

The Dance Annex Studio for the Dance Arts presents

THE NUTCRACKER

2021



Friday, November 26 at 6pm • Saturday, November 27 at 1pm & 6pm
Sunday, November 28 at 12pm

The STAR Theatre, Kittery, Maine

A Note from the Artistic Director

Dear Guests,

Welcome to The Dance Annex's 5th year of *The Nutcracker*!

It is time to celebrate not only the joy of the season and the fifth year of this special production, but our return to LIVE dance! We are so excited for this! The pandemic has thrown many wrenches into all of our lives and we have managed, through it all, to create a production full of joy and excitement. And we are thrilled to share it with you!



Looking back, the 2019 season was the studio's most successful year, with our strongest start ever leading into 2020, and then along came the pandemic. We adapted with virtual offerings and modified class schedules for all of 2020 and the unfortunate cancellation of all of our performances, including the 2020 *Nutcracker*. While registrations waned, the studio managed to weather the year with the assistance of a small amount of federal grants and a great amount of Dance Annex family support and dedication. Thank you!! We would not be here today without your patronage and continued commitment. We have ROCKSTAR families and dancers at The Dance Annex!

In 2021, our *Nutcracker* has continued to grow, with our largest cast to date, and our youth dancers exceeding our expectations. While this year has continued to bring the challenges of pandemic life to the studio, school, at home and at work, our local professionals, college students, youth dancers and their families have continued to rally together through it all. It is truly a time for celebration! And gratitude.

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

The 2021 Company

Corinne Allaire
Nigella Anderson
Elyssa Bigos
Isabella Boucher
Poppy Brown
Maisey Burlingame
Olive Chisolm
Carmela Del Deo
Maisy Del Deo
Hannah Dionne-Underwood
Jillian Dorazio
Molly Finan
Summer Flaherty
Kacie Friberg
Michael Friberg
Jemma Glenn Wixson
Courtlynn Goettler
Donald Goettler
Amelia Gordon
Andrew Grassie
Angela Grassie
Allison Grassie
Andrew Grassie
Caroline Guay
Julie Hebb
Claire Hopkins

Madison Jenkins
Sarah Koerschner
Imogen Lightner
Amelia Martell
Cooper Mendoza
Maeve McEachern
Brinn McKenney
Tierney McKenney
Katherine Meyers
Shelbea Makela
Nathan Moyer
Abigail Patten
Ava Peltz
Kendra Popek
Avery Rice
Coralyn Robinson
Ian Rodgers
Lorelei Samon
Maya Schrimper
Meghan McCoy Seedner
Emma Smith
Janelle Abbott Staley
Penelope Staley
Willoughby Staley
India Veilleux
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.....Emma Smith
Herr Stahlbaum.....Andrew Grassie
Frau Stahlbaum.....Lorelei Samon
Herr Drosselmeyer.....Donald Goettler
Maid.....Maisy Del Deo
Party Guests.....Corinne Allaire, Kacie Friberg, Michael Friberg
Party Girls.....Nigella Anderson, Madison Jenkins, Amelia Gordon,
Caroline Guay, Katherine Meyers
Party Boys.....Carmela Del Deo, Andrew Grassie
Young Party Girls.....Allison Grassie, Willoughby Staley
Party Teens.....Maeve McEachern, Ava Peltz
Soldier Doll.....Courtlynn Goettler
Ballerina Doll.....Elyssa Bigos
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 Lieutenant.....Coralyn Robinson
Mice.....Maisey Burlingame, Andrew Grassie, Claire Hopkins,
Imogen Lightner, Sarah Koerschner, Penelope Staley
Soldier Officers.....Isabella Boucher, Izabel Yaxley
Battalion.....Hannah Dionne-Underwood, Allison Grassie, Amelia Martell, Brinn McKenney,
Cooper Mendoza, Avery Rice, Maya Schrimper, India Veilleux

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.....Angela Grassie (Nov. 26 at 6pm & Nov. 27 at 1pm)
Snow Queen & Snow King.....Elyssa Bigos & Nathan Moyer (Nov. 27 at 6pm & Nov. 28 at 12pm)
Snowflake.s.....Elyssa Bigos, Jemma Glenn Wixson, Angela Grassie, Shelbea Makela,
Abigail Patten, Kendra Popek, Lorelei Samon, Meghan McCoy Seedner
Frost.....Molly Finan, Maeve McEachern, Katherine Meyers

