



**North Suburban
School of Dance**
North Suburban YMCA

DANCE RECITAL 2026

2705 Techny Rd. Northbrook, IL 60062 847-272-7250 nsymca.org

The NSYMCA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, open and accessible to all.

NORTH SUBURBAN SCHOOL OF DANCE INSTRUCTIONAL TEAM

Kathy Fielding
Chief Executive Officer

Val Lober
Director of
Performing Arts

Joni Goldstein
Performing Arts
Director Emeritus

Leslie Brockley
Perry Denton
Megan Lewis
Kae Orgel
Rachel Pike
Brennen Renteria
Julia Rzonca
Jenna Shoppe
Caroline Walsh-Kuhl

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MESSAGE FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

We are so happy to see the growth that has happened with each of these dancers over the last year. From our tiniest Mini Movers to our graduating seniors, it has been a pleasure to work with them! We as a NSSOD teaching staff are so proud of the work each dancer has done this year and I cannot wait to see what they do next year!

-Val Lober

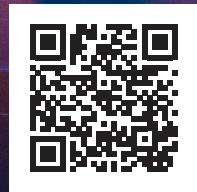
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Val Lober". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

NORTH SUBURBAN SCHOOL OF DANCE



The NSSOD inspires children and adults to be a catalyst of good in the world using the skills and concepts learned throughout their dance education. Not only do our students learn outstanding dance technique, they also explore leadership development through all of our syllabi and styles and grow an appreciation for the art of dance.

Our mission is to provide a quality dance education in an inclusive and welcoming environment for all, to inspire and nurture the next generation of dancers and performers, and to help all students achieve their full potential. Our vision is to see each student develop their talents in the studio in order to grow as leaders in their communities and appreciators of the arts.



**DONATE
TODAY!**



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING SENIORS

WAY TO GO CLASS OF 2026

We are so proud of you!



Sean Fielding
Otterbein University



Ella Bertler
**University of Tennessee,
Knoxville**

RECITAL 1

CROSSROADS

NSSOD INSPIRED DANCE COMPANY

Choreography by Leslie Brockley

Music by Tracy Chapman

Maya Amit, Sophia Briskin,
Veronica Mandl, Simryn Srivastava,
Abby Donnelly, Willow Camardo,
Reagan Larson, Emma Kuby

PATHOS

Choreography by Julia Rzonca

Music by Ludovico Einaudi

Ellie Mikhael, Abby O'Connor,
Sasha Toubes, Sofia Wojtkowski

GOOD MORNING

Choreography restaged by Jenna Schoppe

Music by Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds,
Donald O'Connor

Sean Fielding, Lily Musslewhite,
Arianna Sheedy

LOVE ON ME

Choreography by Julia Rzonca

Music by Galantis

Maya Amit, Sophia Briskin, Lulu Carlos,
Julia Buckley, Gavi Eisenstein-Peters,
Emma Fisk, Evelyn Hoffman, Grace Turco,
Vivian Von Feldt, Grace Watters,
Charlotte Wetter

GISELLE'S FRIENDS

Choreography by Brennen Renteria

Music by Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra

Ayza Ali, Willow Camardo, Abby Donnelly,
Amelia Sollitto, Simryn Srivastava,
Adelle Weinstein, Cara Wetter

THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE

Choreography by Leslie Brockley

Music by Randy Newman

Charlotte Folan, Margot Reedy, Lior Straka

FEEL GOOD INC

Choreography by Val Lober

Music by filous, LissA

Paige Anetsberger, Ella Bertler,
Ellie Mikhael, Lily Musslewhite,
Abby O'Connor, Arianna Sheedy,
Caitlin Sheedy, KK Taylor

STOP

Choreography by Jenna Schoppe

Music by The Spice Girls

Maya Amit, Sasha Toubes, Sofia Wojtkowski

HIDEAWAY

Choreography by Leslie Brockley

Music by

Cara Wetter, Charlotte Wetter

RECITAL 1

DOS ORUGUITAS

Choreography by Megan Lewis
Music by Sebastian Yatra
Eloise Ball, Allison Godzicki, Talia Morrel,
Maxwell Pandey, Omer Tietel

