



# RIVER DANCE FESTIVAL



August 16-18 2024

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# THE ROXEY BALLET COMPANY

Founded in 1995 by Mark and Melissa Roxey, the Roxey Ballet Company, Inc. has been a pillar of the NJ community providing thought provoking, insightful and entertaining productions, education programs, and residencies to a 9-county area of NJ. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility have been the organization's values since the beginning creating a community refuge for artists, students and adults alike - a place to call home for their greater fulfillment and experience.



Roxey Ballet's programs are made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Dear Friends,

Roxey Ballet has been a pillar of our community providing quality dance in every capacity for 29 years with thought provoking, insightful, and entertaining productions, educational programs and residencies, intentional programming for people with disabilities, and a community refuge for students and adults alike - a place to call home.

Since our inception we have been “Building Bridges Through Dance” and are proud to be nationally recognized as a dance organizations that actively seeks to make the arts accessible to all cultures, genders, and abilities.

During the pandemic we pivoted to producing made for television productions, community engagement opportunities, and revolutionizing our ability to seamlessly transition between virtual and in-person programming. We are now able to provide in-person and virtual programming simultaneously.

Roxey Ballet is still recovering from Hurricane Ida’s complete destruction of our black box theater and rehearsal space. We are grateful for the outpouring of support in 2021 allowing us to Rise Up and return to a full season of performing in 2022. In order to rebuild a temporary rehearsal/performance location we had to accept a SBA Loan. Please consider a donation supporting the organization at <https://www.roxeyballet.org/donate>

Tax deductible donations allows Roxey Ballet to:

- Provide education programs in schools like *Celebrating Diversity*, *Dance to Learn*, and *Wheels & Bodies in Motion* that allow children of all ages and capabilities to express themselves freely in a healthy, supportive environment.
- Offer Sensory-Friendly performances for children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder or other sensitivity issues and needs.
- Maintain the Scholarship Fund to empower the potential of every child, regardless of their financial ability.
- Use the arts to heal and inspire through productions such as *The C Word: Stories of Triumph Over Breast Cancer*, *Journey Back to the 80's*, and *Evermore Nevermore*.

On behalf of Mark and Melissa Roxey, the artists, staff, Board of Trustees, and the hundreds of local area students, thank you for your generosity and continued support of our unique programs.

Scott Schied, Board of Trustees President

# **Roxey Ballet Company**

Founder/Executive/Artistic Director

**Mark Roxey**

Co-Founder/Mill Ballet School Executive Director **Melissa Roxey**

## **Board of Trustees**

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Tara Jarboe, Rebecca Taggert, Jean Hyatt, Hailey Gould,

Emma Alparone

# **Team**

Mark Roxey – Founder / Artistic Director

Melissa Roxey – Co-Founder / Advisor / Operation

Laurence Potvin- Assistant to the Director

Lees Hummel - Outreach & Development

Skylar Fry - Education and Fulfillment

Devon Austin - Wardrobe Supervisor and Costumes

Andy Gordanaer- Lighting Director

# **Roxey Ballet sincerely thanks our Business Supporters**

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# River Dance Festival Work:

*Here (For now)* - Damontae Hack

*Gajavadhana Bheduve* - Gayathri Pratha

*See the Sun* - Ashley Taylor

*The Mind Place* - Koy L Withers

*Let It Go* - Ryan Fiedel

*Silent Scream* - Bridget Ryan

*Fortune 2.0* - Fedor & Ekaterina Artemev

*Spathiphyllum* - Ian Kent

*Slaughter on Tenth Avenue* - Lynn Needle

*A Movement in Rhythm* - Christina Castro-Tauser

*Go Tell William* - Skylar Fry

*Voilà* - Mark Roxey

*Coral Reef Quartet* - PJ Spagnoletti

*A Walk in Your Shoes and Mine* - Annabelle Bowman

*The Awakening of Flora* - Fiorella Armando

*Fuego* - Lisa Botalico

*Giselle Pas de Deux* - Arisa Tanihata

*Bloom* - JCWK Dance Lab

*Woven Women* - Tevin Johnson

*Public Domain* - Mark Roxey

*Birth and Rebirth* - Sephyra Clerk

*Freedom Symphony* - Giovanni Ravelo

*Garland Waltz* - Laurence Potvin

*I'm Already There* - Emily Reagan

# **Roxey Ballet Team**

## **Mark Roxey - Executive/Artistic Director**

Mark Roxey has created a humanistic organization where accessibility, equity, diversity and inclusion are the core principles. His goal has always been to include people of all abilities with differing viewpoints, experiences, and resources in both the training, exhibition, staffing, artists' and board of director aspects of the company. In his youth he began his professional dance career as a b-bop, hip hop dancer in movies, commercials and with a group called Fresh Kids from Coney Island. From there he received a full scholarship from Joffrey Ballet and thus began his career at the Joffrey Ballet Company II, The Joffrey Ballet under the direction of the late Robert Joffrey and American Repertory Ballet and Dayton Ballet as a principal dancer under the direction of Dermote Burke and Marjorie Mussman. His career enabled him to perform in works by legendary choreographers: George Balanchine, Gerald Arpino, Robert Joffrey, Paul Taylor, Jose Limon, Alvin Ailey, Twyla Tharp, William Forsythe, John Cranko, John Butler, Maurice Petipa, and Augusta Bourniville, appearing as a Principal Artist in companies around the world with his partner and wife, Melissa Roxey.

