

THE
NUTMEGBALLET
CONSERVATORY

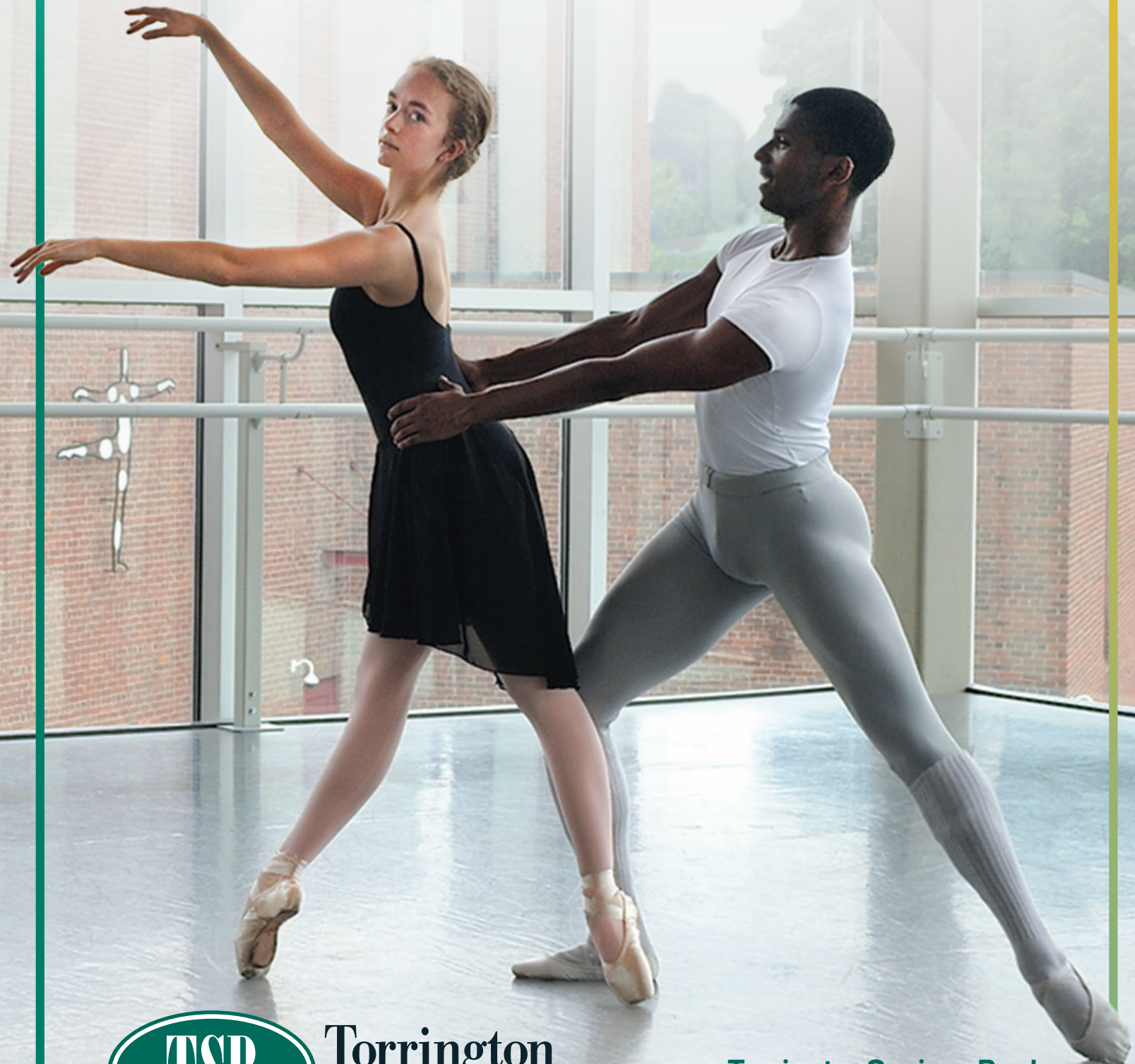


Photo by Don Perdue

GRADUATION 2025

WWW.NUTMEGCONSERVATORY.ORG

Congratulations to the **Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory Class of 2025!**



**Torrington
Savings Bank**

TorringtonSavings.Bank
(860) 496-2152

FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Dear Students, Parents, and Staff,

As we come to the close of another incredible school year, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for the collective efforts and support that have made this year so memorable and successful.

To our students:

Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm throughout the year. You've shown resilience and growth, and your curiosity has inspired us all. Each of you has contributed in your own unique way. I'm proud of all the accomplishments you've achieved. Keep striving for greatness—your potential is limitless.

To our parents:

Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to our school community. Your partnership and involvement have been crucial to the success of our students. Whether it was attending events, helping with projects, or simply encouraging your children, your involvement has made all the difference. We truly appreciate all that you do to support the growth and development of your children.

To our staff:

Thank you for your tireless efforts, dedication, and passion for teaching and supporting our students. Your creativity, patience, and hard work have made this year not just a learning experience, but a journey full of inspiration and growth. Each of you plays a crucial role in making our school a vibrant place for students to thrive. As we look forward to the future, let's continue to work together to create an environment where all students can succeed and feel supported. I am excited about what lies ahead, and I know that with this amazing team—students, parents, and staff alike—we will continue to achieve great things.

On a final note, we would like to dedicate this year's program to a beloved long-time donor and supporter of The Nutmeg, Sam Mazzearelli. His support over the years has made a lasting impact on our organization and for that we are truly grateful.

