



The Nutcracker



Saturday, November 29, 2025 at 1pm & 6pm
Sunday, November 30, 2025 at 1pm

York Community Auditorium, York, Maine

A Note from the Artistic Director

Dear Guests,

Welcome to The Dance Annex's Nutcracker 2025!

It is time to celebrate the joy of the holiday season and our ninth year of this special production. We are delighted to share it with you, and what an exciting season it is as we launch into our new space at the York Community Auditorium. Our new venue has allowed us to expand our cast and fulfill a dancer's dream of... even more space to move! Rehearsals have been filled with welcoming new dancers, updating choreography, re-staging scenes, and detailing costumes—costumes, and more costumes! We are all thrilled to be at the YCA.



Over the last few months, more than seventy students and professional dancers from across the Seacoast have committed their time, talent, and energy to making this show our biggest and best yet. We are honored to have this level of engagement from our community and to welcome new dancers to the cast each year. I hope you enjoy this performance as much as we have enjoyed the process of creating it.

As we enter the season, it is truly a time for celebration, and for gratitude. To all of our dancers and dance families, a warm and heartfelt thank you. Your support and dedication are appreciated every day. We would not be here without your patronage and continued commitment. We are so lucky to have the most amazing dancers and families at The Dance Annex!

Behind the scenes, it is the devoted help of our incredible volunteers that makes this and every production possible. From the bottom of our hearts: thank you. To our amazing Dance Annex staff, our production team, our talented cast, and our exceptional technical crew—thank you for sharing your gifts with us. I could not be more proud of this dedicated and inspiring group.

Lastly, thank you for joining us today and for supporting local, live performing arts. These productions thrive because of audiences like you. Together, we can continue bringing concert dance 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 & Annex Contemporary Dance Company

The Nutcracker

Directed & Choreographed by Julie Hebb
Music by Peter Illych Tchaikovsky
Performed by the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra

Special Guest Artists

Naomi Sawyer & Assaf Benchetrit

The 2025 Nutcracker Company

Corinne Allaire	Maggie Irons
Nigella Anderson	Madison Jenkins
Brianna Blake	Mallory Kelbert
Isabella Boucher	Imogen Lightner
Poppy Brown	Catherine Lin
Olivia Chisholm	Maulie Lord
Emma Cole	Ainsley Mahoney
Margaret Combs	Aryanna Major
Madelyn Crafts	Meghan McCoy Seedner
Aime Crawford	Maeve McEachern
Lillian Cummings	Brynn McNamara
Avery David	Ava Meier
Keegan David	Cooper Mendoza
Jonathan Donahue	Katherine Meyers
Jillian Dorazio	Livia Mitchell
Celeste Duplantis	Maren Nasti
Audrey Eastman	Presley Olson
Erin Flaherty	Stella Owens
Summer Flaherty	Maddie Painter
Elyse Farmer	Sage Patten
Kacie Friberg	Emily Pleadwell
Michael Friberg	Ruby Reardon
Lelija Finley	Avery Ridlon
Aggie Genatossio	Ian Rodgers
Whitney Genatossio	Stephanie Salmi-Pepin
Don Goettler	Jeff Samon
Amelia Gordon	Lorelei Samon
Andrew Grassie	Maya Schrimper
Andrew Grassie	Olivia Shakelton
Angela Grassie	Penelope Staley
Allison Grassie	Willoughby Staley
Avery Grassie	Nathan Strassberg
Madilynn Greene	Maggie Varney
Caroline Guay	Raelyn Wark
Grace Harmon	Maira Wetterman
Althea Haughney	Ava Wharton
Cecilia Higgins	Hayden Wink
Claire Hopkins	Izabel Yaxley
Emma Hopkins	

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 Stahlbaum.....	Sage Patten
Herr Drosselmeyer.....	Don Goettler
Frau Stahlbaum.....	Whitney Genatossio
Herr Stahlbaum.....	Andrew Grassie
Fritz Stahlbaum.....	Brynn McNamara
Maid.....	Izabel Yaxley
Drosselmeyer's Assistant.....	Andrew Grassie
Party Mothers.....	Corinne Allaire, Margaret Combs, Jillian Dorazio, Kacie Friberg
Party Fathers.....	Michael Friberg, Jeff Samon, Hayden Wink
Party Girls.....	Summer Flaherty, Aggie Genatossio, Cecilia Higgins, Avery Ridlon, Maira Wetterman, Ava Wharton
Party Boys.....	Aime Crawford, Keegan David
Party Teens.....	Poppy Brown, Claire Hopkins, Mallory Kelbert, Imogen Lightner, Maddie Painter
Soldier Doll.....	Madison Jenkins
Ballerina Doll.....	Emily Pleadwell
Mouse Doll.....	Willoughby Staley

