



Faculty



Elaine Young
Director

Elaine grew up in London, England, where she studied Classical Ballet, Jazz and Tap dancing. At the culmination of each year she attended the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD), and took her examinations in all three disciplines. She taught Ballet and Tap in New Canaan for three years before opening the Academy in 2001. Elaine lives in New Canaan with her husband and they have two children, and two grandchildren. Elaine is extremely excited about the start of the Academy's nineteenth year.



Sheena DiMatteo
Senior Director, Performance Company

Sheena, originally from Pittsburgh, PA, has a B.A. in Dance from Point Park University. Performance credits include: *Little Shop of Horrors*, *42nd St.!*, *The Producers*, *West Side Story*, *Will Rogers Follies*, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, *On the Town*, *How to Succeed...*, and *Contact*. Sheena has been the host of the YouTube show, *Just Dance: Season One*, on DanceOn Network, and has performed in music videos, web series, flash mobs, concerts, showcases, and industrial events in NYC, including the *Phish Madison Square Garden New Year's Eve Concert*. She has danced with Stiletto Entertainment on the M.S. Oosterdam (Holland America Line) and for Revel Casino in Atlantic City. Sheena is the founder/artistic director of the traveling choreography shop: *Dance In Transit*. Choreography credits include The Cutting Room's "*Rock 'N Roll Debauchery*" show series in Manhattan, as well as full-scale musicals for pre-professional theatre camps on the East coast. Sheena is a certified Zumba instructor, and is a faculty/judge for Dancers Inc. and Beyond the Stars. Some of her work can be seen at www.danceintransit.org.

Sheena joined NCDA in 2011.



Mallory Pettee
Director, Performance Company

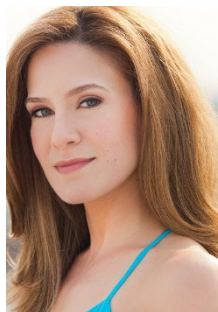
Mallory, originally from Ohio, graduated cum laude from Marymount Manhattan College with a B.F.A. in Dance having received training in ballet, jazz, theatre, contemporary, modern, hip hop, tap and voice. Additional training included the Ballet Theatre of Toledo, Company C Dance Club, the Cincinnati Ballet, Boston Ballet and the North Carolina Dance Theatre. Performance credits include *On the Town*, the *Broadway Christmas Wonderland Tour*, Fire Island Dance Festival, and an industrial at Radio City Music Hall. In addition to being a professional photographer, Mallory is a volunteer for the Hudson Guild Foundation, a community agency focusing on helping those in need in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood. Mallory joined NCDA in 2018.



Chloe Lafleur
Director, Performance Company

Chloe is originally from San Diego, CA., graduating from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles with a B.A. in Dance and went on to further her training at Broadway Dance Center's Professional Semester in New York City. Performance credits include *Monster Stomp* at Busch Gardens Williamsburg, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Helga in *Cabaret* at the Scranton Shakespeare Festival and has performed in commercials, live events and industrials throughout NYC. Choreography credits include *Cabaret* at Scranton Shakespeare Festival, Associate to Josh Assor for the Off-Broadway show *Medicine the Musical* which premiered at HERE Arts Center in NYC, assisted Brooke Wendle on *Dance Lab NY*, Marc Kimelman on *Dance Break NY* and has worked closely with Karla Garcia, Al Blackstone and

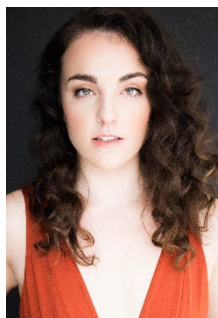
Billy Griffin. Chloe is a company member with ALMA NYC, a philanthropic-based Artist Collective devoted to fostering and empowering artists through new works, community and outreach. Chloe joined NCDA in 2019.