POMPEII

Choreography by Kae Orgel
Music by Bastille
Timmy Hagen, Abby Mitsevich,
Abby O'Connor, Arianna Sheedy,
Addison Tefka, Paige Tefka, Kate Quinlan

PARTY 4 U

Choreography by Brennen Renteria
Music by Charlie XCS
Paige Anetsberger, Ellie Mikhael,
Lily Musslewhite, KK Taylor

CEREMONY

Choreography by Perry Denton
Music by Stray Kids
Carolina Eichmiller, Shaylen Srivastava,
Simryn Srivastava, Ryley Zhang

IT'S RAINING MEN

Choreography by Julia Rzonca
Music by The Weather Girls
Sasha Toubes, Adelle Weinstein,
Cara Wetter, Sofia Wojtkowski

ALLEZ

NSSOD COMPETITIVE DANCE COMPANY

Choreography by Brennen Renteria
Music by Ricky Martin
Addison Tefka, Paige Tefka,
Paige Anetsberger, Ellie Mikhael,
Lily Musslewhite, Abby O'Connor,
Arianna Sheedy, KK Taylor



SENIOR SALUTE

HOMETOWN GLORY

Choreography by Val Lober
and Ella Bertler
Music by Adele
Ella Bertler

BORN TO RUN

Choreography by Jenna Schoppe
and Sean Fielding
Music by Bruce Springsteen
Sean Fielding

RECITAL 2

BAD

Choreography by Julia Rzonca
Music by Michael Jackson/ Pitbull
Maya Amit, Abby Donnelly, Sasha Toubes,
Sofia Wojtkowski, Timmy Hagen, Addison
Tefka, Paige Tefka, Caitlin Sheedy

ENCHANTÉ

Choreographed by Joni Goldstein
Music by James Newton Howard,
Pete Anthony
Abigail Chung, Heather Grunwald,
Emma Kuby, Hannah Matlin,
Fiona McGinn, Nora Sedlak

LIVE A LITTLE

Choreography by Leslie Brockley
Music by Better Than Ezra
Lucy Ankhbayar, Peter Endo,
Alexandra Walter, Gemma Walter,
Understudy: Elena Serrano-Terry

RELIQUIA

Choreography by Brennen Renteria
Music by Rosalía
Paige Anetsberger, Ella Bertler,
Timmy Hagen, Ellie Mikhael,
Lily Musslewhite, Abby O'Connor,
Arianna Sheedy, KK Taylor

FREE

Choreography by Megan Lewis
Music by Chilled Pig
Olivia Arai, Harper Brown, Avery Chow,
Elizabeth Giannini, Rebekah Cook,
Isabella Lazzara, Gillian Roth, Sophie Zhang

ROSE GARDEN

Choreography by Leslie Brockley
Music by Lynn Anderson
Abigail Chow, Joanna Chung,
Isabella Kahn, Mila Lee,
Savannah Roth, Noa Straka

CANDID FAIRY

Choreography restaged by Brennen Renteria
Music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Ellie Mikhael

I LIVED

Choreography by Val Lober
Music by OneRepublic
Heather Grunwald, Celina Kravits, Emma Kuby,
Fiona McGinn, Nora Sedlak

GOOD MORNING

Choreography restaged by Jenna Schoppe
Music by Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds,
Donald O'Connor
Sean Fielding, Lily Musslewhite, Arianna Sheedy

RECITAL 2

HOME

Choreography by Julia Rzonca
Music by Phillip Phillips
Sasha Toubes, Adelle Weinstein,
Sofia Wojtkowski

CHASING THE SUN

Choreography by Val Lober
Music by The Wanted, Hardwell
Harper Brown, Brooke Larson,
Hannah Matlin, Eirini Vrakas,
Ofir Shlomov, Vivian Turk

CALL ME

Choreography by Brennen Renteria
Music by Blondie
Timmy Hagen, Abby Mitsevich,
Addison Tefka, Paige Tefka

DESTINATION CALABRIA

Choreography by Julia Rzonca
Music by Alex Gaudino
Amanda Fielding, Kate Quinlan

PARTY 4 U

Choreography by Brennen Renteria
Music by Charlie XCS
Paige Anetsberger, Ellie Mikhael,
Lily Musslewhite, KK Taylor