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.....	Jonathan Donahue
Mouse Queen.....	Willoughby Staley
Mouse Lieutenants.....	Nigella Anderson, Maeve McEachern, Katherine Meyers
Mice.....	Brianna Blake, Celeste Duplantis, Erin Flaherty, Avery Grassie, Althea Haughney, Emma Hopkins, Ava Meier
Soldier Officers.....	Madilynn Greene, Ainsley Mahoney
Battalion.....	Emma Cole, Lillian Cummings, Catherine Lin, Presley Olson, Livia Mitchell, Ruby Reardon, Maggie Varney

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 & Snow King, while snowflakes, the wind and frost dance all around them.

Snow Queen & Snow King.....Audrey Eastman & Ian Rodgers

Snowflakes.....Isabella Boucher, Angela Grassie, Maulie Lord, Maeve McEachern,
Katherine Meyers, Emily Pleadwell, Stephanie Salmi-Pepin, Lorelei Samon

Winds.....Nigella Anderson, Avery David, Amelia Gordon,
Allison Grassie, Caroline Guay, Madison Jenkins

Frost.....Olivia Chisholm, Cooper Mendoza, Maya Schrimper, Penelope Staley, Raelyn Wark

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.....Maeve McEachern, Katherine Meyers

Couriers.....Olivia Chisholm, Cooper Mendoza, Maya Schrimper, Penelope Staley, Raelyn Wark

Paiges.....Madelyn Crafts, Lillian Cummings, Celeste Duplantis,
Ava Meier, Livia Mitchell, Maggie Varney

Spanish Chocolate.....Maulie Lord, Aryanna Major, Stephanie Salmi-Pepin

Arabian Coffee.....Emily Pleadwell & Hayden Wink
Corps.....Claire Hopkins, Mallory Kelbert, Imogen Lightner, Maddie Painter, Izabel Yaxley

Chinese Tea.....Lorelei Samon & Jonathan Donahue
Corps.....Summer Flaherty, Aggie Genatossio, Madilynn Greene, Cecilia Higgins, Ava Wharton

Peppermint.....Angela Grassie
Corps.....Nigella Anderson, Willoughby Staley
Jr. Corps.....Poppy Brown, Ainsley Mahoney, Avery Ridlon, Maira Wetterman

Ribbon Candy.....Audrey Eastman
Corps.....Isabella Boucher, Avery David, Amelia Gordon,
Allison Grassie, Caroline Guay, Madison Jenkins

The Confectionery	
Mother Ginger.....	Whitney Genatossio
Gumdrops.....	Lelija Finley, Grace Harmon, Maren Nasti
Bakers.....	Emma Cole, Aime Crawford, Catherine Lin, Brynn McNamara, Presley Olson
Gingerbreads.....	Brianna Blake, Avery Grassie, Erin Flaherty, Althea Haughney, Emma Hopkins, Ruby Reardon
Waltz of the Flowers	
Dew Drop Fairy.....	Meghan McCoy Seedner
Demi-Soloists.....	Emily Pleadwell, Stephanie Salmi-Pepin
Porteurs.....	Ian Rodgers, Nathan Straussberg, Hayden Wink
Flowers.....	Audrey Eastman, Amelia Gordon, Angela Grassie, Aryanna Major, Maeve McEachern, Katherine Meyers, Lorelei Samon
Rosebuds.....	Isabella Boucher, Maulie Lord
Petals.....	Nigella Anderson, Avery David, Allison Grassie, Caroline Guay
Grand Pas de Deux	
Sugar Plum Fairy.....	Naomi Sawyer
Cavalier.....	Assaf Benchetrit
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: [THEDANCEANNEXSTUDIO.COM/SUPPORT.HTML](http://thedanceannexstudio.com/support.html)

THE NUTCRACKER 2025

Artistic Director and Choreographer: Julie Hebb

Additional Choreography:

