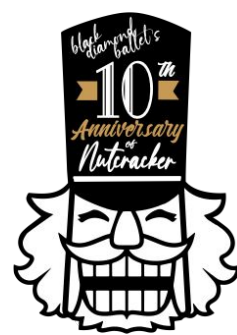


black diamond ballet
proudly presents
Nutcracker
El Campanil Theatre - Dec 10th - 18th 2022



Story of *Nutcracker*

Music – Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

The *Nutcracker* is a magical holiday tale of the 1900's, set in the town mayor's home as he hosts his annual holiday party. His children Clara and Fritz anxiously await their guests, including Clara's godfather, the mysterious Herr Drosselmeyer, who makes a belated entrance with his exquisite dolls and gifts and entertains partygoers young and old. After Fritz receives his gift, Clara approaches Drosselmeyer, who presents her with the gift of a colorful Nutcracker.

The Nutcracker captivates Clara, but while adoring her gift, Fritz grabs the doll away from her and the toy breaks in the scuffle. Drosselmeyer repairs the Nutcracker, assuring Clara that all will be well. As the night grows old and the guests part ways, Clara goes to bed. She later awakens and returns to the living room where she finds her Nutcracker doll.

Comforted, she soon falls back to sleep and the magical dream begins! A battle breaks out as the Rat Queen charges the Nutcracker, while her mice attack the small toy soldiers. The Nutcracker, however, turns into the brave and handsome Prince, defeating the Rat Queen. Drosselmeyer takes Clara on a journey to the Land of Snow, an enchanted forest wonderland, where they are welcomed by dancing snowflakes. The Snow Queen escorts Clara to the Land of Sweets, where she is greeted by the Rose Queen. Drosselmeyer tells about the daring battle between the Nutcracker and the Rat Queen with her army of mice. The Sugar Plum rewards Clara with a celebration of dances from her friends. As the festivities come to an end and the dream fades, Clara awakens to find her beloved Nutcracker still in her arms.

A Nutcracker History

Since its 1892 premiere in St. Petersburg, Russia, *Nutcracker* has become the best-known and most popular ballet in history. The quintessential holiday classic is presented on stage, on ice, and in the movies, all over the world. Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky composed the score for the ballet, which is based on Alexandre Dumas' adaptation of E.T.A. Hoffmann's "The Nutcracker and Mouse King." Tchaikovsky's musical genius created one of the world's most recognizable scores, giving the *Nutcracker* a life of its own.

The Nutcracker Suite, Op. 71a, featuring eight of the numbers from the complete ballet was instantly popular. The ballet itself, however, did not gain popularity for more than one-half century when in 1934, it premiered in Western Europe by England's Sadler's Wells Ballet. Soon after, in 1944, the first full-length American *Nutcracker* was produced by the San Francisco Ballet, with choreography by William Christensen.



Proudly Presents Their 10th Annual Performance of

Nutcracker

December 10th - 18th, 2022

The Historic *El Campanil Theatre* | Antioch, CA

The vision of Artistic Director and Choreographer

Sharon Sobel Idul

Sarah Hernandez Van Wert | *Rehearsal Director*

Natalia Hernandez | *Rehearsal Assistant*

Kim Mendoza | *Anne Byrne Costumes and Wardrobe*

Sam Khamseh | President

Anne Byrne | Vice President

Gerry Newell | Treasurer

Marlene Guzman | Secretary

Johnny Hackenkamp | Production Manager

Sunny Shergill | Lighting Designer

BDB Advisory Board

Josi Sobel | **Kim Mendoza** | **Sarah Hernandez Van Wert**

Sheila Chou | **Stacy Stark**



Seasons Greetings and Happy Holidays!

We are very eager and excited to welcome our wonderful community to the 10th annual performances of East County's tradition - **Nutcracker** ! Black Diamond Ballet is proud to now offer 2 weekends of shows including school performances and sensory friendly engagements of this timeless classic providing equity and inclusion in a time where it's more important than ever.

Through grants, fundraising, generous contributions and support of our community, we have been very fortunate to be able to invite and sponsor hundreds of students and seniors in assisted living to experience our production this holiday season. One of the most joyous parts of my involvement with these wonderfully talented individuals is that we all strive to create these experiences and memories for as many people as possible and we are grateful to be able to continue to do so.