STAND BY ME

NSSOD IMC MOMENTUM
DANCE COMPANY

Choreography by Julia Rzonca
Music by Florence + The Machine
Adelle Weinstein, Cara Wetter,
Sasha Toubes, Sofia Wojtkowski

NOW I CAN FLY

NSSOD IMC INSPIRED
DANCE COMPANY

Choreography by Val Lober
Music by RAIN
Maya Amit, Sophia Briskin,
Veronica Mandl, Simryn Srivastava,
Abby Donnelly, Willow Camardo,
Reagan Larson, Emma Kuby



SENIOR SALUTE

HOMETOWN GLORY

Choreography by Val Lober
and Ella Bertler
Music by Adele
Ella Bertler

BORN TO RUN

Choreography by Jenna Schoppe
and Sean Fielding
Music by Bruce Springsteen
Sean Fielding

RECITAL 3

HAPPY NOW

NSSOD IMC COMPETITIVE
DANCE COMPANY

Choreography by Brennen Renteria
Music by Zedd, Elley Duhé
Arianna Sheedy, Addison Tefka,
Paige Tefka

SPLENDIFEROUS

Choreography by Joni Goldstein
Music by Steve Horner
Maya Amit, Sophia Briskin,
Reagan Larson, Veronica Mandl

I'M JUST A KID

Choreography by Jenna Schoppe
Music by Simple Plan
Heather Grunwald, Olivia Hannibal,
Alice Kuby, Aiden Pandey, Henry Quaglia,
Avery Rudnicki,

DESTINATION CALABRIA

Choreography by Julia Rzonca
Music by Alex Gaudino
Amanda Fielding, Kate Quinlan

SWAN LAKE

Choreography staged by Brennen Renteria
Music by Moscow International
Symphony Orchestra
Amelia Tan-Eusebio, Addison Tefka,
Paige Tefka, Sasha Toubes,
Sofia Wojtkowski

GO LISTEN

Choreography by Kae Orgel
Music by Lindsey Ray
Maya Amit, Sophia Briskin,
Tankhiluun Davaajargal, Veronica Mandl,
Simryn Srivastava, Cara Wetter

RELIQUIA

Choreography by Brennen Renteria
Music by Rosalía
Paige Anetsberger, Ella Bertler,
Timmy Hagen, Ellie Mikhael,
Lily Musslewhite, Abby O'Connor,
Arianna Sheedy, KK Taylor

AVOCADO

Choreography by Caroline Walsh-Kuhl
Music by Jesse Cook
Sarah Berzon, Heather Donnelly,
Audra Rosen, Lisa Rudman, Francie Walls,
Rebecca Weller, Ilene Auerbach

ROBYN

Choreography by Brennen Renteria
Music by Robyn
Sasha Toubes, Adelle Weinstein,
Cara Wetter, Sofia Wojtkowski

BOOGIE WOOGIE

Choreography by Leslie Brockley
Music by Tommy Dorsey
Sloane Baker, Ara Obrien, Mackenzie Port,
Mia Tan, Shreya Uuriintuya

RECITAL 3

HIP ROCK

Choreography by Perry Denton

Music by HUNTR/X

Aiden Pandey, Nory Lin,

Gillian Roth, Sadie Weissman

FEEL GOOD INC

Choreography by Val Lober

Music by filous, LissA

Paige Anetsberger, Ella Bertler,

Ellie Mikhael, Lily Musslewhite,

Abby O'Connor. Arianna Sheedy,

Caitlin Sheedy, KK Taylor

LUCKY 7

Choreography by Perry Denton

Music by Don Toliver, Iggy, Rihanna

Timmy Hagen, Evelyn Hoffman,

Veronica Mandl, Addison Tefka,

Paige Tefka, Sofia Wojtkowski,

Sasha Toubes

POW! BAM! ZONK!

Choreography by Leslie Brockley

Music by Charles Strouse, Bob Holiday,

Jerry Fujikawa, Bill Starr, Murphy James,

Juleste Salve, Michael Gentry,

Joseph Genrty, Harold Hastings

Sophia Briskin, Brooke Fox,

Hailey Fox, Molly Light, Audrey Naylor,

Bella Sokovikova, Roxanne Wayman

VOGUE

Choreography by Kae Orgel

Music by Madonna

Maya Amit, Willow Camardo,

Reagan Larson, Veronica Mandl,

Simryn Srivastava

DID YOU HEAR THAT?

