



Faculty



Elaine Young

Director

Elaine grew up in London, England, where she studied Classical Ballet, Jazz and Tap. 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 three grandchildren.

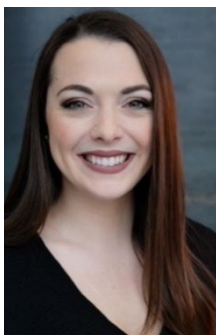


Sheena DiMatteo

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. Sheena joined NCDA in 2011.



Caitlin Barton

Director, Performance Company

Caitlin is originally from Alabama and graduated with a degree in Dance and Communications from Troy University, where Caitlin gained additional experience in filling in for a semester for a professor on maternity leave, as well as setting pieces in faculty concerts and performing in and choreographing for the Troy Dance Repertory Ensemble. Caitlin received additional training in the prestigious Jennifer Muller/The Works Scholarship program. Performance credits include festivals such as MachineHDance Festival, Six Degrees of Separation: Reflections, NACHMO, WAXWorks, Queensboro Dance Festival, and Young Choreographers Festival, as well as in other medium such as *Wrestles With* parts I & II (film), *Dance into Deliverance* (dancer/guest choreographer), *DanceWorks New York City* (dancer/choreographer), Madeleine Dopico's *When I'm Gone* (music video), and RAW Artists NYC and Washington,

D.C. Caitlin joined NCDA in 2021



Karsen Galatas

Director, Performance Company

Karsen Galatas, originally from Houston, Texas, where she trained at the youth company, Houston MET Too under the direction of Marlana Doyle, Kiki Lucas and Terrill Mitchell. Karsen graduated from University of Arizona with a BFA in Dance and a BA in Communication. During her senior year she became an apprentice with Parsons Dance CO which led her to moving to New York City after graduation. Since moving to New York, Karsen signed with MSA and has had the opportunity to work with choreographers such as Adrian Lee, Ellenore Scott, Chris Jaroz, Karla Garcia. Karsen joined NCDA in 2023.

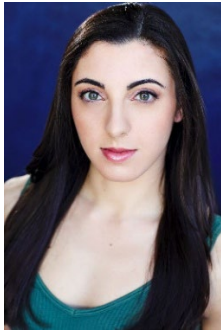


Lilit Hegtanian

Director, Performance Company

Lilit is originally from Los Angeles, CA and started her training under Yuri Grigoriev. Lilit was a semi-finalist in the Prix de Lausanne and won 1st place in the Contemporary and Classical category of the Youth American Grand Prix, Long Beach, CA. Lilit graduated on full scholarship from Academie de Danse Princesse Grace in Monaco, Monte Carlo, training under Marika Bessobrazova, Roland Vogel (Stuttgart Ballet), and Luca Masala. Dance Company credits include MorDance, Slovak National Theater, Ballet

Memphis, The Dance Theater of Harlem, and State Street Ballet. Performance credits include Soloist and Principal roles in various classical and contemporary productions such as *La Bayadère* (Nikiya), *La Sylphide* (the Sylph), *Alice in Wonderland* (Alice), George Balanchine's *Square Dance*, Nacho Duato's *Coming Together*, *Don Quixote* (Kitri's Friends) and the *Nutcracker*. Lilit joined NCDA in 2024.



Jillian Rosner

Director, Performance Company

Jillian, originally from Red Bank, NJ, graduated with honors from Marymount Manhattan College with a BFA in Dance (concentration in ballet). Early training started in the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) ballet syllabus, as well as dancing at a competitive dance studio. Jillian received additional training at Kaatsbaan Extreme Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Mark Morris Dance Group, and Perry Mansfield. Performance credits include several dance companies in the NYC/NJ area including Axelrod Contemporary Ballet Theatre, Keiko Fujii Dance Company, mishiDance, ARIM Dance, and Jillian has completed the certification process of Module 1 in Acrobatic Arts.

Jillian joined NCDA in 2022.



Maggie Savoie

Director, Performance Company

Maggie Savoie, originally from Ohio, graduated from Otterbein University with a BA in Theatre (Directing and Choreography) and a Dance Minor. Maggie received additional training with BalletMet, The Cincinnati Ballet and the Minnesota Ballet. Performance credits include the BalletMet, Megan Doyle Dance and Mitra Dance. Maggie was a choreography assistant to Tony nominated choreographer Randy Skinner on *Lady, Be Good* (starring Tommy Tune and Patti Murin, NY City Center Encores!), choreographed *Spring Awakening* & *Lizette* (Stagedoor Manor), *The Addams Family* (Priscilla Beach Theatre). Maggie joined NCDA in 2022.



