



# TEACHER REJUVENATION September 24, 2023

## FACULTY BIOS



### Assaf Benchetrit

Assaf began his dance and music studies at the Rubin Academy for Music and Dance in Jerusalem, Israel. Upon graduation, he danced with the Jerusalem Dance Theater, the Panov Ballet, and later with The Israeli National Ballet Company. During his military service, Assaf received the “Remarkable Dancer” prize from the Israeli government which allowed him to continue dancing while serving. After completing his military service, he arrived to United States to dance with companies such as The Joffrey, Metropolitan Classical Ballet, Alabama Ballet, Connecticut Ballet, Portland Ballet and Gelsey Kirkland Ballet. Throughout his career, Assaf toured through England, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and numerous other countries. Assaf holds a joint B.S in computer science and B.F.A in dance degrees with academic honors from Montclair State University, and an M.F.A degree in dance from Hollins/ADF/Frankfurt. He was a faculty member at Yale University, Columbia University (Barnard College), Rutgers University, Montclair State University, and Raritan Valley Community College.

## Ballet



### Jen Fink

Jenn holds a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre and Dance from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, where she studied under Julliard graduate Joan Karlen and James Moore, assistant to the legendary Jerome Robbins. Post college, Miss Jenn trained at Chicago's premier studios: Lou Conte Dance Studio (Hubbard Street Dance), Gus Giordano's, Joel Hall, and Visceral, as well as national master classes taught by top dance industry educators and choreographers. It was through her incredible training that her passion for dance education blossomed. She made dance education and choreography her primary focus in 2003. In 2009, she received her first Pilates certification and continually strives for higher education in the field of dancer anatomy, strength, alignment, injury prevention, and kinesiology having studied with some of the leading educators in the field such as, but not limited to, renown author and instructor Karen Clippinger.

## Jazz

In the competitive circuit, Miss Jenn has served as an adjudicator for Turn It Up Dance Challenge (present), VIP Dance, and Rainbow Connection Dance Competition. Her work and students have been recognized regionally and nationally, receiving Choreography, Technique, Critique's Choice, People's Choice, Best of Show, Best In Studio, and High Point awards at countless competitions and conventions across the country.

Miss Jenn resides in New Hampshire with her husband and two spunky sons. She is currently on faculty at Studio for the Living Arts Dance Complex in Maine, A Fine Dance Studio in Massachusetts, and is a guest instructor/choreographer throughout the United States. She is best known for her innovative choreography and uniquely inspiring and effective teaching style. You can spot her “Magic Movers” in shows, teaching in studios and cruise lines all over the world (they are the ones using their PLIÉ).



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### Jessie Stinnett

Jessie Jeanne Stinnett is a Climate Reality Leader trained by former US Vice President Al Gore as well as a dancer, choreographer, and the founder and co-artistic director of Boston Dance Theater (BDT). Her current project, SURGE, is created in collaboration with ocean scientist Dr Larry J. Pratt of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the BIPOC dance artists of Boston Dance Theater. SURGE addresses the crisis of sea level rise, and the role that arts + science collaboration can play in creating a sustainable future.

She received a BFA in Dance Performance from The Boston Conservatory and an MFA in Creative Practice: Dance Professional Pathway from Trinity Laban Conservatoire, in conjunction with Independent Dance/Siobhan Davies Dance. Some of Jessie's recent teaching and choreography credits include: Newport Contemporary Ballet, Seattle International Dance Festival, The Trustees of Reservations, Rose Kennedy Greenway, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, TEDxCambridge, Boston Ballet School, Dean College, Keene State University, Providence College, Endicott College, Goethe Institut Boston, Museum of Fine Arts with Jewish Arts Collaborative, Emerald Necklace Conservancy, and Emmanuel Music. She was the recipient of the 2020 Boston Dancemakers Residency grant award and the 2020 Choreographer in Residence at Boston Center for the Arts and Boston Dance Alliance. In 2023 Jessie is serving as a Visiting Lecturer in Harvard University's Theater Dance & Media Department.

Contemporary



### Melissa Amershek

Melissa Amershek is a graduate from Rutgers University with her BA in Dance. She was listed as one of the "Top 50 Choreographers to Watch" by Dance Spirit/Teacher Magazine. Melissa was a New England Patriots Cheerleader and performed in New Orleans at Super Bowl XXXVI. In addition, her notable performing experience includes Disney World Magic Kingdom. Television credits include principal dance roles with ESPN and Pepsi Commercials. Melissa currently prides herself on being one of the top choreographers in the Northeast with awards such as "Top Choreographer", "Most Creative", "Best Staging", "Most Entertaining" and 4-time Industry Dance Award winner for the highest scoring jazz & tap routines. Melissa has trained 15 regional and national title winners. Her dancers have not only earned college scholarships, but they are also currently dancing professionally in NYC, LA and Boston. Melissa has had the honor of producing and choreographing the opening act for the Radio City Rockettes and currently travels as a competition judge, convention teacher and guest choreographer.

Tap

Register on-line at: [www.dmnechapter5.com](http://www.dmnechapter5.com)