Thank you again for making this year so special!

With sincere gratitude,
Victoria Mazzearelli

ABOUT OUR FOUNDER



SHARON E. DANTE – Founder

Sharon E. Dante founded the Nutmeg Ballet in December 1969 and has developed a training program and performance curriculum which have attracted students from over thirty-four states and a number of countries around the world. Ms. Dante was responsible for the growth and development of the training program and its related performance curriculum. During her artistic career, she coached dancers who participated in international competitions in New York, Paris, Lausanne, Varna, and Moscow. After graduating from Endicott College ('64), University of Hartford ('66), and the Hartford Ballet, Ms. Dante became a de Rothschild Scholar at the Martha Graham School in New York City in 1967. She danced as a soloist with the Charles Weidman Dance Company, Rudy Perez Dance Company, and the Larry Richardson Dance Company, where she performed principal roles throughout the United States and Europe. Joining the Hartford Ballet as a

performer, faculty member, and assistant to the director in 1969, she was instrumental in the development of that company's educational programs throughout New England. From 1997-2001, Ms. Dante and Nutmeg Ballet's Board of Directors initiated and completed a multi-million dollar capital project in downtown Torrington. In 2000, the Nutmeg Conservatory for the Arts was proud to be the recipient of the Connecticut Commission on the Arts Governor's Arts Award and in 2001, the Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce named her "Business Woman of the Year." Currently, Ms. Dante serves as Executive Director to the Nutmeg Conservatory. In November of 2014, the Northwest Connecticut Arts Council awarded Ms. Dante the Culture-MAX award for her Artistic contributions. In the fall of 2015, Dante was awarded the Community Ambassador Award and served as Mayor for the Day an award given by The Unico Club and City of Torrington. She is an avid golfer and a member of the Greenwoods and Eastwoods Ladies Golf League. Her mantra in life, inspired by former Governor Ella T. Grasso, is "Grow Where You Are Planted."

The Patterson Oil Company



Fuel Oil - Diesel - Propane - Gasoline - Burner Service

(860) 489-9271

100 LINCOLN AVE, TORRINGTON, CT • PATTERSONOILCO.BIZ

CT LIC #B3-403170 – G1-403171 – CT HEATING OIL DEALER LICENSE #48

Eastside Electric, Inc.

**Electrical
And
Home Improvement Contractors**

- Electrical Design And Construction •
- Maintenance •
- Home Generator Sales • Installation • Service •
- Home Renovation And Construction •

(860) 485-0700 // WWW.EASTSIDE-ELECTRIC.COM



178 BIRGE PARK ROAD • HARWINTON, CT

All major credit cards accepted • CT E1 LIC #180983, HIC #0633215

MEET THE ARTISTS



VICTORIA MAZZARELLI –
Artistic Director/Executive Officer

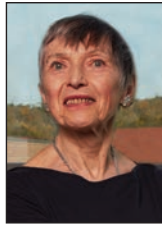
Victoria Mazzarelli was trained originally by Sharon Dante and the Nutmeg faculty. At seventeen she was awarded the only gold medal at the 1984 New York International Ballet Competition. Invited to join the Basel Ballet in Switzerland under the direction of Heinz Spoerli, she was quickly promoted to principal dancer. Victoria not only had the opportunity to dance leading roles in all of the company's classical repertoire, but also in works by distinguished choreographers Hans van Manen, Jiri Kylian, and William Forsythe. Victoria's contact with Forsythe led her to join the Frankfurt Ballet 1990-1996 as principal dancer. During that time, she toured extensively and had the opportunity to work with Alonzo King, Ohad Naharin, Jan Fabre and Saburo Teshigawara. In 1996, she returned to Switzerland to join the Zurich Ballet as principal dancer. In the summer of 2000, Victoria continued dancing as guest artist with the Frankfurt Ballet and the Schauspielhaus Zurich. In 2001, she returned to the Basel Ballet under the new director Richard Wherlock. Victoria returned to the Nutmeg in 2003 to take on the role of Associate Director, and was subsequently appointed Artistic Director in 2011. She continues in this role to date, teaching, coaching and choreographing for the next generation of dancers. She also serves as guest teacher for MOMIX, and as an instructor with Charym, where she teaches ballet yoga. Victoria also enjoys working with private clients, and has been a long-standing yoga instructor for Winvian.



TIM MELADY –
Ballet Faculty/Production Manager/National Audition Tour Co-Director

Tim Melady's early ballet training in Connecticut and performance in the premiere of The Nutmeg's Nutcracker, led him to graduate from the North Carolina School of the Arts. At 18 years of age, Tim became a charter member of Miami City Ballet under the Artistic Direction of Edward Villella. Later, he went on to dance with Ballet du Nord (France). Returning stateside with a young family in tow, Tim became a principal dancer with Kirk Peterson's Hartford Ballet dancing many great roles often with Nutmeg graduate Cheryl Madeux '90. In 2000, Tim toured with the Washington Ballet dancing at the Havana Festival, Cuba. For many seasons Tim toured with the internationally acclaimed MOMIX, under the

direction of Moses Pendleton. In the fall of 2008, he joined the full time faculty of Nutmeg Conservatory as Ballet Master, serving as Production Stage Manager at major performances. Residing in Hartford, Connecticut for over a quarter of a century, Tim is also Adjunct faculty at the Hartt School, University of Hartford teaching Ballet technique and partnering. He has performed in over 50 countries on five continents. Now a dance educator, coach, choreographer and mentor, Tim is proud to be a dancer.



