

NEW ENGLAND ACADEMY OF DANCE PRESENTS

DREAMSCAPE



SHOWTIMES

June 7th

5:30 PM

June 8th

4:30 PM

INFORMATION

(203) 972-3265

neadinfo@aol.com

LOCATION

New Canaan High School

Auditorium

11 Farm Road

New Canaan, CT 06840

TICKETS

NEADance.com

or at the door



NEW CANAAN
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

N E D T

NEW ENGLAND DANCE THEATER

Connecticut
still revolutionary

The
HANLON
Family

Department of Economic and
Community Development

Office Of The Arts



**NEW ENGLAND ACADEMY
OF DANCE**

&

NEW ENGLAND DANCE THEATER

present ...

DREAMSCAPE

DIRECTORS

FRANCES ORTIZ, GINNA ORTIZ & TED THOMAS

NEAD COMPANY

ANNA MARIE ARMIGO ♦ ELLIE BRIGGS ♦ ANNABELLE BRISTOL

OLIVIA CAROFANO ♦ ALESSANDRA GASS

OLIVE GALLAGHER ♦ MADDIE GODWIN ♦ LINDSAY HANLON

AVA HIDALGO ♦ REBECCA HARPER ♦ KIKI HORSBURGH

ELLA KONRAD ♦ ELLA KURTZ ♦ LUCY ANNE KURTZ

JULIET LANNAMANN ♦ KATE LIVENGOD

EMMA MCPARTLAND ♦ ROXY MAGRATTEN ♦ ADDIE O'REILLY

ANNA PATERSON ♦ CHLOE PERKINS ♦ CAILIN PROSTOR

ADDISON WELLING

and ...

THE STUDENTS OF
THE NEW ENGLAND ACADEMY OF DANCE
AND GUEST ARTISTS

CHOREOGRAPHY BY

NEW ENGLAND ACADEMY OF DANCE DIRECTORS,
FACULTY & GUEST ARTISTS

FOUNDER

DORIS DRIVER

CREDITS

REHEARSAL DIRECTORS FRANCES ORTIZ, GINNA ORTIZ, TED THOMAS

REHEARSAL ASSISTANTS DANIELLE PRESAR, EMILY PIHLAJA

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR..... TED THOMAS

PHOTOGRAPHY DUTCH DOSCHER, ALEJANDRO ULLOA,
SARAH STARLING

LIGHTING DESIGNER: KEVIN GLEASON

SET DESIGN & PROPS GRAYDEN PIHLAJA

PROGRAM DESIGN ROSE ENGEL, GAIL TEYMOURIAN

COSTUME DESIGNER.....NICOLE ROQUE

COSTUME MISTRESSES FRANCES ORTIZ, ADRIENNE STRASBERG,
ROSE ENGEL, SAMANTHA MARKEY

STAGE MANAGERS LONDON THOMAS, JULIAN LOWELL

VIDEOGRAPHY JOSH LOWELL, JULIAN LOWELL

SOUND TECHNICIAN HAILEY DANIELS

CONCESSIONS KELLY MCKEOWN, AMY DUNKIN DONNELLY

FLOWERS NATALIE MCPARTLAND, MACKIE SPADACCINI

USHERS DON ALLERS, MIKE SPELLMAN

HAIR & MAKE UP CARA KELLY, ELIZABETH DEMUTH

DECORATIONS JENNIFER GALLAGHER, HANNA FARR

BACKSTAGE CATERING JENNIFER KURTZ, KIMBERLY HARPER

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR SARA SCHUBERT

FROM THE DIRECTORS

Dear NEAD Families and Friends,

Welcome, and thank you for joining us in celebration of the 2025 Spring Performances of The New England Academy of Dance.

You will witness the extraordinary talent and dedication of our students, guest artists, and faculty as they present a collection of exceptional works that showcase months of passion, perseverance, and artistic achievement.

At NEAD, we are incredibly grateful for the continued support of our community. Whether enrolling your children, volunteering your time and talents, or contributing financially, your generosity sustains and strengthens our academy. It truly takes a village, and we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to every parent, volunteer, and supporter who makes this journey possible.

The soul of ballet lives within our dancers. Ballet is a priceless gift—an art form built on beauty, strength, discipline, and grace. What it demands from our dancers and their families is immense, and yet the rewards are even greater. In an age where technology often overshadows the arts, we are proud to see our students embrace this classical tradition with such dedication and passion. The commitment our families show is what keeps this art form alive and thriving.

We are especially thankful to our devoted faculty—Danielle Presar, Melissa Webber, Justin Sherwood, Christina Fagundes Turner, MaryLynn Poin, Rebecca Tschan, Emily Pihlaja, Rose Engel and Alejandro Ulloa—whose passion, expertise, and mentorship shape our dancers everyday. You inspire not only with your skill but with your ability to connect, encourage, and nurture every student's journey.

To our Board of Directors, thank you for your unwavering guidance and support. Your vision helps us grow, reach new goals, and provide greater opportunities for our students.

To our esteemed guest artists, thank you for sharing your talent and professionalism. Your contributions elevate our performances and provide invaluable inspiration to our dancers.

And to our students: we are endlessly proud of you. Your artistry, determination, and courage are a testament to the power of dreaming big and working hard.

It is our joy and honor to witness your growth on and off the stage. We look forward to sharing this performance with you and to seeing where your dreams will take you next.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Frances, Ginna, and Ted

NEAD Directors

DIRECTORS



Frances Ortiz began her early dance training in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and went on to study at the New World School of the Arts in Miami, FL. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from Purchase College, SUNY, and received full scholarships to prestigious institutions including The Alvin Ailey American Dance School, The José Limón Dance Institute, The Martha Graham School, and Dance Theatre of Harlem.

Ms. Ortiz earned a Master of Arts in Dance in Higher Education from New York University, where she was honored with the award for Outstanding Achievement in Choreography. She is a co-founder of Thomas/Ortiz Dance, and currently serves as Partner and Co-Artistic Director at the New England Academy of Dance and its non-profit performance arm, New England Dance Theater.

She is a Certified Teacher in the ABT® National Training Curriculum and the Cecchetti method, and is passionate about inspiring young dancers through her teaching. In 2023, Ms. Ortiz received the Connecticut Fellowship Award for Artistic Excellence in Dance and Choreography. She is also a CT certified teacher and has taught at Greenwich High School for 24 years.

Ginna Ortiz, a native of San Juan, Puerto Rico, began her training at the New World School of the Arts in Miami, FL, where she attended on full scholarship. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Ballet from Purchase College, SUNY, and was recognized with the VP Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Quality of Student Life.

Ms. Ortiz was awarded scholarships to study with the Richmond Ballet and Dance Theatre of Harlem, where she later joined the company under the direction of Arthur Mitchell. With DTH, she toured internationally performing renowned classical and contemporary works such as Firebird, Dougla , Forces of Rhythm, Serenade, Concerto Barocco, Western Symphony, and worked with leading artists including Suzanne Farrell, Robert Garland, Charmaine Hunter, Christina Johnson and Alicia Graf.