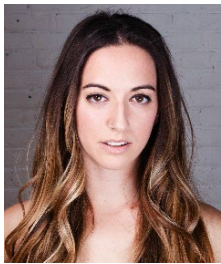
Bridget Bailey

Bridget Bailey, originally from Wayne, PA, graduated summa cum laude from Pace University NYC with a BFA in Commercial Dance where she trained under the direction of Rhonda Miller, Scott Jovovich, and Lauren Gaul. Performance credits include being under contract with RWS Entertainment (performances on Holland America Cruise Lines), Fulton Theatre's *Cats*, *All That Jazz* (Velma Kelly), Surflight Theatre's productions of *A Chorus Line* (Judy Turner) and *Legally Blonde* (Ensemble Dance Captain), *An American In Paris*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Cabaret*, and *Chess*. Bridget has worked closely with Josh Prince's choreographer/dance organization Dance Lab New York Connect and Jennifer Johns-Grasso's Broadway Artists Alliance. Bridget joined NCDA in 2023.



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 named Dance Spirit Magazine's "It Girl." Performance credits include the National Tour from 2016-2020 of *Phantom of the Opera* (ensemble/Meg Giry understudy), The Metropolitan Opera, 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.



Kristen Carcone

Kristen, originally from Toronto, graduated with a BFA, Highest Honors, from the New World School of the Arts (Miami, FL). Director credits include Associate Director *Urinetown* (NY City Center). Broadway choreography credits: *The Outsiders* (Associate Choreographer, Bernard Jacobs Theatre); Off-Broadway credits include being the Associate Choreographer in a new large-scale Immersive show choreographed by Jeff and Rick Kuperman. Other choreography credits include *Cyrano* (Associate Choreographer), *Alice By Heart* (Collaborator), two Immersive concerts for RWS Entertainment Group (Director & Choreographer), and *seven* (Tate McRae's dance film). Kristen was a resident choreographer for Broadway Dance Lab, which led to her show *Dinner is Served* (funded by the Canada Council). She

also received Toronto Arts Council funding and support from Lululemon NY for production and showing of her own creation 4-7-8. Kristen's performance credits include The New Year's Eve Phish Concert at MSG, Tangente's Danses Buissonnieres (Montreal), The New Prague Dance Festival (Czech Republic), and Conteur Dance Company (Toronto). Kristen joined NCDA in 2017



Natalie Copeland

Natalie, originally from Seattle, Washington, received training with Steps on Broadway Summer Study. Performance credits include contracts with RWS Global's Step One Dance Company (performing onboard Holland America Cruise Line, traveling extensively in Europe, Caribbean Islands, Canada, Central America and Alaska), Fosse "Gisele" (featured dancer), and Metropolitan (Justin Prescott). Other performance credits include projects with Spotify, Benji Schwimmer, Kellen Stancil, Sarah O'Gleby. Natalie has performed with Leg Up On Life, which raises funds through creation of an inclusive community. Natalie has extensive background in the competition circuit as Lead Assistant to faculty for Celebrity Dance Convention and REVEL Dance Convention. Natalie joined NCDA in 2025



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 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 Associate Choreographer *Urinetown* (NY City Center), projects with director Mary John Frank, creative director for pop artist PRIMME, associate choreographer to Kristen Carcone's immersive production of *Dinner is Served*, resident choreographer for *Another Rose* (Virgin Voyages). Clinton is a Co-Founder of an events company

MinuteZero, which has produced, choreographed and performed in events for Microsoft, UnderArmour, Brooklyn Museum, and Hulu. Clinton is a frequent guest teacher at STEPS on Broadway and Peridance Center in NYC.

Clinton joined NCDA in 2021.



Victoria Endicott

Victoria, originally from Jacksonville, FL, grew up in Frederick, MD, and graduated summa cum laude from Pace University's BFA Commercial Dance program, receiving broad training that included Ballet, Jazz, Theater Dance, Street styles, and Contemporary. Through Pace, she has performed and worked with artists such as Rachel Leigh Dolan, Melissa Bobick, Brandon Leffler, Jess Hendricks, Jillian Meyers. Dance Company credits include Bo Park's *Shinsa: The Collective*. Project credits include works with: Free People, Andy Blankenbuehler, Max Rae, Ladies of Hip Hop, Will Bell, Bob's Dance Shop, Bo Park, and Club NYC. Victoria joined NCDA in 2024.