JOAN KUNSCH –
Ballet Faculty/National Audition Tour Co-Director/ Associate Director Emerita

Now in her 4th decade on the Nutmeg Faculty, and a returning guest artist in Tallinn (Ballet Summer Estonia International Workshop), Oslo (Kirkenaer Ballettskolen), Stockholm (The Swedish Ballet School & Balettakademien), Halifax (Maritime Conservatory), London (RBS & RAD), The Hague (The Royal Conservatory) and Reykjavik (Iceland's National Ballet School), Joan has also taught for academies and university dance departments across the USA. Her choreography includes works for concert stage, sacred space, TV and outdoor venues such as Jacob's Pillow. She has served as Ballet Mistress to MOMIX and Ballet Mississippi. Dancers she has co-taught have joined over 70 professional companies, including Boston Ballet, Colorado Ballet, ABT, NYCB, Joffrey Ballet, Richmond Ballet, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens. Publications include "Playing With Gravity" (poetry, Antrim House 2007), a CD (2011), numerous poetry journals with awards, and a Pointe Magazine article on Nutmeg's Artistic Director, Victoria Mazzarelli. She and Kathi Byam form the sister duo "Flute Meets Poem." She served five years on the CT Dance Alliance Board of Directors.



DENISE WARNER LIMOLI –
Ballet Faculty

Denise Warner Limoli teaches all aspects of classical ballet technique and specializes in staging the ballet repertoire. Raised in Connecticut, she was trained by Vera Nikitins, and has been associated with Sharon Dante and the Nutmeg Ballet since 1969. She performed with the Hartford Ballet and was a featured dancer with American Ballet Theatre for ten years. At ABT, she regularly taught company classes and was an assistant to the ballet masters. Ms. Warner Limoli is Professor Emerita from Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY, where she

served on the Board of Directors for the National Museum of Dance and the New York State Council on the Arts. She is a published author, lecturer and museum exhibit curator. Prior to her tenure at Skidmore, she was ballet master for several companies and was ballet faculty in the dance departments of University of Cincinnati College/Conservatory of Music and North Carolina School of the Arts.

ELEANOR D'ANTUONO – Ballet Faculty



Eleanor D'Antuono has been affiliated with The Nutmeg for over 30 years. At age 14, she joined the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo and partnered by legendary greats Frederic Franklin and Igor Youskevich, later The Joffrey Ballet, and ultimately American Ballet Theatre, where for more than 20 years she enchanted audiences as prima ballerina. She appeared at the International Ballet Festival in Havana for several years, was the first American ballerina invited to appear as a guest artist with the legendary Kirov Ballet in Leningrad, and in 1980, was the first American ballerina invited to dance in mainland China. She formed memorable partnerships with the premier dancers of the century, including Royce Fernandez, Erik Bruhn, Paolo Bortoluzzi, Rudolph Nureyev, Ivan Nagy, John Meehan, Fernando Bujones, Ted Kivitt, and Alexander Godunov and many more. Ms. D'Antuono was a principal faculty member of The Joffrey Ballet, having served as Director of The Joffrey Summer Workshop in San Antonio until 2005, and was Artistic Director of the New York International Competition since 1996. She joined the Nutmeg faculty in 1986 after working with Victoria Mazzarelli at the New York International Ballet competition. She lives here in Connecticut with her loving husband John Vrabel.

ALEXEI TCHERNICHOV – Ballet Faculty



Alexei Tchernichov received his early training at the Bolshoi Academy in Moscow and is a graduate of the Vaganova Choreographic Institute in St. Petersburg. The son of Elena Tchernichova, former Principal Ballet Mistress of American Ballet Theatre, Mr. Tchernichov was a principal dancer with The Kuybeshv State Ballet and has taught and choreographed extensively across the U.S. Alexei has a vast classical ballet background which he shares with The Nutmeg Ballet students in technique class and repertoire rehearsal.

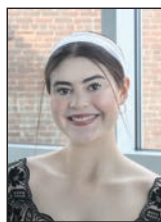
2024-2025 HONOREES

Ten Year Pre-Professional Program



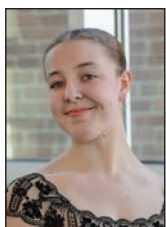
Micah Ocasio – Micah lives in Torrington, Connecticut, and has danced at Nutmeg since she was 3 years old. She also attends the Nutmeg Academic program (CAP). Micah enjoys playing with her niece and nephew on Sundays and also spending time with her friends and families. She is 18 years old and is grateful for the experience she has received from Nutmeg.

Two Year Post-High School Program



Eve Peyton – Eve is a 21-year-old post graduate student from Canada. She was introduced to Nutmeg through Ms. Kunsch and her ties to the Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Eve has attended the Joffrey Ballet School summer intensive in the past and enjoys time on Prince Edward Island. After graduation, she looks forward to continuing her dance career.

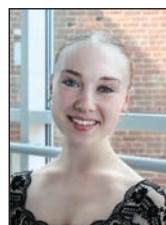
Four Year Pre-Professional Program



Camille Brunet – Camille is 18 years old and a senior from New Hampshire. She is finishing her fourth and final year at Nutmeg. In her free time, she loves hanging out with friends, going out for coffee, and listening to music. She is grateful for all the guidance she has received and the friends she has made at Nutmeg. She will be a resident assistant at the Nutmeg August session this summer and then will continue on to Liberty University next year. Although she is sad to be leaving Nutmeg, she is excited for this next chapter and excited to come back and visit!