Spanish Chocolate: Courtlynn Goettler

Chinese Tea: Janelle Abbott Staley

Waltz of the Flowers: Angela Grassie

Lighting Designer: Bretton Reiss

Lights and Sound Operator: Jess Gero

Stage Manager: Janelle Abbott Staley

Production Crew: Shelbea Makela, Margaret Combs, Waverly Burke, Vita Gerard, Jeff Samon

Costume Department: Susan Hirsch

Additional Costumes: Lorelei Samon

Set Design and Construction: Don Goettler

Prop Design and Construction: Don Goettler, Kate Smith

Volunteer Coordinator: Christine Dorazio

Marketing Coordinator: Janelle Abbott Staley

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

Special Thanks to: The York Community Auditorium for hosting *The Nutcracker*, the Dorazio Family, the Makela family, Elyssa Moyer and Jasmine Inglesmith.

For more information about The Dance Annex Studio & Annex Contemporary Dance Company, please visit 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, Windhover, and Lila Dance Festival in Rochester, NH.



Naomi Sawyer (*Sugar Plum Fairy*) Naomi received her early dance training under Kay Welch in 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*, Aurora in *Sleeping Beauty*, and *Giselle*. She had made guest appearances as Sugar Plum Fairy, performs with the Annex Contemporary Dance Company as well as original works by choreographer Savannah Lee. 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.



Assaf Benchetrit (*Cavalier*) 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.



Jonathan Donahue (*Nutcracker Prince*), an improv dancer since he was twelve, began dancing ballet in 2019 during his sophomore year at the University of New Hampshire. That same year, he performed in his first Nutcracker Production with Great Bay Academy of Dance. Jonathan has since performed with Northeastern Ballet Theater, The University of New Hampshire's Ballet Company, and with choreographer Junichi Fukuda at the Lila Dance Festival. This is his third season with The Dance Annex's The Nutcracker.



Jillian Dorazio (*Party Mother*) began her ballet training at the age of 13 with Julie Hebb at the Dance Annex. Here, she found her love not only for ballet and performing but also for working with children. Jillian graduated Summa Cum Laude from Saint Anselm College in the spring of 2024 with a B.A. in History and Communication. She currently works as an elementary special education technician in Kittery, Maine.



Audrey Eastman (*Snow Queen, Ribbon Candy Lead, Flower*) 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. In December of 2023 she graduated as a Doctor of Physical Therapy from Tufts University School of Medicine. Audrey is currently a licensed physical therapist in New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts. 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, Snow Queen and Peppermint in The Dance Annex's Nutcracker, 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.



Kacie Friberg (*Party Mother*) is a faculty member of The Dance Annex Studio 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 DelGrosso, 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. She utilizes her knowledge of teaching and learning strategies in her coaching and class design to help students progress and succeed.



Whitney Genatossio (*Frau Stahlbaum, Mother Ginger*) is a faculty member of The Dance Annex Studio, where she teaches ballet, jazz, and tap to children and adults. She appeared in her first Nutcracker production 32 years ago in the role of a party boy and the Nutcracker doll. Whitney believes there are five seasons; spring, summer, fall, Nutcracker, and winter. She is thrilled to share this experience with her daughter, Aggie.



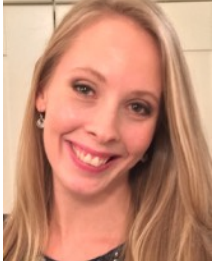
Don Goettler (Herr Drosselmeyer) has been performing his whole life, starting at 7 in a Nutcracker show as a soldier. After high school, he moved to NY and trained at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. He's stayed busy with theater, TV, movies, comedy, and producing. You can often see him on our local stages. He's been calling York home for the last 15 years with his wife Julie and daughter Courtlynn.