## **Melissa Roxey - Co-Founder**

Melissa Roxey began her studies with The Royal Academy of Dance at five years of age. Before beginning her professional career at age 17, she trained at The School of American Ballet, North Carolina School of the Arts, The Joffrey Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet School and with renowned teacher Maggie Black. Melissa danced with American Repertory Ballet as a soloist, then as a principal with Dayton Ballet Company. Melissa has danced the roles of Sugar Plum Fairy in The Nutcracker and Odile in Swan Lake. She has worked with such prominent choreographers as Septime Webre, Marjorie Mussman, Dermot Burke, Bill Craty, Suki Schorer, Christian Holder, Patricia McBride, and Mark Diamond. Melissa is co-founder and former dance director of Wheels in Motion, which was part of the Arts Access Program of Matheny Medical and Educational Center, Peapack. In addition, for more than 16 years she has worked with Artists in Residence bringing the art of dance to area schools. Her extensive experience makes her an effective instructor in the Wheels and Bodies in Motion program. She is also the Director of Roxey Ballet's official school, The Mill Ballet School.

## **Nilda Roxey-Jones - Costume Designer**

Affectionately known to many as “Grandma Roxey,” is an artist, cosmetologist, and fashion designer who has been devoted to creating a variety of costumes for Roxey Ballet productions since the company's inception in 1994. She has partnered with Alicia Worden since 2002. Retired from a career in Special Education, Early Intervention - K-6, Nilda is at present a freelance fashion designer who designs the private wardrobe for entertainer singer Kimberly Nichole. Nilda also enjoys activities with the senior population in her Brooklyn neighborhood. She is proud mother of Mark and Ronald Roxey, a caring mother-in-law, and devoted grandma to Benjamin and Mirabel Roxey. She and her husband, Champlin Jones, have an extended family including three children and six grandchildren. Nilda looks forward to the next 20 years of Roxey Ballet creations.

## **Ana Vichnevetsky - Costume Supervisor**

Ana Vichnevetsky is originally from Cuba. She earned a B.S. degree from Rutgers University in Clinical Laboratory Science and worked in this profession for thirty years. She also grew up in a family of seamstresses pattern makers, and embroiderers, taking an interest in those skills at an early age and acquiring them over the years. When her daughter attended the Mill Ballet School, Ana volunteered in costumes for the Roxey Ballet. Prior to Roxey Ballet, she volunteered for the costume department of the Pennsylvania Youth Ballet participating in alterations for Hansel & Gretel and The Nutcracker and assisting the costume director with fittings and alterations for Cinderella, building and embellishing romantic tutus for the production of George Balanchine's Emeralds and with theater duties. Upon returning to NJ, she completed a tutu making seminar in NYC with Claudia Folts founder of tutu.com in 2016. Soon after she was asked by Roxey Ballet's costume designers Nilda Roxey Jones and Alicia Worden to join them as their assistant. Ana is very grateful to be with the Roxey Ballet.

## **Lees Hummel - Development , Outreach & Front of House**

Lees received her BFA and MFA Degrees from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts in Dance, Choreography, and Arts Administration. She has taught all levels of Ballet, Simonson Jazz, Modern, Tap, Pilates, Choreography/Composition and Musical Theatre Styles as an Assistant Professor of Dance in higher education and private studios. She performed and choreographed for television, videos, cruise ships, musical theatre, dance companies and college dance programs across the USA for over 25 years. Lees is a certified Pilates Apparatus/Reformer instructor teaching Pilates at Healthquest Pilates Studio and a Licensed Massage Therapist in New Jersey.

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*Transparency*  
LOVE  
*Accountability*