A founding member of Thomas/Ortiz Dance, she performed and served as rehearsal director before joining NEAD in 2003. Ms. Ortiz is certified in ABT® Cecchetti ballet and trained in both the Vaganova and Balanchine styles. She is currently Partner and Co-Artistic Director at NEAD and New England Dance Theater.

Ted Thomas began his dance training at the Bernice Johnson Cultural Arts Center in Queens, NY, and later studied at LaGuardia High School for the Performing Arts. He continued his training with The Alvin Ailey American Dance School, The Joffrey Ballet School, and Dance Theatre of Harlem, and earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts from Purchase College, followed by a Master of Arts in Dance in Higher Education from New York University.

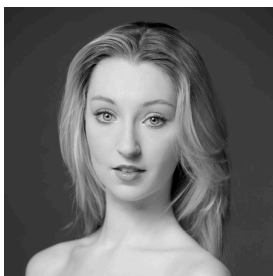
Mr. Thomas has performed with leading dance companies including the Paul Taylor Dance Company—featured in the Academy Award—nominated film Dancemaker—as well as Elisa Monte Dance Company, Ballet Hispanico of New York, Nikolais & Louis Dance Company, and Rebecca Kelly Ballet. He is a recipient of the Princess Grace Award and has taught at Barnard College, NYU, and other institutions, mentoring and choreographing for emerging dancers.

He is an ABT® National Training Curriculum Certified Teacher and Connecticut State Certified Educator. Mr. Thomas is a Partner, Director, and Instructor at the New England Academy of Dance, and co-founder of the Fairfield County Dance Festival, where he brings his wealth of performance and teaching experience to our region year round.

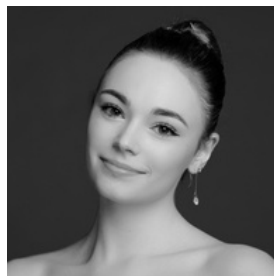
NEAD FACULTY



Rita Martinez Corridon



Rose Engel



Mariread Moore



Emily Pihlaja



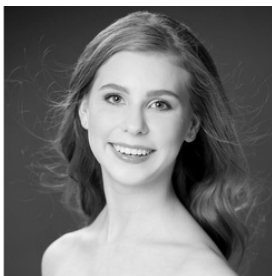
MaryLynn Poin



Danielle Presar



Justin Sherwood



Rebecca Tschan



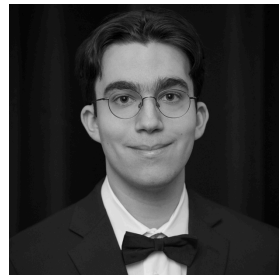
Alejandro Ulloa



Melissa Weber



Lilia Khanina



Ashton Turner

QUEST CHOREOGRAPHERS

CHRISTINA FAGUNDES TURNER



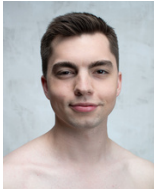
Christina Fagundes Turner began her twenty-five year professional career with San Francisco Ballet in 1982, where she was featured in several KQED televised productions. In 1985 Baryshnikov invited her to join American Ballet Theater and appointed her as soloist in 1989 where her repertoire included principal roles in all the 19th century classics. In 1999, she was a founding member of Suzanne Farrell Ballet dancing Gems by Balanchine and Bejart. She has a private studio, is a ballet mistress for Connecticut Ballet, and is on faculty at NEAD where she collaborated with NSO in 2019. Ms. Turner graduated summa cum laude with a B. F. A. from Fordham University, is a certified ABT teacher who believes ballet enriches our soul.

AMY MARSHALL



Amy Marshall co-founded the Amy Marshall Dance Company (AMDC) in 2000 with Chad Levy. She has created over 30 works and set repertory for universities and companies across the U.S., while also leading master classes, workshops, and residencies internationally. AMDC has toured in Poland, Mexico, China, and throughout the U.S., with a strong emphasis on education and outreach. Marshall has served as a mentor through panels like the American College Dance Festival and the South Carolina Dance Association. She holds an M.S. in Sports Science from Hofstra University and a B.A. in Dance and Theater from Goucher College. She taught at Hofstra from 2003–2025 and has held faculty positions at Adelphi, the Hartt School, the Taylor School, and Peridance. A Certified Sports Nutritionist and Personal Trainer, Marshall integrates dance, education, and fitness to promote personal and professional growth. She is currently the Associate Director of Education at the Paul Taylor Dance Company.

WHO'S WHO - GUEST ARTISTS

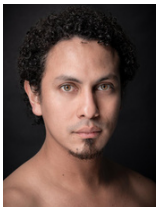


Charles Scheland is a company dancer of Carolyn Dorfman Dance and a seasonal dancer of Michael Spencer Phillips' Site-Specific Dances. He previously danced for RIOULT Dance NY, Michael Mao Dance, and has been a guest artist with Buglisi Dance Theater, Princeton Dance Theater, and Alison Cook-Beatty Dance. Charles has performed works by Alvin Ailey, Robert Battle, Adam Barruch, Clifton Brown, Christina Fagundes, Amy Hall Garner, Adrienne Hurd, Bill T. Jones, Juel Lane, Jessica Lang, Milton Myers, Elizabeth Roxas, Paul Taylor, and others. He graduated summa cum laude from the Ailey/Fordham BFA in Dance program with a double major in Dance and Economics with departmental honors in both majors.

2025 is his 7th year as a guest artist with NEDT/NEAD, including roles such as Rothbart in Swan Lake, Pas de Trois in Paquita, Demetrius in A Midsummer Night's Dream, and the Nutcracker Prince.

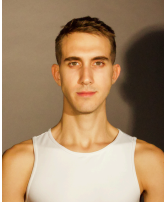
Charles is an expert of the Lester Horton technique and certified Ailey Horton Technique instructor. He is on faculty at The Ailey School, Steps on Broadway, Kanyok Arts Initiative, and the School at Jacob's Pillow. Additionally, he has worked as Milton Myers' assistant and demonstrator since 2019. He is also a guest teacher at NEAD and rehearsal assistant.

Outside of the dance studio, Charles works for Dance ICONS as the Executive Assistant, and was the Research Associate on the recent book *You, the Choreographer*, by Vladimir Angelov, published by Routledge. @cschels



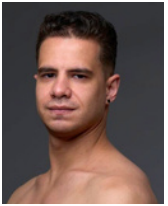
William Herrera Gutiérrez is a ballet dancer and teacher from Managua, Nicaragua. He started dancing in the Gran ballet Quezalnahuatl, a traditional Nicaraguan dance company at the age of 9 and started ballet professionally at the age of 15. After graduating started dancing professionally in the Compañía Ballet de Nicaragua under direction of William Herrera as a soloist dancer quickly becoming a principal dancer, interpreting leading roles in the classical repertoire and contemporary works by Eduardo Blanco. Joined Mystic Ballet in 2013 performing leading roles of classical repertoire and contemporary works by Sergei Vanaev, Gabrielle Lamb, Laura Edson and Austin Mckormick. He has been guest principal dancer in companies in central america performing classicals as Nutcracker, Carmen, Bayadere, Swan Lake and worked in the nutcracker production in Costa Rica under the direction of the former American Ballet Principal Wes Chapman. In 2022 was invited to join the company as soloist where he has been performing leading roles of classical repetitions of Nutcracker, Bayadere and Giselle by Michal Štípa and leading roles in contemporary works Solo for three by Pter Zuska, Bolero by Riccardo de Nigris and Blood wedding by Alena Peškova. He has performed in several galas around the world in Germany, Serbia, Hungary, USA, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panamá. In 2024 he joined East Coast Contemporary Ballet

WHO'S WHO - GUEST ARTISTS

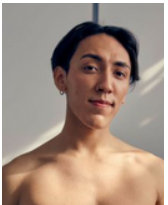


Andrew Demakakos, a native of Astoria, Queens, began dancing at Callina's School of Dance and later attended the Professional Performing Arts School, majoring in dance. He trained at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and studied with Kristen McGrew, Pedro Ruiz, and Lisa Hurd. In high school, he performed with KTB Dance and Drama for two seasons and studied at Harlem School of the Arts. He also attended two summer intensives at The Rock School in Philadelphia.

