



JOSE MATEO
BALLET
THEATRE

DECEMBER 7-22
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The Nutcracker

REDISCOVER THE MAGIC



2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- JAN 4 Young Dancers Program Open House (Dorchester)
- JAN 11 Young Dancers Program Open House (Cambridge)
- FEB 2 Summer Intensive Program Auditions (Cambridge)
- MAR 30 Summer Intensive Program Auditions (Cambridge)
- MAY 9 & 10 Young Dancers Program Repertory Concert
- JUNE 7 15th Annual Dance for World Community Festival

JOSE MATEO
BALLET
THEATRE



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

It is always a great pleasure to welcome all new and returning audiences to José Mateo Ballet Theatre's annual presentations of *The Nutcracker*. On this 36th anniversary season of our company's production, please know I am grateful for your attendance and particularly pleased to give you our warmest reception. Our cast and crew have worked for months to arrive at this moment and are all eagerly waiting behind the proscenium, excited to share with you the "magic of *The Nutcracker*".

With the ballet's steadily growing popularity in America since the 1950's, virtually every professional ballet company today stages its own version of the holiday favorite. The ballet's lasting success is often attributed to Peter Tchaikovsky's magnificent score, one of the most recognizable musical masterpieces of western music that on its own has become a permanent part of holiday tradition.

It is from the music that José Mateo Ballet Theatre's version of *The Nutcracker* takes its choreographic inspiration. The narrative, a simple children's fantasy, unfolds in the

way the score proposes. The music propels the drama providing an exceptionally broad range of expression through its charming melodies, inventive instrumentation and dramatic crescendos. In this way, the ballet's focus is always on the dancing, that universal language that can engage and be understood by all spectators, regardless of background or experience.

I am tremendously proud of and grateful to the cast we have brought together for this occasion. In addition to the technical skills they bring to the stage, it is their individual commitment to the art form and to the higher possibilities of collaboration that imbues the production with the hope and joy that seems so appropriate to a holiday production.

I am especially grateful to Mary Thompson (herself the Sugar Plum Fairy of our earliest production) for her leadership, coordination and rehearsal contributions; to Susan Bourque and Brittany Bush (former company members in numerous roles of *The Nutcracker* and other ballets) for their rehearsal assistance; and to Michael Wagley who joined us for the first time this year and made remarkable contributions to the rehearsal process.

No production of this scale can happen without the support of hundreds of people behind the scenes, including JMBT's Board of Directors, our administrative and artistic staff, the families of our young dancers, volunteers, supporters and, of course, our courageous technical crew backstage.

Finally, I thank you, our audience, for joining us. May your experience with us brighten your holidays and inspire you to grow closer to the dancer within you.

Sincerely,

José Mateo

The Nutcracker

REDISCOVER THE MAGIC

CHOREOGRAPHY & DESIGN: José Mateo

MUSIC: Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

LIGHTING DESIGN: Matthew Breton

SCENIC DESIGN: Laura McPherson

PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT: Wooden Kiwi Productions, LLC,
Richard Wood & Peter Colao, partners

NUTCRACKER ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE: Mary Thompson

REHEARSAL FACULTY: Susan Bourque, Brittany Bush, and Michael Wagley

THE DANCERS

Abigale Bilodeau

Kylie Brown

Da' Von Doane

Janelle Gilchrist

Juliana Godlewski

Megan Greenbank

Mikaela Guidice

Emily Helman-Berry

Jason Jordan

Emma Miebach

Deanna Pearson

Maria Perez

Ryan Prinz

Maria Rogler

Elizabeth Rookey

Brandon Silverman

James Velasco

Goldie Walberg

Holly Wersinger

PHOTOS: Gary Sloan, Isobel Chang

PROGRAM DESIGN: Kathy Tilton

Photography and the use of recording devices are strictly prohibited during the performance.

JOSE MATEO BALLET THEATRE'S THE NUTCRACKER

Published in 1819, E.T.A. Hoffman's *Nutcracker and Mouse King* was the source of inspiration for the first production of *The Nutcracker* ballet, set to Peter Tchaikovsky's magnificent score by St. Petersburg's Mariinsky Theatre in 1892.

José Mateo Ballet Theatre's version of what has become the most widely performed ballet in the world was choreographed in 1988 and continues to honor the classical tradition. It is presented in the company's hallmark style characterized by simplicity and dynamism. Mateo's *Nutcracker* has become a favorite New England tradition that conjures the beauty, magic and spirit of the holidays like no other.

THE NUTCRACKER STORY

In anticipation of the upcoming holiday celebration, Clara dreams of a tall ethereal tree attended by magical fairies who deliver a mysterious gift.

Meanwhile, Dr. Drosselmeyer, a marvelous magician and friend to all children, is in his workshop preparing two of his mechanical dolls Columbine and Harlequin, that will entertain the guests at the Silberhaus party. He will also bring a special gift to Clara: a wooden doll shaped like a brave soldier, which he believes to be his grandnephew, a prince who long ago was turned into a Nutcracker by an evil sorcerer. Dr. Drosselmeyer is determined to undo the spell and contrives the plan that will ultimately free the prince and change Clara's life.

Clara's dream is realized at the party the next evening, when Dr. Drosselmeyer brings her the enchanted Nutcracker doll that immediately captures her devoted attention. While Clara is not looking, the boys sneak the Nutcracker away from her and break it. To keep his secret plan on course, Dr. Drosselmeyer promptly mends the broken toy and suggests it remain in Clara's close care.

