

The Nutcracker



Fri, November 29 at 6pm · Sat, November 30 at 1pm & 6pm · Sun, December 1 at 1pm
Sat, December 7 at 1pm & 6pm · Sun, December 8 at 1pm

The STAR Theatre, Kittery, Maine

A Note from the Artistic Director

Dear Guests,

Welcome to The Dance Annex's Nutcracker 2024!

It is time to celebrate the joy of the holiday season and our eighth year of this special production. We are so delighted to share it with you!



Over the last few months, over seventy students and professional dancers from all around the Seacoast have committed their time, talents and energy to making this show our biggest and best yet. We are so thrilled and honored to have this level of engagement and enthusiasm from our community and to have new dancers continue to join the cast each year. I hope you enjoy this show as much as we have enjoyed the process.

As we enter the season, it is truly a time for celebration! And of 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 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. 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 & Annex Contemporary Dance Company

The Nutcracker

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

with **Special Guest Artists**
Naomi Sawyer & Assaf Benchetrit

The 2024 Nutcracker Company

Corinne Allaire	Madison Jenkins
Nigella Anderson	Sarah Koershner
Jenna Bobrowski	Catherine Lin
Isabella Boucher	Maulie Lord
Poppy Brown	Shelbea Makela
Olivia Chisholm	Maeve McEachern
Calista Christian	Brinn McKenney
Emma Cole	Tierney McKenney
Margaret Combs	Brynn McNamara
Aime Crawford	Ava Meier
Lillian Cummings	Cooper Mendoza
Avery David	Katherine Meyers
Keegan David	Livia Mitchell
Onyx Del Deo	Stella Owens
Jonathan Donahue	Olivia Omensky
Jillian Dorazio	Rae Omensky
Celeste Duplantis	Maddie Painter
Mallory Duplantis	Sage Patten
Audrey Eastman	Ava Peltz
Erin Flaherty	Emily Pleadwell
Summer Flaherty	Jake Pleadwell
Elyse Farmer	Ruby Reardon
Kacie Friberg	Ella Roberts
Michael Friberg	Olivia Robbins
Aggie Genatossio	Alice Robidoux
Whitney Genatossio	Catherine Robidoux
Courtlynn Goettler	Emilia Robidoux
Donald Goettler	Hazel-Ann Robidoux
Amelia Gordon	Ian Rodgers
Andrew Grassie	Stephanie Salmi-Pepin
Andrew Grassie	Lorelei Samon
Angela Grassie	Maya Schrimper
Allison Grassie	Olivia Shakelton
Avery Grassie	Penelope Staley
Madilynn Greene	Willoughby Staley
Caroline Guay	Jordan Stanley
Cecilia Higgins	Nathan Strassberg
Claire Hopkins	Maggie Varney
Emma Hopkins	Maira Weatherman
Maggie Irons	Ava Wharton
	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 Stahlbaum.....Penelope Staley (Nov 29-Dec 1); Cooper Mendoza (Dec 7-8)
Herr Drosselmeyer.....Donald Goettler
Frau Stahlbaum.....Whitney Genatossio
Herr Stahlbaum.....Andrew Grassie
Maid.....Maddie Painter
Party Mothers.....Corinne Allaire, Margaret Combs, Kacie Friberg,
Emily Pleadwell (Nov 29-Dec 1), Jillian Dorazio (Dec 7-8)
Party Fathers.....Jake Pleadwell, Michael Friberg
Party Girls.....Olivia Chisholm, Cooper Mendoza (Nov 29-Dec 1), Alice Robidoux,
Maya Schrimper, Penelope Staley (Dec 7-8)
Young Party Girls.....Avery Grassie, Sage Patten
Party Boys.....Andrew Grassie, Aggie Genatossio, Keegan David
Party Teens.....Onyx Del Deo, Olivia Omensky, Rae Omensky, Izabel Yaxley
Soldier Doll.....Maeve McEachern (Nov 29-Dec 1); Katherine Meyers (Dec 7-8)
Ballerina Doll.....Courtlynn Goettler (Nov 29-Dec 1); Angela Grassie (Dec 7-8)
Mouse Doll.....Madison Jenkins

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.....Madison Jenkins
Mouse Lieutenants.....Summer Flaherty, Claire Hopkins, Tierney McKenney
Mice.....Emma Cole, Lillian Cummings, Celeste Duplantis, Elyse Farmer,
Brynn McNamara, Catherine Robidoux, Maggie Varney, *u/s Avery Grassie*
Soldier Officers.....Poppy Brown, Brinn McKenney
Battalion.....Aime Crawford, Mallory Duplantis, Madilynn Greene, Cecilia Higgins,
Catherine Lin, Emilia Robidoux, Maira Wetterman, Ava Wharton