From inception to fruition, this journey has felt long and challenging for all of us, but has always been worth it. The people listed on the front pages of the program have made this possible by filling multiple roles, but none more than **Sharon Sobel Idul**. This non profit organization would not exist without her. The dedication and countless hours she has put in, driven by a desire to provide the public and so many performers the access to performing arts while creating a fostering environment with representation of our community cannot be quantified by words. Every show this season is a celebration of what one person could ignite by consistently sharing their flame with others.

We shine bright because you share your light.

Most recently, the San Francisco Chronicle shared their list of this seasons featured holiday performances from around the Bay Area and we were thrilled and honored to be acknowledged with companies such as SF Ballet and Oakland Ballet. The validation and exposure gives us even more opportunities to share the talents of the professionals and students of our communities.

In a medium that has its structure and traditions seemingly written in stone, Black Diamond Ballet has proactively embraced the possibility of evolving where so many other companies would never consider. The intangible impact of representation and its long lasting effects are vital to our mission. I cannot overstate how proud it makes me to be a part of this organization. This year, our production features new flavor offerings in the "land of the sweets" such as the traditional Mexican dance stylings - Folklórico and variations of Indian cultural dance. If this is your first production or 10th with us, we are ecstatic to share with you our vision of **Nutcracker**. We wish you a safe and healthy holiday season with family and friends. On behalf of our wonderful and selfless board members and Black Diamond Ballet family, Welcome!

Gratefully and sincerely,

Mr. Sam Khamseh
Black Diamond Ballet President

Cast

PROLOGUE:

Drosselmeyer

Ricky Navarro

ACT I SCENE 1

Governess

Sarah Hernandez Van Wert

Dad

Mathew Monzon

Mom

Andrea Herrera

Fritz

Leonardo Idul

Clara

Nina Williams

12/10, 12/11 1pm, 12/16, 12/17 2pm

Isabelle Chou

12/11 5pm, 12/17 7pm, 12/18

Louisa

Brooklyn Van Wert

Party Parents

Lynda Green

Karen Rios

Michael Sobel

Cristhian Orellana

Party Guests

12/10, 12/16, 12/18

Keira Best

Camilla Borjon

Olivia DaSilva

Allie Delprado

Morgan Evers-Lyles

Brianna Flint

Kaylin Forrest

Alyssa Lewis

12/11 & 12/17

Janessa Abalos

Camilla Borjon

Zoey McCullough

Ruby Rojaz-Rubio

Jamie Scott

Michelle Scott

Jourdan Tims

Charlotte Weiss

Mice

Colene Agbo

Ahtziry Avalos

Cyrus Ensor

Kaelani Johnson

Alyssa Lewis

Samantha McBee

Renee Ruiz-Pacheco

Cathy Velmonte

Soldiers

Janessa Abalos

Keira Best

Olivia DaSilva

Allie Delprado

Zoey McCullough

Brianna Flint

Ruby Rojaz-Rubio

Charlotte Weiss

ACT I SCENE 3

Snow Queen

Alina Gonzalez

Snowflakes

Myla Benjamin

Christine Carpio

Isabelle Chou

Cyrus Ensor

Hope Hester-Marks

Gracie Lodge

Nina Williams

ACT I SCENE 2

Dutchess of Cheese

Liliana Idul

Rat Queen

Sharon Sobel Idul

Nutcracker Prince

Mathew Monzon

INTERMISSION

ACT II

Spanish Chocolate

Christine Carpio

12/10, 12/11 5pm, 12/16, 12/17 7pm

Alina Gonzalez

12/11 1pm, 12/17 2pm, 12/18

Baile Folklórico

12/10 & 12/11

Jessica Cobian

Leslie Duarte

Teyoltlahui Gonzalez

Xitlali Herrera

Suri Moreno

Brianna Ramos

Bharata Natyam

12/18

Priya Kamli Nykan

Ukrainian Licorice

Myla Benjamin

Camilla Borjon

Leonardo Idul

French Mirlitons

Alina Gonzalez

Nina Williams

12/10, 12/11 5pm, 12/16, 12/17 7pm

Andrea Herrera

Gracie Lodge

12/11 1pm, 12/17 2pm, 12/18

Mother Ginger

Sara Leyva

12/10 7pm, 12/17 2pm, 12/17 7pm, 12/18 2pm

Isaiah Huntsinger

12/11 1pm, 12/11 5pm 12/16 7pm

Gingersnaps

Pittsburg Performing Arts

12/10, 12/18

Mya Bailey

Eliana Castro

Aria Cazun

Eleanor Chou

Siena Coniglio

Elizabeth Fernandez

Nathaly Gonzalez-Rubio

Liliana Idul

Madison Malcampo

Lu'Nah Medina

Julianna Newsom

Harper Ramos

Mia Rodriguez

Brooklyn Van Wert

Black Diamond Ballet

12/11, 12/16, 12/17 7pm

Charlotte Weiss

Zoey McCullough

Olivia Da Silva

Ruby Rojazz-Rubio

Kaylin Forrest

Jamie Scott

Jourdan Tims

Morgan Evers-Lyles

Lilliana Idul

Brooklyn Van Wert

Be Exceptional & Elite Dance

12/17 2pm

Ariana Dang

Francesca Fong

Sloan D'Onofrio

Kensie Tran

Genesis Uribe

Amelia Wood

Clara Wood

Amelia Wong

Zahra Wright

Samantha Young

Sugar Plum Fairy*

Amanda Farris

12/10, 12/11

Terrin Kelly

12/16, 12/17, 12/18

Garland Girls

Janessa Abalos

Colene Agbo

Ahtziry Avalos

Keira Best

Allie Delprado

Brianna Flint

Alyssa Lewis

Renee Ruiz-Pacheco

Michelle Scott

12/10, 12/11

Olivia DaSilva

Kaelani Johnson

Samantha McBee

Zoey McCullough

Ruby Rojas-Rubio

Michelle Scott

Charlotte Weiss

Cathy Velmonte

12/16, 12/17, 12/18

Rose Queen

Hope Hester-Marks

Flowers

Myla Benjamin

Christine Carpio

Gracie Lodge

Isabelle Chou

Alina Gonzalez

Nina Williams

Cyrus Ensor

**Sugar Plum Choreography: John Neumeier for Amanda Farris. Traditional Cecchetti choreography with steps from Michael Lowe and Madame Lenova for Terrin Kelly.*

Artistic Director | Choreographer



Sharon Sobel Idul, a Pittsburg native and mother of two, began her ballet training at the age of three through the City of Pittsburg. She then studied under Helga Ishikata at Delta Ballet Academy from age 7 to 18. Sharon joined Delta Children's Ballet Theatre in 1992 and performed in principal roles of *The Little Match Girl*, *Enchanted Toy Shoppe*, *Peter and the Wolf*, and *Bolero*. Sharon was the recipient of the 2004 Jason Robins Dance Scholarship and holds a degree in Dance from Cal State University, Long Beach, where she studied under accomplished dance educators and choreographers Sophie Monat, Alaine Haubert, Keith Johnson, Sharon McKinney, Douglas Neilson, and many other guest instructors. During her time at CSU-Long Beach, she performed original ballet pieces, as well as historical ballets such as Balanchine's *Serenade* and Petipa's *Les Sylphides*, while dancing with Peninsula Ballet Theatre during visits to the Bay Area.

Sharon was the owner of Delta Ballet Academy from 2007-2014. In 2008 she debuted as Artistic Director of Delta Children's Ballet Theatre with the premiere of *Peter Pan*. In 2009, she helped form Black Diamond Ballet - East County's First Professional Ballet Company - a non-profit organization.

She was an active member of the Soroptimist International of Pittsburg. In 2017, she joined the Pittsburg High School staff to teach dance to 10th-12th graders. She was awarded a Master of the Arts in Education 2019 and holds a single-subject credential in Physical Education. In the fall of 2020, she was named "Teacher of the Season" and "Teacher of the Year" in 2022 by Special Olympics North America for her dedication to students with special needs through the Unified Sports programs. These programs include "Pitt Unify" and the "Unified Dance" organization that she leads at Pittsburg High School. In the Spring of 2022, Pittsburg Unified School District awarded Sharon with the 2022 Equity Award for her work in the school district as well as in the community for a more mindful and inclusive environment.

Sharon is grateful for her family, board of directors, instructors, and community members that continue to support her vision to bring quality performing arts productions and education to the East Bay. She is elated to celebrate Black Diamond Ballet's 10th Anniversary performance of *Nutcracker* at the beautiful El Campanil Theatre and share the stage with her father, 9 year old son, and 5 year old daughter.