Molly Booth

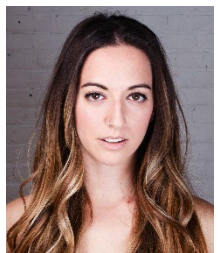
Molly, originally from San Jose, California, majored in Theater and minored in Dance at the University of CA, Riverside, studying Tap under Fred Strickler. Performance credits include the 1st National Tour of *Happy Days The Musical*, a 2010 tour in England singing and dancing alongside the British swing band *The Jive Aces*, as well as in many Regional Theaters productions throughout California. Choreography awards include the Los Angeles *Ovation Award* nominations in 2011 and 2012 for her work for the Troubadour Theater Company, 2012 *Back Stage Garland Award*, a *Broadway World L.A.* nomination for her choreography of *A Christmas West Side Story*, and a *Broadway World San Francisco Award* in 2013 and 2014 for Best Choreography (Transcendence Theatre Company). Molly was awarded placement 3 times between 2012-2014 in the SDC Foundation's Observership Program, interning with Directors and

Choreographers as they put on Broadway and Off-Broadway productions. Molly is a member of AEA and SAG/AFTRA, and adjudicates for *Beyond the Stars*. Molly joined NCDA in 2014.



Melissa Hunt

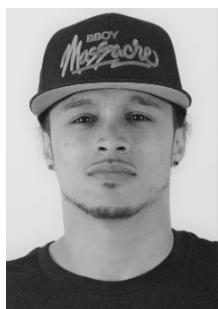
Melissa, originally from New Jersey, graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BFA in Dance from the University of Buffalo. A dancer, singer, actor, and choreographer, Melissa's performance credits include: National; 2nd National tour of Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (female swing). Regional; "Anybodys" (Weston Playhouse, Wick Theatre, Engeman), and "Velma" (Harbor Lights) in *West Side Story*, *Annie* (Associate Choreographer/Dance Captain). NYC; *Hair to Hamilton* (Public Theater Gala with Baayork Lee), *The Last Bite* with Cassie Nordgren, and Easter Bonnet Competition with the cast of *King Kong Alive* on Broadway. Melissa has worked closely with director and choreographer, Al Blackstone, for most of her career, performing and assisting in his works such as: *American Dance Spectacular* (Northeast Tour), *Born To Dance* (NYC Workshop), the 27th & 28th *Gypsy of the Year*, *Broadway Bares: Game Night*, and *Broadway Bares: Take Off* (Fire Island Dance Festival '19, and *NORMA*. Melissa joined NCDA in 2017



Kristen Carcone

Kristen, originally from Toronto, graduated with a BFA, Highest Honors, from the **New World School of the Arts** (Miami, FL). Kristen's performance credits include The New Year's Eve Phish Concert at MSG, Tanguente's Danses Buissonnieres (Montreal), The New Prague Dance Festival (Czech Republic), Conteur Dance Company (Toronto), Frog in Hand (Mississauga), ISODOC Dance Group (New York) and Project Limb (New York). Choreography credits include Joseph Gordon Levitt's *My Favourite Things* video and in *Supa'Nova*. Kristen is co-founder of Toes For Dance, an outreach and exchange initiative that provides a platform for dance education and artistic exchange. Kristen has

been the recipient of the Florida-Canada Linkage Scholarship (Outstanding Dance Graduate), and the Frank Augustyn Scholarship, and has been featured in Dance Current Magazine, Dance Studio Life Magazine, and on Rogers TV's *Local Notes*. Kristen joined NCDA in 2017



Luis Espinosa

Luis Espinosa, otherwise known as *B-Boy Sweet Lu*, was a multiple High School State and FCIAC Wrestling champion before pursuing Breaking. Lu co-founded the CT-based crew, "United Outkast" which can be seen in *Step Up 3-D*, and later joined the world-renowned crew "Dynamic Rockers". In 2009, Lu was part of the B-Boy World team, and began travelling internationally to compete, as well as host events for the Pro Breaking Tour. He founded his own concept event, "*Sweet-Lu's Crazy Eight's*", an annual Urban Dance & Educational Foundation (UDEAF) battle in Connecticut involving some of the world's best Breakers. formed two NCDA Breakdance Battle Teams which competed throughout the year in the Kids' Breaking League (KBL). NCDA also hosted two Battles in the NCDA studios. Luis also produces and writes music, under his artist name "Luis Alien". Luis joined NCDA in 2016.



