

ANNEX CONTEMPORARY DANCE in CONCERT

JULY 21 & 22, 7pm



STAR
THEATRE

120 Rogers Rd, Kittery, ME

ANNEX CONTEMPORARY DANCE IN CONCERT

The STAR THEATRE, KITTERY, MAINE

FRIDAY, JULY 21 & SATURDAY, JULY 22, 2023 AT 7PM

Annex Contemporary Dance Company is the resident professional dance troupe of The Dance Annex Studio in York, Maine. Founded in 2015, ACDC is proud to engage some of the finest movement artists in the Seacoast area, and aims to bring impactful, professional work to local audiences, building community through education and outreach. In addition to evening-length works, the company performs in The Dance Annex's annual production of *The Nutcracker*, which is now heading into its seventh season and has become a Seacoast holiday tradition. ACDC has toured throughout New England, and has collaborated with many local and visiting artists and musicians from New England, New York City, and beyond. For tonight's program Artistic Director Julie Hebb, York resident and former principal dancer with NYC's Rebecca Kelly Ballet, has created a collection of new and repertory pieces that explore the dancers' relationship to diverse musical scores, and to one another—investigating what pulls people together and drives them apart. For more information about the company, the studio, and tonight's program, please visit www.thedanceannexstudio.com.

Annex Contemporary Dance Company

Julie Hebb, Artistic Director

ACDC Dancers

Audrey Eastman

Junichi Fukuda

Angela Grassie

Maiya Jordan

Elyssa Moyer

Nathan Moyer

Ian Rodgers

Naomi Sawyer

Leann Sbrizza

Janelle Abbott Staley

Rhianwen Watkins

Lighting Design: Ben Bagley

Stage Manager: Aisilyn Guivens

*As always, thank you to my most supportive family, Don, Courtlynn and Lolo.
Special thanks to the ACDC dancers, I am honored to have you in the studio, know you,
dance with you. Thank you!*

Up Next for ACDC!

Don't miss ACDC at the Lila Dance Festival in Durham, NH on August 19 & in Rochester, NH on August 26. Auditions for our 2023 Nutcracker season are coming up in late August & our new studio expansion is underway! For more information and updates, please visit

www.thedanceannexstudio.com.

ANNEX CONTEMPORARY DANCE IN CONCERT

Julie Hebb, Artistic Director & Choreographer

Three Preludes

Music: Gershwin, performed by Frank Braley

Audrey Eastman, Junichi Fukuda, Angela Grassie, Elyssa Moyer, Nathan Moyer

Brief Pause

Pathways

Music: Nils Frahm, Aukia & Jamshied Sharifi

I. Audrey Eastman, Maiya Jordan, Naomi Sawyer, Leann Sbrizza, Rhianwen Watkins

II. Naomi Sawyer

III. Audrey Eastman, Maiya Jordan, Elyssa Moyer, Naomi Sawyer, Leann Sbrizza, Rhianwen Watkins

Brief Pause

Bach Suite

Music: Bach, Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major, performed by Yo-Yo Ma

Prelude Janelle Abbott Staley

Allemande Angela Grassie, Nathan Moyer, Janelle Abbott Staley

Courante Audrey Eastman, Elyssa Moyer

Sarabande Angela Grassie

Menuett Elyssa Moyer, Nathan Moyer

Gigue Company

Intermission

A Day in the Life

Music: mixed compilation; Dead Can Dance remix by Breakfast;
Jodi Hirota & Pete Lockett; Tykwer; Klimet & Heil; Daniel Pemberton

Sleeping/Waking/Working/Dalliance/Done

Nightfall

Isolation/Compulsions/Apprehensions/Exhaustion/End

Repeat

Angela Grassie, Maiya Jordan, Elyssa Moyer, Nathan Moyer,
Leanne Sbrizza, Janelle Abbott Staley

Artist Biographies

Julie Hebb (Artistic Director & Choreographer) 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 in Kittery in the Fall of 2012 and has built a community of dancers and dance enthusiasts in Southern Maine and beyond for more than ten years. She established Annex Contemporary Dance Company in 2015 to provide opportunities for local professionals to perform and flourish, to create new works, and to bring professional dance productions to the area. In addition to evening length performances and its annual production of *The Nutcracker*, ACDC tours throughout New England, and has collaborated with many local and visiting artists and musicians from New England, New York City, and beyond.

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.

Japanese native **Junichi Fukuda** has danced with companies such as Ballet Tech/NY, Smuin Contemporary Ballet, Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, Buglisi Dance Theatre, and Peridance Contemporary Dance Company. Fukuda has been recognized with several awards and fellowships, including from the Boston Conservatory at Berklee, the Bates Dance Festival, the S&R Foundation, the Boston Dance Alliance, and the Mass Cultural Council. In 2014, he founded his company, FUKUDANCE, which has performed at festivals worldwide, including MASDANZA in Spain and Mexico City's Festival Internacional de Danza Contemporánea de la Ciudad. The Boston Foundations, the Boston Cultural Council, the Summerville Arts Council, the American Dance Abroad, and the New England Foundation for the Arts have supported FUKUDANCE. Fukuda's work has been praised for its "tasteful proposal" and "a work of easeful harmony" by the Washington Post, and he continues to collaborate with local artists in Japan while teaching at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee and working as a guest choreographer for the City Ballet of Boston and the Asian American Ballet Project. www.fukudance.com

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 was featured in Dance Sprit Magazine for winning the Future Star Award at Pick The Stars Competition in Canada. She won title awards such as Miss Pick The Stars International (2003, 2004 & 2005) and Miss Sophisticated Productions (2004 & 2005). Angela has studied many forms of dance at Steps On Broadway and Broadway Dance Center in New York City. She received a full scholarship for the Rockette Summer Intensive in New York City and performed at Radio City Music Hall. 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. 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. Angela has also had the opportunity to be the choreographer for Pippin, Dog Fight and Jesus Christ Superstar at the Player's Ring in Portsmouth, NH. Angela has recently studied under Rhonda Malkin in NYC for precision dance.