Rehearsal Director



Sarah Hernandez Van Wert began her dancing career at Delta Children's Ballet Theatre, under the direction of Helga Ishikata. She trained at the Oakland Ballet Academy and danced for the Oakland Ballet Company, both under the direction of Ronn Guidi in ballets such as: *Nutcracker* (dancing roles such as: Marie, Louise, Doll, Snowflake, Flower, Spanish Chocolate, Chinese Tea, and Rose Queen), *Secret Garden (Mary)*, *Les Biches*, and *Hansel and Gretel*. In addition to her classical ballet background, Sarah was an award winning competition dancer and choreographer winning many high honors and recognition. She danced for a contemporary company out of the East Bay, Coterie, and as a company member of Black Diamond Ballet for which now she is part of the Artistic staff as Rehearsal Director. Sarah now lives in Chico, CA. with her husband, Kortney and her two children, Brooklyn (5) and Carter (2). She works for the Chico Unified School District as an Education and Inclusion Specialist in the elementary schools. Sarah also teaches classical ballet at North State Ballet in Chico, CA.

Rehearsal Assistant



Natalia Hernandez grew up in Antioch, CA and started dancing at the age of 3. She attended Delta Ballet Academy under the direction of Helga Ishikata, and started competing with their team by age 5. In 2007, Delta Ballet Academy switched ownership to Sharon Sobel Idul, but she continued to compete and dance. In addition to competing, she performed in various productions under Delta Children's Ballet Theatre (Black Diamond Ballet), including *Peter Pan*, *Pinocchio*, *The Little Match Girl*, and more recently, *Nutcracker*. She followed the studio to Pittsburg and continued studying under the new name - Pittsburg Performing Arts Academy. While attending Deer Valley High School, she joined the dance team, advanced dance ensemble, and was awarded, "overall best performer." She has been teaching at PPAA since 2018 and coached their competition team until 2019.



Amanda Farris was born and raised in Central California, training in ballet with Central West Ballet, Valley Oak School of Dance, and during summers with Boston Ballet. She attended Long Beach State on a full academic scholarship where she studied both cultural anthropology and dance. After graduating summa cum laude, she joined The Georgia Ballet where she quickly rose to dancing principal roles, many of which were created on her. Some featured roles include those in *Giselle*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Pas de Quatre*, Janusz Mazon's *Pinnocchio* and *The Firebird*, and Alexandre Proia's *The Four Seasons*. Since joining Diablo Ballet in 2014, Ms. Farris has danced in works by Julia Adam, Val Caniparoli, Lew Christensen, Robin Dekkers, Sonya Delwaide, Sean Kelly, Trey McIntyre, Bruno Roque, Danielle Rowe, Penny Saunders, Christopher Stowell, Sally Streets, Norbert Vesak, Stanton Welch, Michael Wells, the Pas de Deux in *La Fille Mal Gardee*, *Black Swan Pas de Deux*, *Flames of Paris*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Coppélia* and George Balanchine's *Apollo* and *Who Cares?*. Ms. Farris has designed and created

Diablo Ballet's costumes including Julia Adams' *Cinderella's Wedding* and *Coppélia*. Her choreography, *Elevator Operator*, was chosen as Diablo Ballet's first Dance Laboratory winner. She has been teaching for nearly fifteen years in schools across the country, and in 2019 she joined Diablo Ballet School's faculty.



Terrin Kelly is a native of Antioch, California, and realizing her love of dance at an early age, began her classical ballet training at Delta Ballet Academy with Helga Ishikata, Helen Piernik, and Michael Lowe. Thereafter, she went on to study with Arlene Newhouse at Ballet Celeste International. Beginning her professional dance career at 14, Ms. Kelly has performed throughout California as well as toured nationally and internationally dancing with various companies including: Theatre Ballet of San Francisco, Oakland Ballet, Peninsula Ballet Theater, Ballet San Jose, Moving Arts Dance, Menlowe Ballet, San Francisco Opera, and even a magic show produced by Siegfried & Roy. Terrin Kelly obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the LEAP program at St. Mary's College. She has held numerous titles in the Miss America Program, has been featured dancing in print and web ads, in a national as well as a global commercial, and is the featured ballerina for DANCIN Vineyards in Medford, Oregon. Terrin has had the pleasure of working with many esteemed choreographers who have shaped her

dancing and teaching style. As an instructor, Ms. Kelly has enjoyed watching her students soar in all disciplines, receive many awards, gain recognition under her tutelage, and follow their dance dreams studying and performing for esteemed colleges, dancing in major companies, performing on Broadway, cruise ships, in music videos and television shows. Ms. Kelly currently lives in Benicia, CA with her husband of 17 years, where she is a full time realtor, and still performs as a guest artist. Terrin has been a part of Black Diamond Ballet since its inception and is excited to be back performing with "family!"