ROXEY TRAINED

# River Dance Festival choreographers



Bridget Ryan



Koy Whithers



Jessica C. Warchal-King



Sephyra Clerc



Ian Kent



Ashley Taylor



Annabelle Bowman



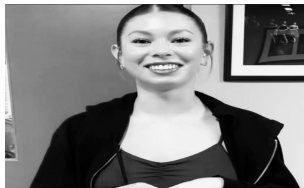
Christina Castro-Tauser



PJ Spagnoletti



Lisa Botalico



Emily Regan



Gayathri Pratha



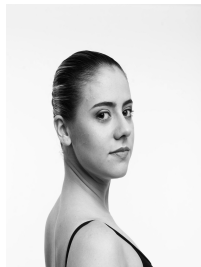
Giovanni Ravelo



# River Dance Festival choreographers



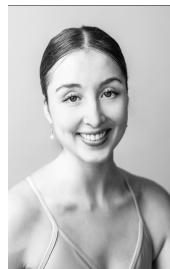
Arisa Tanihata



Fiorella Armando



Skylar Fry



Laurence Potvin



Mark Roxey



Tevin Johnson



Ryan Fiedel



Olivia Galgan



Damontae Hack



Nadine Azoulay



Chloe Russel



Fedor Artmeva  
and Ekaterina  
Artmeva

# **River Dance Festival choreographers**

## **Bridget Ryan**

Bridget Ryan attended Dance Dimensions and Academy of the Holy Angels training in all forms of dance. She is currently a student at Drew University studying Psychology, Dance and Applied Performance. Bridget has attended and received scholarships for Joffrey Ballet School Summer Intensives as well as The Joffrey Experience. Her training also includes Marinspired - The Storytellers Intensive Volumes 1 & 2, New York City Dance Alliance Summer Dance Intensive, Deviate Dance Assistant 2018-2022, Martha Graham Winter Intensives and Bates Dance Festival. She has choreographed and performed in White Wave Solo/Duo Festival 2024, New York State Dance Education Association 2023 Winter Conference: Dance & Pride & 2024 Winter Conference: Perspectives, Morris Arts “MOVE: DANCE IN ART I & II” Art Galleries, The Mignolo International Screendance Festival 2023 and “Sharing the Struggle” The Support Network of Madison. Bridget was the assistant stage manager for Dance On The Lawn 2023.

Dancers: Arianna Kozloski and Bridget Ryan

## **Ian Kent**

@iamiankent @iankentdances Ian Kent (He/Him) is a dancer and choreographer based in Belle Mead, NJ. He is currently earning a B.A. in Dance Performance from Rider University where he trains in many ballet, modern, and contemporary artforms. Throughout his first year at Rider, he has performed in many student and faculty works and has choreographed his first collegiate level piece. He is also earning a second major with a B.A. in Arts & Entertainment Industries Management, combining his love for dance with knowledge about nonprofit arts organizations. Currently, he is a Database Research Intern with Dance New Jersey and is aiming to help dancers, teachers, and choreographers around NJ stay connected.

Dancers: Ian Kent and Maddy Reilly

## **Sephyra Clerc**

My company has been formed from the Byond Barre fitness studio where I teach, which is constituted of dedicated dancers who are passionate about the transformative power of movement and its impact on the human body, in terms of health, self-expression, and many other important factors. Several of the students at Byond Barre are fitness or dance instructors and my three dancers are thrilled to be bringing their passion for movement onto the stage, where it takes such greater meaning even than in the studio. I myself have been choreographing for years now and dancing since I was 5. I'm passionate about opera music particularly that of German Romanticism and have been creating pieces on Wagner's Ring Cycle and other works of his, which always fascinate me with their expressivity and the drama that characterizes them and has been so exploited in movie scores of this and the past century. I especially enjoy choreographing on sung music which allows me to express not only feelings but thoughts through movement, and I go about the choreographing process trying to associate a word to each movement.

Dancers: Jacqueline George, Dudley Dickerson and Jill Ryder

## **Koy Withers**

Koy L. Withers is a dancer, choreographer, and award-winning educator based in Philadelphia. He is a graduate from Rider University with a Bachelor of Arts in dance and elementary education. His recent works include the following: *The Ride* (2024), *The Mind Place* (2023), and *Fighting the Epidemic* (2023). Koy began his training during his mid-teens with the X-Perience Dance Company under the direction of Fayette Coppock-Brown. He continued to further his training at the Philadelphia High School for the Creative and Performing Arts, also known as CAPA, where he was mentored by LaDeva Davis. At Rider University, Koy worked directly with esteemed artists such as Dr. Kimberly Chandler-Vaccaro, Merli Guerra, Talin Kenar, and Cheryl Whitney. Koy currently serves as a rehearsal director and ballet instructor for *This is Me* Dance Company. He is also a member of Grace Dance Theater's second company under the direction of Kareem B. Goodwin.

**Dancers:** Kayla Faynor, Sophia Frosoni, Joscelyn Hunter, Ciara Jones, Shannin Kavanagh, Ian Kent and Madison Reilly

## **Ashley Taylor**

Ashley Taylor is a freelance performer, choreographer, and writer based in New York City. She holds a B.A. in Dance from The University of Alabama, where she performed with several pre-professional dance companies and was a 2014 recipient of her department's Edith Barnes Award for Choreography. Ashley danced with Ballet Theatre of Maryland from 2014-2018 and has since performed soloist roles with Benjamin Briones Ballet, VidaDance Company, Bowen McCauley Dance Company, and Charm City Ballet in venues including Carnegie Hall and Baltimore's The Lyric. Ashley's choreography has been presented by Ballet Theatre of Maryland, Dumbo Dance Festival, Ballet Hartford's Awakening Festival, VidaDance Company, and in independently produced concerts. She is the founder of Ara Dance Project and is on faculty at Cobble Hill Ballet.