ACT II THE KINGDOM OF 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 Herald.....Lorelei Samon
Palace Couriers.....Isabella Boucher, Coralyn Robinson
Palace Pages.....Poppy Brown, Olive Chisolm, Imogen Lightner, Tierney McKenney

Spanish Chocolate.....Jillian Dorazio, Jemma Glenn Wixson, Shelbea Makela
Maisy Del Deo, Molly Finan, Maeve McEachern

Arabian Coffee.....Abigail Patten
Corps.....Nigella Anderson, Ava Peltz

Chinese Tea.....Janelle Abbott Staley & Ian Rodgers
Corps.....Carmela Del Deo, Madison Jenkins, Willoughby Staley, Izabel Yaxley

Peppermint.....Angela Grassie & Nathan Moyer
Corps.....Courtlynn Goettler, Katherine Meyers

Ribbon Candy.....Kendra Popek, Lorelei Samon, Meghan McCoy Seedner

The Confectionery

Mother Ginger.....Julie Hebb
Gumdrops.....Summer Flaherty, Andrew Grassie, Brinn McKenney
Bakers.....Amelia Gordon, Allison Grassie, Caroline Guay, Avery Rice, India Veilleux
Gingerbreads.....Hannah Dionne-Underwood, Claire Hopkins, Maya Schrimper, Penelope Staley

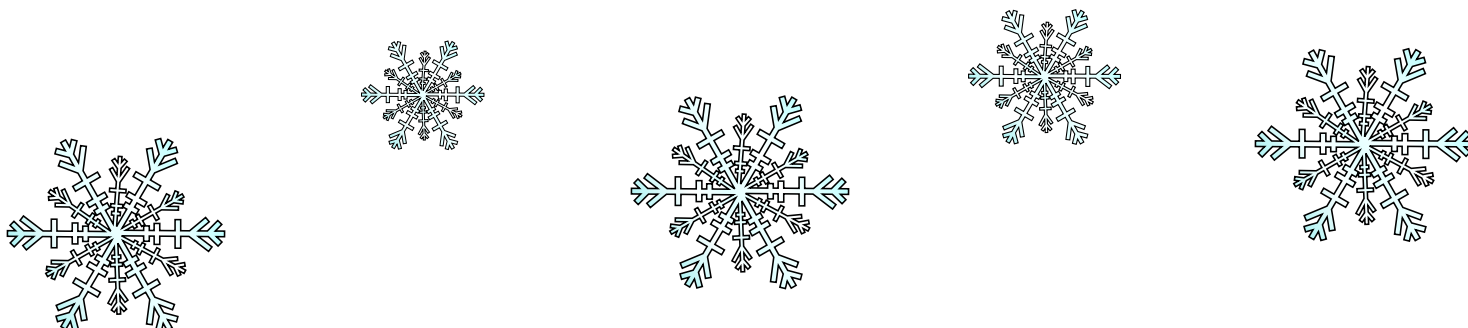
Waltz of the Flowers

Dew Drop Fairy.....Elyssa Bigos
Flowers.....Jemma Glenn Wixson, Angela Grassie, Shelbea Makela,
Abigail Patten, Kendra Popek, Lorelei Samon
Rosebuds.....Maisy Del Deo, Courtney Goettler, Ava Peltz

Grand Pas

Sugar Plum Fairy.....Ruth Whitney
Cavalier.....Boris Richir

Finale.....Full Company



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2021 PRODUCTION STAFF & CREW

Artistic Director and Choreographer: Julie Hebb

Additional Choreography:

Arabian Chocolate & Waltz of the Flowers: Angela Grassie

Chinese Tea: Janelle Abbott Staley & Ian Rodgers

Lighting Designer: Bretton Reiss

Lights and Sound Operator: Katie Juster

Stage Manager: Janelle Abbott Staley

Assistant Stage Manager: Kate Smith

Production Crew: Kelsey Heyland, Chloe Makela, Jeff Samon

Set Design and Construction: Donald Goettler

Props and Furnishings Coordinator: Kate Smith

Costume Mistress: Susan Hirsch

Costume Assistance: Zoe Jellison

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 their hosting of *The Nutcracker*, and many thanks to my family Don, Courtlynn, and Lolo for their unending support.