Andrew earned his BFA in Dance with a ballet concentration from the Conservatory of Dance at Purchase College in 2023, where he performed works by Eve Chan, Michelle Ulrich Thompson, Christopher Rudd, and George Balanchine's Serenade. He currently dances with Madison Ballet and recently showcased his choreography Rollercoaster of Love at Steps on Broadway's Performance Lab. His goal is to expand the boundaries of ballet through his passion and artistry.



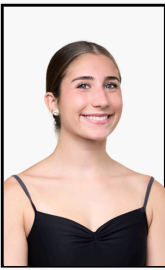
Michael Requena began his studies in 2005 at the Gustavo Franklin Foundation Ballet Art School in Caracas, Venezuela. In 2014 he received a scholarship to study with the Joffrey Concert Group in New York City, directed by Davis Robertson and Nicole Duffy. Michael was a gold medal winner in the International Classical Ballet Competition (CIBC) advanced category in 2015. Additionally, he had the opportunity to work for professional companies such as the National ballet Of Venezuela (Ballet Teresa Carreño), New World Ballet of Caracas, Contemporary Ballet of Caracas, and the Contemporary Ballet of the San Martín Theater in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



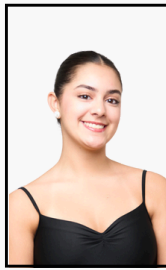
Santiago Jimenez Vargas Born in Colombia, Santiago started his artistic knowledge at the age of 15. He started training at Ballet Anna Pavlova as same in a special program with the Julio Mario Santo Domingo Theater in Bogotá. "Alma en Movimiento"; where he improved his technical skills to become a professional dancer. In 2018 he was offered a full scholarship with Ballet Academy East in NYC where he graduated in 2020. During the time he studied at Ballet Academy East he has worked with famous choreographers and coaches as Darla Hoover, Lia Ciro, Alan Hiline, Silas Farley, Maina Gielgud, Ariel Rose and others. In 2021 Santiago joined Ballet de Barcelona as an apprentice. He has been casted in leading and featured roles for such performances as "Valse Fantasie" of George Balanchine, Romanza by Alan Hiline, In excelsis by Silas Farley, and A Midsummer Night's Dream by George Balanchine.



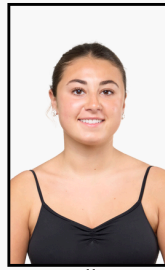
*Annabelle
Bristol*



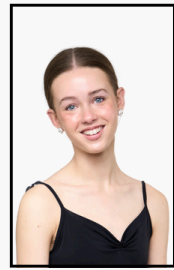
*Alessandra
Gass*



*Ava
Hidalgo*



*Ella
Konrad*



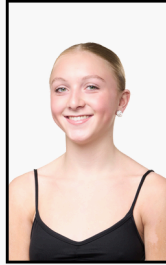
*Ella
Kurtz*



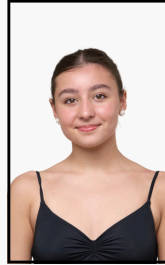
*Olive
Gallagher*



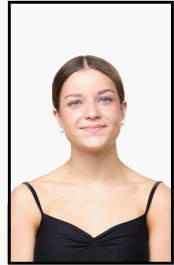
*Maddie
Godwin*



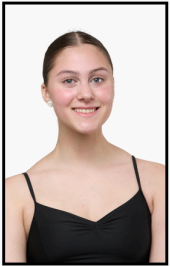
*Lindsay
Hanlon*



*Olivia
Carofano*



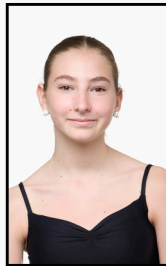
*Rebecca
Harper*



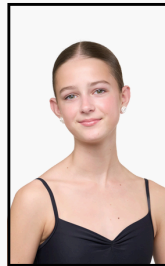
*Kiki
Horsburgh*



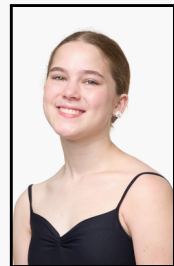
*Anna Marie
Armijo*



*Ellie
Briggs*



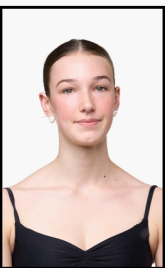
*Lucy Anne
Kurtz*



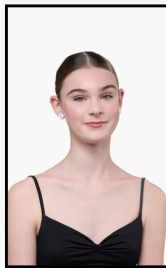
*Juliet
Lannamann*



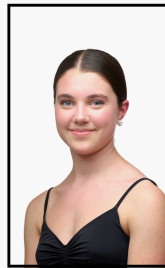
*Kate
Livengood*



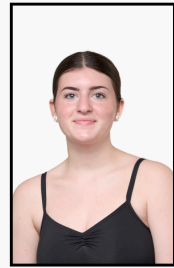
*Roxy
Magratten*



*Emma
McPartland*



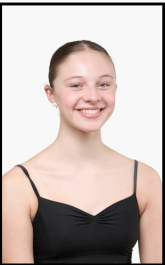
*Addie
O'Reilly*



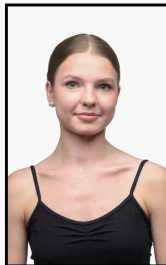
*Anna
Paterson*



*Chloe
Perkins*



*Cailin
Prostor*



*Addison
Welling*

2024
C O M P A N Y
2025

DREAMSCAPE

JEWELS

"Jewels" original dances performances by our Junior and Senior Pre -Professional students, showcases distinct dance styles and musical styles, each inspired by different jewels.