Dancer: Ashley Taylor

## **Annabelle Bowman**

Annabelle Bowman is a performer, choreographer, and artist with a rich educational background and interest in versatile movement. Originally from Arlington VA, Bowman has performed pieces by Netta Yerushalmy, Pam Tanowitz, Jacquelyn Buglisi, Stefanie Batten Bland, Martha Graham, John Evans, and Ani Javian, among others. She holds a BFA in Dance from Mason Gross School of the Arts and Rutgers Honors College. Bowman teaches, works, performs, and creates in the NJ/NYC metro area.

Dancers: Arianna Bealer, Annabelle Bowman, Mia Canzonieri, Leona DeLucca and Sarah Xippolitos

## **Giovanni Ravelo - Artist, Ballet Master, Rehearsal Assistant**

A native of Colombia, Giovanni Ravelo began his ballet training at Anna Pavlova School in Bogotá. He studied at the School of the National Ballet of Cuba and in the professional division of the Rock School for Dance Education. Giovanni was a member of National Ballet of Colombia, one of the most important folklore companies in the world. Invited to perform the role of Romeo by Ballet Theatre of Scranton in 2003, he later moved to the US as a member of The Roxey Ballet Company, Inc, with whom he performed works created for him such as Times Square Goodbye, Lago in Othello, and in Wheels and Bodies in Motion at the Joyce Theater, NYC. Giovanni has also choreographed several pieces for The Roxey Ballet Company, Inc, including Frida, Narcisa, Bread for Your Heart, and In the Orchard. He has been a guest artist with Northeast Youth Ballet, Contrast Dance Theater, and Les Ballets Grandiva, and performs with Les Ballets Trockadero de Montecarlo.

Dancers: Sonia Hendrixson, Sierra Martin, Jocelyn McKeown, Molly Normart, Avery Regan, Emily Regan, Katherine Schied, Kathryn Smith, Gabrielle Tahaney, Mimi Ujj, Lucy Williams and Mirabel Roxey



## **Gayathri Pratha**

Padmabhushan Guru Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam Garu, a revered Kuchipudi dancer and choreographer, dedicated his life to reviving and popularizing Kuchipudi, one of the eight classical Indian dance forms, worldwide. Born in Andhra Pradesh, he trained under Guru Vedantam Lakshmi Narayana Sastry Garu and other masters. Moving to Chennai, he established the Kuchipudi Art Academy in 1963, creating over 180 solo items and 15 dance dramas. He redefined Kuchipudi with structured training and classical refinements, garnering international acclaim, traveling extensively to countries such as the USA, UK, and Russia. Padmabhushan Guru Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam Garu received numerous awards, including the Padma Bhushan, and trained many distinguished disciples, significantly impacting the global dance community. Gayathri Pratha's guru, Smt. Nanduri Satya Bhanu, is a direct disciple of Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam Garu. She founded her school Sri Siddhendra Yogi Kala Nilayam, to preserve the teachings of her guru.

Dancer: Gayathri Pratha

## **Jessica C. Warchal-King**

Jessica C. Warchal-King, MFA, was described by the Philadelphia Inquirer as a “post-mod(ern) ballerina.” She directs JCWK Dance Lab, a professional dance company in Reading, PA that promotes joy through wellness and artistic practice. Warchal-King is Artist in Residence in Dance at Alvernia University. She has toured nationally and internationally as a performer, presented at national conferences as a dance educator, and has published extensive research on dance education and performance. She earned her MFA in Dance from Temple University and her BA in Dance and Anthropology from Muhlenberg College.

Dancers: Arielle Ridley, Cady Monasmith, Megan Zalek and Jessica Warchal-King

## **Damontae Hack**

(He/him)is 26 years old originally from Baltimore, MD. He recently graduated from California institute of the Arts, majoring in dance (2020). Now residing full time in New York City. Damontae is a choreographer, dancer, director, and model looking to create and explore the boundaries of Black art; dealing with the physicality of bodies, intimacy, shape, and the overall development of the human consciousness over “time” through cinema, choreography, photography, and voice work. Damontae has been involved in a wide range of work. Ballet, contemporary, hip hop, site-specific work, etc...Including work by artists Garret Ammon, Pina Bausch, Marissa Brown, Dimitri Chamblas, Nina Flagg, James Gregg, Gerard & Kelly, Solange Knowles, Ralph Lemon, rubberlegz, etc. He is always excited and curious to transform the eyes of what people perceive art to be.

## **PJ Spagnoletti**

I am thrilled to perform on-stage with a group of my closest ballet colleagues, all of whom received our core training from the same studio. This is my second time presenting my own choreographic work on stage. The styles I am most passionate about include neoclassical ballet, contemporary, and acrobatic styles of movement that feature orchestral or cinematic music. Creating a dance with a particular theme or concept in mind helps me envision and piece together my choreography. My peers and I are semi-retired from ballet, although we continue to contribute to the dance community as guest artists in local shows or working as certified teachers. I aim to showcase my dancers' strengths and foster collaboration to create a piece we are all passionate about. Presenting my choreography and performing with this group of dancers has reignited my passion for dancing and performing after returning from a hiatus.

