

ELIZABETH AVANTAGGIO



ELIZABETH holds a B.F.A. in Ballet performance from The University of the Arts where she was awarded a four year Promising Artist Scholarship. Originally from New Jersey, Elizabeth has trained at numerous prestigious ballet schools in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, including Joffrey Ballet School and private instruction from Ekaterina Strelnikova of N.Y.O. Dancers. She has performed professionally with Shore Ballet Company, Performing Arts Ensemble of New Jersey and the Portland Ballet Company. Her dance repertory includes Swan Lake, Coppelia, Raymonda, The Nutcracker, Giselle, Portland Dances!, Capriccio, Dance for the Cure, Best of Broadway, Requiem and The Legend of Sleepy Hollow. Mrs. Avantaggio's teaching credits include South Jersey Performing Arts Group, Westchester Dance Academy, Atlantic Ballet Company, Scarborough Dance Center, Portland Ballet, Studio for the Living Arts Dance Complex, and Portland Arts and Technology High School. In 2021, Liz was certified in Progressing Ballet Technique.

PAM COLLINS STAHL



PAM has been a dance educator and performer for over 20 years. Her career as a professional dancer has carried her overseas to such exotic places as Singapore and Taiwan while employed with "DisneyFest" and "Sesame Street Live". She has graced the Disney World stages performing in "Mickey's International Songbook" at Epcot Center and in the 25th Anniversary "Spectro Magic Parade". Pam is a certified Acrobatic Arts instructor and member of USA Gymnastics. As a competition choreographer, her works have won numerous awards including the Industry Dance Awards for Best Musical Theater, Entertainments Awards, and National Champions. Miss Pam also has a passion for choreographing musicals and she has worked on numerous productions in the community and here at SFLA. She states "one of my passions in life is mentoring my students. I hope to go above and beyond educating in the classroom, I want to inspire".

OWNER/DIRECTOR



SUSAN is the owner and director of Studio for the Living Arts Dance Complex. Susan specializes in teaching children and she has created and implemented numerous movement and dance programs for area preschools and public school departments, including Freeport, Falmouth, Songbird Creative Centers in Yarmouth and Cumberland Foreside, the Sunshine Childcare Center in Gray and the Children's Museum of Maine. Susan received her early training from Jean Devou's Dance Studio in Portland, then later began the study of jazz dance in 1992 with Sheila Bellefleur at Casco Bay Movers. Susan spent many summers training at the annual Northeast Workshop for Dancers, where she had the privilege of learning from renowned instructors including Darryl Retter, Debbie Dee, Dena Rizzo, and Keith Clifton. Their dedication to creating innovative, age-appropriate class material for children became the inspiration and foundation for our SFLA Creative Movement and Mini Movers curriculum—an approach that continues to shape our future generation of dancers.

SUSAN CLOUTIER

CONTEMPORARY/COMPETITION



JENN holds a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Musical Theater and Dance from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, where she studied under Julliard graduate Joan Karlen and James Moore, assistant for the legendary Jerome Robbins. Jenn grew up training and later taught at the Dance Arts Center in Franskville under the direction of Danelle Dalbesio Davies. Following college, Jenn continued to train in Chicago with Lou Cante Dance Studio (Hubbard Street Dance), Gus Giordano's, Joel Hall, and Visceral. Jenn has judged for several Dance Competitions, and her work has been recognized both regionally and nationally, receiving Chorography, Technique, and High Point awards. Her current and former students are top-ranked, nationally, and have gone on to have thriving careers collegially and professionally. Jenn has a fierce passion and sound understanding of dance alignment and technique and loves sharing it with her students whether their goal is to dance recreationally or professionally!

JENN FINK

BALLET/POINTE/COMPETITION



KATE received her early training at the Thomas School with Ivy Forrest before continuing at the North Carolina School of the Arts with Nina Danilova, Melissa Hayden and Frank Smith. Ms. Smedal studied at several summer programs including American Ballet Theatre, Boston Ballet, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet and Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School. In 2001 she was awarded the presidential scholarship for dance and joined the Festival Ballet of Providence, RI. She holds a B.S. in Kinesiology from UMO and is an ABT® Certified teacher, in levels Primary - 3. Ms. Smedal has performed professionally with the Portland Ballet appearing in Carmina Burana, The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, Giselle and The Victorian Nutcracker as the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Snow Queen. She served as both an instructor for the Portland School of Ballet as well as a rehearsal assistant for the Portland Ballet Company.