The Dance Annex would like to thank the following donors for their generous contributions to The 2021 Nutcracker.

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Arlette Abbott

THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 PARTNERS



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, and founded The Dance Annex in Kittery in the Fall of 2012.

Ruth Whitney (Sugar Plum Fairy) Ruth Whitney 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 is currently a guest artist with City Ballet of Boston and 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. Ms. Whitney is grateful and excited to be joining the Dance Annex in this year's production of the *Nutcracker*.

Boris Richir (Cavalier) 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.

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 for two years 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 became a company trainee. Since returning to New Hampshire, Elyssa has performed as a guest artist with companies and schools across New England.

Jillian Dorazio has been dancing with The Dance Annex for 7 years, and began assistant teaching in 2016. Throughout her training, she has performed in various ballet, pointe, contemporary, tap, and jazz pieces, participating in the studio's annual Spring Showcase since 2015. This is Jillian's fifth season dancing in *The Nutcracker*, previously enjoying roles like Snow and Flowers corps, as well as Chinese, Arabian, and Russian divertissements. She is incredibly excited to have the opportunity to perform while attending Saint Anselm College, where the sophomore Communication and Politics major hopes to pursue a career in political journalism. Jillian is currently a selected member of the Kevin B. Harrington Student Ambassador Program, located at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics.

Jemma Glenn Wixson began her ballet training in 2011 with The Dance Annex Studio. Her performing experiences include annual Spring Showcases with The Dance Annex where she has performed in classical ballet, jazz, tap and contemporary works, as well as multiple roles in their annual *Nutcracker* production. She has been an assistant dance teacher since she was 14 and has taught beginner ballet classes at The Dance Annex. Jemma also has a theatrical performing arts career and has performed in productions across the Seacoast in shows such as *Mamma Mia* at The Hackmatack Playhouse, *The Crucible* at New Hampshire Theater Project, and *Into the Woods* with Threshold Stage Company, and others. She is currently studying neuroscience at the University of New Hampshire. This is Jemma's fifth *Nutcracker* with The Dance Annex and she is so excited to be performing in this production.

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 is graduating from the University of Southern Maine in May with her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. This is her fourth season dancing at 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. Nathan lived in Paris for eight months and trained in modern dance under the direction of Thierry Verger. In 2003 Nathan enrolled at the University of New Hampshire. While at UNH, Nathan studied ballet under former Boston Ballet dancers, David Drummond & Larry Robertson. Nathan graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 2005 with a bachelor degree in theatre and dance. He performed with Ballet New England 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 continue his pursuit of ballet. While living in Buenos Aires, Nathan studied under Teatro Colon principal dancer Maria Chichi Diaz, and he was accepted into the Teatro Colon's Men's ballet program. In April 2007, Nathan founded DanceAbroad Argentina, a study abroad program for dancers. Currently,

Nathan divides his time dancing and teaching in the United States and Argentina, and he is the director of DanceAbroad Argentina.

Abigail Patten began her ballet training at the age of three at Brixham Dance Works. At the age of eight Abigail continued her training at Ballet New England under teachers such as David Drummond, Angela V. Carter, and Elisa Gerasin. She has also trained with Amy and Michael Tevlin, and Barbara Pontecorvo. At age eleven she joined Ballet New England's youth company program, beginning her training towards a professional career. Abigail also trained at multiple summer intensive programs, including one with Boston Ballet, and she has expanded her training with many different master classes and workshops. Abigail's ballet performing credits include performing as a soloist in multiple productions such as *The Nutcracker*, *Cinderella*, *Paquita*, *La Bayadère*, and *The Sleeping Beauty*. In 2013 and 2014 she performed as a company member with Great Bay Academy of Dance, and now she is a company member with The Dance Annex. Abigail also has training as an aerialist. She has trained with, performed, and taught different apparatuses including the lyra, silks, trapeze, and Spanish web. The past few years, Abigail has expanded her love of dance through teaching and educating, all levels of dance, at different studios in the Seacoast area.