Dancers: PJ Spagnoletti, Abigail Jorgensen, Grace McCann, & Clara Jorgensen

## **Lisa Botalico**

Assistant Director/Principal Dancer/Choreographer Alborada Spanish Dance Theatre; featured dancer: NJN's Images/Imagenes, Emmy Award winning program, The Spanish Guitar; Founder/Director/Instructor: Flamenco Dance Program Arts Council of Princeton 1999-present & their 2014 Artist in Residence; nominated: Best Choreographer Perry Award: New Jersey Association of Community Theaters for PinnWorth Production's: Zorro (Kelsey Theater). Lisa has collaborated with and danced in the Roxey Ballet's Carmen Ballet and in their virtual production of Latin Creations. In March 2024 Lisa was the choreographer of Boheme Opera Company's production of the opera Carmen performed at Kendall Hall TCNJ as well as featured dancer with members of the Alborada Spanish Dance Theatre. This June Lisa was honored by the Arts Council of Princeton for her 25 th Anniversary of founding the Flamenco Dance Program by naming their dance studio for her: Lisa Botalico Dance Studio.

Dancers: Lisa Botalico, Leanne Alexandrini, Sharron Bolen, Sheree Budrecki, Caterina Carrasco, Jacquelyn Gesumaria, Aliya Khan, Nadia Khan, Victoria Levi, Janine Okabayashi and René Ybarbo

Dancers: Tao Chang, Sophie Goodroad, Raegan Hockenjos, Olive Jones, Abigail Kerr, Samaana Mehta, Sevaa Mehta, Jenna Normart, Caroline greacen and Maria Zivkovic

## **Fedor and Ekaterina Artmeva**

We are Fedor and Ekaterina Artemev Professional ballroom dancers, choreographers and teachers. We are Bronze medalists of the United States Dance Championship. We have devoted our entire adult life to professional ballroom dancing, and we have been striving for a long time to implement a contemporary dance, theater and other dance styles into our dancing. We feel that our great experience in dancing: participation in world-class competitions, working with the best ballroom dance teachers, great choreographers and contemporary dance teachers, as well as knowledge in the field of acting — are looking for expression in a new form. We decided to combine all our experience and knowledge and express it in staging the spectacle. At the River Dance festival we will show one of the scenes from our spectacle called “Fortuna 2.0”.

## **Ryan Fiedel**

Tonality, Presented by Flair Dance Company, is a tap dance collective striving for artistic excellence in the form of rhythm tap. Under the direction of choreographer Ryan Fiedel, Tonality provides professional avenues for passionate, advanced tap dancers through technique-based training and various performance opportunities.

Dancers: Ryan Fiedel, Casey LaFrance, Haley Migeot, Kyra Robinson, Lily Meditz, Mia Valeriotte, Olivia Valenta

## **Arisa Tanihata**

Arisa hails from Kyoto, Japan. She studied at Kyoto Ballet Academy with the guest teachers & dancers from Paris Opera Ballet and while still a student performed with Kyoto Ballet Company along side of dancers from Paris Opera. In 2011 Arisa moved to France, where she studied at Goubé European Dance Center with Jennifer Goubé, ex Soloist at Paris Opera and from 2012 to 2016, trained with Sonia Zur-Rolquin, ex Dancer at Nancy Opera Ballet with Pierre Lacotte as artistic Director. She received a Gold Medal with Distinction at Concours de danse classique de Toulon in France, 3rd place (1st and 2nd place were not awarded) at International Hellas Youth. Ballet Competition in Athens Greece, and Silver medal at International Dance Competition "Livorno in Danza" in Italy. In Europe she worked with JSLN Dance Company in 2017 in Augsburg, Germany and performed in "Giselle" in 2018 at Royal Opera House Valletta, Malta with guest dancers from Royal Ballet & Royal Swedish Ballet. In 2019 Arisa moved to NYC, and in the US she has worked with Connecticut Ballet, Chevalier Ballet, American Liberty Ballet, City Dance NY, and Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre. As well as Pacific Ballet Dance Theatre Los Angeles as Soloist, debuted as Red Girl in Ashton's "Les Patineurs", and for TV show "LA County Holiday Celebration" at Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

