maisey Burlingame, Olivia Chisholm, Emma Cole, Madilynn Greene,  
Amelia Martell, Cooper Mendoza, Cat Robinson, Maya Schrimper, Ava Wharton

Spanish Chocolate.....Angela Grassie, Stephanie Salmi  
Corps.....Katherine Meyers, Ava Peltz

Arabian Coffee.....Elyssa Bigos & Nathan Moyer  
Corps.....Nigella Anderson, Maeve McEachern, Maya Neel

Chinese Tea.....Maisy Del Deo, Jillian Dorazio, Shelbea Makela  
Corps.....Onyx Del Deo, Caroline Guay, Madison Jenkins, Cora Robinson, Izabel Yaxley

Peppermint.....Audrey Eastman & Ian Rodgers (Nov 25-27)  
Janelle Abbott Staley & Ian Rodgers (December 3-4)

Ribbon Candy.....Saige Braman, Courtlynn Goettler, Evie Neel, Emma Smith

## The Confectionery

Mother Ginger.....Kacie Friberg  
Gumdrops.....Andrew Grassie, Brooklyn Miranda, Sage Patten, Maira Wetterman  
Bakers.....Waverly Burke, Allison Grassie, Claire Hopkins, Avery Rice, Penelope Staley  
Gingerbreads.....Summer Flaherty, Imogen Lightner, Brinn McKenney, Alice Robidoux

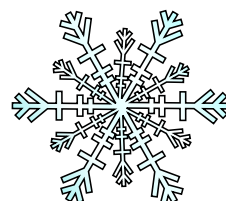
## Waltz of the Flowers

Dew Drop Fairy.....Angela Grassie  
Flowers.....Elyssa Bigos, Saige Braman, Audrey Eastman (Nov 25-27), Courtlynn Goettler,  
Shelbea Makela (Dec 3-4), Stephanie Salmi, Emma Smith  
Rosebuds.....Katherine Meyers, Evie Neel, Ava Peltz

## Grand Pas de Deux

Sugar Plum Fairy & Cavalier.....Ruth Whitney & Boris Richir (Nov 25-27)  
Naomi Sawyer & Assaf Benchetrit (Dec 3-4)

Finale.....Full Company



IF YOU ENJOYED TODAY'S PERFORMANCE, PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING  
THE NUTCRACKER BY MAKING A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS MAKE THIS MAGICAL PRODUCTION POSSIBLE.

VISIT: [WWW.THEDANCEANNEXSTUDIO.COM/SUPPORT.HTML](http://WWW.THEDANCEANNEXSTUDIO.COM/SUPPORT.HTML)

## 2022 PRODUCTION TEAM

Artistic Director and Choreographer: Julie Hebb

Additional Choreography:

Waltz of the Flowers & Arabian Coffee Corps: Angela Grassie

Chinese Tea: Janelle Abbott Staley

Lighting Designer: Bretton Reiss

Lights and Sound Operator: Andrea Lyons

Stage Managers: Janelle Abbott Staley, Kate Smith

Production Crew: Chloe Makela, Kelsey Heyland, Avacyn Lightner

Set Design and Construction: Donald Goettler

Props and Furnishings Coordinator: Kate Smith

Costume Mistress: Susan Hirsch

Volunteer Coordinator: Christine Dorazio

To our Backstage and Front of House Volunteers: Thank you!

Special Thanks to:

My advisor Janelle Abbott Staley for her always supportive guidance; The STAR Theatre for hosting *The Nutcracker*, and many thanks to my family Don, Courtlynn, and Lolo for their unending support.