EMERALDS

PRESENTED BY 4B

Choreography by: Ginna Ortiz

Music by: Albert Zabel, Léo Delibes & Adolphe Adam

Catalina Cossaro	Grace Patterson
Avery Crawford	Amelia Rizzo
Ariana Cucinella	Bea Small
Eden Farr	Caitlyn Smith
Emily Fiedler	Greer Spellman
Everly Friedman	Coco Steele
Reese Halvorsen	Penny Symons
Brooke O'Shea	Lily Zwick
Gwyneth Pancotto	

SAPPHIRES

PRESENTED BY 5A

Choreography by: Frances Ortiz

Music by: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Joann Sebastian Bach

Amelia Alfaro	Annabelle Harchuck
Jessica Cohen	Emilia Leveque
Amandine Cottrell	Maria Morley
Emma Donnelly	Olivia Ozkaplan
Sophie Eddis	Gianna Schinella
Loulie Grimes	Elsa Villalong

DREAMSCAPE

AMETHYST PRESENTED BY 5B

Choreography by: Danielle Presar

Music by: Ludwig van Beethoven, Joann Sebastian Bach

Nicole Dolinak
Alice Dong
Zara Hoffhine
Alexandra Kehoe

Adaire LeVine
Bianca Magratten
Olivia Ozkaplan

RUBIES PRESENTED BY 6A

Choreography by: Ted Thomas

Music by: Joann Sebastian Bach

Frida Allers
Bianca Bro
Clara Farr
Maeve Jackson
Torie Kinahan
Catherine Maissen

Zoe Skrelunas
Carlotta Spano
Lucy Spellman
Liv Takach
Mila Zizic

DIAMONDS PRESENTED BY 6B

Choreography by: Danielle Presar

Music by: Joann Sebastian Bach

Emmeline DeMuth
Samantha Heins
Isabella Kehoe
Kayla McCauley

Grace McKeown
Ava Schinella
Rebecca Schubert
Alex Thomas

DREAMSCAPE

FANFARE PRESENTED BY 4A

Our prequel to the “Sleeping Beauty Prologue”
“Fanfare” is a showy outward display; a celebration, or a loud, proud, burst
to get attention. Imagine welcoming the arrival of Princess Aurora, and her
kingdom is erupting in grand merriment.

Choreography by: Frances Ortiz

Music by: Léo Delibes

Darrow Appel	Natalie Jones
Gabriella Castellano	Liliane Murphy
Lucie Del Percio	Natalie Pinho
Lillian Dempsey	Alaia Ramos
Chadee Elgarrahy	Liv Schubert
Nourra Elgarrahy	Daley Simon
Liv Gagliardi	Margot Villalong
Pia Grambling	JJ Walters
Anaya Gupta	Hadley Wenner
Lilly Jaworoski	

DREAMSCAPE

SLEEPING BEAUTY PROLOGUE

PRESENTED BY NEAD COMPANY

“Sleeping Beauty Prologue” takes us to where the story begins, with the christening of Princess Aurora. You are introduced to the Fairies who arrive at the palace to bestow gifts upon her.

Choreography by: Marius Petipa

Restaged by: Danielle Presar

Rehearsal Assistant: Ginna Ortiz

Music by: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Crystal Fountain Fairy..... Kate Livengood

Enchanted Garden Fairy..... Olive Gallagher

Fairy of Woodland Glade..... Ella Kurtz

Songbird Fairy..... Addison Welling

Fairy of Glosen Vine..... Ella Konrad

Lilac Fairy..... Alessandra Gass

Understudies:

Ellie Briggs, Rebecca Harper, Ella Konrad, Juliet Lannamann, Roxy Magratten, Anna Paterson

DREAMSCAPE

SLEEPING BEAUTY PROLOGUE

PRESENTED BY NEAD COMPANY

FAIRY ATTENDANTS

Anna Marie Armijo

Ellie Briggs

Annabelle Bristol

Olivia Carofano

Maddie Godwin

Lindsay Hanlon

Rebecca Harper

Ava Hidalgo

Kiki Horsburgh

Lucy Anne Kurtz

Juliet Lannamann

Emma McPartland

Roxy Magratten

Addie O'Reilly

Anna Paterson

Chloe Perkins

Cailin Prostor

~ INTERMISSION ~

15 MINUTES

DREAMSCAPE

ONE BREATH

PRESENTED BY NEAD COMPANY

One breath explores the concept of a single, continuous breath as a metaphor for the flow and interconnectedness of movement, emotion, and intention within a dance piece. The choreographer utilizes breath as a unifying force, guiding the dancer's physical expression and creating a cohesive narrative to the sound of breath.

Choreography by: Amy Marshall

Restaged by: Kevin Williams

Music by: Kevin Keller

Costumes by: Meredith Van Scoy

Olivia Carofano

Ella Kurtz

Olive Gallagher

Roxy Magratten

Alessandra Gass

Anna Paterson

Ava Hidalgo

Cailin Prostor

Ella Konrad

Guest Artists:

Santiago Jimenez Vargas

Michael Requena

Charles Scheland

Understudy: Kate Livengood

DREAMSCAPE

SWEET DISPOSITION

PRESENTED BY SENIOR LYRICAL

"Sweet Disposition" is a contemporary piece. The dancers movements match the buildup of the music's rhythm through dynamic group sections and breakout solo moments.

Choreography by: Ava Hidalgo

Music by: The Temper Trap

Bianca Bro

Catherine Maissen

Amandine Cottrell

Maria Morley

Sophie Eddis

Liv Takach

Clara Farr

Gianna Schinella

Maeve Jackson

Zoe Skrelunas

Torie Kinahan

DREAMSCAPE

AURORA BOREALIS

PRESENTED BY NEAD COMPANY

Borealis is a celebration of light in motion—an ethereal dance inspired by the Northern skies. Just as the aurora paints the heavens with shifting hues, this piece moves through a spectrum of emotion: wonder, solitude, awe, and joy. Each sequence captures a different facet of the phenomenon—sudden bursts of brilliance, slow ripples of calm, and unexpected swells of color that vanish as quickly as they appear. The dancers embody the ephemeral nature of the lights, reminding us that beauty often comes in waves of change and moments of quiet transformation.

Choreography by: Frances Ortiz & Ginna Ortiz

Restaged by: Emily Pihlaja

Music by: Joann Sebastian Bach

Anna Marie Armijo

Kiki Horsburgh

Ellie Briggs

Juliet Lannamann

Lindsay Hanlon

Addie O'Reilly

Rebecca Harper

Chloe Perkins

DREAMSCAPE

“FRANK SINATRA SUITES”

PRESENTED BY NEAD ENRICHMENT

Frank Sinatra's timeless voice is the perfect match for our “Prom” theme. Known for his smooth baritone and universal charm, Sinatra captured hearts and defined an era. This original contemporary ballet celebrates his legendary style and the dreamy romance of prom night, brought to life by our NEAD dancers.

Choreography by: Frances Ortiz & Ted Thomas

Music Performed by: Frank Sinatra

Frida Allers

Catherine Maissen

Bianca Bro

Ava Schinella

Emmeline DeMuth

Rebecca Schubert

Clara Farr

Zoe Skrelunas

Samantha Heins

Carlota Spano

Maeve Jackson

Lucy Spellman

Isabella Kehoe

Liv Takach

Torie Kinahan

Alex Thomas

Kayla McCauley

Mila Zizic

Grace McKeown

Guest Artists:

Andrew Demakakos

Ava Hidalgo

Santiago Jimenez Vargas

Michael Requena

Charles Scheland

DREAMSCAPE

SLIPPING THROUGH MY FINGERS

PRESENTED BY JUNIOR LYRICAL

Young ballerinas performing advanced lyrical choreography that demonstrates their growth as dancers and artists throughout the 2024-2025 year.