Anna Baker – Anna is an 18-year-old senior from Sugar Hill, New Hampshire. She began dancing at the age of 5 and has trained in multiple styles, including tap, jazz, modern, and contemporary. This is her first year at Nutmeg and Anna is grateful to be a part of the Nutmeg family, and to have had all of the experiences this year has brought. Outside of dance, Anna enjoys tennis, listening to Taylor Swift, and spending time with friends. Next year, Anna plans on attending the University of New Hampshire while pursuing degrees in Nutrition & Dietetics and Dance.

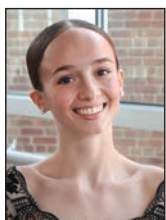


Molly Grealis – Molly is an 18-year-old senior in high school from Middlebury, Connecticut. She began dancing at the age of 5 and will be completing her fourth and final year with Nutmeg. In her free time, Molly enjoys spending time with friends and family, drawing, listening to music, and shopping. She is beyond grateful for the wonderful memories and support that Nutmeg has given her. This summer, she will return to Nutmeg to be a resident assistant. Next year, Molly will be continuing her dance training at University of North Carolina School of the Arts where she hopes to prepare for a dance career.



Violet Bleger – Violet is a senior in high school and is from Durango, Colorado. This is her first year dancing at Nutmeg and she has loved every minute of it. Nutmeg has been the perfect to place to transition from a small studio to more serious training as she pursues her goal of dancing with a professional company. Violet is passionate about her academics as well. In the fall, she will be attending Arizona State University online, majoring in physics. This summer, she will be attending a five week summer intensive at BalletMet with hopes of being accepted into the professional trainee program.

Two Year Pre-Professional Program



Averie Brooks – Averie is an 18-year-old senior from New Hartford, Connecticut. Training for a period of time in Nutmeg's Children's Division in 2013, she has been happy to be back at Nutmeg for the last few years. Additionally, she trains at The Dance Project in Bristol. She enjoys training in all styles of dance such as contemporary, jazz, and tap. Outside of ballet, she loves to paint and draw. She is excited to be joining American Repertory Ballet as a Trainee this fall. Averie would like to thank the faculty and all her friends and family for another wonderful year.

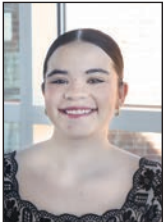


Grace Economy – Grace is an 18-year-old Senior from upstate New York. This is her first year dancing at Nutmeg as a day student, and she has loved every second of it! Her almost two hour commute to Nutmeg everyday has been absolutely worth it - she has learned so much, and has loved getting to dance at such an amazing school. Outside of the studio, Grace enjoys reading, writing short stories and poetry, playing music, making jewelry, and being with her family.

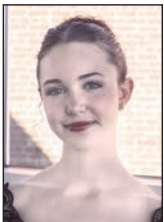
2024-2025 HONOREES



Abbie Fretz – From Virginia, Abbie began dancing at the School of Richmond Ballet. Deciding it was time to further her pre-professional dance training, she moved away to train with the Rock School for Dance Education in Philadelphia. Abbie then discovered Nutmeg through its summer intensive, made the decision to switch schools and train here year-round. She has enjoyed her time learning and growing at Nutmeg immensely. Abbie will be staying with Nutmeg next season, joining its Post-Graduate program.



Miah Sanchez – Miah is 17 and is a senior from Canandaigua, New York. Next year, she will be going to Marymount/Northeastern to major in environmental science and dance with the goal of becoming an environmental engineer. This is her first year at Nutmeg, and she's thankful for all the support she has received here.



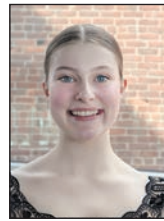
Victoria Wallace Torbush – Victoria, a high school senior, is 16 years old and is from Jacksonville, Florida. This is her first year at Nutmeg. Victoria plans on pursuing ballet as a career in the future. She is incredibly grateful for the amazing teachers and friends she has met this year.



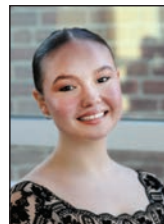
Lucinda Valdez – Lucinda is 17 years old and has been studying ballet since the age of 3. This is her senior year in high school and her first year at Nutmeg. She is from Bethany Beach, Delaware and is excited to pursue her ballet career as a trainee at the Ballet Theatre of Maryland for the 25/26 season.



Hailey Wankier – Hailey is 18 years old and is from Avon, Connecticut. She began taking ballet at 3 years old, and received most of her training at Ballet Theater Company. This is Hailey's first year at Nutmeg, and she has enjoyed learning and growing as a dancer and a person. Next year, Hailey will be attending Utah Valley University where she will be double majoring in Ballet and Mechanical Engineering.



Meighan DuBosq – Meighan is from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and this is her first year as a Nutmeg student. Besides dancing, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, writing, and traveling. Meighan is incredibly grateful to Nutmeg for the knowledge and growth she has gained over this year. She is looking forward to attending the Norwegian National Ballet and Washington Ballet Summer Programs before returning to Nutmeg for her second post-graduate year next year!



Bridget Gildersleeve – Bridget is a 19-year-old post-graduate student at Nutmeg. She started ballet at age 3 and began dancing at Nutmeg when she was 15. She is excited to be moving back home to further enrich her training and pursue a career in classical ballet. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, making new lattes and coffee. She will hold her Nutmeg experiences and memories close to her heart for the rest of her life.