Dancers: Arisa Tanihata & Ronald O'Brian Belger



## Olivia Galgan

Olivia Galgano (Co-Artistic Director of AOM, Inc. and AOMDT) choreographs excerpts from classical repertory as well as original work. Olivia began her ballet training with the Boston School of Ballet at the age of seven under the direction of E. Virginia Williams. At the age of 16, she became a member of the New England Civic Ballet Company, presently known as the Boston Ballet Company. As a soloist, her performances included Rustic Wedding, which was created specifically for her by Leon Danielian. The work was premiered at the Boston Arts Festival and also performed at the Gloucester Arts Festival. She was then invited to join and became one of the youngest members of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, touring throughout the United States and Canada. Olivia's repertoire included over 50 ballets, and she performed solo roles in such ballets as Coppelia, Swan Lake, Gaite Parisienne, Le Beau Danube, and Sombreros. Her coaches included such renowned artists as Fredrick Franklin, Anton Vilzak, Leon Danielian, and Irina Barovska, all of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo.. Along with her dedication to teaching and choreographing, she has served as chairperson of the Cultural Committee for the Paramus Schools and has assisted the music department in creating and developing movement into their curriculum. Olivia was co-owner and artistic director of the Classic Ballet School in Closter, NJ for over 20 years and has collaborated with Lynn Needle, Founder of Art of Motion, Inc. since 2002. She is an Adjunct Professor at Bergen Community College, and was recently invited to be a guest speaker at the Annual Buckhill Arts Festival in Pennsylvania, and participated as an alumnus in the Boston Ballet 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Dancers: Janette Dishuk and Francis Lawrence

## **Christina Castro-Tauser**

*Expansions Contemporary Dance Ensemble* Directed by Christina Castro-Tauser is dedicated to strengthening communities through dance since 1999. *Expansions'* community projects, educational workshops, and performances aim to reach people of multiple ages, backgrounds and experiences currently based in Philadelphia Expansion has performed Christina Castro-Tauser's Choreography in Philadelphia at the Phillies Family Goya Sunday, The Barnes Artist Bash. Hatfield House, Along the 23 bus route, Philly Fringe and The Awbury Arboretum. Expansion has also presented Christina's work in NYC, Georgia, Denver and Minneapolis.

Dancers: Kayla Rideout , Michele-Olivia Francois and Coralie Francois

## Nadine Azoulay, Chloe Russell and Fiorella Armando

**Nadine Azoulay** began her training in the Ceccetti method at the age of three in London, England. She trained tirelessly at the School of Dance in Canada, The Royal Netherlands Conservatory in The Hague, The Washington School of Ballet, and Accademia Dell'Arte in Italy before completing her B.F.A in Dance and Choreography at Virginia Commonwealth University, where she trained under Christian Von Howard and Monica Bill Barns and began her professional dancing career with The Latin Ballet of Virginia.

Nadine Azoulay embarked on her New York City calling with Amanda Selwyn Dance Company, Balasole Dance at the Baryshnikov Arts Center, Intersection Dance Collective including at the Judson Memorial Church, The Pink Tutu Ballet in Las Vegas and at Alvin Ailey Dance in New York, and ChoreoNova. She showcased her talents at the Actors Fund Arts Center as a finalist for National Choreography Month (NACHMO) and at the Mark Morris Dance Center, The Wired Arts Festival, New York City Dance Parade, HATCH with Jennifer Muller, and DUMBO Dance Festival. Nadine joined Marie-Christine Giordano Dance for the 15th Anniversary at BAM Fisher. Nadine Azoulay instills artistic vocabulary to Orthodox Jewish girls in New York and New Jersey including at NCSY MAOR. She performed at Jazz Lincoln Center for a dance festival, as a jazz dancer in Rhapsody in Blue with the American International Ballet.

**Chloe Russell** is a Brooklyn based freelance dancer, choreographer, and instructor. She received her early training from Ballet Memphis and Collage Dance Collective's trainee program and supplemented her training with intensives with the Ailey School the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance. She has worked professionally with Chattanooga Ballet, City Ballet of Boston, City Dance NY, Chevalier Ballet and is currently dancing with Jersey City Ballet and working on her own projects in her spare time.

**Fiorella Armando** is a classical ballet and contemporary dancer, choreographer and teacher from Uruguay, currently based in NYC. Fiorella began her classical ballet and jazz training at the age of 10 at her hometown academy Bella U Dance. She continued her professional training in the city of Montevideo, at the Cuban School of Ballet of Montevideo and at the National School of Dance SODRE. In NYC, Fiorella received further training at Vassiliev Academy of Classical Ballet and at Ballet Arts School of Dance. She has performed in NY as a Corps de Ballet member and Soloist with American Liberty Ballet, and as a Soloist and Principal dancer with American Ballet Russe company.

Dancers: Nadine Azoulay, Chloe Russell, Arisa Tanihata, Fiorella Armando.

## **Laurence Potvin**

Laurence was born in Montreal, Canada. She started her training at BCHR at the age of 5 years old and was accepted in Ballet Montreal Performing Arts School's vocational program. She graduated in 2022 under her dear teacher Paula Urrutia. As a student, she had the opportunity to participate in productions such as: Giselle, Nutcracker, Don Quixote and La Bayadère.