Myla Benjamin started dancing at a young age and has been dancing ever since. She danced at Delta Ballet Academy and then Pittsburg Performing Arts Academy as a graduating senior in 2017. She also performed in Black Diamond Ballet's Nutcracker since 2012 and played some roles such as Rat Queen, Arabian Coffee, and Russian Licorice. Myla is currently working and dancing at Pittsburg Performing Arts Academy. She graduated at Los Medanos College in May 2020 as an honor student and transferred to California State University Long Beach in which she obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Accountancy.



Christine Carpio was born and raised in Pittsburg and found her love for dance at an early age. She started dancing at Delta Ballet Academy under the instruction of Helga Ishikata and was later coached by Sharon Sobel Idul, Ricky Navarro, and Sarah Hernandez Van Wert. During her time as a student, Christine competed in several regional and national competitions winning various awards receiving many accolades. In addition to being one of the first student performers for Black Diamond Ballet, she has also performed with Oakland Ballet, Peninsula Ballet Theater, Moving Arts Dance, and Ballet Roots. Christine has a Bachelor of Arts in Film and Media Studies with a minor in Applied Psychology from the University of California Santa Barbara. When she's not dancing, she's working as a Software Operations Specialist for Nuro, a Bay Area robotics startup. Christine is excited to return to the stage in celebration of the company's 10th anniversary!



Alina Gonzalez is an apprentice with Diablo Ballet. She received her training from Contra Costa Ballet, Berkeley Ballet Theater, Diablo Ballet School, and summer intensives at the San Francisco Ballet School and Post: Workshop. She performed Queen of Hearts in *Alice in Wonderland* by Robin Dekkers, Sugar Plum Fairy and Dewdrop Fairy in *The Nutcracker*, and Russian Girl in *Serenade* by George Balanchine. She has also performed in *La Bayadere*, *Coppelia*, *Paquita*, *Le Corsaire*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker Suite* and *Cinderella's Wedding* by Julia Adam, and *Wayfaring Pilgrim* by Michael Wells.



Andrea Herrera began her ballet training at Delta Ballet Academy in Antioch, CA under Helen Piernik and Helga Ishikata. Growing up, she trained in ballet, lyrical, and jazz under Ricky Navarro, Alexei Badrak, Michael Lowe, and Sharon Sobel Idul. Andrea enjoyed competing in solo and group dance pieces as a teen, and was a recipient of various overall high score honors and special judge's awards. She has also attended summer ballet programs at Deane Dance Center, Solad, and most recently the Kathryn Morgan Adult Summer Intensive. Andrea has performed in ballet productions with Delta Children's Ballet Theater, Moving Arts, Peninsula Ballet, Oakland Ballet, Black Diamond Ballet Theater, Menlowe Ballet, and Ballet Roots. She has a B.A. in Linguistics and Communications majors from U.C. Davis. Andrea is a pediatrics speech-language therapist by day, and a ballet instructor by night.



Hope Hester-Marks started her early training in Sacramento, from Pat Colgate at Deane Dance Center. She received her BA in Dance from California State University, Sacramento, and trained as a certificate program student at The Ailey School. Ms. Hester-Marks has performed as a trainee with both PDX Contemporary Ballet and Central Illinois Ballet. She has also worked as a freelance dancer in the Sacramento region, and has taught ballet to children at Deane Dance Center and Cornerstone Academy for Performing Arts. She is thrilled to be performing with Black Diamond Ballet for the first time this season!



Ricky Navarro was born in Pittsburg and trained at dance schools all over Contra Costa County, including Delta Ballet Academy. He later attended the California Academy of Performing Arts under the Direction of Joan Robinson, where he studied Ballet, Jazz, Lyrical, and Tap. While at the CAPA he participated in several competitions and was awarded many high honors and titles from those competitions. He attended San Francisco Ballet School and studied under some of the world's best ballet Masters and Mistresses, Lola de Avila, Ricardo Bustamante and Gloria Govrin, primarily in classical ballet, with an emphasis in Balanchine's stylistic technique. Following his many years of training at SF Ballet, he joined and danced with the Company for 4 years. As a company member he performed beautiful ballet pieces such as Helgi Tomasson's *Romeo and Juliet*, Balanchine's *Donizetti* and *Stars and Stripes*. Mr. Navarro was on faculty at Delta Ballet Academy/Pittsburg Performing Arts Academy where he taught classical ballet, lyrical, and jazz. He has also coached competition dancers to award winning honors.