Megan McLaughlin

Megan is originally from Des Moines, Iowa and graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BFA in Dance Performance (dance, voice & acting) from Oklahoma City University. Megan gained further training with the 4-month intensive program at Broadway Dance Centre's Professional Semester, which incorporated private and group Master classes in a variety of genres, mock auditions, and private industry seminars. Performance credits include National Tours of *42nd Street* and *Elf: The Musical*, Regional performances of *Singin' In The Rain*, *Best Little Whorehouse In Texas*, *Crazy For You*, *Oklahoma*, *The Will Rogers Follies*, *Beauty And The Beast* (Dance Captain), and *42nd Street* (Anytime Annie) in Ogunquit, Maine and in Lexington, Kentucky, and Amazon Prime TV's *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* (featured Tap dancer). In addition to being a dance educator, Megan adjudicates at dance competitions, and teaches English as a Second

Language online. Megan joined NCDA in 2019.



Erica Barton

Erica is originally from Westchester, NY and graduated from Oklahoma City University with a BFA in Dance Performance, with training in Theatre Dance, Tap, Jazz, Ballet, Hip, acting, voice, and Dance Pedagogy. Additional training included Broadway Dance Center's Professional Dance Semester Internship, the American Tap Dance Foundation's Tap City Youth Ensemble, Broadway Theatre Project, and Synthesis Dance Project. Performance Credits include *Elf: The Musical – National Tour*, Stephanie Mangano in *Saturday Night Fever*, *Pippin*, and HersheyPark Entertainment. Erica joined NCDA in 2020.



Ally Sacks

Ally Taylor Sacks received a BFA in Dance from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, having trained at the prestigious New Jersey School of Ballet as a member of their pre-professional Junior Company. Performance credits include the North American Tour of *The Phantom of the Opera* as a member of the corps de ballet from 2016-2019, the Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Center with the Kirov Ballet, Neville Dance Theatre, *Radio City Christmas Spectacular* in New York (ensemble dancer), at the Guggenheim Museum for Karole Armitage, and as a soloist in a Batsheva piece set by Danielle Agami at Springboard Danse Montreal. Ally has worked with choreographers such as Cherylyn Lavagnino, Gus Solomus Jr, Christopher Williams, Jessica Lang, Kathleen Dyer, Marla Hirokawa, and Brenda Neville. TV credits include a feature role on *Law & Order: SVU* as a dance instructor. Ally is a member of SAG-AFTRA and AEA, and joined NCDA in 2020.



Catherine Daly

Catherine, originally from Binghamton, New York, graduated summa cum laude with a BA in Musical Theatre from the SUNY Cortland where she studied in a broad range of dance styles. She went on to further her training at Broadway Dance Center's Professional Semester in New York City where she studied a Ballet/Theatre split concentration. Catherine's performing credits include the *Wizard of Oz* tour (ensemble/swing), *A Chorus Line* (Maggie) and *Hello Dolly* (Ermengarde) and working on the Disney Cruise Line in shows like *Frozen* (Featured Dancer/Anna understudy), and *Aladdin* (Featured Dancer). Her choreography credits include *Joseph and the amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *Legally Blonde* (associate choreographer). She has also dance captained for numerous regional productions across the country and occasionally adjudicates with dance competitions. Catherine joined NCDA in 2020.



Ashley Mariani

Ashley Mariani received a B.A. in Dance Studies from the University of South Florida with a minor in Mass Communications. After starting off primarily as a Ballet dancer at the Royal Ballet Academy, Ashley's training consists of Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Modern, Gymnastics, Contemporary, Hip-Hop and Ballroom. Performance credits include works with DRIP Orlando, RAW Artists, Art of Stepping, Mark Morris Dance Group, Jennifer Muller / The Works, and Vanessa Long Dance Company. In addition to performing, Ashley has worked as a Production Manager, Dance Program Specialist and Dance Instructor for all age groups. Ashley joined NCDA in 2021.