Angela Grassie (*Snowflake, Peppermint Lead*) has been dancing since the age of two at Corinne's School of Dance in Rochester, NH. She also studied ballet, pointe, and modern dance at Ballet New England in Portsmouth, NH. Angela trained in 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 and has performed at Radio City Music Hall. Angela was a Rockette Teacher Assistant for the Rockette Experience and the Rockette Summer Intensives for over two years. She has performed leading and guest roles in The Nutcracker productions of Ballet New England, The Dance Annex, Great Bay Academy of Dance, and Sole City Dance, including the Snow Queen, Dew Drop Fairy, Rat Queen, Lead Spanish Soloist, Demi-Soloist Flower, and Peppermint Lead. She performed in Cabaret as a Kit Kat Dancer at the Rochester Opera House. Angela was the choreographer for Pippin, Dog Fight, and Jesus Christ Superstar at the Player's Ring in Portsmouth, NH. She is currently a company member of Annex Contemporary Dance Company and performs all over New England. Angela co-owns Corinne's School of Dance in Rochester, NH with her mother, Corinne Allaire. She has been the Artistic Director of CSD Ballet Company since 2017. Angela recently performed in New York City under the direction of Rhonda Malkin, studying precision dance. She is very excited to dance with Julie Hebb again in The Nutcracker!



Aryanna Major received her foundational training at Corinne's School of Dance under Elyssa Moyer and Angela Grassie, focusing on classical ballet, contemporary, and performance technique. She furthered her development through work with the New England Dance Project, broadening her versatility and stage presence. Dedicated to continual artistic range and growth.



Meghan McCoy Seedner received her early training at the Portsmouth School of Ballet and continued her summer studies with the Joffrey Ballet in New York City and Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre in Cambridge, MA. She earned her BA in Theatre and Dance from the University of New Hampshire. Meghan joined Portland Ballet as an apprentice for the 2010–11 season and was promoted to company dancer the following year. During her time with the company, she performed in a wide range of classical and contemporary works, including *Giselle*, *Sleepy Hollow*, *The Armed Man*, numerous roles in *The Nutcracker*, and several soloist roles in smaller repertory pieces. In 2013, Meghan joined Teatrul de Balet Sibiu in Romania, where she danced featured roles in *Coppélia*, *Le Corsaire*, *The Four Seasons*, *Tarantella*, *Misa Profana*, and *The Nutcracker*. After returning to the United States, she began her teaching career while continuing to perform as a guest artist with Portland Ballet and companies and schools throughout the Seacoast. Her notable roles include Dew Drop and the Sugar Plum Fairy in multiple productions of *The Nutcracker*; both the Big Swan and Little Swan in *Swan Lake*; Odette and Odile in the White and Black Swan pas de deux; the *Diana and Acteon* pas de deux; the Act I *Giselle* variation; Kitri's Wedding variation; and the Gamzatti variation from *La Bayadère*. Now a mother of four, Meghan has expanded her artistic focus to choreography. Her works—*Zephyr*, *La Vie Parisienne*, *In Memory*, *Shootout*, and *The Planets*—have been performed across the Seacoast. Meghan is delighted to once again join the Dance Annex for its annual performance of *The Nutcracker*.



Emily Pleadwell (*Ballerina Doll*, *Snowflake*, *Arabian Lead*, *Flower Demi-Soloist*) began her dance training at the age of 3 at the American Academy of Ballet in Buffalo, NY under direction of Maris Battaglia and Carol Klocke-Murphy. She attended summer intensive programs including Alonzo King LINES Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, and Chautauqua Dance. Emily continued her training at the University of New Hampshire with Assaf Benchetrit and Susan Endrizzi, performing originally choreographed ballet and contemporary works with the UNH Ballet Company. She graduated with degrees in Dance and Dietetics in 2021, and with her master's in Nutritional Sciences in 2022. Since graduating, Emily has had the opportunity to perform diverse works with choreographers from New England and abroad through the Lila Dance Festival. She has enjoyed guest performing roles including Snow Queen, Dew Drop, Arabian, and Spanish in local productions of "The Nutcracker", and the Fairy Godmother in "Cinderella". Emily is excited to be performing as a member of the Annex Contemporary Dance Company, teaching at The Dance Annex, and working as a Clinical Dietitian.



Ian Rodgers (*Snow King, Porteur*) 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 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.



Stephanie Salmi-Pepin (*Snowflake, Spanish, Flower Demi-Soloist*) was born in Miami, Florida and began her training with Ballet Master, Orsino del Valle and later at the Miami City Ballet School. At 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. Summer intensives training included the National Russian Ballet Seminar, the HARID Conservatory, North Carolina School of the Arts, The Hartford Ballet, and The Milwaukee Ballet School.