**For more information about The Dance Annex Studio and Annex Contemporary Dance Company, please visit [www.thedanceannexstudio.com](http://www.thedanceannexstudio.com)**



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## ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

**Julie Hebb** (Artistic Director) brings with her decades of experience performing, teaching, choreographing, and staging original ballet, modern, jazz, and contemporary works in New York City, the greater Boston area, and northern New England. With her deep foundation in various ballet techniques, predominantly the Russian Vaganova style, along with her wide experiences in contemporary training that includes Paul Taylor, Lester Horton, Rebecca Kelly, Jennifer Muller, and others, she brings to The Dance Annex a relevance in training that is essential for today's dancers. Ms. Hebb received her training at Boston Ballet, Hartford Ballet, Ballet Theater of Boston, STEPS, Marjorie Mussman, Madame Gabriela Darvash, City Center Studios, Peridance, and the Paul Taylor School. She moved from Boston to New York City where she taught and performed principal roles with Rebecca Kelly Ballet from 1992-2006, and was ballet mistress for the company and assistant to the director for choreography, workshops, and summer programs. Ms. Hebb performed as guest artist for North Country Ballet Ensemble, Impulse Dance Company and North Atlantic Ballet of Boston, MA; Several Dancers Core of Atlanta, GA; and other ballet, modern, and musical theater companies throughout the Northeast. In New York, Ms. Hebb taught at STEPS NYC, Joffrey Ballet School, Berest Dance Studio, Garden City Community Dance Project, and Rebecca Kelly Ballet. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in a combined major of Psychology and Exercise Science from Brooklyn College. After returning to New England, she began teaching at studios in and around New Hampshire and Maine. Ms. Hebb founded The Dance Annex Studio in Kittery in the Fall of 2012 and Annex Contemporary Dance Company (ACDC), the studio's resident troupe of professionals, in 2016. ACDC has produced multiple evening-length concerts at The Dance Hall in Kittery, Maine, and has collaborated with many local and visiting artists and musicians from the New England area and NYC. The Company has presented original work at The Music Hall in Portsmouth, NH, the Ogunquit Performing Arts Center, Jose Mateo's Dance for World Community Festival in Cambridge, MA, and Lila Dance Festival in Rochester, NH.

**Ruth Whitney (Sugar Plum Fairy, Nov 25-27)** is a Boston based dancer who received her early training and performance experience with the Boston Ballet, studying under Tatiana Nikolaevna Legat and Laura Young. She has performed regionally and internationally with companies including Boston Ballet, Teatrul De Balet Sibiu, and as a principal dancer with Festival Ballet Providence. Her classical repertoire includes Odette/Odile, Aurora, Juliet, Sugarplum Fairy, Marguerite, Firebird and Titania as well as Balanchine's neo-classical Agon and Apollo. Ms. Whitney has been fortunate to work with many wonderful choreographers and mentors including Gianni Di Marco, Viktor Plotnikov, Pavel Rotaru, Donna Silva, Anne Tolbert and Marcus Schulkind. In addition to her ballet career, Ms. Whitney holds a BA in English and Dance from UMass Boston. She practiced yoga and Qi gong for many years with Jesse Winder and gyrotonics with Lisa Pari and Carol Somers, among others, and incorporates these philosophies in her approach to movement. She and husband Bill Whitney have two young children who plan extravagant parties and wage epic battles, when they aren't helping her make costumes for upcoming productions.

**Boris Richir (Cavalier, Nov 25-27)** is originally from Antwerp, Belgium, and received his dance education at the Paris Opera Ballet School. He started his professional career in 2009 when he joined the prestigious Semperoper Ballet in Dresden, Germany. In 2014, Mr. Richir joined the Boston Ballet. Since 2017, he has been a guest artist with various companies in the USA and in Europe. Mr. Richir has performed soloist and lead roles in a wide repertoire ranging from *The Nutcracker* to contemporary pieces such as the ballets of W. Forsythe. He appears in the 2012 filming of *The*



*Nutcracker* of the Semperoper Ballet Dresden by ARTE. In 2012, Mr. Richir became assistant director of ART of Ballet Courses and master classes, where he is responsible for the organization of high-level dance summer courses across Europe. In 2017, Mr. Richir founded United Dance, a non-profit organization offering dance courses to youth and young adults with Down syndrome in Europe and North-America.