Kendyl Hanson – Kendyl is from Tomah, Wisconsin, and this is her second year dancing at Nutmeg. This upcoming summer, she will attend the Milwaukee Ballet's Summer Intensive. Next year, she plans to continue her higher education at Butler University, where she will double major in Dance Performance and Kinesiology. In her free time, she enjoys reading and spending time with friends.



Trystan Lopez – Trystan is 20 years old and has been a student in Nutmeg's post-graduate program for the last two years. He has 11 siblings and can name each one of them!

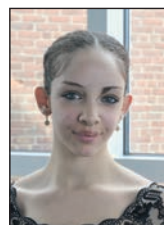


Julia May Sanborn – Julia May is a 19-year-old from Bismarck, North Dakota. Though she has been dancing since age 2, this was her first year at Nutmeg. She is so thankful for the support of the faculty, and is excited to return to Nutmeg. This summer, she looks forward to coming back as a resident assistant for the August session. In her free time, Julia May enjoys going to Church, making earrings, reading, learning, and visiting her large family.

Post-High School Program Certificate



Caroline Backus – Caroline is a 19-year-old post-graduate from Atlanta, Georgia and also attends Kennesaw State University. Caroline first attended Nutmeg's summer intensives when she was 12 years old and it is her second year in Nutmeg's year round program. She has made wonderful friends and has felt tremendous support from her teachers. This will be Caroline's last year at Nutmeg and next semester, Caroline will be transferring to either the University of Tennessee or the University of Kentucky majoring in Chemical Engineering. In her free time, Caroline likes to spend time with family and friends.



Aries Trimble – Aries is originally from North Carolina. This is her first year with Nutmeg as a post-graduate student. She enjoys music, nature, and spending time with her pets.

2024-2025 TRAINEES



Joanna Dennehy – Joanna has been dancing at Nutmeg for eleven years. Nutmeg has introduced her to some of her best friends and has given her so many amazing opportunities. She feels that Nutmeg has become her second home and has helped her grow not only as a dancer but as a person.



Marley DeRouen – Marley is a 17-year-old junior from Southbury, Connecticut. First coming to Nutmeg in 2020, she is happy to be completing her fifth year as a day student. As a rising senior, Marley is excited to see what the future holds for her. She will attend the 5-week course at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet summer intensive this summer, where she has spent her past two summers. Additionally, she will also be a resident assistant for Nutmeg's two week August course. Outside of her ballet training, Marley enjoys thrifting, writing, and dreams of someday moving to New York City.



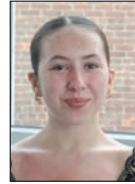
Karina Flaherty – Karina is a 13-year-old 8th grader from Watertown, Connecticut. She has been a student at Nutmeg for four years. Besides dancing, Karina enjoys playing tennis and spending time with her family. This summer, Karina will be attending one of Nutmeg's summer intensive sessions and will also be attending the summer intensive at (SAB) School of American Ballet in NYC.



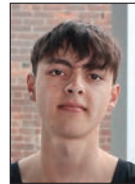
Emily Grasso – Emily lives in Torrington, Connecticut and attends Torrington Middle School. She has been dancing at Nutmeg for eight years. In her free time, she enjoys going shopping. When she grows up, she hopes to be a crime detective.



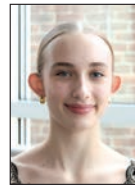
Jeffrey Hanzelik – Jeffrey is a 17-year-old junior from Bel Air, Maryland. Jeffrey has been studying dance since the age of 5, and this is his second year in Nutmeg's Year-Round program after participating in its 2023 Summer Intensive. He will be attending the Louisville Ballet 2025 Summer Intensive for five weeks and will return to Nutmeg in August as a resident assistant for two weeks. He is excited to complete his Senior year at Nutmeg come fall. In his free time, Jeffrey enjoys musical theatre, listening to music, watching movies, and going outside. He has enjoyed making all of these memories and making new friends during the year and can't wait to see what is in store for the future.



Olivia Harrington – Olivia is 14 years old and has been dancing for nine years. This is her second year at Nutmeg, after making the switch from competition studios to a more focused ballet school.



Aidan Lopez – Aidan is 17 years old from Nashville, Tennessee and is one of eleven children. This is his first year with Nutmeg, where he's a resident along with his brother, Trystan. He has been dancing for almost three years now and has loved his time at Nutmeg.



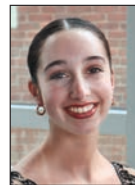
Taylor Maiga – Taylor has been dancing at Nutmeg for eleven years. Dance has always been a huge part of her life, and Nutmeg has become like a second home to her. Over the years, she's grown not just as a dancer, but also as a person, thanks to the support and training she's received at Nutmeg. She's grateful for all the memories, friendships, and opportunities the studio has given her.



Geanna Martinelli – Geanna has been dancing at Nutmeg since age 4. She is currently 13 and attends Torrington Christian Academy. When she is not at school or ballet, Geanna enjoys running, shopping, and spending time with friends and family.



Onya Ndzengue-Ledra – Onya is from Paris, France. She is 19 years old and is enjoying her first year with the Nutmeg Conservatory. In her free time, she likes singing and writing.

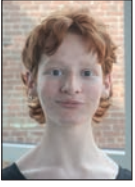


Sofia Philbin – Sofia is from Guilford, Connecticut. She started dancing at 3 years old and this is her first year at Nutmeg. It has been an exciting year and she loves being a day student. Outside of dance, she enjoys going to the beach and being with family and friends.

