Rachel's Ballet 2024 SHOWCASE

TRAINING AND INSPIRING DANCERS AND TEACHERS OF TOMORROW

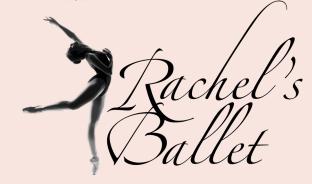


MAY 24, 2024

Ohlone College Jackson Theater 43600 MISSION BLVD FREMONT, CALIFORNIA

DIRECTOR'S NOTE - MAY 2024





Dearest Parents & Triends:

Welcome to our 2024 Rachel's Ballet Annual Showcase! I am overjoyed to share this special day with you, celebrating the incredible achievements of our dancers and the lasting impact we've made in our community.

Today is about more than performances; it's a celebration of dedication and passion. From the youngest dancers in *It's a Small World* to the accomplished performers in *La Bayadare*, every moment on stage reflects the hard work and talent of our students. I am bursting with pride over the successes of our past year.

Isabelle's film winning Best Dance Video in Toronto is a testament to our artistic vision and collaboration. We are fortunate that she brought this project to life, making tonight's lineup of films possible for you to enjoy! Our students' experience at Fonteyn in London was truly unforgettable, showcasing their talent on an international stage! I am deeply grateful to Ms. Leigh Ann for her selfless support, even while away from her family, to guide and nurture our dancers.

Our *Nutcracker* was a heartwarming success, emphasizing teamwork and opportunity. It's undoubtedly one of our favorite events and performances of the year!

This year, there's always room for growth, and we've embraced valuable lessons from our competition events. It's not always about winning awards but about fostering resilience and commitment, and learning to work together as a team to overcome any challenges that come our way. I want to extend special thanks to

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE - MAY 2024 (CONTINUED)

Ms. Ashley Bishop for her unwavering dedication and exceptional success in handling our registrations and other challenges throughout the year.

I want to take a moment to honor Samantha Lin, our first CBTS graduate. Samantha's contributions have been immense, especially during challenging times. Her dedication embodies the spirit of mentorship and connection we cherish at Rachel's Ballet.

As we bid farewell to our graduating seniors—Audrianna, Clarice, Shreya, Avantika, and Daisy—I am confident in their bright futures. They leave behind a legacy of excellence and leadership.

Looking ahead, I am excited about our commitment to mentorship and lifelong learning. Our goal is not just to teach dance but to inspire our students to continue their artistic journeys, bringing new experiences and ideas back to our community.

Despite losing many students during the pandemic, our comeback is a testament to our resilience in sustaining the school for the entire community. Let's hope COVID continues to diminish, but if it surges again, we'll be better prepared to face the uncertainties that come with it.

Thank you, RB team for doing an incredible job of keeping the performing arts alive! Bravo to everyone involved. We love our work and will continue to grow, thrive. and embrace new possibilities while cherishing our traditions.

Thank you all for being part of our family. Your support and enthusiasm fuel our passion for dance and community. Let's make this showcase a moment to remember!

With excitement and gratitude,

Rachel Tan Director, Rachel's Ballet

WITH DEEP APPRECIATION

A huge thank you to our dedicated staff for making our achievements possible through their unwavering support and hard work:

Vivian Aragon • Barbara Campbell • Danielle De Ojeda Bambi Fleeman • Anna Gemma • Leigh Ann Koelsch Maria LaMance • Samantha Lin • Philip Pegler • Jeanie Pors Isabelle Sjahsam • Miranda Tan • Ariel Webb Claire Wu • Connie Zaug

FACULTY & STAFF







BARBARA CAMPBELL DANIELLE DE OIEDA





BAMBI FLEEMAN



ANNA GEMMA



LEIGH ANN KOELSCH



MARIA LaMANCE



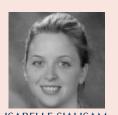
SAMANTHA LIN



PHILIP PEGLER



JEANIE PORS



ISABELLE SJAHSAM



MIRANDA TAN



ARIEL WEBB



CLAIRE WU



CONNIE ZAUG

Session One Competition Ensembles JCT/PPDC & Jazz/Contemporary Classes

1. Gioconda

Mika Nakari, Adhya Yerrabomanahalli, Audrianna Fung, Samantha Perez, Cassidy Johnston, Shreya Gulati, Ashley Choe, Daisy Kim