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 (Nov 29-Dec 1)
Ella Roberts & Nathan Straussberg (Dec 7-8)

Snowflakes.....Jenna Bobrowski, Courtlynn Goettler, Angela Grassie,
Maeve McEachern (Dec 7-8), Katherine Meyers (Nov 29-Dec 1),
Emily Pleadwell, Stephanie Salmi-Pepin, Jordan Stanley, *u/s Jillian Dorazio*

Winds.....Nigella Anderson, Isabella Boucher, Maulie Lord
Frost.....Avery David, Amelia Gordon, Allison Grassie, Caroline Guay, Willoughby Staley

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.....Isabella Boucher, Jordan Stanley

Palace Couriers.....Onyx Del Deo, Maddie Painter, Izabel Yaxley

Palace Paiges.....Lillian Cummings, Erin Flaherty, Aggie Genatossio, Sarah Koershner,
Catherine Lin, Livia Mitchell, Sage Patten, Ruby Reardon

Spanish Chocolate.....Jenna Bobrowski, Maulie Lord, Maeve McEachern, Katherine Meyers

Arabian Coffee.....Olivia Robbins & Ian Rodgers

Corps.....Olivia Chisholm, Cooper Mendoza (Nov 29-Dec 1),
Alice Robidoux, Maya Schrimper, Penelope Staley (Dec 7-8)

Chinese Tea.....Shelbea Makela, Ava Peltz, Lorelei Samon, Jillian Dorazio

Corps.....Poppy Brown, Summer Flaherty, Claire Hopkins, Brinn McKinney

Peppermint.....Courtlynn Goettler, Angela Grassie

Corps.....Nigella Anderson, Willoughby Staley

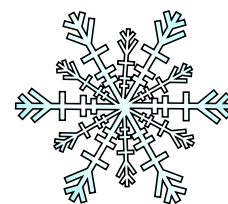
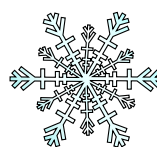
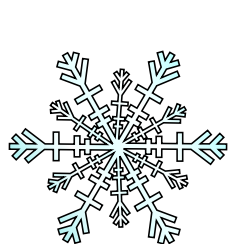
Ribbon Candy.....Ella Roberts
 Corps.....Avery David, Amelia Gordon, Allison Grassie, Caroline Guay, Madison Jenkins

The Confectionery
 Mother Ginger.....Whitney Genatossio
 Gumdrops.....Emma Hopkins, Ava Meier, Hazel-Ann Robidoux, Olivia Shakelton
 Bakers.....Aime Crawford, Madilynn Greene, Cecilia Higgins, Maira Wetterman, Ava Wharton
 Gingerbreads.....Emma Cole, Elyse Farmer, Avery Grassie, Brynn McNamara

Waltz of the Flowers
 Dew Drop Fairy.....Emily Pleadwell
 Demi-Soloists.....Stephanie Salmi-Pepin, Jordan Stanley
 Flowers.....Jenna Bobrowski (Dec 7-8), Audrey Eastman (Nov 29-Dec 1),
 Courtlynn Goettler, Angela Grassie, Shelbea Makela, Maeve McEachern,
 Katherine Meyers, Lorelei Samon, *u/s Olivia Robbins*
 Rosebuds.....Nigella Anderson, Isabella Boucher, Maulie Lord

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: WWW.THEDANCEANNEXSTUDIO.COM/SUPPORT.HTML

THE NUTCRACKER 2024

Artistic Director and Choreographer: Julie Hebb

Additional Choreography:

Spanish Chocolate: Courtlynn Goettler

Arabian Coffee: Janelle Abbott Staley & Ian Rodgers

Arabian Coffee Corps: Angela Grassie

Chinese Tea: Janelle Abbott Staley

Waltz of the Flowers: Angela Grassie

Lighting Designer: Bretton Reiss

Additional Lighting Assistance: Stan Zabeki

Lights and Sound Operator: Jess Gero

Stage Managers: Janelle Abbott Staley, Andrew Grassie

Production Crew: Margaret Combs, Jillian Dorazio, Chloe Makela, Kelsey Heyland, Waverly Burke,
Grace Scoggins, Raelyn Wark, Rhianwen Watkins

Costume Mistress: Susan Hirsch

Set Design and Construction: Donald Goettler

Prop Design and Construction: Donald 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 STAR Theatre for hosting *The Nutcracker*, the Dorazio Family, the Makela family, Elyssa Moyer, and many thanks to my family: Don, Courtlynn, and Lolo for their endless support.