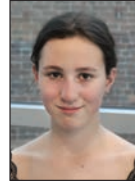


Eliza Pratt – Eliza is a 16-year-old junior from Great Barrington, Massachusetts. She began her dance training at age 11 in her hometown. This is Eliza's second year at Nutmeg and she plans to return for her Senior year. In past summers, she has attended Philadelphia Ballet School's intensive and company experience, performed with the Albany Berkshire Ballet at Jacob's Pillow, and with the Nimbus Dance company at Tanglewood. This summer, Eliza is looking forward to attending the Stuttgart Ballet school's five week John Cranko summer intensive program in New York City.

2024-2025 TRAINEES



John Raber – Before coming to Nutmeg, John studied ballet, tap, jazz, and Horton at Shreveport Dance Academy and danced with Shreveport Metropolitan Ballet. While at Shreveport Metropolitan Ballet, he performed roles in both its junior and senior companies. After training privately under the direction of Kendra Meiki, he decided to broaden his horizons at Nutmeg, where he plans to finish his high school career. This summer, John is attending Kansas City Ballet's summer intensive. After graduating Nutmeg, he hopes to join a Balanchine-based ballet company, with the New York City Ballet and Miami City Ballet being his dream companies.



Alexis Werkhoven – Lexie is 13 years old and has been dancing at Nutmeg for nine years, beginning in the Children's Division. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her friends and listening to music.



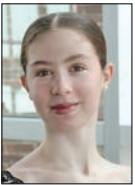
Serafina Wojcik – Serafina is a junior at Holy Cross High School in Waterbury, Connecticut. She began her ballet training with the Children's Division of Nutmeg when she was 3 years old. Leaving in 2021 to briefly train with Woodbury Ballet, she returned to Nutmeg in 2024. She enjoys crocheting, reading, playing with dogs, traveling and of course, ballet.



Andrew Roberts – Andrew is a 16-year-old from New Hartford, Connecticut. He started dancing twelve years ago in Nutmeg Children's Division. This is Andrew's fourth year as a Nutmeg day student and he has made many amazing memories and friends.



Leila Rackley – This marks Leila's first year with Nutmeg. She began dancing at the age of 5, and has loved it ever since. Outside of the studio, Leila enjoys immersing herself in stories through reading, music, and movies. She looks forward to continuing her journey in dance with Nutmeg, and her growth in all aspects of life.



Maya Rubinstein – Maya is 14 years old, from Ballston Spa, New York. Her dream is to become a professional dancer, and Nutmeg has been the first step towards achieving that. When she's not dancing, she enjoys seeing friends, reading, and having new experiences. She can't wait to keep working hard in the future.



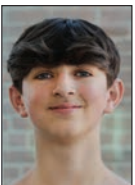
Nia Rackley – Nia, who is currently in her first year at Nutmeg, is an aspiring professional dancer. Dance has been a part of Nia's life ever since she started at the young age of 7. When she's not dancing, Nia enjoys reading, writing, and listening to music. She plans to continue her dance journey through high school, and she is very thankful for the opportunities Nutmeg has offered her thus far.



Caralina Shaffer – Caralina is 13 years old and this is her eighth year at Nutmeg, having started her training in its Children's Division. She lives in West Hartford, Connecticut and enjoys spending time with her friends and baking. She will be attending Nutmeg's summer intensive.



Katarina Rondos – Katarina is 12 years old and started her training in Nutmeg's Children's Division. She is from Litchfield, Connecticut.



Benjamin Smolin – Benjamin is a 15-year-old sophomore from Trumbull, Connecticut. This is his second year at Nutmeg. This summer, Benjamin plans to attend Houston Ballet's summer intensive and Nutmeg's August summer intensive. He is grateful for everything that Nutmeg has given him including great training and great memories.



Francesca Vattuone – Francesca has been a student at Nutmeg for the past ten years. She is currently 15 years old. Nutmeg has truly become a second home for Francesca and she is grateful for the memories and friendships she has created here. Francesca will be attending the Boston Ballet summer intensive this coming summer.



Elise Tappen – Elise is an 18-year-old dancer in her first year at Nutmeg. She previously trained under Campbell Midgely in Helena, Montana, and has been dancing in the Vaganova style for four years. In her free time, she writes, draws, paints, sews, makes jewelry, plays chess, and enjoys picking up any new skill available to her.



THE NUTMEG BALLET CONSERVATORY

Nutcracker 2025



Our enduring Holiday classic returns once again!

Performances:

November 29 – 30

Bushnell Theater, Hartford, CT

December 13 – 14

Warner Theatre, Torrington, CT



CONNECTICUT

www.nutmegconservatory.org

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Now in her 4th decade on the Nutmeg faculty, where she serves as National Audition Tour Co-Director and Associate Director Emerita, Joan Kunsch has also taught for academies and university dance departments across the USA. Internationally, she is a current (2025) and returning guest artist in Tallinn (students of MUBA, Estonia's Ballet and Music Academy & Ballet Summer Estonia International Workshop) and Halifax (the Maritime Conservatory) and has taught often in Oslo (Kirkenaer Ballettskolen), as well as in Stockholm (the Swedish Ballet School and Balettkademien), London (Royal Ballet and Royal Academy of Dance), The Hague (The Royal Conservatory), Reykjavik (Iceland's National Ballet School) and, by Zoom during the Covid quarantine, Manila, The Philippines.