2. Tarantella Pizzeria

Joselyn Ma, Jinghan Zhang, Claire Chen, Adelynn Dun, Alora Dun, Ella Han, Kylie Kitagawa, Olivia Liao, Kiara Menon, Shriya Shankar, Riya Shringi, Natalie So, Sage Wouden, Elaine Xin, Ella Zhang

3. Whistle While You Work Ivory Li, Laurie Fu, Luna Lu

4. Paquita

Nova Cui, Ahlaia Zhyliaieva, Alexa Gani, Nikalet Pabla, Jocelyn Thio

5. Mombasa

Mika Nakari, Daisy Kim, Adhya Yerrabomanahalli, Audrianna Fung, Shreya Gulati, Samantha Perez, Ashley Choe, Clarice Lai, Cassidy Johnston



SESSION ONE SLIDE SHOW

6. AnchorCassidy Johnston

7. Bluebird Variation
Ahlaia Zhyliaieva

8. Air and Water
Nova Cui

9. Time Adhya Yerrabomanahlli

> *10. Valse* Mika Nakari

11. Gulnara Variation from Le Corsaire
Audrianna Fung

12. La Fille Mal Gardee Evangeline So, Olivia Liu, Jinghan Zhang, Joselyn Ma

13. Houdini

Jazz/Lyrical Class

Malina Kitchens, Sage Wouden, Natalie Nolan,
Shriya Shankar, Allison Crystal Low, Avantika Prasad

14. I Found
Contemporary Class

Yuki Tanaka, Shreya Gulati, Nikalet Pabla,
Ashley Choe, Alexa Gani, Mika Nakari,
Cassidy Johnston, Adhya Yerrabomanahalli,
Clarice Lai, Samantha Perez, Jocelyn Thio,
Audrianna Fung, Nova Cui,
Daisy Kim, Aglaya Zhyliaieva

SESSION TWO — SHOWCASE

It's A Small World

The world may be a big place with people of many cultures speaking different languages, but through the language of dance it becomes a small world. Enjoy our young performers as they take you on a trip around the world, and remind us all of how much we share in common in *It's a Small World*.

15. France
Dance to Your Own Tune
Dublin – L1/L2
Vanya Sandoval, Aria Sheng,
Chloe Chan

16. Africa
Dance to Your Own Tune
Fremont – L1 A/L2 A/L2 B
Arya Biswas, Luna Ma,
Diana Duran, Riyana Hemnani,
Elina Jain, Reva Sangraula,
Riya Mohan, Julia Lai

17. Sweden
Dance to Your Own Tune
Fremont – L1 B
Rosabelle Chen, Claire Chua,
Eliana Fidelia, Isabella Hu,
Mila Rong, Ellie Zhang

18. Ireland
Dance to Your Own Tune
Fremont – L2 C
Amaira Narula, Catherine Lau,
Eileen Deetz, Ritu Ramana,
Yuri Hsein, Willard Wang,
Zoe Wu

19. Scotland
Dublin – Pre-Primary A
Amira Sekhon, Ariana Spano,
Celine Lum, Helen Hai,
Parnika Batchala,
Skylah Thiner, Yilia Yaya Liu

20. Mexico
Fremont – Pre-Primary A/B
Annabel Lin, Cloudia Shi,
Emily Wang, Florence Kim-Min,
Karlie Ko, Lucia Leon,
Olivia Atrash,
Penelope Huckabay,
Rhiannon Steadman,
Deethya Bommavaram,
Louisa Gao, Ruhani Singh,
Tatum DeLaat