The hour is late and it is Clara's bedtime; however, she is unable to sleep for she is too busy thinking about her lovely little Nutcracker. She returns to the parlor to look for her new toy. Instead, she is surprised by an army of giant mice, who taunt her. Just then, Dr. Drosselmeyer appears and casts a spell bringing to life the Nutcracker and toy soldiers to protect Clara.

At first, the battle does not go well for the soldiers. The end appears near for the Nutcracker, when Clara unexpectedly comes to his rescue and slays the evil Rat King. Then, to Clara's amazement, her toy Nutcracker turns into a real prince. In gratitude for her having come to his defense, he invites her to the magical Kingdom of the Sweets.

Clara and the Prince travel through the enchanted forest of the dancing snowflakes and arrive at the Kingdom of the Sweets where they visit the delicious palace of the Sugar Plum Fairy. Here, Clara is entertained by waltzing flowers and costumed dancers from distant lands representing delightful confections. As their guest of honor, Clara is also treated to a culminating performance by the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier.

This is the magic of *The Nutcracker*!





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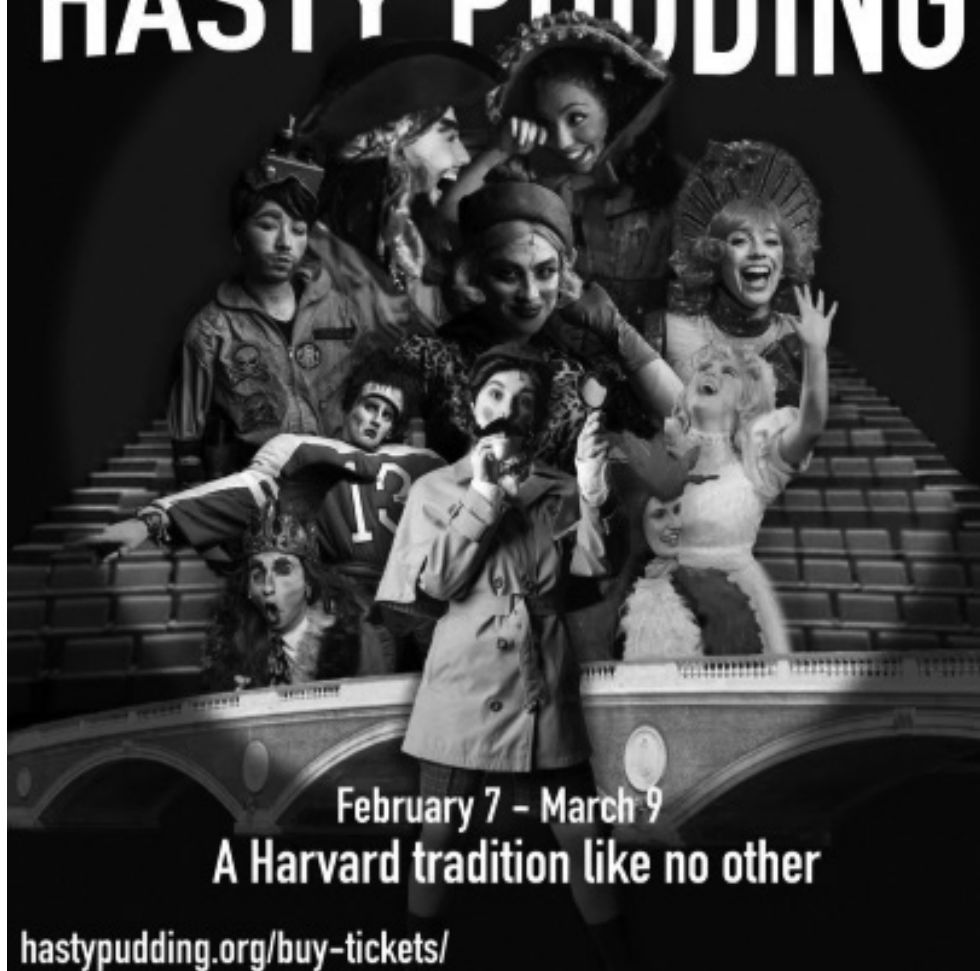


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JOSÉ MATEO BALLET THEATRE

Founded in 1986, José Mateo Ballet Theatre consisted of a performance company that became one of America's leading producers of new ballets, an innovative ballet school, and the originator of Dance for World Community™, an initiative that has elevated the role of dance in the Greater Boston area. Over the past 38 years, Cuban-born Founder/Artistic Director José Mateo has developed his unique vision to create a new model for an inclusive and socially responsible ballet organization that engages today's diverse audiences.

THE COMPANY

Praised by local and national critics and hailed by *Boston* magazine as "Best Dance Troupe" in 2018, the company regularly presented Mateo's highly acclaimed concerts at its Sanctuary Theatre in its home at Old Cambridge Baptist Church in Harvard Square. Its presentation of Mateo's treasured version of *The Nutcracker* at The Cutler in Boston's Theatre District and The Strand Theatre in Dorchester offers an intimate, dance-focused experience that is affordable and universally accessible.

THE SCHOOL

With studios in Cambridge and Dorchester, the School offers an innovative model for a high-quality academy with a humanistic approach to ballet training that fosters diversity and inclusion. The Young Dancers Program provides expert training for students ages 3-18. Introductory courses are also offered to both Teenagers and Adults seeking to learn ballet at a later age. Finally, the School has a robust adult ballet program with the popular drop-in classes for all levels.