Her choreography includes works for concert stage, sacred space, TV and outdoor venues such as Jacob's Pillow. She has served as Ballet Mistress to MOMIX and Ballet Mississippi. Dancers she has co-taught have joined over 70 professional companies, including Boston Ballet, Colorado Ballet, ABT, NYCB, Joffrey Ballet, Dance Theater of Harlem, Richmond Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens. Publications: "Playing with Gravity" (poetry, Antrim House 2007), a CD (2011), numerous poetry journals and awards, and a Pointe Magazine article on Nutmeg's Artistic Director, Victoria Mazzarelli.

Painting exhibitions include a group show at The Five Points Annex (Sept. 2024); the Nutmeg Conservatory Gallery (Oct./Nov. 2021) and (ongoing) at The Domestic Monastery gallery in Avon, CT.

MEET THE BOARD & STAFF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sharon E. Dante, Founder
Susan Patterson, President
Marc Trivella, Vice President
Joseph Fazzino, Secretary & Treasurer
Dr. Tanya Lynn Celadon*
Audrie DeRouen
Peggy Hotchkiss
David Jones
Paul Kundzins
Victoria Mazzarelli*
Cynthia Quinn
John Sprance

ARTISTIC STAFF

Victoria Mazzarelli*, Artistic Director
Timothy Melady*, Ballet Faculty/
Production Manager/National
Audition Tour Co-Director
Joan Kunsch, Ballet Faculty/
National Audition Tour Co-Director/
Associate Director Emerita
Denise Warner Limoli, Ballet Faculty
Eleanor D'Antuono, Ballet Faculty
Alexei Tchernichov, Ballet Faculty
Hope Bourque*, Ballet Faculty,
Children's Division

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Donna Bonasera*, Ballet
Kerry Orelup, Pilates
Kate Sutter*, Contemporary
Sean Langford, Improvisation
Taylor Pizzoferrato, Jazz
Timothy Wallace, Accompanist
Sergie Upkin, Guest Teacher
Thel Moore*, Guest Teacher/Choreographer
Brian Reeder, Guest Teacher/Choreographer

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Sharon E. Dante, Founder
Victoria Mazzarelli*, Executive Officer
Holly Hawk, Operations Director
Donna M. Mattiello*, Academic Director
Karen Tuck, Housing Director
Lori Pagano*, Registrar Nutmeg
Sherry Strahan, Administrative Assistant
Corin Pinette, Administrative Assistant
Jan Binette, Security Director, Housing Associate
Lori Bender, Housing Associate
Tonya Flewelling, Housing Associate
Monika Michna, Housing Associate
Adam Evertz, Social Media Manager
Gina Scherbner, Development Consultant
Peggy Hotchkiss, Marketing Associate
Kim McAllister, Administrative Assistant

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Matthew E. Lewandowski II, Lighting Director
Chris Lubik, Lighting Designer
Accounting & More, LLC, Gwen Burgess
Paula Webster, Physical Therapist
Dr. Matthew Pagano, Chiropractor
Tricia Kelly, Lead Graphic Designer
Lori Pagano, Graphic Designer
Torrington Elks Lodge #372, Food Services
Salt 2.0, Food Services
Sasso's Coal-Fired Pizza, Food Services
Jeff Schlichter, Videographer
Ty Parmenter, Videographer
Luke Haughwout, Videographer/Photographer
Don Perdue, Photographer
Mandi Martin, Photographer
Gladys Borja-Tapia, Facilities Cleaning Services
Top Notch Cleaning, LLC,
Facilities Cleaning Services
Datahal, LLC., IT Consultants
Walker Systems, Web Consultants
Merrill Lynch, Financial Advisor
JTM Travel Services, Jeanne Griffith
Persistence Psych, Arianna Ciccarelli Shimits
Brooks, Todd & McNeil, Insurance Consultants

RESIDENT ASSISTANTS

Bridget Gildersleeve
Trystan Lopez
Eve Peyton

*Nutmeg Ballet alumna/alumnus



Marola Motors

Celebrating Over 80 Years!

**Congratulations
to the Class of 2025!**

Marola Motor Sales, Inc.

16 W. West Hill Road, Barkhamsted, CT 06063

860-379-4100 • 860-738-2777 (FAX)

Thomaston Savings Bank
is Proud to Support
the Nutmeg Ballet.



ThomastonSB.com | 860.283.1874



MEMBER FDIC

Be inspired in a BIG way.



ABOUT THE NUTMEG

Located on Main Street in downtown Torrington, The Nutmeg is housed in a 50,000 square foot state-of-the-art complex built in 2001. The Nutmeg's philosophy also focuses on the overall development of the student, thereby building essential self-confidence, deportment, and poise. The Nutmeg is recognized as a leading professional ballet training organization in the United States and is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Dance. The artistic staff is enriched by choreographers and instructors Tim Melady, Joan Kunsch, Denise Warner Limoli, Eleanor D'Antuono, Kirk Peterson, Brian Reeder, Kate St. Amand '98, Donna Bonasera, Alexei Tchernichov, and other internationally recognized artists in the dance world who contribute to the training of the students.

The Nutmeg offers two or four-year pre-professional programs as well as a post-graduate program, with each program placing equal emphasis on technique and performance. The school also maintains a 10-year pre-professional training program for local-area students. A full academic program in conjunction with Keystone National High School is offered to residential and daytime students and is overseen by Director of Academics, Donna Mattiello '84.