KATERINA SMEDAL

VICTORIA PERREAU



VIKI received most of her professional training in Los Angeles on a Tremaine National Scholarship & in the San Francisco area with some of the most talented choreographers and educators. She has been a guest judge for Dance Masters Nationals in San Jose, CA. Victoria also filmed a commercial with Star Wars George Lucas, performed for Tom Hanks, and danced on the TV pilot More than Entertainment. In California, Viki wrote & directed Amour Du Mal (an original play told through dance) for Visual Rhythm Dance Company. For years, she was guest jazz & hip hop instructor at San Jose State University, as well as a teacher for several amazing studios which included student Nick Lazzarini who emerged as the winner of SYTYCD first season. Some of her former students have gone on to Broadway and successful careers in dance. Upon returning to her native State of Maine, Viki received awards & accolades for her choreographies, scholarships to Millenium Dance Complex in L.A., and filmed a television commercial with Blake McGrath of SYTYCD. The pinnacle of her career occurred January 2007 when Mia Michaels honored Viki with a BDC scholarship. Victoria loves to teach with enthusiasm & her choreographies are known for their originality.

GRACE KOURY



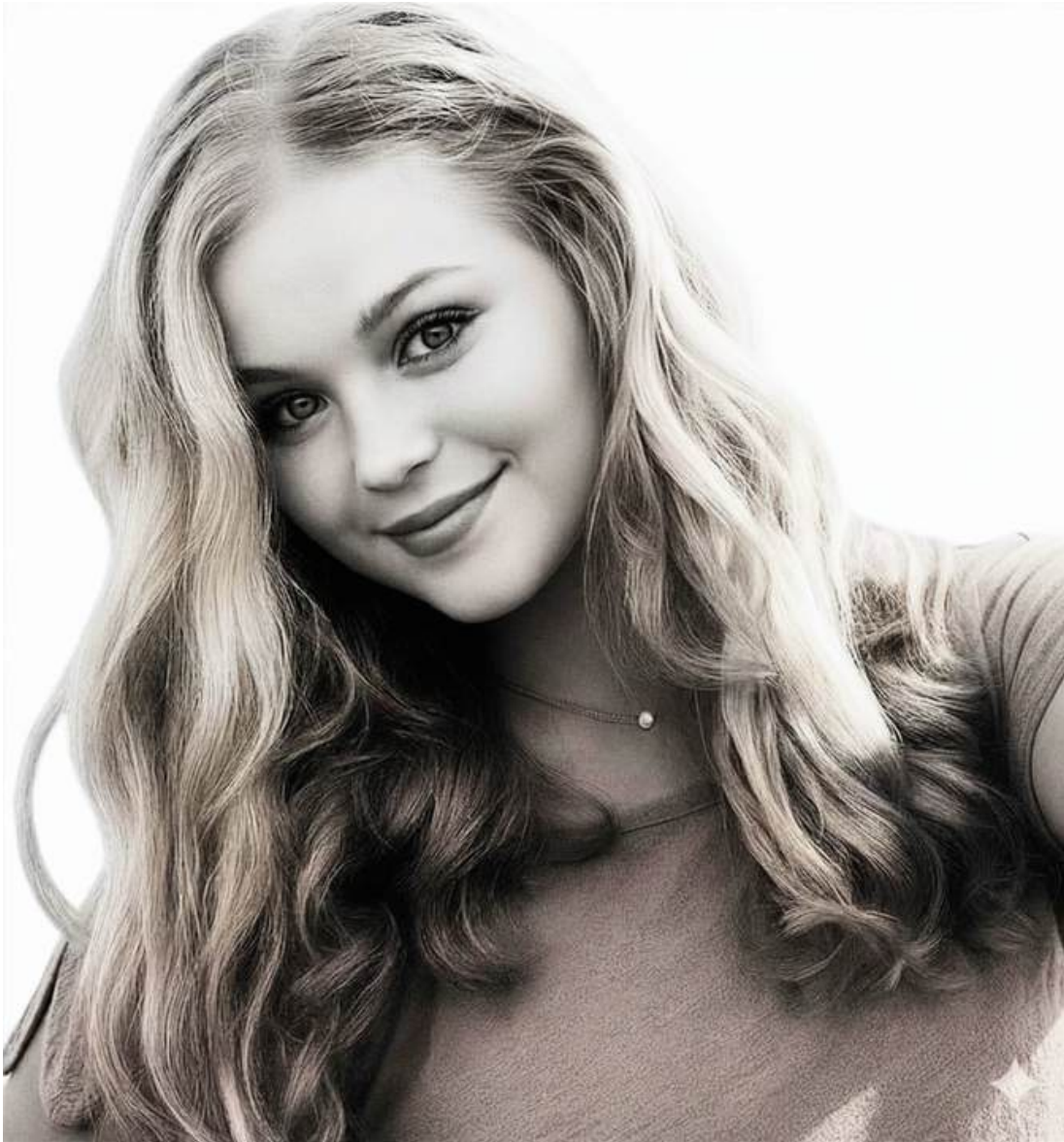
GRACE earned a Bachelor's of Science in Ballet Performance from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music in 2016. She first started teaching while attending IU in the music school's pre-college program as well as non-major elective ballet classes. After graduating, Grace taught varying ages of ballet students in schools across the country while also dancing professionally for Rochester City Ballet and Georgia Dance Theater. In 2019, Grace moved to Portland, ME to dance professionally with Portland Ballet and also joined the faculty for Portland School of Ballet..