DANCE FOR WORLD COMMUNITY™

Created in 2008, Dance for World Community is a partnership-based initiative that amplifies the potential for the connective power of dance to unify and strengthen our local communities.

Dance for World Community makes dance accessible to thousands of children, families, and new audiences through several year-round outreach programs and its flagship event, the annual **Dance for World Community Festival** in June, a multi-stage indoor/outdoor festival in Harvard Square.

The 15th annual Dance for World Community Festival will be held on June 7, 2025 with over 20,000 attendees of all ages expected to enjoy free performances and classes in a diverse array of dance forms.

Give the gift of dance this holiday season!

JOSE MATEO
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JOSE MATEO FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Cuban-born José Mateo is the Founder and Artistic Director of José Mateo Ballet Theatre, one of America's leading producers of new ballets and one of the area's most respected schools for quality ballet training. For nearly 40 years, José Mateo Ballet Theatre's highly acclaimed Company has regularly presented concerts of Mateo's choreography from his repertory of original works including the annual production of *The Nutcracker*. The School offers an innovative model for a humanistic approach to stellar ballet training that fosters diversity and inclusion.

Mateo is also widely recognized for his civic contribution as an innovator of community programs that broaden the reach of ballet and promote dance as an effective community-building force. He is the originator of Dance for World Community™, a project that creates local and global networks to expand the role of dance in communities locally and beyond. He is the producing director of the project's Annual Festival which "celebrates the connective power of dance to build stronger communities." Each year, the DWC Festival presents over 60 local performance groups, provides free classes in diverse dance forms, and brings exposure to numerous partnering non-profit organizations that advocate around diverse civic, environmental and social issues.

Mateo holds a BA in Art History from Princeton University, where he began his formal training in ballet and modern techniques. After a New York-based career as a dancer, Mateo moved to Boston where he did administrative work at Harvard University's Fogg Art Museum as he quickly gained a reputation as a ballet teacher and choreographer.

JMBT presentations of his choreographic works have been recognized alongside international touring companies in The Boston Globe's "10 Best Dance Events" in 1990, 1995, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2008. He is the recipient of the Massachusetts Cultural Council's 2017/18 Commonwealth Award for Achievement, the state's highest honor in the arts, sciences and humanities. Based on his past and anticipated future civic contributions, in 2005, Mateo was named to the inaugural class of the Barr Fellows by the Barr Foundation. Mateo has served as a Director on the Boards of the Boston Cultural Council, the Cambridge Arts Council, Arts-Boston, Boston Dance Alliance, Dance Umbrella, the Victoria Rowell Foster Children's Positive Plan, the Homeless Empowerment Project, and the Muñiz Academy. He currently serves on the Board of Friends of Caritas Cuba, the Advisory Council of Manship Artist Residency, and is the Treasurer of the Cambridge Arts Council Fund.

Mr. Mateo was recognized as one of the 100 most influential people in the Hispanic community in Massachusetts in the Poderometro 2007. In 2012, he was recognized as the Dr. Michael Shannon Dance Champion by the Boston Dance Alliance, was awarded the Jorge Hernandez Leadership Award from Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción and received the Cambridge Peace Commission's Peace and Justice Award. In 2016, Mateo was named one of Boston's 50 Legends and Pioneers by Get Connected. In October, he was awarded the 2024 Oddleifson Award, the highest honor presented to arts educators by ArtsLearn-ing, an advocacy organization that promotes the arts in school curricula across the state.



MARY THOMPSON NUTCRACKER ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE

Mary Thompson's early training was at the Boston Ballet School under the direction of founder E. Virginia Williams. A coveted Ford Foundation Scholarship allowed her to study at Balanchine's School of American Ballet (SAB) where she danced soloist roles in the Annual Workshop performances and was invited to audition for, and subsequently joined Makarova and Company. An injury caused Ms. Thompson to take a hiatus from dance, after which she rehabilitated with Marie Paquet in Boston and Finis Jhung in New York. Recovered, Ms. Thompson joined the Berkshire Ballet as a soloist where she progressed to Principal status and danced lead roles in Coppelius, Cinderella, The Nutcracker, Anthony Tudor's Little Improvisations and several works by Francis Patrelle. It was while working at Berkshire Ballet that Ms. Thompson began teaching. In 1986, Ms. Thompson began studying with José Mateo and began performing with the company and later teaching at the school. Over the years, Ms. Thompson has served as Principal of the Young Dancers Program, and Ballet Mistress for the company. Currently, Ms. Thompson is the Principal of The Brookline Ballet School.

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Debra Wise

MUSIC DIRECTOR
Elijah Botkin

ARTWORK BY STEVE LEWYNTON

MATTHEW BRETON

LIGHTING DESIGN

Matthew Breton (lighting designer) has been working with the José Mateo Ballet Theatre for nearly two decades. This is his eighth year overseeing the design for "The Nutcracker," including the "Tribute to the Nutcracker" presented in 2021. He has also designed for Mr. Mateo's repertory performances, the Dance for World Community festival, and the Dance Saturdays performances at the Sanctuary Theater. In addition to his work as lighting supervisor for numerous Boston theaters, Mr. Breton has designed performances for Jean Appolon Expressions (Summer 2024 at The Yard), Janelle Gilchrist Dance Troupe (November 2024 at the BCA) and Abilities Dance (November 2024 at the Strand). He has served as lighting supervisor for performances by Kyle Abraham/AIM, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, and Faye Driscoll. Upcoming performances include work with Salem State University, Unyted Stylez, Kelley Donovan and Dancers, and the Mark Morris Dance Group.