21. Egypt
Fremont – Primary A
Ananya Mohan, Ellie Ding,
Gillian Wang, Mabel Wang,
Seher Hemnani

22. Spain
Fremont – Primary B
Leyao Zhang, Molly Liu,
Saanvi Bala

23. American Pioneer
Dublin – Primary A
Agnes Yiyi Liu, Zara Siu,
Vaanya Sharma, Zoey Qiu,
Fiona Fong

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Session Two — Showcase

24. England
Fremont – Grade 1 A
Chloe Shi, Kiara Menon,
Charlotte Zhou,
Mahalakshmi Lokesh,
Avery Li, Ahana Kaitan,
Sunday Steadman,
Miranda Huang, Saisha Singal

25. Holland
Fremont – Grade 1 B
Kristin Cheng, Olivia Liao,
Sage Wouden, Claire Chen,
Rebekah Noor, Niara Patel,
Maggie Wang, Gloria Barreto,
Fiona Dharmalingam

26. China
Dublin – Grade 1
Henley O'Sullivan, Hannah Kuo,
Sarah Sangmo, Luna Lu,
Ivory Li, Aria Omar,
Jessica Veresov, Anna Beldianu

27. Italy
Fremont – Grade 2 B
Ella Han, Chinmayi Vaidyanathan,
Audrey Wilson, Shriya Shankar,
Kirat Vinayak, Amelia Chettair

28. Japan
Fremont – Grade 2 A

Elaine Xin, Angelica Henderson,
Natalie So, Kylie Kitagawa,
Kayleigh McCarthy, Alice Chen,
Adelynn Dun, Alora Dun,
Vrinda Kapoor, Alina Bhati

29. India
Dublin – Grade 2
Angelina Wu, Bharati Krishna,
Ridhi Batchala, Rhea Sarma,
Mia Zhang, Jiayi Shen, Laurie Fu

30. Finale It's a Small World Full Cast



SESSION THREE — SHOWCASE

La Bayadere

La Bayadere was created especially for the benefit performance of Ekaterina Vazem, Prima Ballerina of the St. Petersburg Imperial Theatres.

La Bayadere (meaning the Temple Dancer of the Temple Maiden) tells the story of the bayadere Nikiya and the warrior Solar, who have sworn eternal fidelity to one another. The high Brahmin, however, the Rajah Dugmanta of Golconda has selected Solar to be the fiancé of his daughter Gamzatti (or Hamsatti, as she is known in the original production), and Nikiya unaware of the arrangement, agrees to dance at the couple's betrothal celebrations.

In a dream-like euphoria, Solar has a vision of Nikiya's shade (or spirit) in a nirvana among the star-lit mountain peaks of the Himalayas called the kingdom of the shades. Here, the lovers reconcile among the supreme opulence and order of the shades of other bayaderes (in the original production of 1877 this scene took place in an illuminated enchanted palace in the sky). When Solar awakes, preparations are underway for his wedding to Gamzatti.

Act 1 – Scene 3 The Garden of the Palace

31. The Grand Procession
Fremont – Vocational Mix
Riddhi Ravishankar, Alexa Gani,
Nikalet Kaur Pabla,
Audrey Xiao, Jocelyn Thio,
Alyson Tan, Allison Crystal Low,
Daisy Kim, Shreya Gulati,
Samantha Perez, Audrianna Fung

32. Gamzatti Samantha Perez

33. Pas de' Action 1
Dublin – Int. Foundation/
Intermediate
Jiwoo Kim, Vaishnavi Srinivasan,
Dawa Sangmo, Nova Cui (Jinghan
Zhang Understudy), Avani Jain,
Whitney Wang, Briana Wilson,
Chloe Madlansacay,
Aglaya Zhyliaieva

34. Pas de' action 2
Dublin – Advanced 1/Advanced 2
Ashley Choe, Adhya
Yerrabomanahalli, Mika Nakari,
Clarice Lai, Cassidy Johnston

35. Act I Finale

SESSION THREE — SHOWCASE

Act 1 – Scene 1 Outside the Temple

36. Temple Dancers
Fremont – Grade 3
Lylah Miller, Nora Li,
Aoi Osugi, Ella Zhang,
Jessie Zhou, Jacqueline Chen,
Parnika Garg, Malina Kitchens,
Riya Shringi