Elliott Keller

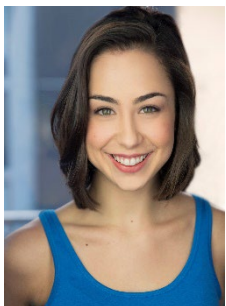
Elliott is originally from Rochester, NY, receiving his BFA from the University at Buffalo, and his MFA from the University of Utah. Elliott received additional training with various companies, including the Jose Limon Dance Company, Paul Taylor Dance Company, Parsons Dance Company, and the Joffrey Ballet School. Performance credits include Project 44, Sans Limites Dance, Balaro Dance, Melder Movement, and with the Warp Trio & Urban Playground Chamber Orchestra. Elliott also has commercial performance experience from Celebrity Cruises, Busch Gardens in Virginia, Mike Moloney Entertainment in Las Vegas, and Poet Theatricals in Florida. Choreography credits include work for the BalaSole Dance Company, Madame Mathieu's Soiree, Zodiaque Dance Company, and Melanie Aceto Contemporary Dance Company at Jacob's Pillow. Elliott was on staff at NCDA during the 2016-2018 seasons before leaving to pursue his MFA, and we are happy to welcome him back for the 2021-2022 season.



McKenna Birmingham

McKenna Birmingham is a native of Fort Worth, Texas, attending the prestigious Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts before graduating with a BFA in Dance from The Juilliard School. As a young girl she appeared in the USA Family Festival, performed in the Radio City Christmas Spectacular (Clara), and with the Arlington Metropolitan Ballet. While at High School, McKenna danced works by Robert Battle, Dwight Rhoden, Jessica Lang and performed numerous times at The Dallas Museum of Art, and was named Dance Spirit Magazine's "It Girl." Performance credits include the National Tour from 2016-2020 of *Phantom of the Opera* (ensemble and Meg Giry understudy), and concert dance with companies such as L.A. Dance Project, Ballet Verite, Kathy Posin Dance Company, and Catapult Productions.

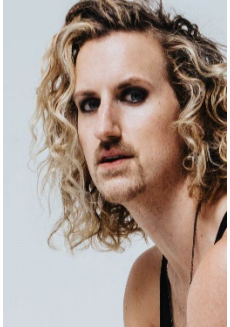
McKenna joined NCDA in 2021



Jessica Ice

Jessica is originally from Pittsburgh, PA where she trained for 15 years with the Abby Lee Miller Dance Company (Jessica's choreography can be seen on Season 6 of *Dance Moms*) before earning a BFA in Musical Theatre from James Madison University (where Jessica won a Suzanne Luck Memorial Endowment Outstanding Musical Theatre Graduate Scholarship). Other Awards have included Dance Masters of Pennsylvania STAR Scholarship, and DEA National Senior Miss Dance. Performance credits include the National tours of *Elf*, *The Musical*, *Sister Act* (Dance Captain), and Regional musical theatre productions that included *Beauty and the Beast*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Mamma Mia* (Dance Captain), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Gloria), *Cabaret* (Dance Captain), *Oklahoma* (Dance Captain), and *The Full Monty* (Dance Captain). In addition to her dance credentials, Jessica is on track to earning a M.S. in Nutrition and Dietetics from NYU.

Jessica joined NCDA in 2021.



Clinton Edward

Clinton, originally from Oklahoma, received his BFA in Dance with a choreography concentration from Marymount Manhattan College in NYC. Clinton's concert performance credits include TAKE Dance, Tania Perez-Salas Company (Mexico), Korhan Basaran (Turkey), and the STEPS Ensemble (Artistic Director Claire Livingstone), as well as the Drama Desk Award winning off-Broadway *Queen of the Night* (original member, Principal cover & Assistant Dance Captain). Creative Residencies include The Yard Residency and Josh Prince's Dance Lab NY. Choreography credits include projects with director Mary John Frank, and creative director for pop artist PRIMME. Clinton is a Co-Founder of an events company MinuteZero, which has produced, directed, choreographed, and performed in events for Microsoft, Rag + Bone, UnderArmour, Brooklyn Museum, and Hulu. Clinton joined NCDA in 2021



Bradlee Laight

Bradlee is a native of Pittsburgh, PA, and grew up training at his family's dance studio, during which time he won numerous regional and national dance competitions before graduating from the American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA), with an emphasis in Musical Theatre. Performance credits include the National Tour of *ELF the Musical*, Disney's Tour of *PJ Masks Live* (Catboy), *42nd Street* (Fireside Theatre), *Oliver* and *Beauty And The Beast* (both at the Arizona Broadway Theatre), and *Cats* (West Virginia Public Theatre). TV credits include Lifetime Network's *Dance It Out* (professional dancer) and HBO's *Succession*. Bradlee joined NCDA in 2021