LAURA McPHERSON

SCENIC DESIGNER & SCENIC CHARGE ARTIST

Is a freelance IATSE United Scenic Artists member of Local #829 as a Scenic Designer. After 25 years in New England, has a new studio on the coast of NC. Also a member of IATSE Local #491, she works in the film industry. Design clients include: Orlando Rep., Anchorage Classical Ballet Academy, and Boston Academy of Music among others. She was resident designer for Mystic Scenic Studios and Seismic Scenic. Her MFA is from Boston University, and BFA from The University of North Carolina's School of the Arts. She's taught at Bridgewater State College, Emerson College, and been a Visiting Lecturer for Boston Conservatory, Harvard's Radcliffe College, A. R. T. Institute. With designing and painting for ballet and opera her favorite work, Laura is thrilled to be a part of this production.



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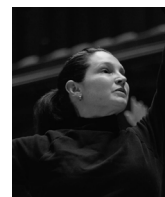


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Newsletter

Boston Moms is a locally focused FREE resource for moms and families in the Greater Boston area. Passionate about parenting and our community, Boston Moms strives to connect area moms to stories, relevant resources, local businesses, can't-miss happenings, and most of all — each other!



SUSAN BOURQUE

REHEARSAL FACULTY

Susan Ashton Bourque grew up in West Palm Beach, FL and received her dance training with Joan Miller at the Palm Beach Ballet Center, the Joffrey School and Dreyfoos School of the Arts. Before joining José Mateo Ballet Theatre as a company dancer in 2001, Susan danced professionally with Augusta Ballet in Georgia. In 2001, Susan joined José Mateo Ballet Theatre where she performed many roles in annual productions of the Nutcracker including Snow Queen, Columbine, Arabian Coffee, Marzipan and Dew Drop Fairy. Other ballets Susan has been featured in include Streams, Danzones Balleticos, Isle of the Dead, House of Ballet and Arroz con Mango. In 2013, Susan transitioned from the stage to the role of Ballet Mistress. As Ballet Mistress Susan worked closely with Mr. Mateo on many aspects of production including costuming, casting and coaching. Susan lives on the North Shore with her husband, Lance and their three children.



BRITTANY BUSH

REHEARSAL FACULTY

Brittany was born and raised in Jamestown, NY, where she received her early dance training with Monika Alch at the Chautauqua Regional Youth Ballet. She went on to continue her training at the SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance, where she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. In 2013 she joined Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre as an apprentice, and was promoted to a full company member the following year. During her five seasons with the company she danced featured roles in Mateo's original works including House of Ballet, Covens, Over and Over, Affairs, and The Nutcracker. After many years of teaching in and around Boston, Brittany took the role of Ballet Director at The Greater Boston School of Dance in 2022. She is excited to be back working with Mr. Mateo and the rest of the faculty for this year's production of the Nutcracker!



MICHAEL WAGLEY

REHEARSAL FACULTY

Born in Columbus Ohio, Michael Wagley trained at the Pittsburgh Ballet Theater School, San Francisco Ballet School, and as a member of Houston Ballet II. He began dancing professionally with Ballet San Jose and went on to work at The Royal Ballet of Flanders (Belgium), Staatsballett Berlin (Germany), and Universal Ballet Company (Korea). Since retiring from his performing career in 2017, Michael has worked as a ballet teacher and holds RAD Registered Teacher Status as well as a BA in Dance Education from the Royal Academy of Dance in London. He has taught at both the professional and university level as an artistic staff member at Incheon City Ballet and Hansung University, respectively, and is proud to have worked with students now dancing in professional ballet schools and companies across Europe, Asia, and North America. He has also served as a ballet competition jury member. In addition to his current work at Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre is also pursuing a Master's degree in Dance Education.



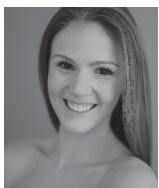
DANCERS



ABIGALE BILODEAU

Abigale Bilodeau is from North Reading, MA where she began training at Wilmington Dance Academy under studio owner Laura

Osgood. She later trained at Koltun Ballet Boston under the direction of Alexandra Koltun and Alex Lapshin. She graduated cum laude from Butler University in May 2023 with a B.F.A. While at Butler, Abigale performed in many classical ballets such as The Nutcracker, Giselle, and Swan Lake. She also had the opportunity to perform in original works by the faculty. Abigale went on to dance with Connecticut's Ballet Theatre Company for their 2023-2024 season and was the administrator of their Community Enrichment Program. There she had the opportunity to work with Derek Brockington in an original work titled Starburst, as well as perform various roles in classical ballets such as The Nutcracker and Snow White. In the fall of 2024, she performed the role of Lucy in North Atlantic Ballet's Dracula. Abigale is excited to perform in José Mateo Ballet Theatre's The Nutcracker!



KYLIE BROWN

Kylie Brown started her training in her hometown of Commerce Township, Michigan. Kylie spent her senior year of high

school at North Carolina School of the Arts and earned a BFA from University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music. She spent summers training at American Ballet Theatre, Cincinnati Ballet and Orlando Ballet summer intensives. Kylie joined the Ajkun Ballet Theatre in New York City in 2016.