Choreography by: Alessandra Gass

Music by: ABBA

Catalina Cossaro

Natalie Pinho

Avery Crawford

Amelia Rizzo

Eden Farr

Emma Rodriguez

Emily Fiedler

Daley Simon

Pia Grambling

Caitlyn Smith

Anaya Gupta

Penny Symons

Reese Halvorsen

JJ Walters

Lilly Jaworoski

Hadley Wenner

Brooke O'Shea

Lily Zwick

Gwyneth Pancotto

Grace Patterson

STARRY NIGHT

EXCERPTS

Choreography by: Christina Fagundes Turner

Music by: Johannes Brahms

Inspired by Vincent van Gogh's iconic The Starry Night and Johannes Brahms' majestic Symphony No. 3 in F Major, the third and fourth movements of Starry Night—NightFall and Celestial Sky—seek to awaken the senses and elevate the imagination. Through the fusion of color, music, and movement, these sections embody the transformative power of art.

“NIGHTFALL”

NightFall, set to Brahms' melancholic Poco Allegretto, opens with “Night Shadows,” capturing the initial impression of darkness in Van Gogh's painting. A duet unfolds as twilight slips into midnight, the dancers channeling shades of deep sapphire through movement that conveys longing, vulnerability, and emotional depth.

PAS DE DEUX:

Olivia Carofano, William Herrera Gutiérrez

NIGHT SHADOWS

Ellie Briggs
Annabelle Bristol
Rebecca Harper
Lucy Anne Kurtz

Emma McPartland
Addie O'Reilly
Anna Paterson
Cailin Prostor

Nightfall Fairies Understudies:

Kayla McCauley, Lindsay Hanlon, Anna Marie Armijo, Kiki Horsburgh, Chloe Perkins, Alex Thomas

“CELESTIAL SKY”

Celestial Sky, set to the dynamically passionate fourth movement Allegro introduces the eleven Stars while commanded by the Moon with her gravitational power and grace. Brahms' serene ending leads us to tranquility and a profound sense of gratitude that the transformative power of art can create.

Crescent Moon..... Ava Hidalgo

PARTNERED STARS

Olive Gallagher
Alessandra Gass
Charles Scheland

Ella Kurtz
Addison Welling
Santiago Jimenez Vargas

STARS

Venus Star..... Roxy Magratten

Maddie Godwin
Ella Konrad

Juliet Lannamann
Kate Livengood

Crescent Moon Understudy: Ella Konrad

Stars Understudies: Ellie Briggs, Addie O'Reilly, Anna Paterson

N E D T

NEW ENGLAND DANCE THEATER

2024-2025

Jennifer Kurtz, Board Chair

Frances Ortiz, Artistic Director

Ginna Ortiz, Artistic Director

Ted Thomas, Artistic Director

Anne Briggs

Cris Carofano

Elizabeth DeMuth

Jennifer Gallagher

Kimberly Harper

Mary Beth Livengood

Zibby Perkins

Sara Schubert

NEW ENGLAND DANCE THEATER

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DEW DROP FAIRY \$2,499-\$1,000

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The Grambling Family

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Jennifer Kearney & Doug Parker

Emily & Kris Konrad

Mary Beth & Justin Livengood

The Maissen Family

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Brian & Kiana O'Reilly

Spencer & Sara Schubert

NEW ENGLAND DANCE THEATER

SEASON PATRONS

NIGHT FAIRY (\$999-\$500)

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Rand Neiderhoffer and Adam Lapidus
Jonathan and Deb Paterson
Ashley and Scott Simon, Jr.
The Small Family
The Spadaccini Family
The Tabbaa Family

FLOWER FAIRY (\$499-\$250)

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The Cossaro Family
The Fagundes Turner Family
The Gesualdi Family
Laura and Brian Jenkins
Mr and Mrs. Patrick E. Kelly
Luli Li
The McPartland Family
The Sarnoff Family
Cathy and Richard Townsend

NEW ENGLAND DANCE THEATER

SEASON PATRONS

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Cory and Zibby Perkins
Steve and Colleen Prostor
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Craig and Nathalie Schubert
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The Symons Family
The Thune Family

GINGER COOKIE (UP TO \$99)

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The Magratten Family
Sandra Miklave
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The Tejada Family

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NBC Universal
Piper Sandler

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THANK YOU!**

A gracious thank you to all of our sponsors.
You help bring our shows to life.

N E D T

NEW ENGLAND DANCE THEATER



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COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

The
HANLON
Family

Connecticut [®]
still revolutionary

Department of Economic and
Community Development

Office Of The Arts

N E A D

NEW ENGLAND ACADEMY OF DANCE

*Registration for the FALL 2025
Semester opens on
Tuesday, June 10th
for NEAD families!*



*Registration for the general public will open on
Tuesday, June 24th at 11:00am.*

Classes will be full!

Register promptly, spaces will go fast!

*Call NEAD (203) 972-3265 or register at
neadance.com*



SUMMER 2025 PERFORMANCES

Ballard Park, Ridgefield - July 9th

Fairfield Museum, Fairfield- July 11th

Mill River Park, Stamford - July 15th

Merwin Meadows, Wilton - July 17th

Weed Beach, Darien - July 22nd

MoCA, Westport- July 24th

NC Library, New Canaan - July 29th

**All Performances at 6:30PM
FREE!**

WWW.FAIRFIELDCOUNTYDANCEFESTIVAL.ORG



FAIRFIELD
COUNTY
DANCE
FESTIVAL
2025

To the dancers of New England
Academy of Dance:



Best wishes for a wonderful Spring
Performance.

N E D T

NEW ENGLAND DANCE THEATER

Thank you for your generous support of the Arts!
There is still time to donate to our Annual Appeal
supporting the work of
New England Dance Theater.

Our mission is to increase awareness and access to
ballet through high quality productions, community
outreach and dancer enrichment.

We are so grateful for your generosity!

The Board of New England Dance Theater

Jennifer Kurtz, Frances Ortiz,
Ginna Ortiz, Ted Thomas
Anne Briggs, Cris Carofano
Elizabeth DeMuth, Jennifer Gallagher
Kim Harper, Mary Beth Livengood
Zibby Perkins, Sara Schubert





Bravo



To Our Beloved Graduating Seniors: Alessandra, Annabelle, Ava, Ella & Ella,

As you stand on the threshold of new beginnings, we want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we've shared. From the very first plié to your final bow, your dedication, grace, and passion have not only shaped you into beautiful dancers, but have also left an indelible mark on our hearts!

Each rehearsal, every performance, and all the laughter in between have woven a tapestry of memories that we will cherish forever. You've grown into strong, expressive artists and inspiring individuals, and it has been our deepest honor to guide you along this path.

Remember, the discipline of ballet will serve you far beyond the studio walls. It has taught you perseverance, poise, resilience, and the beauty of hard work. Wherever your next steps take you, carry with you the strength of your artistry and the love of this dance family that will always be cheering you on.

Congratulations, dear dancers. Never stop dancing—with your feet, with your heart, and with your soul.

With all our love and admiration,
Ginna, Ted and Frances

Congratulations
Annabelle
on your final
NEAD
performance!

We enjoyed
watching you
dance since
Mommy and
Me!

Onwards
and
Upwards!