Isaiah Huntsinger is a student as well as the master carpenter at Diablo Valley College (DVC). He has been involved in theatre both offstage and on since he could walk. This season, he is living his dream of performing the role of Mother Ginger and is thrilled. Isaiah's interests include getting caught in the rain and consuming piña coladas in no particular order.



Sara Leyva is excited to be back for Black Diamond Ballet's 10th anniversary production of a holiday favorite. She is the owner of Four Pines Yoga, is a mindfulness coach, as well as the acro teacher for Pittsburg Performing Arts Academy. She looks forward to performing with some of her students and fellow teachers reprising her role as Mother Ginger. She would like to thank her husband for his love, encouragement and support.



Mathew Monzon will be performing with Black Diamond Ballet for his second season..Mathew is also an instructor of Hip Hop at Pittsburg Performing Arts Academy and is a music enthusiast. His creativity and skill as a performer have expanded now that he has added ballet to his resume. He currently dances with Syndicate, a hip hop dance team based out of San Jose.



Janessa Abalos



Colene Agbo



Ahtziry Avalos



Keira Best



Camilla Borjon



Isabelle Chou



Olivia DaSilva



Allie Delprado



Cyrus Ensor



Morgan Evers-Lyles



Brianna Flint



Kaylin Forrest



Lynda Green



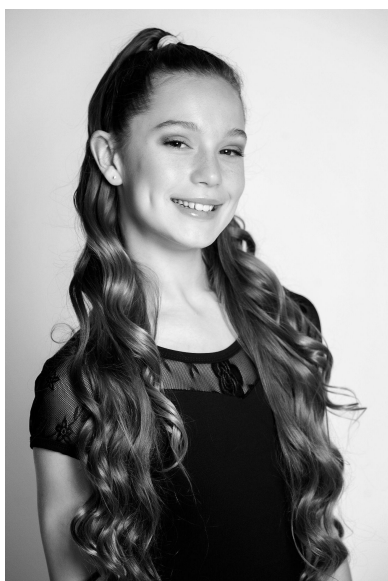
Leonardo Idul



Liliana Idul



Kaelani Johnson



Alyssa Lewis



Gracie Lodge



Samantha McBee



Zoey McCullough



Cristhian Orellana



Karen Rios



Ruby Rojaz-Rubio



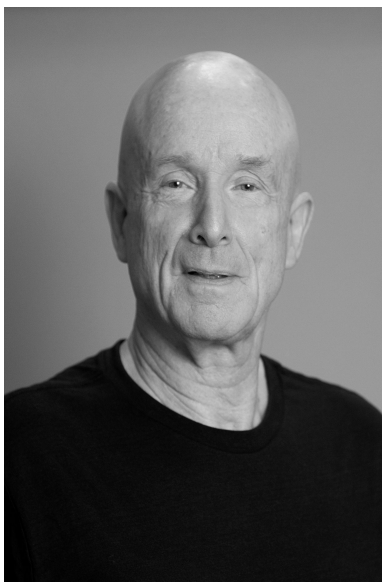
Renee Ruiz-Pacheco



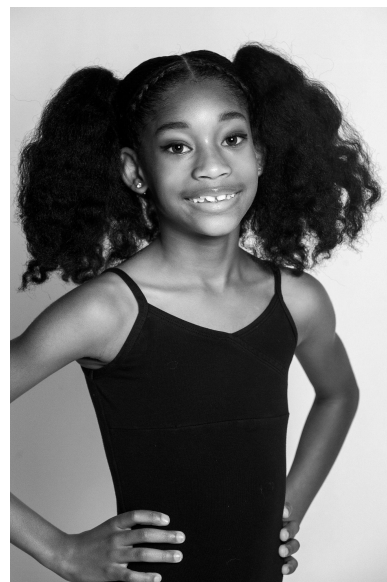
Jamie Scott



Michelle Scott



Michael Sobel



Jourdan Tims



Brooklyn Van Wert



Cathy Velmonte



Charlotte Weiss



Nina Williams

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Be Exceptional Programs | Lynda Green

Elite Dance | Jessika Green



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