Under the direction of Chiara Ajkun, she has performed lead roles in The Sleeping Beauty, The Nutcracker, Don Quixote, Coppelia and in the original cast of Chiara Ajkun's Dracula (Lincoln Center premiere 2016). When Kylie is not in the ballet studio, you can find her managing the Pilates department for Equinox Sports Club Boston. Kylie performed as the Sugar Plum Fairy and Snow Queen in the 2023 production of Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre's Nutcracker and is excited to return!



DA' VON DOANE

Da' Von is a former leading dance artist with Dance Theatre of Harlem, named one of Dance Magazine's Top 25 to Watch in 2014 and a Pointe Magazine

Standout in 2017. As a guest / freelance artist he's performed at The Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Vail Dance Festival, Guggenheim Works and Process, Claudia Schreier and Dancers at the Joyce Theater, Joshua Beamish – Move The Company, Ja Malik/Ballet Boy Productions, New Jersey Ballet, Tulsa Ballet, Ballet Noir, The Francesca Harper Project, Dianne McIntyre, New York Dance Theatre, Mobile Ballet, Wilmington Ballet, Austin City Ballet, The World Dance Gala, Chopin Festival in Poland, Summer Stage Central Park and Wideman-Davis Dance. Da' Von is currently an MFA candidate at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Da' Vons work, through all mediums and genres, activates the cultivation of oneself as a creative tool for self discovery and the emergence of work that functions as conduit for individual reflection as well as collective growth and transformation. The arts are a conduit for forces that have the capacity to change the world and we as artists are the energetic chords that move through the world enlightening those we encounter along the way. Da'Von is very excited to be returning to José Mateo Ballet Theatre's The Nutcracker for the second season!



JANELLE GILCHRIST

Janelle Gilchrist received her early training in ballet, modern dance, and jazz at the Harriet

Hector Ballet School,

Boston Ballet School, José Mateo Ballet Theatre, Broadway Dance Project, Concord Academy, and Dance Theatre of Harlem. She earned a BFA in Dance Performance at the Hartt School (University of Hartford) and a Master of Arts in teaching from Mount Holyoke College. Gilchrist apprenticed with the Hartford Ballet, New Jersey Ballet, and was a company dancer with José Mateo Ballet Theatre and City Ballet Boston. She performed in Anthony Williams' Urban Nutcracker, where she debuted as the Sugar Plum Fairy. In addition to her performance career, Gilchrist served as the principal and lead teacher at José Mateo Ballet Theatre's Dorchester School. She also taught ballet in several local programs, including Tony Williams' Dance Center, Step By Step, and Boston University's Reach Program. Currently, Gilchrist is a full-time dance teacher at The Dr. Albert D. Holland School of Technology with the Boston Public Schools, is an assistant professor of Dance at Boston Conservatory, and runs her own dance company called Janelle Gilchrist Dance Troupe.



JULIANA GODLEWSKI

Originally from Southern California, Juliana is a dancer and choreographer who has spent most of her life pursuing a

professional ballet career. After training at ballet schools including Rock School for Dance, she continued her dance

education at the University of Utah's School of Dance where she earned her BFA in three years. While at university, Juliana danced with Michele Wiles's BalletNEXT and performed various principal classical roles and new contemporary works. Since her graduation, Juliana has performed with former NYCB dancer Ally Hellman's Ballet Project OC, Ballet RI, and Sacramento Ballet. She has had the pleasure of working with Yury Yanowsky, Chanel DaSilva, Lia Cirio, Paulo Arrais, Madison Hicks, Yusha Sorzano, and Norbert de la Cruz III. Additionally she has created several choreographic works for The School of Ballet RI, Ballet RI, Ballet Project OC, Sacramento Ballet Second Company, and Rhode Island Women's Choreographic Project under the mentorship of Penny Saunders.



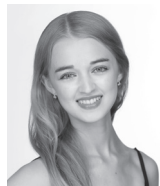
MEGAN GREENBANK

Megan Greenbank is originally from Vancouver, Canada. She grew up training in all styles such as jazz, tap, acro, contemporary and musical theatre.

At the age of 15, she discovered her true passion for ballet. Megan went on to train at the Victoria Academy of Ballet receiving a diploma from their Bridge Program. After graduating she was hired as an apprentice by Coupé Dance and Co. and quickly promoted to corps de ballet. She was even able to choreograph her own work on the company as well as dancing roles such as Alice in Alice in Wonderland. Megan is thrilled to be dancing with Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre for her first time performing in their annual Nutcracker.



DANCERS



MIKAELA GUIDICE

Mikaela grew up in Norfolk, MA where she started dancing at the age of three. After seven years in the Franklin School

for the Performing Arts Ballet Conservatory, she joined Boston Ballet's Pre-Professional Program where she trained for three years. After attending Houston Ballet's Summer Program, Mikaela joined the Professional Program at Houston Ballet Academy under the direction of Stanton Welch AM. In 2020, she graduated from high school and joined Orlando Ballet II. She then headed back to New England and danced with Ballet Rhode Island before becoming a member of Oklahoma City Ballet II where she danced for the past two seasons. Her repertoire includes roles in George Balanchine's *Western Symphony*, *Serenade*, and *Walpurgisnacht Ballet*; Mikko Nissinen's *Swan Lake*; Stanton Welch's *Brigade*; Marius Petipa's *Paquita*; Ryan Jolicoeur-Nye's *Cinderella*, *Giselle*, and *Carmina Burana*; and several choreographers' versions of *The Nutcracker*.