KELLY FANTIGROSSI



KELLY'S education includes an M.F.A. in Acting from UCLA (Magna Cum Laude), B.A. in Theater with a Minor in Dance from Temple University (Magna Cum Laude), and the Teaching Artist/Process Pedagogy Program for Jacques D'Amboise's The National Dance Institute based out of NYC. Kelly's teaching history includes the University of California-Los Angeles (Acting for Non-Majors and Ballet), the American Academy of Dramatic Arts-Manhattan (Musical Theater Tap/Jazz), The National Dance Institute, and Celebrate the Beat's Artist in Residency programs (The Bank Street School for Children, East Harlem School and PS 184 Shuang Wen), US Performing Arts Camp-Los Angeles (Tap, Jazz, Ballet), University of Southern Maine ("The Wild Party), Future Artists: A Performing Arts Camp for Young Adults (Co-creator/Director), City Theater ("Hair", "A Christmas Carol"). Kelly has trained with many notable names in the dance and theater such as: Andy Blackenbuehler, Josh Bergasse, Chett Walker, Frank Hatchett, Anthony Hopkins, Helen Hunt, Savion Glover... just to name a few. She has been involved in the competition world and has served as a judge for Turn It Up and Dance Challenge in ME, NJ, and MA.

BALLET/LYRICAL/JAZZ



MIA WILLET

MIA trained at Studio for the Living Arts Dance Complex for 15 years before graduating with our class of 2021. Mia's studies included Ballet, Pointe, Contemporary, Lyrical, Jazz, and Hip-Hop. During her time here as a student, Mia was an Assistant Teacher, and she also danced competitively as a member of our Pulse Dance Company. Along with her extensive training here as a Company member, Mia has also studied with many of the industry's top instructors and choreographers at dance conventions and through our in-house master class programs. Mia has been on faculty at SFLA since 2022, teaching lyrical, jazz and ballet.