**Naomi Sawyer (Sugar Plum Fairy, Dec 3-4)** received her early training in ballet, tap and jazz under Kay Welch in Lyndonville, Vermont, with summer intensives at Broadway Dance Center, the Joffrey ballet in NYC and the Boston Ballet School. As a student in Boston Ballet's training program, she performed in Boston ballet's *Nutcracker* and *Sleeping Beauty*, and went on to perform with the Orchesis Dance troupe while attending her physical therapy studies at the University of Vermont. She has been performing with the Northeastern Ballet Theatre since 2013 under the direction of Edra Toth with soloist roles in *Le Corsaire*, *Sleeping Beauty*, and *Nutcracker*, and several lead roles including Wilhelmina in *Dracula*, Anna in *The Snow Queen*, Katrina in *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, Sugar Plum Fairy, Maria in *The Sound of Music*, and Odette/Odile in *Swan Lake*. She had made guest appearances as Sugar Plum Fairy, including with Dance Annex. She is a homeschooling mother of two, and works as a licensed physical therapist providing neuro and vestibular rehab, as well as physical therapy specialized for the needs of dancers, including per diem for the Boston Ballet company. Naomi is passionate about injury prevention, bringing together her knowledge as a therapist with her experience as a dancer to help other dancers fulfill their potential and "dance longer, dance stronger!"

**Assaf Benchetrit (Cavalier, Dec 3-4)** began his dance and music studies at the Rubin Academy for Music and Dance in Jerusalem, Israel. Upon graduation, he danced with the Jerusalem Dance Theater, the Panov Ballet, and later with The Israeli National Ballet Company. During his military service, Assaf received the "Remarkable Dancer" prize from the Israeli government which allowed him to continue dancing while serving. After completing his military service, he arrived to United States to dance with companies such as The Joffrey, Metropolitan Classical Ballet, Alabama Ballet, Connecticut Ballet, Portland Ballet and Gelsey Kirkland Ballet. Throughout his career, Assaf toured through England, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and numerous other countries. Assaf holds a joint B.S in computer science and B.F.A in dance degrees with academic honors from Montclair State University, and an M.F.A degree in dance from Hollins/ADF/Frankfurt. He is currently an Associate Professor of Theatre and Dance at the University of New Hampshire, and was a faculty member at Yale University, Columbia University (Barnard College), Rutgers University, Montclair State University, and Raritan Valley Community College.

**Elyssa Bigos** started her training at the age of six at The Robertson's School of Classical Ballet with Larry and Colleen Robertson. She continued her training at various schools in the Seacoast area with teachers such as Susan Duffy, Christine Simes, Elisa Gerasin, Edra Toth, and John Ling. She was a company member with Northeastern Ballet Theatre and toured with Boston Dance Company for their production of "The Nutcracker". She has attended summer intensive programs at Festival Ballet Providence, Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre, and Burklyn Ballet Theatre where she was one of few chosen to perform in *Aladdin* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland. She also spent a summer at Carolina Ballet Theatre under the direction of Hernan Justo where she was a company trainee. Elyssa continues to perform as a guest artist with companies and schools across New England. She is the co-founder of the Lila Dance Festival, an annual summer dance event that promotes and showcases professional dancers from New Hampshire and the Seacoast area.

**Jillian Dorazio** has been dancing and training with Julie Hebb for eight years. In her time at the Dance Annex, she has enjoyed annual performances in spring showcases in a variety of styles ranging from ballet and pointe to contemporary and tap. She has performed in *The Nutcracker* since 2016, performing in corps roles including Waltz of the Snowflakes and Waltz of the Flowers. Additionally, she has performed different divertissements like Spanish, Arabian, and Chinese. Jillian began teaching at age 14, and continues to work with young children as a substitute education technician and an after school/summer camp counselor in the Kittery Community. Jillian is currently a junior History and Communication double major in Saint Anselm College's Honors program in Manchester, New Hampshire. Beyond her studies at Saint Anselm, she works within the communications committee as a student ambassador to the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, as well as an intern to the curatorial/archival department of the Institute's Political Library and social media presence.