With love,
Mom, Dad,
Nana &
Grandad
xoxoxo



Be fearless.

Be brave.

Be bold.



We love watching
you shine and
appreciate all of
your hard work!

We love you
Addie!

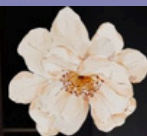
Mom, Dad, Whit, Tucker.

Cooper & Griffin xo

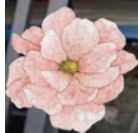


Dear Olive,

Congratulations on another year at NEAD. Enjoy performing in the contemporary pieces and as *The Enchanted Garden Fairy*.

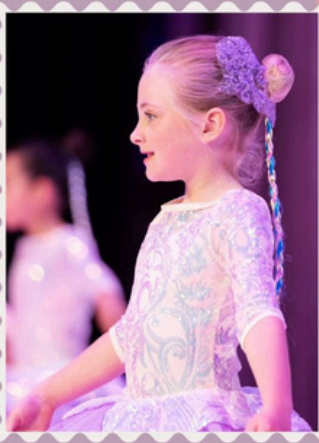


We are so proud
of you



Love,

Mom, Dad and Gordon

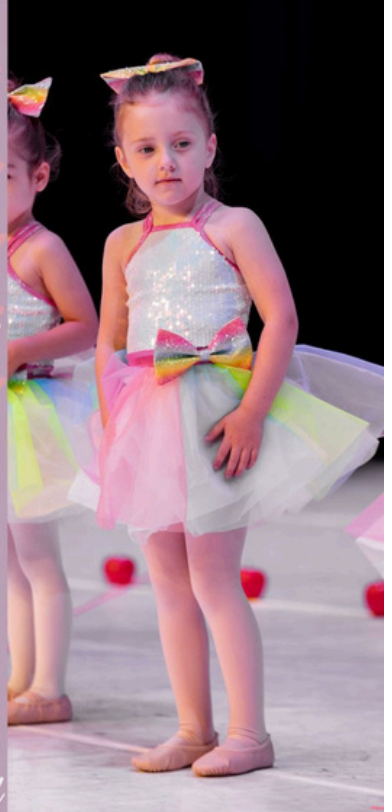


*Liv
and
Emilia,*

*Our lemon drop and marshmallow,
ballerinas! We are so proud of your
hard work and beautiful dancing.
We love you to the moon!*



*Love,
Mom and Dad*



"fly me to the moon. let me play among the stars..."



**congratulations
rebecca!**



**you fill our hearts
forever more!**



your bruhs

Schuyler,



Congratulations on your second recital! We love to see your sparkle and joy shine through on stage. We are so proud of how hard you have worked to get ready for this performance. Brava!

*Love,
Mommy and Daddy*



Larsen,

congratulations on your spring recital! we are so proud of you!

*Love,
your family*



Bianca,

Congratulations on another fantastic year as a ballerina and on your summer intensive acceptances to Royal Ballet, ABT and Ellison Ballet!

Keep shining that beautiful light of yours and making magical memories!

We are so incredibly proud of you!

Love, Mom, Dad, Nadia and Chica





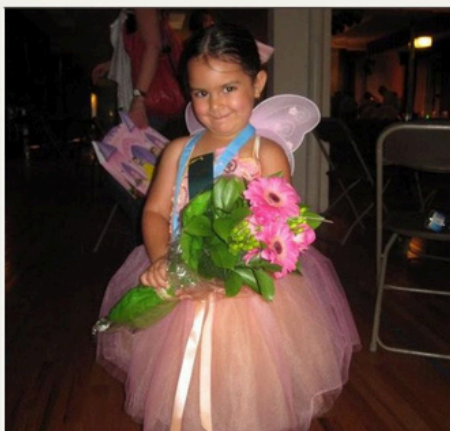
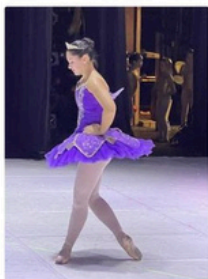
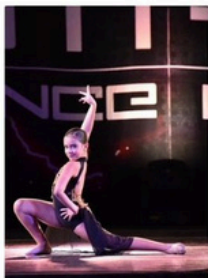
Congratulations Hadley, Lilly, Daley and Natalie on a fabulous year in 4a!



*We can't wait to see you
shine in Dreamscape!*

*Love,
Your Families*

Ava,



From your first recital at 3 years old to this final performance, you've amazed us!

Watching you grow into the incredible young woman you are today has been one of our greatest joys.

As you take the stage one last time, know that this is not an ending – it's the beginning of a new and exciting journey.



Keep dancing through life with the same dedication, grace and strength you've always shown. We're so proud of you – always.

We love you!

Emma,



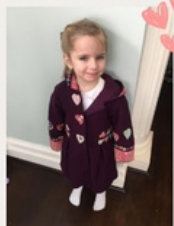
You are our crown jewel.

*Congratulations on another beautiful
performance!*

*Love, Mom, Dad
& Caroline xoxo*

Emmeline,

*You'll always be our
Funny Valentine*



*Love,
Mom & Your Boys*



Maeve,

*We can't wait to watch
you dance your heart out.
We love you so much.*

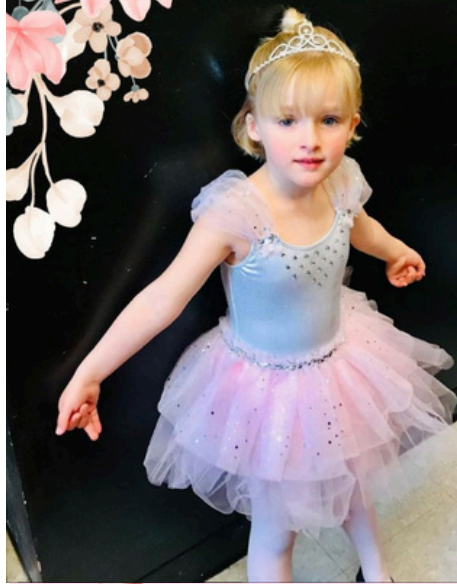


Mom, Dad, and Graham

*Congratulations, Charlie! Keep letting your
light shine through in everything you do.*

- We love you always and forever!

- Your Family



Darcey,

*Sweet as sugar, twirling with
grace,
Our Bubble gum star lights up the
place!
We're so proud of our beautiful
ballerina.*

Love,

Mum & Dad



Juliet



WE LOVE YOU
AND ARE SO PROUD OF YOU

Mom & Dad

Ella

The last dance! Cherish every moment. Your dedication and hard work has been truly inspiring. We have loved watching you shine on the stage. We are so proud of you and love you endlessly.

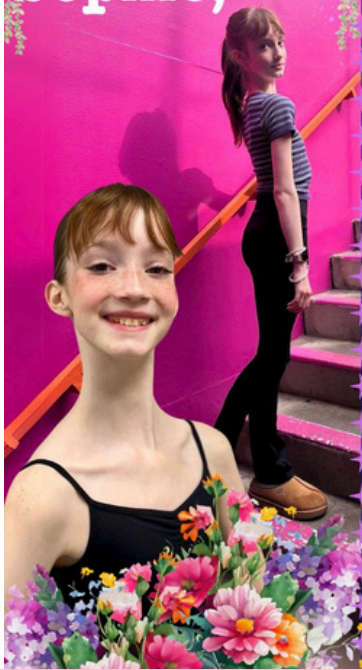
Excited for new adventures!
Love, Mom, Dad, Bennett and Lucy Anne



"Oh my, what a marvelous tune"

It was the best night, never would forget how we moved
The whole place
Was dressed to the nines
And we were dancing, dancing
Like we're made of starlight

Sophie,



Today is your day to
shine! All the hard
work, practice, and
dedication you've put
in is about to light up
the stage.