NSSOD IMC MOMENTUM AND COMPETITIVE DANCE COMPANIES

Music by Samaris

Adelle Weinstein, Cara Wetter,

Sasha Toubes, Sofia Wojtkowski,

Addison Tefka, Paige Tefka,

Paige Anetsberger, Mikhael,

Lily Musslewhite, Abby O'Connor,

Arianna Sheedy, KK Taylor



SENIOR SALUTE

HOMETOWN GLORY

Choreography by Val Lober

and Ella Bertler

Music by Adele

Ella Bertler

BORN TO RUN

Choreography by Jenna Schoppe

and Sean Fielding

Music by Bruce Springsteen

Sean Fielding



ABOUT THE NSSOD DANCE COMPANIES

NSSOD Inspired, Momentum, and Competitive are student dance companies here at the North Suburban School of Dance designed to provide additional performance opportunities to students enrolled in our programs. Dancers will perform in their own Company Home Show, Regional Dance Competitions around the Chicagoland area, and at events such as parades and Six Flags Dance Fest. Dancers learn and grow as individuals as well as artists in a welcoming team/family environment designed for building technique as well as making memories.

 **NSSOD**
INSPIRED MOMENTUM COMPETITIVE

MORE INFO





NSSOD

INSPIRED MOMENTUM COMPETITIVE

DANCE COMPANY AUDITIONS

Our Dance Companies will be holding their annual auditions on September 5th. Mark your calendars now! Dancers must be in 2nd grade or higher. For more information about the dance companies, please visit www.nsymca.org/nssod

NSSOD INSPIRED

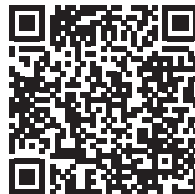
Grades 2-12
1:30-2:45pm

NSSOD MOMENTUM

Grades 7-12
2:45-4:00pm

NSSOD COMPETITIVE

Grades 8-12
4:00-5:30pm



A woman with dark hair in a bun, wearing a pink leotard and a white tutu, is looking at a white costume hanging on a rack. She is holding the top of the costume. The rack has several other costumes hanging on it, including a purple one, an orange one, a pink one, and a black one. The background is a plain white wall.

Dance Company Donations

The Dance Company accepts:

- Gently used costumes size MC or larger.
- Dance shoes of all sizes.
- Storage bins to re-vamp our costume storage.

Please no tights or leotards.

It is because the generous support and donations of our community that our programs are successful every year. Any contribution helps to make a difference.

For more information on donations please contact Vlober@nsymca.org



COME DANCE WITH US THIS SUMMER!

BEGINNING DANCE CAMP

Grades: 3-6. **Days:** M-F. **Session length:** 1 week.

Beginning Dance Camp is designed for young dancers who love to move, express themselves, and have fun learning new skills! Campers will explore a variety of dance styles including jazz, hip-hop, and ballet, all taught in a fun, supportive, and creative environment. Each day includes warm-ups, choreography practice, themed activities, and group routines that help build confidence and coordination. For more information contact Val Lober at vlober@nsymca.org. Proration does not apply. No swim lessons or field trips.

CAMP NAME	Weeks Offered	Time	Ratio	\$YM	\$NM
Beginning Dance Camp PM	8	1-4pm	1:8	\$281	\$340

SUMMER SESSION

*Classes begin the week of 6/15

2026 SUMMER SESSION				Summer 1 (6/15 - 7/12)		Summer 2 (7/13-8/9)	
Class	Age	Day	Time	\$ YM	\$ NM	\$ YM	\$ NM
Mini Movers Dress Up and Dance!	3-5 yrs	W	5:15pm-6:00pm	\$63	\$82	\$63	\$82
Ballet/Jazz	6-10 yrs	Th	5:00pm-6:00pm	\$68	\$88	\$68	\$88
Intermediate Technique	11+ yrs	Tu	5:00pm-6:15pm	\$73	\$95	\$73	\$95

MINI MOVERS DRESS UP AND DANCE!