**Audrey Eastman** began her dance training when she was young at Holly Jane Dance Center with Holly Jane Johnson. In high school, she pursued more advanced training at Great Bay Academy of Dance with Elisa Gerasin and Kristen Samson in Kittery, ME. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of New Hampshire in 2020 with a BS in Biomedical Science (Medical/Veterinary Sciences) and a BA in Dance. She is currently studying to be a Doctor of Physical Therapy at Tufts University School of Medicine. While at UNH she trained with Assaf Benchetrit and Susan Endrizzi and performed with the UNH Dance Company. She has attended summer programs with the American Ballet Theatre and the University of Utah. In January of 2019, she traveled to Buenos Aires with DanceAbroad Argentina and trained in ballet and contemporary with various Argentinian teachers. She has had the privilege to perform Sugar Plum Fairy and Snow Queen in GBAD's "An 1836 Portsmouth Nutcracker," Cinderella with the UNH Dance Company, original choreographed works at Lila Dance Festival, and in City Ballet of Boston's "Urban Nutcracker." She is currently performing with Annex Contemporary Dance Company directed by Julie Hebb, as well as various local schools. She is grateful to be able to continue dancing while pursuing her DPT.

**Kacie Friberg** joined The Dance Annex in 2013 with a background in performing, teaching choreographing, and competing with a variety of dance disciplines. She has trained with faculty from NYU's Dance program as well as such notable names as Joe Lanteri, Gil Stroming, Ashly DeGrosso, Suzi Taylor, Travis Wall, Mia Michaels, and Savion Glover. Throughout her competition career, Kacie received a variety of recognition including scholarships and awards like "Outstanding Talent," "Outstanding Tap Performance," and the "Furious, Fabulous Feet" award. A former competitor in the Miss America Organization, Kacie was recognized for her talent as well as her scholastic achievement, community leadership, eloquence and personability. Kacie is a certified middle and high school teacher with a Masters in Secondary Education and more than ten years of experience teaching on the Seacoast.

**Don Goettler**, originally from Connecticut, has been entertaining people as an actor, dancer and performer since he was a young lad performing in community theater, musicals and local *Nutcracker* productions. After high school, Don moved to New York City and attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. While there, he performed in film, television, soap operas, commercials, voice overs, children's theater and numerous plays, as well as mastered the art of bartending and waiting tables. After 17 years of city life, Don relocated to Maine in 2007 and quickly connected with the ME/NH Seacoast's vibrant theatrical community, tackling some of his favorite roles to date including: Murray Burns in *A Thousand Clowns* at The Players Ring, Ed Boone in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in*

*the Night Time* at Hackmatack Playhouse (Best Production 2019 New England Theater Awards), Victor Fleming in *Moonlight and Magnolias* at The Garrison Players and Mr. Robinson in *The Graduate*. In 2016, he received a Spotlight Award for Best Supporting Actor for the role of Uday Hussain in *Bengal Tiger in the Baghdad Zoo* and in 2017, he won for Best Actor as LBJ in *All The Way*, both staged at The Players Ring NH. Mr Goettler is over the moon thrilled to be back on stage again with this fantastic group of dancers and artists!