For more information about The Dance Annex Studio & Annex Contemporary Dance Company, please visit www.thedanceannexstudio.com

This 2024 Nutcracker season is dedicated to my mother, Lois 'Lolo' Hebb, whose unending support imparted exponential growth, whose joy in life encouraged laughs and smiles, and whose care and compassion touched so many. With love, Julie.

**PURCHASE A RECORDING OF THE NUTCRACKER TO WATCH ANYTIME!
THE NUTCRACKER WILL BE PROFESSIONALLY RECORDED BY
GOODHEART MEDIA SERVICES.**

**DVDs AND DIGITAL DOWNLOADS OF THE NUTCRACKER
WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE THROUGH THE DANCE ANNEX.**

DVDs ARE \$35. DIGITAL DOWNLOADS ARE \$25.

PRE-ORDER YOURS AT THE NUTCRACKER BOUTIQUE IN THE LOBBY.

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.



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.



Jenna Bobrowski (Snowflake; Spanish; Flower, Dec 7-8) is a freshman studying Environmental Engineering at the University of New Hampshire. Jenna grew up in Western Massachusetts, and has been passionate about dance for over 13 years, training at the Massachusetts Academy of Ballet. This is Jenna’s 12th season performing in The Nutcracker, a holiday tradition that has always been a significant part of her life. She is excited to pursue both her love for dance and her academic interests as she begins the next chapter of her life at UNH!



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 Theatre, the University of New Hampshire’s Ballet Company, and with choreographer Junichi Fukuda at the Lila Dance Festival. He is currently working toward becoming a certified English teacher and hopes to continue dancing! This is his first season with The Dance Annex’s The Nutcracker.



Jillian Dorazio (Party Mother, Dec 7-8; Chinese Tea Lead) 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. She has been assisting since 2016 and began teaching full time in the fall of 2024. Jillian graduated Summa Cum Laude from Saint Anselm College in the spring of 2024 with a B.A. in History and Communication. At Saint Anselm, she had the privilege of furthering passions outside of the arts, such as in digital and social media marketing, political communication and journalism, working for the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, WMUR-9, CNN, and ABC News Live.



Audrey Eastman (Snow Queen, Nov 29-Dec 1; 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 both New Hampshire 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, 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.



Kacie (Ferraro) Friberg (Party Mother) is 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 31 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) is thrilled to be once again donning the magical cloak for the Dance Annex's 8th Production of this holiday classic. Don is an actor for stage and screen when he's not fixing people's houses. You can catch him this January at the Garrison Players Arts Center in Rollinsford in John Patrick Shanley's Irish gem, "Outside Mullingar" and again in late March at the Players Ring in Portsmouth in the dark romantic comedy, "A Funny Thing..." Don would like to put a shout out to his rock, Julie Hebb, for her immense passion and dedication to this and every production she leads. She brings us all up to the best we can be and delivers top tier productions second to none. We're fortunate to have such an artistic force with a kind heart and keen eye for the details. This production is dedicated to Lois Hebb. ❤️




Angela Grassie (Ballerina Doll, Dec 7-8; Snowflake; Peppermint Lead; Flower) 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!



Shelbea Makela (Chinese Tea Lead; Flower) 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 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 eighth season dancing with The Dance Annex.



Emily Pleadwell (Dew Drop Fairy; Snowflake) grew up in Buffalo, NY where she trained with the American Academy of Ballet under director Maris Battaglia. She attended ballet summer intensive programs including Chautauqua Institution, Alonzo King LINES Ballet, and Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre. She danced with the UNH Ballet Company for 5 years while completing degrees in nutrition and dance. Emily has had the pleasure of guest performing roles including Snow Queen, Arabian, and Spanish in "The Nutcracker" for Sole City Dance (2021), Northeastern Ballet Theatre (2021), and Peoria Ballet Academy (2022). She is excited to be dancing with Annex Contemporary Dance Company and working as a Registered Dietitian.



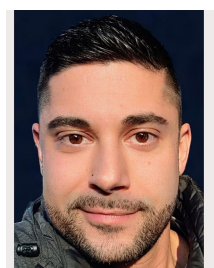
Ava Peltz (Chinese Tea Lead) began dancing at age 11 at The Dance Annex Studio and has since performed a variety of roles in its annual Nutcracker productions, including Clara in 2019 and the Ballerina Doll in 2023. She has studied ballet, modern, and contemporary dance at The Dance Annex and has trained at Burklyn Ballet Theatre's Summer Intensive for the past two years. Outside of dance, Ava is a licensed firefighter and a freshman at Southern Maine Community College, where she is majoring in Paramedicine.