Since 1969, The Nutmeg has offered its International Summer Intensive Workshops in the months of June, July and August. Auditions conducted each year in over 35 major U.S cities and at The Nutmeg are offered for the serious student interested in studying classical ballet and other dance forms. Each summer, The Nutmeg trains well over 200 students who travel to Torrington from around the world in pursuit of high-level dance training.

The Nutmeg, its alumni, and faculty have been featured in such publications as Pointe Magazine, Dance Magazine, Dance Spirit, and Dance Teacher. Our students have gone on to work in many companies all over the world. Most recently - San Francisco Ballet, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Oklahoma City Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theater, American Repertory Ballet, Louisville Ballet - to name only a few. Some of our graduates go on to study at various colleges and universities around the country, including Dartmouth College, Columbia University, Yale University, University of Utah, Butler University, Oklahoma University, and many others.

For more information on The Nutmeg Ballet, visit www.nutmegconservatory.org, or contact info@nutmegconservatory.org.



photo by Don Purdie

ADULT BALLET AT THE NUTMEG

The benefits of classical ballet training - strength, flexibility, balance - in a supportive environment.

EVERY SUNDAY • 10:00–11:15am

EVERY TUESDAY • 7:00–8:15pm

\$20 WALK-IN, \$150 TEN CLASS BUNDLE





Congratulations to the 2025 Nutmeg Graduates



**Helping Make
Downtown
Torrington Your
Dining and
Entertainment
Destination**



**Litchfield
County's Only
Vegan
Restaurant
73 Main Street
860-618-3685**



**45 Main
Street**

**860
201-4933**



***Small Plates,
Coffee & Cocktails***

**53 Main St.
860-201-4179**



**More than just a
Sports Bar !
Some of the best
bites in town!**

**29 Main St.
860-201-4024**

www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61558040369182



**Tina's Café 38 has
been serving
delicious comfort
foods, healthy
choices, baked
goods, snacks,
smoothies and hot &
cold beverages for
over 10 years.**

75 Main 860-618-7215

Kelly's Jewelry

83 Main St, Torrington CT

Open:
Tues-Sat
10am-5pm



P: 8606180404

Repairs
Welcome!

Specializing in Bridal, Gold
& Diamond Fashion



Delight
INDIAN & SRI LANKAN CUISINE

**Authentic
Indian & Sri
Lankan Cuisine
57 Water St.
860-877-4291**

Torrington UNICO National **ITALIAN-AMERICAN STREET FESTIVAL!**

Beautiful Franklin Plaza at night as seen during Main Street Torrington's Annual Oktoberfest
Photo by Sparrow Drone Aerial Services

BUON APPETITO

*Come celebrate
with us and enjoy
all the Festivities
and Scenic
Atmosphere*



**Saturday, October 11
1:00pm–6:00pm**

Franklin Street Plaza, Torrington

Sunday, October 12 · 9:00am

"Italian Mayor for the Day Ceremony"
Coe Park Auditorium

Followed by Torrington Historical Society Presentations
on "Italian Heritage in Torrington"

Saturday, October 18 · 4:30pm

Mass at St John Paul the Great Church (Formerly St Peters)
Followed by a Dinner Dance at the Torrington Elks (\$75pp)

WE ARE CELEBRATING 100 YEARS!

The Torrington Chapter of UNICO National was established in November 1925, and we will be celebrating 100 years this October. We are the second oldest Chapter of UNICO in the country. **THIS IS A BIG DEAL!**

In addition to being one of the oldest chapters, we are also one of the largest. We proudly donate close to \$20,000 annually to local causes such as the Susan B. Anthony Project, Torrington Historical Society, Friendly Hands Food Bank, the Warner Theater, and many more. We also provide annually \$80000 to local high school seniors in the form of scholarships. This \$100,000 in benevolence puts us towards the top of all UNICO National Chapters in the country!

We are asking for your support for our event. There are plenty of ways that you can help. They include sponsorships of various levels as well as ticket purchases and donations for our raffle. It promises to be a very special event and one that Torrington can be proud of.

Torrington Chapter UNICO National PO BOX 175
Torrington, CT 06790
ATTN. Jonathon DeMichiel
860-601-8147

In support of the Nutmeg Ballet
Congratulations to all participants



OUTER ARMOR®

65 Grant St., Torrington, CT 06790

860.482.5509

www.outerarmor.com

Design and Manufacturing of Marine and Power Sports Covers & Accessories



Congratulate the Class of 2025

TORRINGTON ELKS LODGE NO. 372

70 Litchfield Street
Torrington, CT 06790



**WHATEVER YOU NEED,
AT WHATEVER STAGE
OF LIFE YOU ARE...**

We've got you covered!

Call us or stop by for a personal and professional insurance review.

1-800-448-4567

We have offices in Torrington, South Windsor, Enfield, Canaan, and the Bowen Agency Medicare Division in Winsted.



We offer

**BUSINESS
HOME & AUTO
LIFE & HEALTH**

**LONGTERM CARE
MEDICARE (The Bowen Agency)
and MORE!**



Brooks, Todd & McNeil

KEEPING AN EYE ON YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS SINCE 1839



INDEPENDENT
INSURANCE AGENTS

WWW.BROOKSTODDMCNEIL.COM • 69 WATER ST. • TORRINGTON, CT 06790



CONGRATULATIONS
to
The Nutmeg Ballet
Conservatory Graduates
Your grace inspires us all!