**Angela Grassie** has been dancing since the age of two at Corinne's School of Dance in Rochester, NH. She also studied ballet, pointe, and modern at Ballet New England in Portsmouth, NH. Angela studied many forms of dance at Steps On Broadway and Broadway Dance Center in New York City from 2004-2007. She received a full scholarship for the Rockette Summer Intensive in New York City and performed at Radio City Music Hall in 2007. Angela was a Rockette Teacher Assistant for the weekend Rockette Experiences and the Rockette Summer Intensives for over two years. She has traveled to New Jersey to choreograph for the Sophisticated Productions Performance Team in Atlantic City. Angela was the dance choreographer for Noble High School's performance of *The Music Man* in 2013. Angela has professionally performed in Ballet New England, The Dance Annex, Great Bay Academy of Dance and Sole City Dance's *The Nutcracker* as the Snow Queen, Rat Queen, Lead Spanish Soloist, Demi-Soloist Flower and Snow Corps since 2006. She performed in Cabaret as a Kit Kat Dancer at the Rochester Opera House. She has danced professionally with Ballet New England, The Dance Annex and Great Bay Academy of Dance's modern and jazz companies. She was the choreographer for *Pippin* in 2018 and *Dog Fight* in 2019 at the Player's Ring in Portsmouth, NH.

**Shelbea Makela** has been dancing since the age of two and began taking classes at Dance It Up! dance studio in Massachusetts. There, she trained in ballet, pointe, contemporary and jazz. She participated in summer classes and intensives taught by Kaitlyn Salisbury (creator of MOVE dance intensive) and Tucker Knox (a top contestant on *So You Think You Can Dance* Season 10), as well as many other guest choreographers. Through various studios she has performed in the *Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *Giselle*. Shelbea started assistant teaching beginner ballet classes in 2013 and through dance, found her passion for working with children. She taught as a preschool teacher at the Academy of Little Learners in York, Maine for five years. Shelbea recently graduated from the University of Southern Maine in May 2022 with her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, and is currently a 2nd grade teacher. This is her sixth season dancing with The Dance Annex.

**Nathan Moyer** was born in Concord, New Hampshire. He began his dance training at Colby-Sawyer College at the age of 18. In his sophomore year, Nathan went to Paris with Wells College for the Arts. He lived in Paris, and trained in modern dance with Thierry Verger at Studio Harmonic. In 2003 Nathan enrolled at the University of New Hampshire. While at UNH, Nathan studied ballet with Larry Robertson and Ballet New England director David Drummond. Nathan graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 2005 with a bachelor degree in theatre and dance. Nathan performed with Ballet New England as a company member in 2005 and 2006. In the summer of 2006, Nathan furthered his training at the Joffrey Ballet School in New York City. In late 2006, Nathan moved to Buenos Aires, Argentina to widen his understanding and expand his training in dance. While living in Buenos Aires, Nathan studied with Maria Chichi Diaz, and he was accepted into the Teatro Colon's Men's ballet program. In April 2007, Nathan founded DanceAbroadArgentina, a study abroad program for dancers. Currently, Nathan spends his time performing and teaching as a guest artist in

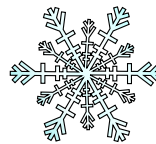
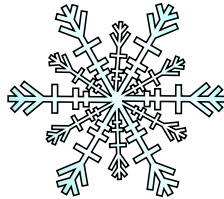
New Hampshire, the New England region, and in Argentina. He is the director of DanceAbroad Argentina and co-founder of the Lila Dance Festival, an annual summer dance event that promotes and showcases professional dancers from New Hampshire and the Seacoast area.

**Ian Rodgers** began dancing at the age of 19 when he took his first ballet class at the University of New Hampshire. What began as just a way to fulfill the college art gen-ed requirement quickly changed into a passion for artistic expression through movement. Ian credits his ability to start dancing later in life to the many years spent practicing and teaching gymnastics, which helped to develop instincts for body control and spatial awareness. Over the years his love of dance has grown into a diverse professional career collaborating with many studios and professional dancers across the Seacoast area. Though ballet is the foundation of his dance training, Ian has also studied contemporary ballet, modern, Ballroom, Latin, and traditional folklore dance styles. When he's not dancing, Ian enjoys spending his free time being active outdoors and is a serious nature enthusiast. He has a degree in Zoology and works for a federal land conservation agency protecting farms and wetlands across the country.