As a professional dancer, Laurence had the chance to perform abroad. She danced in Greece with the Remarc Company and then joined Grand Classic Ballet in Germany. She was touring with the company and performed in various productions including Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty and The Nutcracker. She also, had the chance to perform soloist roles including Sleeping Beauty Wedding Pas de Deux and White Swan Pas de Deux and she performed in various contemporary works.

Dancers: Dancers: Tao Chang, Sophie Goodroad, Raegan Hockenjos, Olive Jones, Abigail Kerr, Samaana Mehta, Sevaa Mehta, Jenna Normart, Caroline greacen and Maria Zivkovic

## **Skylar Fry**

Skylar Fry grew up in Naples, Florida, where she began dancing at age three, training at Backstage Dance Academy and Gulfshore Ballet. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with Honors from the University of Arizona, earning a BFA in Dance and a BA in English in addition to a Pre-Law Thematic Minor and Technical Writing Certificate. She is honored to have been selected as the Outstanding Senior for both the School of Dance and the College of Fine Arts for her work in scholarship, community, and service in her field.

Skylar has trained in classical ballet, modern, jazz, tap, hip hop, salsa, contemporary, choreography, and dance pedagogy. She has performed excerpts from George Balanchine's *Serenade*, David Parson's *Side Effects* and *Nascimento*, and Jose Limon's *The Winged* and *There is a Time*. She has also attended workshops in Gaga and Countertechnique, served as assistant choreographer and soloist for an interdisciplinary multimedia performance called *PlanetScape*, and choreographed a music video for Murray Decock's *Right Here, Right Now*.

Dancers: Tao Chang, Sophie Goodroad, Raegan Hockenjos, Olive Jones, Abigail Kerr, Samaana Mehta, Sevaa Mehta, Jenna Normart, Caroline greacen and Maria Zivkovic

## **Mark Roxey**

Mark's professional career began at a young age as a b-bop, hip-hop dancer in movies and commercials with a group called Fresh Kids from Coney Island. He then received a full scholarship to Joffrey Ballet, beginning his career at the Joffrey Ballet Company II under the direction of Gage Bush and Richard England, and later at The Joffrey Ballet under the direction of the late Robert Joffrey. From there he joined American Repertory Ballet and Dayton Ballet as a principal dancer under the direction of Dermot Burke and Marjorie Mussman.

During his professional dance career, Mark performed in works by legendary choreographers George Balanchine, Gerald Arpino, Robert Joffrey, Paul Taylor, Jose Limon, Alvin Ailey, Twyla Tharp, William Forsythe, John Cranko, John Butler, Maurice Petipa, and August Bournonville, appearing in companies around the world as a principal artist with his partner and wife, Melissa Roxey.

Dancers: Dancers: Sonia Hendrixson, Sierra Martin, Jocelyn McKeown, Molly Normart, Avery Regan, Emily Regan, Katherine Schied, Kathryn Smith, Gabrielle Tahaney, Mimi Ujj, Lucy Williams and Mirabel Roxey

Tao Chang, Sophie Goodroad, Raegan Hockenjos, Olive Jones, Abigail Kerr, Samaana Mehta, Sevaa Mehta, Jenna Normart, Caroline greacen and Maria Zivkovic

## **Emily Regan**

Emily Regan, a recently graduated student from New Hope Solebury High School, has been dancing with the Roxeys since she was 4 and she has stuck with the Roxey's through many performances including The Nutcracker , The Pied Piper, Dracula, Cinderella, and so many more. Emily's training and technique has grown from not only the Mill Ballet annual training but also at summer intensives with the Bolshoi Ballet, American Ballet Theater, and Sarasota Ballet. She is so grateful to have discovered something that she loves doing alongside incredibly supportive people; therefore, she intends to continue dancing in college while pursuing her secondary education major. She is thankful for the wonderful opportunity to choreograph in this year's River Dance Festival and for the annual Travis Manion event, and she hopes to have more opportunities in the future. She can't wait for the upcoming performances and the future of Roxey Ballet!

Dancers: Dancers: Sonia Hendrixson, Sierra Martin, Jocelyn McKeown, Molly Normart, Avery Regan, Emily Regan, Katherine Schied, Kathryn Smith, Gabrielle Tahaney, Mimi Ujj, Lucy Williams and Mirabel Roxey

## **Tevin Johnson**

At 15, New York native, Tevin Johnson began his training. Johnson attended the Alvin Ailey's Professional Division Summer Dance Intensive on a scholarship in 2013 on scholarship and again in 2014; where he has worked with Lakey Evans-Peña, Freddy Moore, Pedro Ruiz Jr and many more. Graduated from Montclair State University with a BFA in dance; where he has been featured in works such by Fredrick Earl Mosley, Larry Keigwin, Christian Von Howard, Stacey Tookey and Camille A. Brown. He would soon join Roxey Contemporary Ballet company in New Jersey for two seasons and worked alongside their outreach programs. In 2020, Tevin became adjunct faculty for 'City College of Manhattan' theater department, while teaching at various studios throughout New Jersey since 2018. Since the pandemic, Tevin continues teaching in New Jersey/New York while joining video projects and companies such as Jamel Gaines Creative Outlet and his 3rd season with MorDance by Morgan McEwen.