37. Nikiya Shreya Gulati

38. D'Jamp Dance
Fremont – Grades 4-7
Olivia Liu, Prisha Saini,
Evangeline So, Jinghan Zhang,
Abhinaya Karthikeyan,
Aishvari Vibha Jayanti, Sana Bhat,
Saanvi Kapoor, Avantika Prasad,
Joselyn Ma, Natalie Nolan,
Pari Aneja, Iris Chen

Act 2 – Scene 2 Kingdom of the Shades

39. Shade Entrance Int. Foundation/Intermediate/ Advanced 1/2 Nova Cui, Avani Iain, Whitney Wang, Briana Wilson, Chloe Madlansacay, Aglaya Zhyliaieva, Ashley Choe, Adhya Yerrabomanahalli, Mika Nakari, Clarice Lai, Cassidy Johnston, Riddhi Ravishankar, Alexa Gani, Nikalet Kaur Pabla. Audrey Xiao, Jocelyn Thio, Alyson Tan, Allison Crystal Low, Daisy Kim, Shreya Gulati, Samantha Perez, Audrianna Fung

40. First Shade Daisy Kim

41. Second Shade Clarice Lai

42. Third Shade Audrianna Fung

43. Waltz
All Vocational



Senior Graduation Send-off Ceremony & Presentations

Audrianna Fung Shreya Gulati Daisy Kim Clarice Lai Avantika Saxena





PRE-PROFESSIONAL DANCE COMPANY



SOLOS

Air and Water
Nova Cui

Variation from Paquita Nova Cui

Bluebird Variation Ahlaia Zhyliaieva

> *Valse* Mika Nakari

Talisman Ashley Choe

Anchor
Cassidy Johnston

*Dawn*Clarice Lai

*Talisman*Clarice Lai

Gulnara Variation from Le Corsaire Audrianna Fung

Retrograde Shreya Gulati

The Sleeping Beauty
Daisy Kim

Time Adhya Yerrabomanahlli

















2024 COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS

SPOTLIGHT DANCE CUP – REGIONAL FEBRUARY/MARCH 2024

Mombasa Category Winner Ruby

OVERALL DIVISION WINNER: SAPPHIRE

Teacher: Samantha Lin

Gioconda
OUTSTANDING ENTERTAINMENT WINNER
DIAMOND
Teacher: Samantha Lin

Whistle While You Work
DIAMOND
OUTSTANDING SHOWMANSHIP WINNER
Teacher: Connie Zaug

Air and Water Nova Cui SMILE/PERFORMANCE AWARD Teacher: Connie Zaug

> Paquita Nova Cui BEST COSTUME Teacher: Leigh Ann Koelsch

> Valse Ahlaia Zhyliaieva CATEGORY WINNER Teacher: Leigh Ann Koelsch

Tarantella Pizzeria A CUT ABOVE WINNER Teacher: Leigh Ann Koelsch

2024 COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS

ICON DANCE AWARDS – REGIONAL APRIL 2024

Gulnara Variation from Le Corsaire Audrianna Fung TOP TEN SENIOR CLASSICAL Teacher: Philip Pegler

Valse
Ahlaia Zhyliaieva
TOP TEN JUNIOR CLASSICAL
Teacher: Leigh Ann Koelsch

Scholarship Aglaya Zhyliaieva 2025 FULL CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIP

2024 Summer Intensive Invitations

JOFFREY BALLET SCHOOL

Nova Cui

Jocelyn Thio

Aglaya Zhyliaieva

ROYAL BALLET SCHOOL LONDON — UPPER LEVEL Elisha Tan

Congratulations to Elisha on being accepted to the Royal Ballet School Summer Intensive in London this summer! We wish her all the best for her upcoming Solo Seal exam on July 19, as well as her second Fonteyn experience Sep 1-8. Elisha continues to train full-time with the English National Ballet school in London.

She returned this past Spring to work with our team. Wishing Elisha continued success and joy in her dance journey!