3-5 yrs

Let their imagination shine! Dancers will have the opportunity to choose from a variety of fun costumes to borrow each class, helping them express their unique personalities as they move and explore. Through engaging follow-along songs, creative movement with props, and guided exploration of space, children will be introduced to basic dance concepts in a joyful and supportive environment.

Dancers should come dressed in a leotard and tights or other fitted clothing that allows costumes to be easily worn over. Please also bring socks or ballet shoes and secure hair away from face for safe and comfortable movement.

BALLET/JAZZ

6-10 yrs

A great introduction and continuation to both disciplines. We'll focus on building strong foundational techniques in both ballet and jazz. Dancers will work on alignment, flexibility, strength, and musicality while keeping the atmosphere supportive and low-pressure. Perfect for dancers looking to maintain their training over the summer or get a headstart for classes in the Fall!

INTERMEDIATE TECHNIQUE

12+ yrs

Designed for dancers to keep up with their training over the summer, this class will feature a different weekly technique class along with strength training and flexibility for dancers. Techniques include Ballet, Jazz, Modern, and PBT! This class is recommended for dancers in levels 3-4.

SUMMER SESSION

*Classes begin the week of 6/15

2026 SUMMER SESSION				Summer 1 (6/15 - 7/12)		Summer 2 (7/13-8/9)	
Class	Age	Day	Time	\$ YM	\$ NM	\$ YM	\$ NM
Advanced Technique	15+ yrs	Th	6:00pm-7:15pm	\$73	\$95	\$73	\$95
Ballet for Gymnasts/Skaters	10+ yrs	W	6:00pm-7:00pm	\$68	\$88	\$68	\$88
Adult Beg/Int Ballet	18+ yrs	Tu	6:15pm-7:15pm	\$68	\$88	\$68	\$88
Adult Beg/Int Jazz		W	7:00pm-8:00pm				

ADVANCED TECHNIQUE

16+ yrs

Designed for dancers to keep up with their training over the summer, this class will feature a different weekly technique class along with strength training and flexibility for dancers. Techniques include Ballet, Jazz, Modern, and PBT! This class is recommended for dancers in levels 5-6.

BALLET FOR GYMNASTS/SKATERS

10+ yrs

This class builds strength, control, and artistry for athletes. Train with peers using ballet-based cross-training to improve balance, flexibility, posture, and stability for sharper turns, higher jumps, and cleaner lines, enhancing overall performance.

ADULT BEG/INT BALLET

18+ yrs

Designed for adults with some previous ballet training. Barre combinations as well as center combinations focusing on stability and balance are the foundations of this class. Studying ballet can improve posture and the overall sense of well-being.

ADULT BEG/INT JAZZ

18+ years old

Learn the fundamentals of jazz dance, including basic steps, rhythm, coordination, and musicality—all in a supportive, low-pressure environment! Class begins with a gentle warm-up to build strength and flexibility, followed by across-the-floor exercises and simple combinations that help you develop confidence and style. You'll explore classic jazz techniques like turns, kicks, and isolations, while dancing to upbeat, energetic music.

DANCE CLASSES FALL 2026

*Placements for the 2026-27 season will be emailed shortly before the release of our Fall Guide in July.

Mini Movers

- Ballet Rhythms
- Ballet Beats
- Ballet Designs
- Ballet and Tap Beats

Student Division

- Ballet
- Ballet: Pointe
- **NEW CLASS: BALLET FOR GYMNASTS/SKATERS/ATHLETES**
- Conditioning for Dancers
- Jazz
- Tap
- Contemporary/Modern
- Hip Hop
- Poms
- Musical Theatre
- Acro

Adult Division

- Ballet
- Tap
- **NEW CLASS: ADULT BEGINNER TAP/MUSICAL THEATRE**
- Private Lessons

Private Lessons 6+ Years



SAVE THE DATE

Mini Movers Mini-Showcase 2026!

Sun, Dec 6th

10:00 am

At the NSYMCA!

Finish Out the Fall 2026 session with a special Mini Showcase just for our Mini Movers Division! This exciting opportunity is a chance to get your Mini Mover to perform in their very first live dance performance! Find out what all the excitement about recital is and get to watch your little mover do what they do best!