Dance with joy and let
your light shine
bright!



Love
Mum, Dad, James
& Charlie

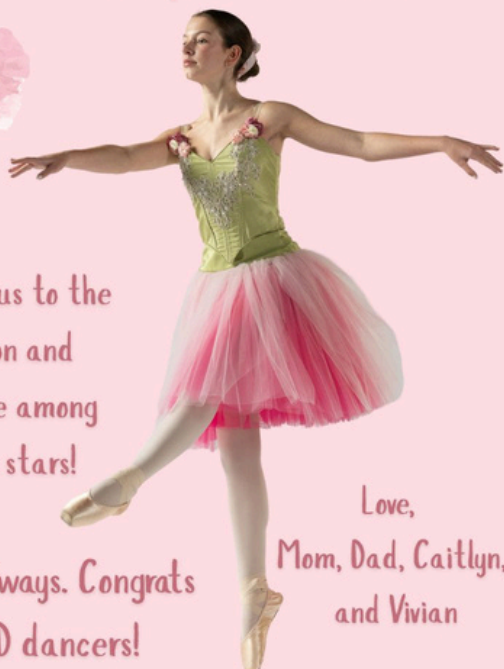
Dear Samantha,

We're so proud of your hard work
and passion for dance.

So fly us to the
moon and
dance among
the stars!

You fill our hearts with joy, always. Congrats
to you and all of the NEAD dancers!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Caitlyn,
and Vivian



Avery,

*We are so proud of you for working hard to
pursue your dream of being a ballerina!
Xo, Dad, Mom and Peyton*



Dear Ariana,

you are precious and special!
We are so proud of you. Congratulations
on your performance.
Love you to the moon and back!



Mom, Dad, Melina
& Libby.

So proud of you Zoe!

XOXO



Lindsay,

Congratulations on another year of beautiful performances! Keep lighting up the stage with your smile and grace. We're proud of your hard work and dedication.



Love,

Mom, Dad, Alexis & Brooke



Dear Torie,

I am so proud of how far you've come on your dance journey! Your dedication and passion shine every time you step on stage! Keep reaching for the stars! I love you!

Love, Mom



Ella,

Watching you grow from our "tiny dancer" to our "dancing queen" has been such a joy. Your years of hard work and dedication to ballet make us so very proud of you. Carry these beautiful memories with you always. We love you beyond measure.

XOXO

mom & dad



Olivia,

Congratulations to our ballerina
on another beautiful
performance!

Love,
Mommy, Daddy & Ryan



Congratulations Ceci on
another great year of dance!
We are so proud of you!

Love,
Mom, Papi and Max



Congratulations Lily! We are so
proud of you!

Love, Mom, Dad, Emma and Zoe





Congratulations Ellie on another wonderful year of dance!
We are so proud of you and love to see you shine.
Love, Mom, Dad, Jack, Chris and Finn



Congratulations to our
three dancing ladies!

Andie, Lola, and Georgie,
We're so proud of you!

Love,
Mom, Dad,
Aggie, and Boone

Dear Amelia and Emalie,

Congrats on another amazing dance year!

Your hard work and passion shine through with every step, leap, and twirl. Emalie, your grace and energy are truly captivating, and Amelia, your precision and flair light up the stage. Watching both of you grow and evolve as dancers has been a joyful journey for us. We are so proud of everything you achieve and the enthusiasm you bring to your art. Remember to always dance with your heart and let your spirit soar. Here's to many more years of rhythm, joy, and unforgettable performances. Keep reaching for the stars and know that we are cheering for you every step of the way.

Love, Mommy and Papa



Alessandra

We can't choose the music life plays but no matter the melody, you always dance your way through it with passion and grace. We are filled with pride with every step you take.



All our love,

Daddy, Mommy, Veronica and Dante



Dear Annabelle,

Your smile lights up
the stage!

Congratulations on
another beautiful
performance!

Love always,
Dad, Mom & Jack

Alex,

Your grace, poise,
and passion
illuminate the stage
like a true gem.
Every movement
reflects the
dedication and
beauty you bring to
your art.


We are endlessly
proud of the young
woman you are
becoming —
brilliant, strong, and
full of light.

With all our love,
Mom, Dad, London
and Lola



Our Fairy, Kate





N E D T

NEW ENGLAND DANCE THEATER

THANK YOU!

**Thank you to the hundreds of
volunteers that make this
weekend of productions possible!
We could not do it without you -
from decorating the lobby to
chaperoning dancers to
transporting the costumes and
staffing the sales tables in the
lobby - this is truly a team effort.**

**Your commitment and
generosity of time have been
invaluable!**

Candy Land

Thank you!

Thank you to all who joined us
for Candy Land and for your
continued support of the
New England Academy of
Dance.

We are so proud of our young
dancers, your children, whose
joy, hard work and imagination
lit up the stage today.

It has been a pleasure watching
them grow and shine.

We congratulate each and
every one of them on a
wonderful performance.

With heartfelt gratitude,
NEAD Directors,
Faculty & Staff



Candy Land

Ballet 3

Miss Rebecca's Tuesday/Thursday Ballet 3 "Hershey Kisses"

Charlotte Billington
Paige Bovay
Edie Boville
Clara Collingham
Parker Feinberg
Charlie Fusco
McKenna Jenkins
Addison Kelly

Sabrina Kelly
Isabelle Lapidus
Alessandra Nedeltchev
Emilia Rutigilano
Valentina Sacchi
Evelyn Sapanski
Andie Spadaccini

Miss Danielle's Monday/Wednesday Ballet 3 "Butterscotch"

Emalie Alfaro
Francesca Bongiorno
Liliana Burciago
Kika De Loia-Richardson
Charlotte Hoffman
Marley Hyland

Josephine Patterson
Lulu Petre
Bailey Schlarb
Lane Stevenson
Vivienne Wood



Candy Land

Ballet 2

Miss Melissa's Friday 4:45pm Ballet 2 "Lemon Drops"

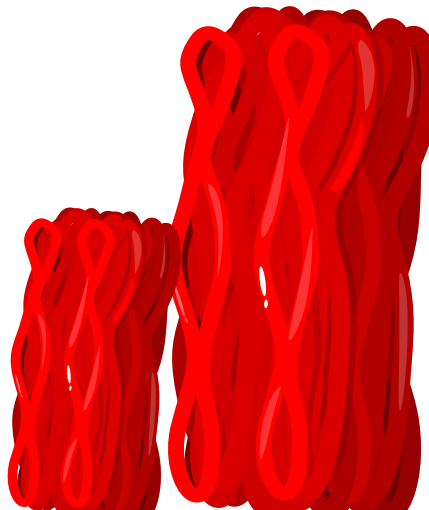
Carter Bues
Sofia DiRenzo
Lily Hansen
Hannah Howell
Nell Kopald
Lilly Lazorick
Charlie Loop
Eloise Meza