Ella Roberts (Snow Queen, Dec 7-8; Ribbon Candy Soloist) danced at New England School of Dance (NESD) for nearly 12 years and is currently a junior at UNH majoring in Chemical Engineering and Dance. She is currently a member of UNH Ballet Company, a dancer at Northeastern Ballet Theater (NBT), and a ballet instructor at NBT. She has previously participated in local dance festivals such as Artfulness, New England Inspirational Dance Festival, and Lila Dance Festival. Ella has also attended summer intensives at NESD, Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory, Bossov Ballet Theatre, Boston Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Ballet Hartford, and Festival Ballet Providence. She has also taken classes with notable artists like Peter Pawlyshyn, Christina Johnson, Paul Craig, Desmond Richardson, Sascha Radetski, Isabella Boylston, James Whiteside, Francesca Hayward, Caesar Corrales, and more. She has competed in various dance competitions from American Dance Awards to Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) where she placed in the top 24 senior classical division at YAGP in 2021 and the top 12 senior contemporary division 2022 at YAGP. Previously, she had the opportunity to perform lead roles such as: Sugarplum, Cinderella, Dewdrop, the Enchanted Garden Fairy from Sleeping Beauty, and Kitri. This year she looks forward to performing with the Dance Annex for the first time as Snow Queen and Ribbon Candy in their rendition of the Nutcracker.

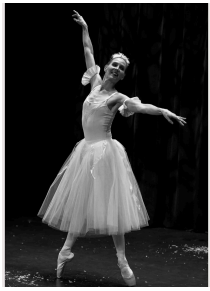


Olivia Robbins (Arabian Coffee) is a professional dancer and Pilates instructor on the Seacoast of NH. She began her training with Peterborough Dance Theatre at the age of 13. At 16, she continued here on the Seacoast at Great Bay Academy of Dance. For the rest of her training years, before becoming a professional ballet dancer with Safe Haven Ballet for two seasons in 2021, she expanded her education at various companies; Northeastern Ballet Theatre, University of New Hampshire with their Ballet Company, and Safe Haven Ballet. To become a more diverse dancer and artist, Olivia attended various workshops and intensives at The Block Collaborative, NSquared, STYX The Company, Ballet RI and more. In Spring 2022, she dipped her toes into the theater world working and choreographing with New World Theatre, playing the lead of "The Unborn" in David Beardsley's world premiere of "Holy and Unruly." Olivia has the experience of teaching Ballet and strengthening/conditioning to all levels, first co-teaching Pre Ballet at GBAD and most recently teaching Mommy & Me, additionally Creative Movement at SHB. Olivia currently dances in Julie Hebb's Annex Contemporary Dance Company. She also a Pilates instructor at FORM in Portsmouth, NH, teaching and adults of all ages. She loves storytelling and bringing the art of movement to audiences.



Ian Rodgers (Snow King, Nov 29-Dec 1; Arabian Coffee) 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; Flower Demi-Soloist) was born in Miami, FL and began her training with Ballet Master, Orsino del Valle and was later 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. In addition to Stephanie's dance training background and professional performance experience, she has been on staff or served as a guest instructor at various dance schools, 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. Currently, she teaches ballet at TNT Dance Studio in Fairfield, ME. From 2020 - 2023, Stephanie took a step aside from the stage and studio to care for the needs of her family. She continues to do so, but was fortunate to be able to perform again with The Dance Annex Studio's The Nutcracker Ballet. Stephanie maintains loving support of her husband John and 17 year old daughter, Kristalyn. Stephanie is looking forward to the opportunity to perform again with The Dance Annex Studio. 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."



Lorelei Samon (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. For the last 2 years, Lorelei has been living in Germany 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!



Jordan Stanley (Snowflake; Herald; Flower Demi-Soloist) has been dancing since the age of two, falling in love with ballet specifically. She is from Paxton, Massachusetts and is currently a junior at UNH majoring in Social Work and Sustainability with a minor in Dance. She is a member of the UNH Ballet Company and has performed in sections from La Bayadere, Evolution (UNH original), Don Quixote, and Swan Lake. She has also participated in Northeastern Ballet Theatre's performances of the Nutcracker in 2022 in the snow scene and Sleeping Beauty in 2023 as the Fairy of the Woodland Glade and the Ruby Jewel. This past August, Jordan performed in her first Lila Dance Festival in Susan Endrizzi's piece "Reminiscence."



Nathan Straussberg (Snow King, Dec 7-8) 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 Nsqared. 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.

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