NSSOD INSTRUCTIONAL TEAM

Val Lober



Director of Performing Arts

Val Lober received her pre-professional training at Dance Arts Academy in Traverse City, MI. As a member of Company Dance Traverse, she attended the Young Tanzommer Dance Festival performing throughout Austria, Germany, and Italy. In 2010 she received her BFA in Dance Performance and Choreography from Western Michigan University where she was a member of performance company Western Dance Project, showcased choreography and served on the board for student-run organization Orchesis, performed several works by esteemed faculty, and trained with world renowned guest artists. While in college, Val discovered her love for teaching and has been mentoring young dancers in Michigan and across the Chicago area ever since. In addition to being a gifted instructor and program director, Val continues to perform professionally in Chicago with Lucid Banter Project (Paula Grahmann), and THWACK Dance (Anne Marie Loesch) where she also serves on the Advisory Board. A free-lance artist on the side, she has also enjoyed exciting gigs such as performing “Heard” at the Navy Pier Art Expo wearing artist Nick Cave’s iconic sound suits featuring choreography by Will Gill and an immersive performance partnered with Architect Jeanne Gang. When not in the studio, you can find her on the trails solo backpacking, or at home raising her purrfect fur children with her husband. Val is immensely grateful to have her “dream job” and looks forward to continuing to share her love of dance education with her incredible students here at the North Suburban School of Dance.

Joni Goldstein



Joni Goldstein is the Performing Arts Director Emeritus for the North Suburban School of Dance. She studied ballet with Bently Stone and Walter Camryn and at the Ruth Page Dance Center, jazz with Gus Girodano and tap with Tommy Sutton. She has danced professionally since the age of eight years old. Joni has a BA from the University of Illinois with an emphasis in dance. She is a 25 + year member of the National Association of Dance Masters. Joni has choreographed and taught master classes for the GBN Orchestis program, and choreographed for several organizations on the North Shore. In 2009 Joni was chosen as the spotlight teacher for a national dance magazine. She has been teaching at the NSYMCA since 1975.

Leslie Brockley



Leslie Brockley is a proud alumna of North Suburban School of Dance. She graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University where she received a B.A. Degree in Psychology, but seemed to spend way more time in the dance studios and onstage, earning a minor in Theatre Dance. She holds a Master's Degree in Special Education and teaches high school, however, she still maintains that her favorite part of the week is sharing her love of dance with her young students and working with NSSOD Dance Company.

Perry Denton



Perry Denton comes to us from Soul 2 Sole Dance, Inc. where he has been an instructor for over ten years. He has also been the assistant director, dancer, and choreographer for Gifted Souls Dance Group, one of the biggest salsa and hip-hop dance companies in Chicago, Texas, New York, Philadelphia, and Milwaukee. He was a principal dancer in the Bollywood movie Dhoom 3 and danced for many stars including Brooke Hogan and Ce Ce Pension, Black Eyed Peas, and Chicago's very own BenOne. Perry appeared three times on the Oprah Show and was in the Chicago Fire. He received his training from Columbia College in Chicago where he studied all forms of dance including ballet, jazz, and modern. Perry has taught throughout the Chicagoland area. He continues to teach more dance styles including poms, African and Latin dance. Perry is eager to pass along his gift and love of dance to all his students.

Megan Lewis



Megan is a dancer, educator, and choreographer from the Chicagoland area who studied dance with a focus in pedagogy at Columbia College Chicago. She provides a dance education that encompasses all types of learners and fosters a community among dancers of all ages, levels, abilities, and aesthetics. She is excited to continue sharing the joy of dancing with the aspiring dancers of the Chicagoland area!

Kae Orgel



Kae Orgel is a performer, dance educator, and choreographer. They have over a decade of experience teaching in studios, arts education programs, and school settings. They are currently part of Noumenon Dance Ensemble, a contemporary dance company in Chicago. Kae received their Bachelor of the Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Dance from Northeastern Illinois University. They have studied and worked with several Chicago-based companies and choreographers such as Joel Hall Dancers and Center, The Cambrians, Rasa Dance Chicago, Avondale Dance Collective, and Such Creatures. Some of their choreographic highlights include Hair (Moraine Valley Community College), Shakespeare in Love (Harper College), and Chicago (North Shore Country Day School).