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; Al Blackstone's *Guys & Dolls* (Maltz Jupiter Theatre), *American in Paris* (Associate choreographer/Ensemble to Al Blackstone at the Cape Cod Playhouse), "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



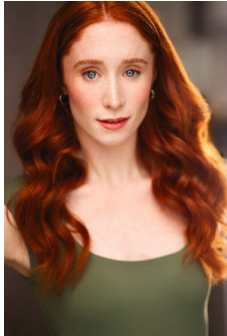
Kelsey Kaufman

Kelsey Kaufman, originally from Washington D.C., is a graduate from Pace University with a BFA in Commercial Dance. Performance credits include *Wicked* (Broadway & National Tour), a restaging of Bob Fosse's Original *I'm a Brass Band* (Charity), Cape Playhouse's production of *An American in Paris* (Olga, u/s Lise,) directed and choreographed by Al Blackstone, Surflight Theater's Production of *An American in Paris* (Lise Dassin), *A Chorus Line* (Maggie), *Annie* (Lily St. Regis), *Xanadu* (Calliope), Mid Atlantic Dance Theater's *Nutcracker* (Sugar Plum/Dewdrop/Clara), Kennedy Center's *Family Christmas* (Pointe Soloist), Metropolitan Ballet's *La Fille Mal Gardee* (Lise) and *Snow White* (Snow White), *Holiday Inn* (Featured Ensemble), *Flashdance* (Ballerina/Ensemble), *Mama Mia*, *Matilda* (Acrobat/Ensemble), and D.C. Tap Festival's *Debbie Allen Tribute* (Featured Dancer). Kelsey joined NCDA in 2022.



Nick Kim

Nick's Hip Hop dance and teaching styles have been influenced by studying under teachers who emphasize the importance of Hip Hop fundamentals and freestyle as well as instructors who incorporate modern choreography, grooves and pictures. Nick's performance credits include dancing behind and in projects with musical artists such as Stray Kids, BTS, Travis Scott, BUSTA RHYMES, NKOTB, Jonas Brothers and BAD BUNNY. Teaching credits including being on faculty at Broadway Dance Center and Brickhouse NYC and his choreography is highlighted with a dynamic combination of Hip Hop foundation and new school style, with popping, musicality and weight changes as important aspects. Nick joined NCDA in 2025



Ali Montez

Ali Montez, originally from Denver, Colorado, graduated summa cum laude from Point Park University with a BFA in Dance (Jazz concentration) and a BA in Social Media Management. While at school, she served as Dance Captain/Swing for Lainie Sakakura's reconstruction of The Verdon Fosse Legacy's *Rich Man's Frug*. Performance credits include Stephen Sondheim's *THE FROGS* at Jazz at Lincoln Center, the inaugural cast of RWS Global's '&Company' aboard Holland America Line, Spotify Fresh Finds Live presented by Samsung Galaxy and *Christmas on Ice* with Dublin Worldwide Productions. Ali has worked with artists such as Sarah O'Gleby, Candace Brown, Sara Edwards, Mandie Rapoza, Maud Arnold and Eliza Ohman. As a survivor of Cystic Fibrosis, she uses her dancing to inspire others and demonstrate that life's challenges don't define who we are. Ali has been featured in in-store advertisements, online campaigns and billboards for Sheetz across the East Coast. Ali joined NCDA in 2025.



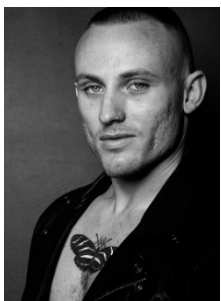
Mallory Pettee

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 *American in Paris*, choreographed by Al Blackstone at the Cape Cod Playhouse, *On the Town*, the *Broadway Christmas Wonderland Tour*, Fire Island Dance Festival, and an industrial at Radio City Music Hall. Concert dance includes being a member of Woman in Motion, a dance company that bridges the gap between concert dance and Musical Theatre. 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.



Kevin Raponey

Kevin Raponey, originally from Bristol, CT, graduated from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Performance credits include *Rock Of Ages* (Assistant Dance Captain and Swing), National Tours of the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*, *Nice Work If You Can Get It* (Dance Captain), *A Chorus Line*, and *Legally Blonde*. Regional performances include *Ever After* and *West Side Story* at Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, NJ and *Kiss Me Kate* at Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington DC. In addition, Kevin has performed at Six Flags, Sea World and Hershey Park theme parks and as a singer/dancer for Holland America Cruise Lines. Teaching credits include Adjunct Theatre Arts Professor at Marymount Manhattan College and dance studios across the Tri-State area. Kevin joined NCDA in 2024.



Ryan Redmond

Ryan, originally from Boynton Beach, Florida, is a graduate of The Juilliard School in NYC where he earned a BFA in Dance. Ryan received early dance training from the prestigious Bak Middle School of the Arts, and Dreyfoos School of the Arts. Performance credits include member of Twyla Tharp Dance, The Metropolitan Opera, Southern Dance Theatre, lead roles with Company XIV, Trey McIntyre Project, a contemporary ballet company where they toured the world performing the choreography of Trey McIntyre, and Rasta Thomas' *Rock the Ballet*, under director Adrienne Canterna-Martine, showcasing dancers with strong classical Ballet backgrounds but whose performances are fused with elements of Jazz, Hip Hop, Tap and Gymnastics. Ryan joined NCDA in 2022.