Kendra Popek's passion for dance began at Sole City Dance, where she took classes and performed until her graduation from high school. During that time, she performed in many full length productions, such as *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *Don Quixote*, and *Cinderella*. Kendra studied all styles of dance, but took a particular interest in ballet, which was solidified after a summer intensive at Portland Ballet in 2017. Following graduation, Kendra began her college career at the University of New Hampshire, where she continued to take ballet, pointe, and aerial classes. She has performed various lead and solo roles in original productions and classical pieces, including *Splash* and *Swan Lake* pas de trois. Kendra is currently a senior at the University of New Hampshire with a major in Communication Sciences and Disorders and a minor in Dance. Additionally, she is captain of the UNH Ballet Company. After graduation, Kendra plans to continue dancing while attending graduate school to become a doctor of Audiology.

A Rochester native, **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 last 15+ 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. 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 has a degree in Zoology and works for a land conservation agency protecting farms and wetlands across New Hampshire.

Lorelei Samon began her training at age 7 and soon knew she wanted to keep dance in her life forever. She decided to pursue a career in the arts and graduated from *DeSales University* in Center Valley, PA with a BA in Dance in 2007. During her time in college, Lorelei was cast in numerous classical ballet productions, both for the college and for an Emmaus, PA company, *Repertory Dance Theatre*. Since graduating, she has had the privilege of dancing with several local companies, including *Solecity Dance* (Rochester, NH), *The Dance Annex* (York, ME), and was among a small group of local dancers to perform with *Janis Brennar and Dancers* (NYC) in “Lost, Found, Lost” at The Dance Hall in Kittery, ME.

In 2018, Lorelei was a principal dancer in “Vanity Lane,” a production of Harvard University’s *BlackCAST Productions*. Lorelei is also a seamstress and an aerialist, specializing in Aerial Tissue in which she has been training since 2008. She has recently started competing in the Aerial Arts, receiving a Second-Place award in 2019 and a First Place award in 2020, both in the Advanced category of the *National Aerialympics Competition*. Lorelei is so happy to be back onstage performing with *The Dance Annex* and would like to thank Julie Hebb for making this year's "Nutcracker" happen. She would also like to thank her mother, her grandmother, and her husband Jeff, for all their support over the years. Love you!

Meghan McCoy Seedner primarily trained at the Portsmouth School of Ballet, with summer training at Joffrey Ballet Theater NYC and Jose Mateo Ballet Theater in Cambridge MA. In 2010 she graduated from the University of New Hampshire with her BA in Theater and Dance. She joined the Portland Ballet Company as an apprentice for their 2010-2011 season before being promoted to company dancer in 2011. During her time with Portland Ballet, Meghan performed in many classical and contemporary works. In 2013 she joined the Teatrul de Balet Sibiu, in Romania. Upon her return to the States, Meghan began her teaching career and continued dancing as a guest artist with Portland Ballet and other companies and schools across the Seacoast. As a teacher now for 7 years, she enjoys training dancers of all ages in both classical and contemporary ballet.

Janelle Abbott Staley received her early training as a company member of the Grand Rapids Ballet in Michigan under the direction of Joffrey dancers Charthel Arthur and Robert Estner. She went on to receive a BFA in Ballet from the University of Utah. In New York City, Janelle danced with Andrew Palermo and Taye Digg’s dre.dance, Salim (Slam) Gauwloos (assistant), Terra Firma Dance Theatre, Adam Cates, Ollom Dance Theatre, and Ballet for Young Audiences, among others. Janelle was featured in Elton John's The Red Piano concert (soloist onscreen in *Don't Let the Sun Go Down On Me*) and Norah Jones' *Those Sweet Words* music video, both directed by David LaChapelle. She has performed on and off Broadway, at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall, and has appeared regionally in Shakespeare Theatre Co's *Twelfth Night* choreographed by Seán Curran (Dance Captain), *Peter Pan* (Tiger Lily), *A Chorus Line*, and *Cabaret*. Janelle recently performed in Italy with John Byrne and David LaChapelle, at the Boston ICA with Kat Nasti Dance, and is currently working with Annex Contemporary Dance and the NH Dance Collaborative. Janelle has taught master classes around the country and is a certified Pilates mat instructor. Since 2016, she has been a faculty member of The Dance Annex Studio for the Dance Arts, where she has had the great fortune of working 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 in this year’s production of *The Nutcracker*. Thanks to Bill, for being the greatest dance husband and Dance Dad!