MICHELLE MELVIN-PERRY



MICHELLE started her dance education at her Grandmother's dance studio and comes from a long line of family dance instructors, including her mother. Michelle studied Ballet at Portland Ballet School of East with Sarah Whale. She later joined Cheryl Greeley's competition team in 1992, and from there, Cheryl opened the doors to the musical theater world. Michelle was in her first musical theater production at Lyric Theater and from there she performed at Portland Players, Arundel Barn Playhouse, and Maine State Music Theater. She took her love for the stage and moved to NYC and studied dance at Broadway Dance Center. She got an agent and was in Feature Films with Jim Carey, Jack Black, and Ben Stiller. She was in a Law and Order – criminal intent episode, and she also performed in a Mountain Dew Amp commercial for MTV at BCBG. In addition to teaching weekly jazz and lyrical classes at SFLA, Michelle enjoys collaborating with her daughter Lily to create award-winning choreography for our Competition Team Pulse Dance Company.

AMANDA PREBLE



AMANDA is a hip hop choreographer and instructor based out of several studios in Southern Maine. She holds a Bachelors degree in Communications from Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut. It was at Quinnipiac that she developed her skills on the school's competitive hip hop team and served as a captain and a choreographer. Her performance experience includes nine consecutive seasons of dancing for basketball, including two years professionally for the NBA-D League. In March of 2011, she was a finalist for the New England Patriot's Cheerleaders. Amanda travels to Boston and New York City several times a year to continue her training in hip hop and other styles of dance. She has trained with the likes of Twitch, D-Trix, Sheryl Murakami, Neil Schwartz, and Chio.

KAREN GILLES



KAREN was one of our first students that attended the Studio for the Living Arts in 1992, training in tap, ballet, pointe, and jazz the way through graduating High School. She was featured in many performances and recitals at the Studio along with participating in my dance competitions and workshops during her childhood. Karen comes from a three-generation family of dancers here at SFLA with her Mom Lenora (Adult Tap) and her daughter Hannah who is currently training in several genres of dance and a member of Pulse Dance Company. Following High School, Karen attended the University of Maine, Orono where she received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Karen began her nursing career at the Maine Medical Center where she practiced cardiac telemetry/med surgical nursing . Karen is currently the Director of Nursing at Pine Tree Home Health Care.

BALLET/POINTE /CONDITIONING

JACKSON GORMLEY



JACKSON was born and raised on Long Island, New York where he began to dance at the age of 11. What started off as an interest in hip hop grew into a passion for jazz, modern, and ballet. Jackson decided to pursue ballet more seriously at the Eglevsky Ballet, then continued to pursue dance by attending Point Park University, where he graduated Suma Cum Laude with his B.F.A. in dance with a concentration in Ballet. Jackson joined Portland Ballet as a Company Dancer in the 2021/2022 season, and as well as dancing with the company, he is also a highly experienced and certified personal trainer. We are very excited to have Jackson on the summer faculty schedule, teaching “Conditioning for Dancers” and “Advanced Level Ballet” courses.

CONTEMPORARY SUMMER FACULTY/COMPETITION CHOREOGRAPHER

AIDEN FORTIER



AIDEN is an SFLA Alumni, class of 2024. As a student and distinguished member of our Pulse Dance Company, Aiden earned numerous accolades, scholarships, and recognitions throughout his competitive career. Among his notable achievements is receiving the title of First Place Contemporary Male Soloist at the 2024 Youth America Grand Prix Regional Competition in Worcester, MA. Additionally, Aiden auditioned and was selected as a Pro Reveler for REVEL Dance Convention, where he toured as a teaching assistant for 3 seasons. Aiden is currently attending the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Class of 2028, on a Posse Arts Scholarship, where he is pursuing a degree in Contemporary Dance with aspirations of a professional career in the industry.

CONTEMPORARY SUMMER FACULTY/COMPETITION CHOREOGRAPHER

ANNABEL PHINNEY



Annabel Phinney is an SFLA alumni who began her training at Studio for the Living Arts Dance Complex before continuing her education through CLI Conservatory Program. Following her conservatory training, Annabel relocated to Los Angeles to pursue a professional career in the dance industry where she is represented by Go 2 Talent Agency. She is currently teaching and choreographing throughout the Los Angeles dance community, including at Millennium Dance Complex, while continuing to expand her professional training and performance experience. When back in her home state of Maine, Annabel returns to SFLA as a guest faculty member, offering master classes and choreography for our Pulse Dance Company members. Known for creativity, and strong industry-based training, she is passionate about inspiring the next generation of artists.