Born in Miami, Florida **Stephanie Salmi-Pepin** began her training with Ballet Master, Orsino del Valle and later was accepted to the Miami City Ballet School. At the age of fourteen, she was granted full scholarship to continue her pre-professional training at the HARID Conservatory in Boca Raton, Florida graduating four years later as her class Valedictorian. Stephanie attended various summer intensives throughout her training including the National Russian Ballet Seminar, the HARID Conservatory, North Carolina School of the Arts, The Hartford Ballet, and The Milwaukee Ballet School. In 2001 Stephanie joined the Montgomery Ballet in Alabama and in 2002 the Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida, under the direction of Vladimir Issaev. Before relocating to Greenville, Maine in 2010, she danced as a principal in the 2009 production of *The Nutcracker* for Ballet Wichita in Kansas. In the spring of 2010, Stephanie was asked to choreograph and later became the dance coach for the Hutchinson Community College's rendition of "Chicago". In 2018, while running a nonprofit, Greenville School for the Arts, with her now Husband, John, Stephanie toured throughout Maine with The Robinson Ballet completing their *Nutcracker* Season at the Collins Center with The Bangor Symphony Orchestra in Orono, ME. Stephanie has been on staff or served as a guest instructor at various dance schools since 2001, including The Dancexchange, The Montgomery Ballet School, Artistree, The Pointe School of Dance, Wichita School of Performing Arts (WSPA), Bethal College Academy of Performing Arts (BCAPA), and close to home at the Piscataquis Regional YMCA as their dance program instructor and later at the Boothbay Regional YMCA and Montessori School. For the past three years, Stephanie took a step aside from the stage and studio to care for the needs of her family. With the loving support of her husband and 16 year old daughter Kristalyn, Stephanie is looking forward to the opportunity to perform with The Dance Annex. It has been a fulfillment beyond measure to share space in the studio with the dancers of this company and with the encouragement of Artistic Director, Julie Hebb. Over the course of the past few years, "I have learned to never take even one day for granted."

**Janelle Abbott Staley** is a dancer and educator based in southern Maine. She has performed on stages around the country and abroad with dance companies, in film, and in musicals. In New York City, she worked with Andrew Palermo and Taye Diggs' dre.dance, Slam (rehearsal assistant), Terra Firma Dance Theatre, Adam Cates, John Byrne, and Ollom Dance, among others. On screen, she was featured in Elton John's *The Red Piano* concert (soloist in "Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me"), and in Norah Jones' "Those Sweet Words" music video, both directed by David LaChapelle. Janelle

has performed at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and on Broadway in Broadway Cares' *Red Bucket Follies* (award-winner with *Aida* cast) and *Easter Bonnet*, and off-Broadway in *Bacharach to the Future* (New World Stages) and *Broadway Bares* (assistant choreographer). Her regional credits include Shakespeare Theatre Company's *Twelfth Night* directed by Tony Award-winner Rebecca Taichman and choreographed by Seán Curran, *Peter Pan* at the Sondheim Center (Tiger Lily/Dance Captain), *A Chorus Line*, and *Cabaret*. In New England, Janelle has had the fortune of working with Peter DiMuro, Lorraine Chapman, Kat Nasti Dance, Junichi Fukuda, Demeo Dance, and Annex Contemporary Dance. She is currently a board member of Lila Dance Festival, an annual summer dance event that presents dance artists from around New England. Janelle began her early career as a company member of the Grand Rapids Ballet in Michigan, and then received her BFA in Ballet from the University of Utah. She has taught at Broadway Dance Center, Steps on Broadway, and lead master classes around the country. A certified Pilates instructor, Janelle has trained celebrity clientele at top fitness studios in NYC and Boston. She currently teaches Pilates mat and apparatus classes in-studio and virtually. Since 2016, she has been a faculty member of The Dance Annex, where she has had the great fortune of working closely with Julie Hebb. Janelle's favorite role of all time is Mom to her two daughters, Willoughby and Penelope. She is thrilled to get to perform alongside them in *The Nutcracker*. Thank you, Julie! Thanks to Bill, for being the greatest dance husband & Dance Dad!



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