Jonathan Royse Windham

Jonathan, a Colorado native, earned a BFA from SUNY, Purchase with a concentration in Ballet, followed by a season with American Repertory Ballet and was named 2013 Dance Magazine's "25 to Watch". Performance credits include the original revival company's *Fiddler on the Roof* on Broadway, international tours with Gallim Dance, the Metropolitan Opera, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Deutsches Nationaltheater, Santa Fe Opera, Company XIV's *Nutcracker Rouge*, KAMEA Dance Company (Israel). Choreography credits include Jacobs Pillow Festival, Dancers Responding to AIDS, the American Repertory Ballet workshop, Philadelphia Fringe Festival, The Hartt Conservatory, Contemporary Dance Wyoming. Jonathan's solo *slightly more calculated* was commissioned by TanzOrdNort in Lübeck, Germany, and also performed in Turkey's Contemporary Dance Festival. Teaching credits include: The Martha Graham School (Contemporary & Ballet), University of Michigan, University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Houston School for the Performing Arts, Goucher College, Capezio Peridance Center, Deutsche Oper Berlin Company, STEPS on Broadway. Jonathan joined NCDA in 2024.



Makayla Ryan

Makayla began her dance training at Body Language Dance Company in Grand Rapids, Michigan, graduating from Pace University with a BFA in Commercial Dance. Performance credits include *Radio City Christmas Spectacular* (Ensemble), *American in Paris*, choreographed by Al Blackstone at the Cape Cod Playhouse, *Buzz* (Joyce Theater), featuring a showcase of Tap dance and Beatboxing, original concert works by Mandy Moore, Shannon Lewis, Lauren Gaul, Jess Hendricks, and Billy Bell, tap labs led by Ayodele Casel, in collaboration with New York Dance Lab as well as a pre-production for *Funny Girl* on Broadway.

Makayla is a demonstrator at 24 Seven, Jump, and Nuvo Dance Conventions, where she has also hosted and taught the Nubie and Jumpstart rooms. Short film projects include working with Anthony Morigerato and AM Dance Productions as a production assistant, associate choreographer, assistant director, and co-writer. Makayla joined NCDA in 2022.



Ashley Smith-Wallace

Ashley, originally from Boston, earned a BA in Dance and Theatre from Manhattanville University, with training in Ballet, Modern, Jazz, Hip Hop, Musical Theatre, and Tap. Ashley is a three-time World Irish Step Dancing Champion and made history in 2004 by becoming the youngest American female ever to win the world title. Ashley was selected as one of the Top 30 female finalists in *So You Think You Can Dance*. Performance credits include principal female dancer on the first National tour of *Rockin' Road to Dublin*, *A Chorus Line*, *West Side Story*, *Peter Pan*, and *Legally Blonde*. Ashley joined NCDA in 2025.



Maggie van Wieringen

Maggie, originally from West Palm Beach Florida, attended the prestigious Bak and Dreyfoos School of the Arts for dance before graduating with a BFA in Commercial Dance from Pace University. While still in her Senior year at Pace, Maggie booked the Broadway National Tour of *Wicked*. Other performance credits include projects with choreographers such as Al Blackstone, Jon Rua, Dominique Kelly, Josh Prince, and Paul Taylor Dance Co. Maggie joined NCDA in 2024.



Daniel Chesnut

Daniel, originally from Frederick, Maryland, graduated from CLI Conservatory under the direction of Teddy Forance. He has trained extensively in a wide range of styles including jazz, contemporary, hip hop, ballet, and tap. Performance credits include *Radio City Christmas Spectacular* starring the Rockettes, *Cats* with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, and Broadway Bares. Daniel has worked closely with notable choreographers and performers such as Sarah Meahl, Dylan Pearce, Tanner Lane, and Courtney Darlington.

Daniel joined NCDA in 2025



Amy McInturff

Amy McInturff, originally from Brisbane, Australia, began her early dance training with the State ballet company, Queensland Ballet, where she trained for five years. She later continued her training at Mad Dance House across multi-disciplines including Jazz, Commercial, Theatre Hip Hop, Contemporary and where she also served as a faculty member teaching adults and pre-professional dancers entering the industry. Amy graduated with Honors from Queensland University of Technology with degrees in Business Law and Ethics and Creative Industries. After traveling and teaching throughout Australia and internationally, she moved to New York City in 2024 where she has been training and working professionally. Performance credits include BrisFest Art Boat *Solist* (2023, 2024), Opening Ceremony of the Australian Open (2023), and performing nationally as a Company Commercial Dancer with Pink Matter (2021–2024).

Amy joined NCDA in 2025