EMILY HELMAN-BERRY

Emily Helman-Berry grew up dancing in Southern California. In 2013, Emily was invited to train full time at the School

of American Ballet. Emily trained at SAB for three years and performed at SAB's "Live at Lincoln Center, 50th Anniversary of SAB". After graduating high school in 2016, Emily was offered a trainee position at Boston Ballet. She danced many ballets alongside Boston Ballet including "The Nutcracker", "Le

Sylphide", George Balanchine's "Chaconne", and "The Sleeping Beauty". She then was offered a position in Sarasota Ballet from 2018-2019. In the winter of 2019, Emily was a guest artist with Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre for "The Nutcracker". Since 2020, Emily has been dancing and choreographing with Ballet Project OC! Emily is returning this year as a guest artist and is happy to be in Boston again during the holidays.



JASON JORDAN

Jason Jordan started his dance career at the tender age of seven when he won five dollars for being the best dancer at a Brooklyn house party. He has since danced with Feld Ballets/NY, Ballet-Tech, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, Rubberbanddance Co., Cedar Lake, Peridance Ensemble, Buglisi Dance Theater, FUKUDANCE, City Ballet of Boston, Dzul Dance, Armitage Gone, Lexington Ballet and Battery Dance. Mr. Jordan is currently teaching dance full time at Brighton High School and is returning to his second production of *The Nutcracker* at Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre.



EMMA MIEBACH

Emma Miebach received her BFA in contemporary dance at Simon Fraser University (SFU). While attending SFU, Emma danced with Coupé Dance & Co. performing

a variety of roles such as Lion and Cuckoo Bird in *Carnival of the Animals*, and the White Rabbit in *Alice In Wonderland*. This past year Emma spent three months in Italy performing with Etoile Ballet Theatre in their productions of *The Great Gatsby* and *Spartacus*. Emma is honored to be performing with Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre in their production of *The Nutcracker*. This is her first performance with the company and she is thrilled to be a part of such a wonderful organization.



DEANNA PEARSON

Deanna trained at the Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington, D.C., and with Jacqueline Akhmedova at the Akhmedova Ballet

Academy. As a student, she competed and received recognition at several dance competitions in the United States and Europe. After graduation, Deanna went on to dance with several ballet companies including Staatsballett Berlin, Houston Ballet, Sarasota Ballet, and Boston Ballet, performing both group and soloist roles. As a Guest Artist, Deanna has most recently performed with The Washington Ballet and with English National Ballet in their production of *Swan Lake* at the Royal Albert Hall. Deanna is very excited to return to Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre for this year's *Nutcracker* performances.



MARIA PEREZ

Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, María Gabriela Pérez began her training as a dancer at the school of Andanza. In 2012, she

joined the Andanza Youth Company and then joined Ballet Concierto Conservatory in 2013. She has attended several summer intensives including Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre in Boston. In 2015 she joined Ballet Concierto de Puerto Rico as an apprentice where she performed various productions such as *Phantom of the Opera*, *Coppelia* and many other repertoire pieces. In 2018 she joined the New York Dance Project in New York in which she performed various repertoire pieces by Robert Joffrey, Gerald Arpino and many other renowned choreographers. Currently she

is a Soloist in Mauro Ballet Company in Puerto Rico where she has performed repertoire pieces and classical performances such as *Reconexión*, *Somos*, **Sujeto a Cambio*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Bayadere*, *Coppelia*, *Esmeralda*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and many others. María also has a bachelor's degree in Cultural Management at the University of Puerto Rico.



RYAN PRINZ

Ryan Prinz began his journey as a dancer when he was six years old. He trained in a youth dance ensemble for many years, with a focus on classical and contemporary

ballet. After graduating high school, he chose to pursue other creative passions, but his love of dance remained a constant source of inspiration. He is excited to take the stage once again with a renewed appreciation for ballet thanks to his time at JMBT, and the support from his family and friends. Originally from Chicago, he now calls Cambridge, MA his home.



MARIA ROGLER

Maria Rogler began dancing at 4 years old at Dance Explosion in Dedham, MA under the direction of Renae Maccioli-Mcleod and Leticia Guerrero. Maria also trained

at the International Ballet Academy of Norwell and Festival Ballet Providence. She has competed around the U.S. and internationally in Atlanta, Georgia and Bari, Italy. In 2018 Maria Joined Festival Ballet Providence as a Post-Graduate for a year, and in 2021 she joined the company and danced there for two years. She is now a freelance dancer in the Boston area and is currently a faculty member of Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre. She danced in the 2023 JMBT production of *The Nutcracker*, and is excited to be a part of their production again this year!



DANCERS



ELIZABETH ROOKEY

Elizabeth Rookey is a freelance dancer and dance educator from Massachusetts. She received her early training at the Walnut

Hill Community Dance Academy and went on to join the Walnut Hill High School in 2012. After graduating, she joined Ballet Austin for the 2016-17 season as a part of the Butler Fellowship Program. In 2021, Elizabeth graduated Summa Cum Laude from the Hartt School (University of Hartford) with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Performance and a concentration in Ballet Pedagogy. Since graduating, Elizabeth has returned to the Boston area, where she is a faculty member at Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre and LaPierre School of Dance, and freelances with local companies and choreographers. Elizabeth is passionate about sharing the joy of dance with as many people as possible, and believes in the value of bringing experience in different dance disciplines to ballet. This is Elizabeth's third season performing in Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre's The Nutcracker.