Dancers: Dancers: Sonia Hendrixson, Sierra Martin, Jocelyn McKeown, Molly Normart, Avery Regan, Emily Regan, Katherine Schied, Kathryn Smith, Gabrielle Tahaney, Mimi Ujj, Lucy Williams and Mirabel Roxey



A dancer in a long, flowing red dress is captured in a dynamic pose on a stage. The dancer's arms are raised, and one leg is extended horizontally. The stage floor is illuminated with vibrant purple light, creating a dramatic atmosphere. The background is dark, making the dancer and the stage lights stand out.

# RIVER DANCE FESTIVAL



August 16-18 2024

Tickets at [roxeyballet.org](https://roxeyballet.org)



# NUTCRACKER AUDITION

SEPTEMBER 14 2PM

For more info or to register visit:  
[roxeyballet.org](http://roxeyballet.org)



Roxey Ballet presents

# LATIN CREATIONS



September 15th

Time: 2:00 pm

An exploration of Latino-Hispanic and  
Afro-Caribbean dances and culture  
through the eyes of BIPOC  
choreographers Mark Roxey, Giovanni  
Ravelo and more...

Burlington County Library:  
5 Pioneer Blvd,  
Westampton, NJ, 08060



Roxey Ballet presents

# Cword

Stories of Triumph Over Breast Cancer

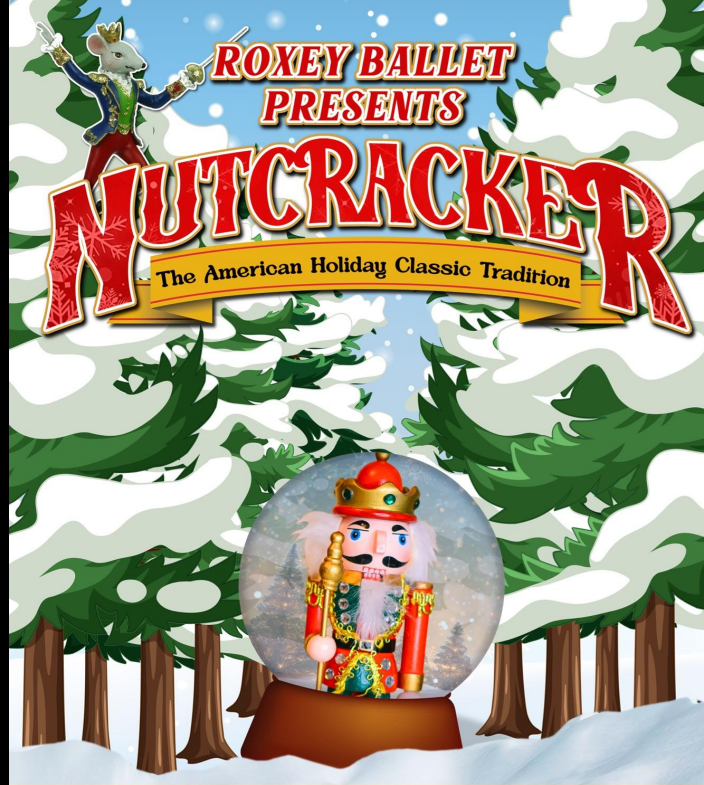
**Celebrate Resilience, Embrace Transformation**

October 5-27

Tickets are available at  
[roxeyballet.org/cword](http://roxeyballet.org/cword)







**Nutcracker Sweets & Tea Party**  
 Sunday, November 17  
 11:00 AM & 2:00 PM

**Nutcracker Performances**  
 Saturday, November 30  
 2:00 PM  
 Sunday, December 1  
 2:00 PM

**School/Children's Matinee**  
 Friday, December 6  
 10:00 AM

**Nutcracker Performances**  
 Saturday, December 7  
 2:00 PM  
 Sunday, December 8  
 2:00 PM

**Sensory Friendly/Relaxed Family Performance**  
 Saturday, December 14  
 4:00 PM

**Nutcracker Story Time with  
 Sugar Plum and Friends**  
 Sunday, December 15  
 2:00 PM (Burlington Library)

**Villa Victoria Theater**  
 376 W Upper Ferry Rd. Ewing, NJ 08628

**Burlington Library**  
 5 Pioneer Blvd, Westampton, NJ 08060

Tickets starting at \$18, group rates available

To purchase tickets  
[www.roxyballet.org](http://www.roxyballet.org) or call 609-397-7616  
 Virtual tickets available



*Roxey Ballet's programs are made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, F&J Kennedy Center, The International Organization on Arts & Disabilities, Church and Dwight, Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission, Dance NJ, and The Princeton Area Community Foundation.*



## Roxey Ballet's Merchandise Store

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