Stephanie's started her professional dancing career with the Montgomery Ballet, and later with Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida. Before her relocation to Greenville, Maine, she danced as a Principal with Ballet Wichita in Kansas. During her time in Maine, Stephanie helped run Greenville School for the Arts, alongside her Husband, John, where she taught various dance styles to her local community. During this time Stephanie kept up with performing throughout the state of Maine with The Robinson Ballet's, "The Nutcracker" and also at the 2024 LILA Dance Festival with Choreography by Meghan McCoy Seedner in Rochester, NH. Her most recent performances have been with The Ballet Bloom Project, "Essence" in Portland, ME under the direction of Rose Hutchins. This past Spring, she also danced as a soloist in Angela Grassie's production of "Cinderella" in Durham, NH. Stephanie is delighted to have been given the opportunity to dance again with Dance Annex Studio's production of "The Nutcracker" under the Artistic Direction of Julie Hebb.

In addition to her performance experience, Stephanie has been on staff at The Dancexchange in North Miami, FL, 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 her current home at the Piscataquis Regional YMCA and also for the Boothbay Regional YMCA and Montessori School. She currently teaches Ballet and Pointe at TNT Dance Studio in Fairfield, ME. *Photo by Rose Hutchins Photography.*



Lorelei Samon (*Snowflake, Chinese Tea Lead, Flower*) 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 Repertory Dance Theatre (Emmaus, PA). Since graduating, she has had the privilege of dancing with several local companies, including Solecity Dance (Rochester, NH), Corinne's School of 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 Tissu 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. After living in Germany for 2 years with her husband, traveling Europe and experiencing all the wonderful things those cultures have to offer, Lorelei is so happy to be back onstage performing with The Dance Annex and would like to thank Julie Hebb for all her work. She would also like to thank her mother, her grandmother, and her husband Jeff, for all their support over the years. Ich liebe dich!



Nathan Straussberg (Porteur) is currently studying Environmental Engineering at the University of New Hampshire. He danced for 10 years at Kathy Blake Dance Studio, learning styles such as hip hop, jazz, lyrical, and theatre dance. In college, he started taking ballet in the spring of 2023 and became a member of the UNH Ballet Company for the 2023-2024 season. In UNH Ballet Company, he had the opportunity to perform in Don Quixote as a Torrador and Basilio. In the 2024 UNH Spring Ballet Showcase, he had the chance to work with guest choreographer Zach Betty-Neagle from Nsquared. He performed as Siegfried in the Black Swan Pas de Deux at both the University of New Hampshire and Northeastern Ballet Theatre in March and May of 2024. During the summer of 2024, he studied Argentine tango under guest choreographer Alejandro Figliolo with Lila Productions, as well as performed the Blue Bird Pas de Deux from Sleeping Beauty at the 2024 Lila Dance Festival.



Hayden Wink (Porteur) grew up dancing at Kathy Blake Dance Studios starting with hip-hop and slowly growing into other styles. At the University of New Hampshire, Hayden joined the Ballet Company as a junior, starting to learn ballet in 2023 with *Don Quixote*. He performed group pieces and solo's in Ballet Showcases featuring excerpts from *Swan Lake*, *Le Corsaire*, and *Raymonda*. He choreographed and taught a group of 5 other dancers a hip-hop piece called *16* that was performed in the Fall 2024 Dance Showcase at UNH. Hayden completed his Bachelors in Neuroscience with a Dance minor in May 2025 and looks to continue dancing. In the 2025 Lila Dance Festival, he performed a section from the *Flames of Paris* Pas de Deux and a house piece called *Running Into Time* by Millie Heckler. He performed the *Bluebird Pas de Deux* in the Fall 2025 Ballet Showcase at UNH and continues to work with the Ballet Company. This is Hayden's first *Nutcracker* and he is thrilled to be working with the Dance Annex!

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THANK YOU FOR BRINGING THE
NUTCRACKER MAGIC TO OUR LIVES. KEEP
ON DANCING! LOVE, M,D, AND A



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THE NUTCRACKER WILL BE PROFESSIONALLY RECORDED BY
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DVDs AND DIGITAL DOWNLOADS OF THE NUTCRACKER
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*Peace & Joy
from all of us
at Brixham*



Good luck to our
Brixham alums
Aggie Genatossio,
Grace Harman, Livia
Mitchell, Sage Patten
& Ruby Reardon
and our teacher
Whitney Genatossio!