BRANDON SILVERMAN

Brandon Silverman is from Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania and graduated from Indiana University with a Bachelor of Science in

Ballet Performance and Business and a minor in acting. At IU, Brandon had the fortunate opportunity to perform Cavalier in Michael Vernon's The Nutcracker, The Husband in Jerome Robbins' The Concert, and the Principal Couple in Justin Peck's Increases. Brandon danced with Alabama Ballet performing

many roles including the principal couple, 'Barabra Allen' couple, in Sergeants Early's Dream by Christopher Bruce. Brandon is excited to dance in Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre's The Nutcracker and bring the magic to life!



JAMES VELASCO

James Velasco is a South Carolina raised dancer who has spent the last eight years in Los Angeles, California. Velasco is an alumnus of the North Carolina School of The Arts and The American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA), training in New York City and Los Angeles.

He has performed in numerous commercials, including MAC Cosmetics, American Horror Story Promo, Carolina Herrera, ENKi by Leroy Merlin, and Moschino Fashion Line. He has also danced on an episode of ABC's hit show The Goldbergs and sang alongside Dear Evan Hansen star Ben Platt in a performance for America's Got Talent. He can also be found in the music video Solita by Latin Pop Star Kali Uchis. As well as the lead actor in Country singer Cody Webb's music video Peaches. James recently finished his second season with South Carolina Ballet, where he performed in classics such as The Nutcracker, Romeo and Juliet, and Dracula. He has also featured roles in the jukebox ballets such as Studio 54 and Motown Ballet. James is excited to dance with Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre this holiday season and share his love for dance in a brand-new city.



GOLDIE WALBERG

Goldie Walberg grew up in Sherman Oaks, MA where she studied at The Los Angeles Ballet Academy. She received

scholarships to Houston Ballet, Harid Conservatory, and Pacific Northwest Ballet where she attended Summer Intensive Programs. In 2012, Goldie received the Royal Academy of Dance's highest honor, the Solo Seal. Goldie was also a finalist at The Youth America Grand Prix in New York where she received a full scholarship to the Washington School of Ballet. In 2013, Goldie joined the second company at BalletMet in Columbus, Ohio. In 2014, Ms Walberg joined Kansas City Ballet's second company. She then went on to dance with KCB's main company for three seasons. Goldie Walberg moved to Boston at the beginning of 2020. She has always had a passion for inspiring young artists and currently teaches at The Joanne Langione Dance Center In West Newton. She hopes to continue to share her knowledge and love for ballet with the next generation of dancers.



HOLLY WERSINGER

Holly Wersinger, first started to dance at Coupé Theatre Studio at a young age and transferred to the School of American

Ballet in NYC at the age of 11. While attending SAB, she has performed with the New York City Ballet in George Balanchine's The Nutcracker, Harlequinade, Midsummer's Nights Dream, Mozartiana, and Scherzo à la Russe. Holly also performed in SAB's Winter Ball, Raymonda Variations for the Winter Showing, Diverimento No. 15 in the 2021 Workshop Performances, as well as participating in the Student Choreographic Institute. She graduated from the School of American Ballet as a part of the Capstone Class. She is thrilled to have the opportunity to perform with Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre.



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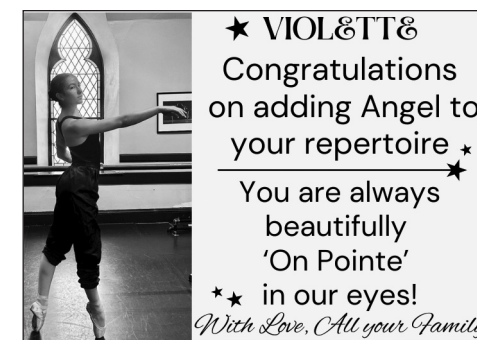
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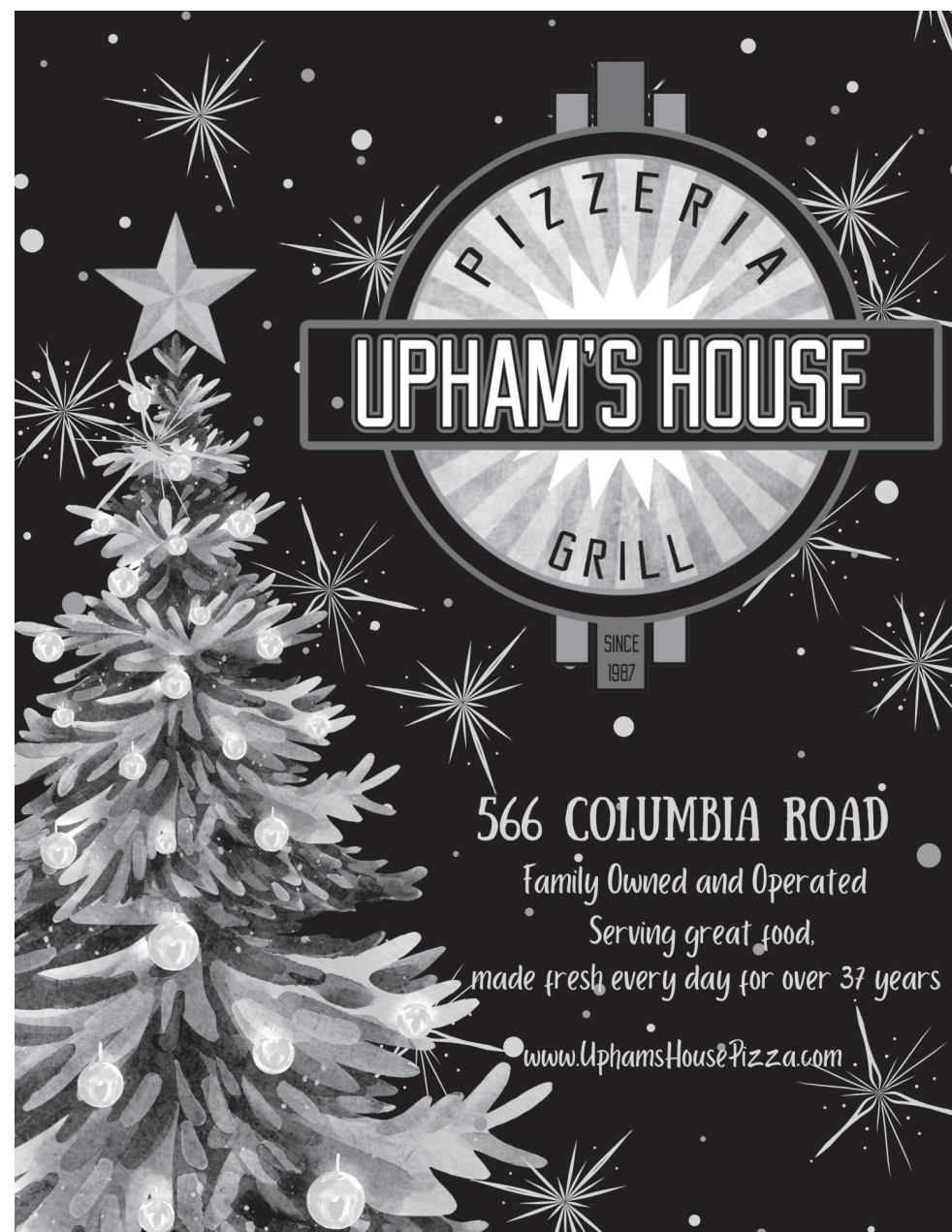