Julia Morley
Adeline Nikic
Olivia O'Brien
Annabelle Sawaya
Gabriella Sood
Bonnie Tomasic
Abigail Troy
Liv Vartolo

Miss Danielle's Wednesday 4:30pm Ballet 2 "Twizzlers"

Coco Colban
Frances Ferguson
Sophia Garrett
Quinn Kupersmith
Zoe Maier

Quinn Schmidt
Larsen Simon
Charlotte Stinchcomb
Claire Tabbaa



Candy Land

Ballet 1

Miss Melissa's Thursday 4:30pm Ballet 1 "Candy Buttons"

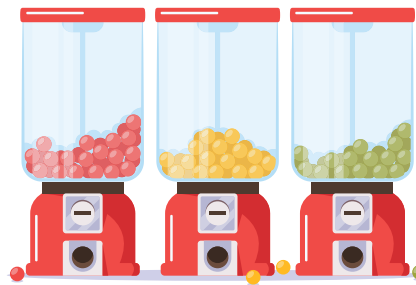
Chloe Alarcon
Chloe Billington
Abby Blower
Schuyler Boaman
Scarlett Bonifacino
Virginia Brau
Vivienne Curry-Edwards
Mary Farr
Charlotte Forde
Ava Greatorox
Everly Lacerna

Frieda Littlefield
Hudson Markus
Emily Mendez
Katherine Nozad
Ruby Paran
Isobel Rosen
Margot Roth
Mallory Ruth
Eleanor Saari
Helena Villalong

Miss Ginna's Wednesday 3:45pm Ballet 1 "Bubblegum"

Reed Arestia
Blaise Arnold
Janie Bruce
Helen Bulgrin
Darcey Carr
Nell Colban
Piper Connerton
Carter Drexler

Claire Jenkins
Callie Naumes
Daphne Oram
Pamina Ritigliano
Sloane Schmidt
Lola Spadaccini
Caroline van Roden



Candy Land

Kinderballet

Miss Melissa's Friday 4:00pm Kinderballet "Candy Necklaces"

Rosie Bevan
Lucy Bisbee
Solene Cottrell
Stephanie Deng
Isabella Deneen

Madeleine Francolla
Charlotte Kallmann
Magdalena Perdue
Olivia Rodriguez
Consuelo Spitler

Miss Melissa's Tuesday 4:45pm Kinderballet "Peach Rings"

Olivia Aleksa
Eleanor Baldwin
Kennedy Bodner
Clara Brittain
Emma Daly
Ayla Ellis
Emilia Grambling
Avery Jablons

Shay Juhas
Lucy Lazorick
Sophie Leach
Liana Ouellette
Mary Elizabeth Saffi
Olivia Sainsott
Molly Skriver Larsen
Alessia Surace



Candy Land

KinderBallet

Miss Melissa's Tuesday 4:00pm Kinderballet "Peppermints"

Georgia Drexler
Eleanor Easton
Josephina Heldt
Parmis Karvani
Liv Knechtle

Aubrey Luddy
Adalynn Moore
Sylvie Stanley
Lena Theodoridis

Miss Frances' Monday 4:45pm Kinderballet "Pop Rocks"

Brooke Armstrong
Solene Cottrell
Apolline Fortier
Lillie Gallagher
Piper Hyland
Beatrice Islamov
Panagiota Kutrubis
Madeline Laird
Eliza Lebovitz

Calliope Linnehan
Hanley Pancotto
Ivy Reitman
Mary Elizabeth Saffi
Harper Sheehan
Piper Skinner
Grace Stevenson
Daphne Tholen
Olivia Troy



Candy Land

Pre-Ballet 2

Miss Rebecca's Tuesday 3:30pm Pre-Ballet 2 "Snow Cones"

Perrin Ambler
Isabella Corbacho
Olivia Ferrante
Reed Fisher
Charlotte Galanski
Paige Greig
Eloise Hannah
Sophia Kacperczyk

Tamara Karniol-Simman
Pardis Karvani
Isabel Klein
Violet Knechtle
Hazelyn Lacerna
Luna Reyes
Emilia Soto

Miss Melissa's Thursday 3:30pm Pre-Ballet 2 "Marshmallows"

Emory Bues
Maggie Bulgrin
Beatrice Coffin
Imogen Coffin
Elizabeth Creighton
Paige Dougherty
Charlotte Galanski

Millie Ingraham
Emmy Mills
Harper Schweitzer
Juliet Sherer
Georgie Spadaccini
Beatrice Staples
Emilia Vartolo

Miss Melissa's Friday 3:15pm Pre Ballet 2 "Jelly Beans"

Vivienne Bussichella
Louisa Cooley
Louisa Crisafulli
Annabelle Ferrara
Elizabeth Fiedler
Peyton Fogarty
Arabella Gordon

Dillon Johnson
Emme Maier
Mackenzie Moore
Ava Nelson
Adalay Nishioka
Wells Tatum
Elizabeth Vittoria



Candy Land

Pre-Ballet 1

Miss Melissa's Monday 3:15pm Pre-Ballet 1 "Gummy Bears"

Chris Ambler
Milla Bogdanov
Dottie Casella
Rivi Gaglio
Claire Grube

Rose Harley-Sabo
Mila Leak
Elizabeth Popova
Lou Lou Reich
Lila Scherr

Miss Melissa's Monday 4:00pm Pre-Ballet 1 "Lollipops"

Sloane Ciena
Juliette Cottrell
Maisy Edelman
Livia Ellis
Karina Linnehan
Haley Peterson

Layne Reitman
Elizabeth Stringi
Ina Taylor
Emilia Theodoridis
Margot Tholen
Annabelle Tisdale

Miss Melissa's Thursday 10:15am Pre-Ballet 1 "Cotton Candy"

Amalia Benedetti
Arabella Benedetti
Sawyer Benton
Aspen Daswani
Blaze Daswani

Zosia Daswani
Sloane Fitzgerald
Isabelle Harrison
Penelope Walter



CANDY LAND

Step into a sweet and whimsical world with Candy Land, a delightful showcase of original choreography by the talented teachers of the New England Academy of Dance.

Performed by the dancers of our Pre- Primary and Primary Divisions, this enchanting production invites you on a magical journey through a land of imagination, vivid color, and joy. From lollipops, to jumping jelly beans our youngest performers bring this sugar-coated dreamland to life with charm, creativity and heart.



New England Academy of Dance
&
New England Dance Theater

PRESENT

CANDY
LAND

Directors

Frances Ortiz, Ginna Ortiz, Ted Thomas

Instructors

Danielle Presar, Rebecca Tschan,
Melissa Weber

Pre Primary, Primary Division

Original Choreography by

The Directors and Staff of New England Academy of
Dance

Lighting Design by
Kevin Gleason

Founder
Doris Driver

THE NEW ENGLAND ACADEMY OF DANCE

PRESENTS

CandyLand



Showtime

June 8th
1:30pm

Location

New Canaan High School
Auditorium
11 Farm Road
New Canaan, CT 06840