Congratulations to our Graduating Senior — Audrianna Fung

Walking into the studio at the age of 7, I never thought that the people around me would eventually become my second family throughout my following years at Rachel's Ballet. I can't even attempt to sum up the years of laughter and love that the studio has given me. I am so undoubtedly grateful and privileged to say that I got to experience life with dance firsthand. Thank you to my mom, who has always gone out of her way to endlessly support me in all that I do, and to the teachers, who have guided me patiently through this chapter of my life and shaped me into the person standing on stage today. Last but most definitely not least, thank you to the dancers who greet me with nothing less than a smile and a hug each time I see them. You have all been a static lifeline to me, thank you for supporting me through my highs and lows. As my senior year is coming to an end, I've found myself reflecting on the past decade at the studio, and I can't help but smile when I think of all the memories that my girls and I have created together — from what seemed like endless hours of rehearsals and master classes to travelling to Irvine and Florida for competitions. Even as we begin to go our separate ways, I know I will continue to cherish the memories, lessons, and friendships that dance has given me for a lifetime. Soon, I will be graduating from California Crosspoint High School and attend UC Irvine in the Fall.







Congratulations to our graduating Senior — Shreya Gulati

It's hard to think about leaving a studio that has turned into a sanctuary and given me a second family over the past 13 years. From the very beginning as a sheep in The Nutcracker to now being in my last Showcase, I could write endlessly about the memories and the life lessons I've gained from Rachel's. I walked into this studio at the tiny age of 4, shy and withdrawn from my surroundings, but I've come out a more confident, open-minded, and tenacious person.

As I cross out more and more days till graduation, I've discovered the beauty of living in the moment. Each class or competition, though I'll never be able to re-experience them, lives on in the memories and laughs I'll carry with me forever. With so much gratitude to the teachers who have changed my life, I hope to continue using the lessons you've taught me, growing into a better dancer and person every day. To my family, who have supported me through every injury and every milestone, I'll always be grateful to see your smiling faces in the audience. Last but definitely not least, to the girls who have stood with me amidst my worst and cheered me on through my best, there's been no greater gift than having the opportunity to spend my time surrounded by so much love. I will be graduating from American High School, and in the fall, I most likely plan to attend UC Berkeley majoring in neuroscience on the premed track. I'm so excited to come back and visit!







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Congratulations to our Graduating Senior — Daisy Kim

Hi my name is Daisy and I go to Irvington High school. I first came to Rachel's ballet during covid where I was a freshman in high school. I remember walking into the studio for the first time and being very intimidated by everyone and I can still vision every single part of it. My past self would've never imagined having such a strong friendship with the people here. Every moment with these people have created memories that I will never forget. A core memory that I always look back to is YAGP finals. To performing on stage to meeting Brady Farrar, and even our trip

to Disney World have made me realize that there's a second family always willing to be there for me when i'm going through a hard time. I still remember when me, audri, and sam were crying, while walking in the rain storm soaked because we forgot where we parked our car. I don't think i'll ever forget that.

Though I'm planning to go to community college for the next 2 years, I will greatly miss everyone, especially the seniors who are moving away, so you guys better come and visit me.







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Congratulations to our graduating Senior — Clarice Lai

Hi! My name is Clarice Lai and I am graduating from Dublin High School. I've been dancing since I was 4 and started at Rachel's when I was about 7 years old. I'm super grateful to be able to call the studio my second family and without them, I know I wouldn't be who I am today.

As I look back on my journey, I reflect back on how far I've come. Dance has taught me many lessons and it's not just in the studio, but in the outside world as well. I specifically want to thank my teachers for being with me every step of the way, through thick and thin. I owe so much of my knowledge to them and they're constantly pushing me to become the best person and dancer I can be. To my parents, for enrolling me into dance class in the first place,

for the drives to the studio, and the endless support through everything, I am extremely thankful for them. Without them, I don't know how I would have made it this far. And of course, my team, my girls. I will never be able to compare these lasting memories I've been able to experience with them. From late nights at the studio to traveling to Florida for competition, I've shared many laughs, tears, and emotions that I'll never forget. I have so much love for them and will always value the bonds that I hold with each and every one of them.

This fall, I plan on attending UC Riverside with a major in Biology on the Pre-Med track. I will always be endlessly grateful for my time at Rachel's and am so excited for my next chapter!