Maiya Jordan began dancing at age 11. She received her primary dance education at Sole City Dance, The Dance Annex, and Bellete Ballet. Maiya also attended several summer programs, including the Urbanity Intensive in Boston. Maiya performed locally with The New England Dance Project, BeBaCo, and Sole City's ensemble. After high school, Maiya spent two years furthering her dance education at The Boston Conservatory and University of the Arts in Philadelphia. She was cast in several original pieces which gave her the opportunity to dance in Boston, Philadelphia, and New York City. Maiya has had the opportunity to share her love of dance with students, teaching at several local studios, as well as Berwick Academy's Summer Program. Maiya has experience choreographing both solo and group pieces in a diverse range of styles.

Elyssa Moyer 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. www.liladancefestival.com

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 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. www.liladancefestival.com

A Rochester native, **Ian Rodger's** dance journey started at the age of 19 when he took his first ballet class at the University of New Hampshire. What began as simply a means of fulfilling the college Arts general education requirement quickly bloomed 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 last 15+ years his love of dance has grown into a diverse professional career collaborating with studios and dancers on various projects throughout the Seacoast area. Though ballet is the foundation of his training, Ian has studied contemporary ballet, modern, Ballroom, Latin, jazz, lyrical, and traditional folklore dance styles. He also teaches ballet partnering workshops. When he's not dancing, Ian enjoys spending his free time being active outdoors and is a serious nature enthusiast. He graduated UNH with a degree in Zoology and works for a federal land conservation agency helping to protect important farmlands, wetlands, and forests across the country.

Naomi Sawyer 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*, Odette/Odile in *Swan Lake*, and Aurora in *Sleeping Beauty*. 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.

Leann Sbrizza began dancing at the age of six at Corinne's School of Dance where she received the majority of her dance education. During her high school years she started expanding her education to the surrounding area where she took classes at Sole City, The Dance Annex, and New England Dance Project. Over the years she had the opportunity to perform with Corinne's School of Dance Ballet Company directed by Angela Grassie. She has been cast in many roles in various ballets, including *The Wizard of Oz*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *The Nutcracker*. After high school, Leann continued her dance education at UNH, where she trained in ballet, jazz, theater and, her favorite, aerial! Leann is currently loving the opportunity to dance and perform for Julie Hebb in the Dance Annex's professional company!

Janelle Abbott Staley is a dancer and educator based in southern Maine, and has performed nationally and internationally with dance companies, in theatre and in film. Janelle has performed on and off- Broadway, in Elton John's *The Red Piano* Concert (soloist on-screen in *Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me*), in Shakespeare Theatre Company's *Twelfth Night*, in Norah Jones' *Those Sweet Words* music video, and with NYC's dre.dance, Terra Firma, and Slam (rehearsal assistant), among others. Recently, she has worked with Boston-based artists Peter DiMuro/Public Displays of Motion, Lorraine Chapman, and Kat Nasti Dance. Janelle is a member of Annex Contemporary Dance Company, and dances with Articine, a touring company that integrates performance and arts education with healthcare. She began her career with Michigan's Grand Rapids Ballet and received a BFA in Ballet from the University of Utah. Janelle has taught at Steps on Broadway and Broadway Dance Center and has led master classes around the country. A certified Pilates instructor, she has trained celebrity clientele at top studios in NYC and Boston, and has led workshops for Audible and Amazon in Seattle, WA. Janelle is a faculty member of The Dance Annex Studio for the Dance Arts in York, ME, and serves on the board of Lila Dance Festival, an annual event showcasing New England-based dance artists. Janelle's favorite role of all is Mom to Willow and Penelope. Thanks to Dance Dad/Husband extraordinaire William. Dedicated to my dear dancer-unicorn-friend Joanna. www.janelleabbottstaley.com

Rhianwen Watkins has trained extensively in ballet and modern, as well as jazz, tap, contemporary, hip hop, theatre dance and Latin ballroom. She began her training at Great Bay Academy of Dance with Elisa Gerasin. She also spent many years training with Julie Hebb at the Dance Annex, focusing on ballet and modern. Rhi was very involved in her high school theatre department at Portsmouth High School and at other local theatres in the Seacoast area including Seacoast Repertory Theatre, Rochester Opera House, and the University of New Hampshire theatre department. She has received many lead dancer roles and has served as dance captain in multiple theatrical productions. Rhianwen recently graduated from the University of New Hampshire where she received a BA in dance and a BA in journalism. She looks forward to her next steps of attending the Broadway Dance Center's professional semester in New York City. She is thrilled to be performing tonight with the company of her home studio, the Annex Contemporary Dance Company, and hopes you enjoy the show!



The Dance Annex/Annex Contemporary Dance Company is a sponsored project of Fractured Atlas, a non-profit arts service organization. For more information and to make a tax-deductible contribution, please visit:

www.thedanceannexstudio.com/support.html