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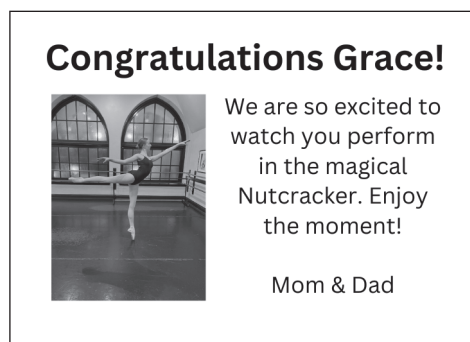
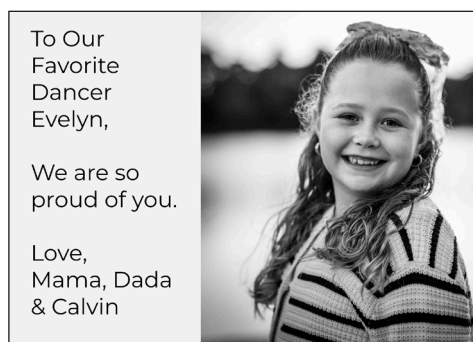
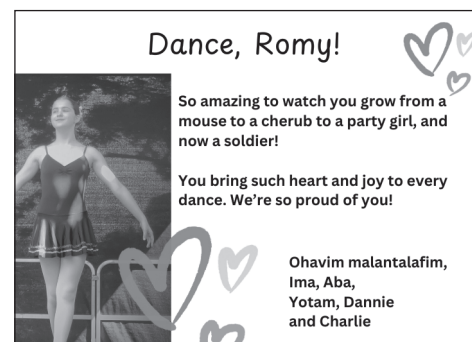
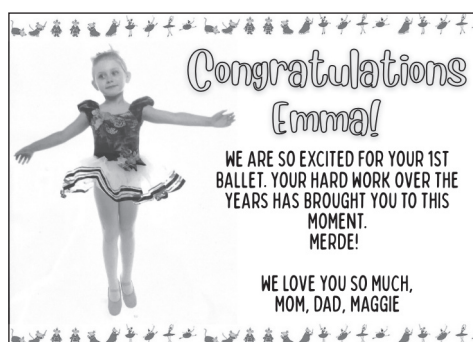
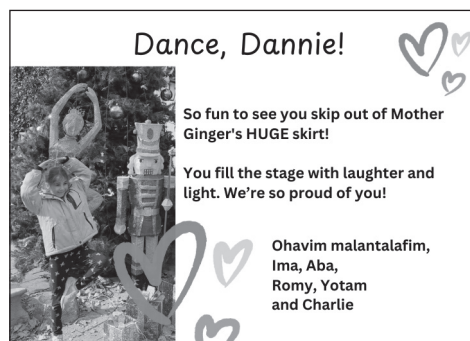
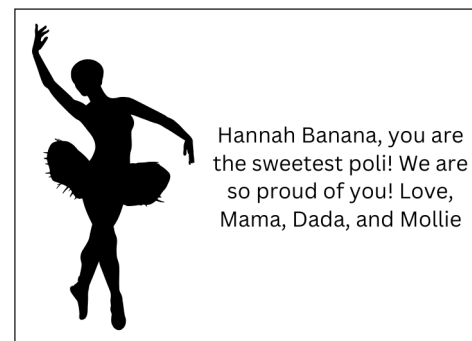


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