Congratulations to our graduating Senior — Avantika Saxena

I remember my first time feeling the marley floor under my canvas shoes as I turned on the Rachel's Ballet floor at four years old. It's a moment that I now will never forget, but little did I know at the time, that experience would lead to creating a defining aspect of me. It is almost impossible to sum up 14 years of laughter and fun with this studio in a couple of paragraphs.

Growing up in an environment that never failed to elevate me and shower me with kindness was the greatest privilege of my life. To my teachers, who have meticulously molded me into the woman and dancer I am today, to my family who have been my pillars for the last 18 years (and who never fail to show up when it really counts), for the art form that has taught me more life skills than I ever imagined, and most genuinely, for the girls who have made even my worst days seem okay, the gratitude I have will never amount to the impact each and every one of you have made on me. Thank you for giving me the best safe space four walls could ever build.



As my time in high school comes to an end and I begin planning for the next chapter of my life, I have found myself reflecting on what has truly shaped me these past years; and I can say without a doubt that my time growing up at Rachel's Ballet is one I feel so lucky to have experienced. This year, I am graduating from Moreau Catholic High School and will be attending Barnard College of Columbia University in New York City in the Fall. I am planning to major in Physics on the preengineering track in hopes of pursuing a career in race engineering.

CONGRATULATIONS Ms. Samantha Lin



Congratulations to Ms. Samantha, who has completed her CBTS training course and is now an officially registered teacher of the Royal Academy of Dance. The CBTS program consisted of five modules over the course of two years which culminated with the practical teaching module. Working with our own Rachel's Ballet students,



and mentored by Miss Leigh Ann, Miss Samantha was assessed and passed by Miss Geraldine Johns. We are so proud to have our first truly home grown

teacher from Rachel's Ballet. Samantha is a former student who passed all of her RAD examinations through Advanced 2, and received her Dance Degree from UC Irvine before returning to teach and choreograph for Rachel's Ballet. Bravo, Samantha!

CONGRATULATIONS Elisha Tan



2024 RAD TEACHERS NOMINATIONS HONORING MS. LEIGH ANN KOELSCH

I proudly nominate Ms. Leigh Ann Koelsch for the 2024 Royal Academy of Dance Teachers Awards. As an esteemed instructor at Rachel's Ballet since significantly contributes Ms. Leigh Ann adeptly with an unwavering inspiring teaching. and support. Beyond dedicates significant dancers with RAD them during Solo Seal cherish the memories of value her profound passion.

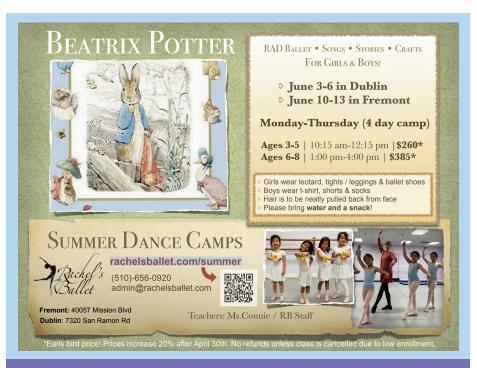
2007, she mentors and to our dance community. balances motherhood commitment many through her love regular duties, she time assisting exams and supports and Fonteyn events. I her choreographies and Ms. Leigh Ann holds a special

place in our hearts, embodying dedication and love for dance.

At the recent Fonteyn event, she stood by me, cheering and shedding tears of joy. Feeling fortunate for her sacrifice of precious family time to attend London events, her dedication underscores a commitment to nurturing dancers, leaving an indelible mark on our community. I am privileged to have Ms. Leigh Ann as a mentor and guide.

— Elisha Tan









Studio Locations

Fremont: 40057 Mission Blvd (MV – Mission Valley Center)

<u>Dublin: 7230 San Ramon Road (LP – Lamps Plus Plaza)</u>



register now for summer camp and fall/spring school year



Rachel's Ballet

As part of our commitment to community outreach, two full-length Nutcracker ballet performances will be presented to the general public on December 13 & 14.

RachelsBallet.com

(510) 656-0920