Rachel Pike



Rachel Pike is from the Chicagoland area and began her training at the North Shore School of Dance in Highland Park, Illinois. She spent her early summers training at Interlochen Arts Camp, on scholarship at the Orlando Ballet School under the direction of Peter Stark and Fernando Bujones, and at the Washington School of Ballet in Washington, DC. Rachel graduated with a BFA in Dance Performance from Butler University where she performed soloist roles with the Butler Ballet. Rachel has also choreographed works for the Butler Ballet's touring troupe in Moscow and St Petersburg, where she was selected as a finalist choreographer in the St. Petersburg Conservatory State Competition. Upon graduation, Rachel studied on scholarship at the Lou Conte Dance Studio, and at the Batsheva Dance Company's GaGa Workshop in Tel Aviv in the summer of 2012 under the direction of Ohad Naharin. Her choreographic works as an independent artist were finalist selections for DanceWorks Chicago's Dance Chance Redux at Northeastern Illinois University in both 2012 and 2013.

Brennen Renteria



Brennen Renteria began his dance training at the age of 10 in Corona, CA. In 2011, he attended American Academy of Ballet summer intensive & trained with ballet masters David Howard, Sean Lavery, & Galina Samsova. He earned his B.A. in Dance from Cal State Fullerton in 2014 joined Thodos Dance Chicago that same year. While with TDC he worked with choreographers Ann Reiking, Brian Enos, Lucas Crandall, Garfield Lemonius, Brian McGinnis, Kevin Iega Jeff, among others. He also toured around the country and took part in the company's outreach and educational programs between performances. He joined both Elements Contemporary Ballet and Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre in 2017 where he had the opportunity to work with former co-artistic director for River North Dance Chicago, Sherry Zunker, in addition to performing alongside the renowned Chicago Sinfonietta. For 2018 Brennen accepted the rehearsal director position for CRDT and continues to be an avid dancer, teacher, and choreographer throughout the city of Chicago and the surrounding areas.

Julia Rzonca



Julia Rzonca is a dancer, teaching artist, and choreographer from the Chicago area. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Dance from Western Michigan University in May 2021. During her time spent at Western Michigan, she had the opportunity to learn from mentors such as Jeremy Blair, David Curwen, and Monique Haley.

Growing up, Julia studied at The School of Ballet 5:8 Conservatory program under the guidance of Julianna Slager, using the Vaganova method. Following her ballet studies, she continued her dance education at Western Michigan University in a Trifold program studying ballet, jazz, and modern. Later into her college training, she began teaching at a local dance studio in the Kalamazoo area where she found her passion for teaching dance and choreography to young dancers.

After graduating college in 2021, Julia is currently a Teaching Artist at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, South Chicago Dance Theater, and at studios around the Chicago area. She has also danced professionally with Banks Performance Project and J. Lindsay Brown Dance. Overall, Julia loves training students and looks forward to impacting more dancers in the future.

Jenna Shoppe



Jenna Schoppe is a Chicago-based choreographer and performer. Raised in the western suburbs, she started dancing at 3, at the Bonnie Ardelean Dance Studio. Her passion for dance quickly blossomed into a love of musical theatre; she earned a BFA in musical theatre performance from Drake University. Now, calling Chicago home, Jenna is a staple of its theater community. She has choreographed over fifteen musicals over the past decade. Most notably, “Yank: a WW2 Love Story,” for which she received the Jeff Award for Best Choreography. As a teacher, Jenna strives to impart joy, and a sense of inclusion in her classes. Mastering technique is of course important, but she also makes sure to remind students of their agency, to move beyond simply memorizing steps to internalizing the dance and making it their own. So join her in class, you are guaranteed to have a blast, build confidence, and perhaps roll your eyes at her corny jokes.

Caroline Walsh-Kuhl



Since graduating with honors from I.S.U., Caroline has been having a lot of fun teaching, choreographing, and performing. Some experiences include Zebra Crossing Theater Company, Temporary Theater Company, Pheasant Run Dinner Theater, The Funny Firm, Light Opera Works, Zephyr Dance, Ameba Dance, Motivity Dance, Chi-Town Jazz Dance scholarship program, several Las Vegas shows, and a tour of Japan. A long-time teacher on the north shore, Caroline keeps busy taking yoga, dance class and spending time with family.



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