



# DANCE MASTERS OF NEW ENGLAND

CHAPTER 5



Winter  
Workshop

January 21, 2024

## FACULTY BIOS



Tap

**DEBI COCCO** - Debi is a former studio owner who now teaches at multiple studios through the area. She is an active member of both Dance Masters of America chapter 5 and the Dance Teachers Club of Boston. Debi has had the pleasure of being part of the operation staff for the Big Apple Tapfest and has been faculty and a presenter at multiple events including Dancers Inc nationals, Dance Teacher Web conference, Dance life Retreat Center. She has been guest faculty at dozens of studios in New England every summer. Her tap teams have continued to achieve top honors and awards including industry dance award nominations and ADA diamond choreography . Debi recently got to choreograph a high school production of "Footloose" and provide choreograph for the schools showchoir . She continues her dance education at many events in Las Vegas and New York and most recently completed the Broadway Dance Center Teacher Workshop, taking class with the industry's top educators.



Ballet

**BROOKE DIFRANCESCO** - Brooke DiFrancesco was born in Providence, Rhode Island where she currently resides. She received her early ballet training at the Brae Crest School of Ballet in Lincoln, RI and later at the Boston Ballet School. Brooke furthered her ballet education by attending many prestigious summer programs such as American Ballet Theatre, School of American Ballet, and Miami City Ballet. Beginning in 2009, Brooke began dancing professionally with Newport Contemporary Ballet (formerly Island Moving Company) in Newport, Rhode Island where she is currently a company dancer. While dancing with NCB, Brooke has been given the opportunity to tour with the company both nationally and internationally. She has been featured in several leading roles with NCB, including "Lucy" in Dracula, "Wendy" in Peter Pan and one of her favorites, the "Sugar Plum Fairy" in the Nutcracker. Brooke is also the Director of Education for NCB, Director of NCB's Jr Company and a faculty member for NCB's ballet academy. While maintaining her professional dancing career, Brooke also currently teaches Ballet, Pointe and Contemporary in many schools throughout Southern MA and RI.



Contemporary

**SKYLAR RIENERT** - Skylar began her dance education at New Hampshire School of Ballet. She pursued her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance for 2 years at SUNY Purchase, and finished her degree at Montclair State University. At Montclair, she has had the privilege to dance in works by Ohad Naharin, Stefanie Batten Bland, Gregory Dolbashian, Maxine Steinman, and Christian von Howard. Miss Rienert has been teaching dance for 6 years. She has choreographed numerous pieces for NH, MA, and NY studios, as well as Montclair State University. She is co-owner of Inception Dance Intensive. Skylar has won several choreography and performance awards, and continues to work as an artist throughout New England, New Jersey, and New York.



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# Jazz

**NATHAN DUSZNY** - Nathan Duszny is a New Hampshire native that started his professional career at the young age of fifteen. He performed at the Palace Theatre in Manchester, NH all through his teenage years. Productions include “*Chicago*”, “*Singing in the Rain*”, “*Joseph and the amazing Technicolored Dreamcoat*”, “*Cats*”, and many more. He was also a proud member of the American Show Dance Team and had the opportunity to compete at the World Championship in Riesa, Germany for two years in a row. After high school and graduation from The New Hampshire School of Ballet he moved abroad to Tokyo, Japan to work for Disney. After three years overseas performing in a variety show called “*One Man’s Dream*”, he moved to New York City and danced for small dance companies including *The Chase Brock Experience* and *The Next Stage Project*. His Musical theater career took off in 2010 when he had the honor of touring with Radio City’s “*Christmas Spectacular!*” featuring the famous Rockettes. From there he has toured the country and performed in many of the nation’s great theatres and music halls in various other shows. Other past productions include “*Disney’s Beauty and the Beast*” national tour, “*The Aluminum Show*”, “*Flashdance the Musical*” 1<sup>st</sup> national tour, the NY Stage and Film Festival’s play of “*Finks*”, “*Cats*”, “*Hello Dolly*” featuring Sally Struthers, “*Hairspray*”, “*Chicago*”, “*She Loves Me*”, and most recently the 1<sup>st</sup> National tour of “*Finding Neverland*”. He is currently a proud member of the contemporary company *NSquared* based in Manchester, New Hampshire!

His choreography and teaching career also began at a young age. By age eighteen, Nathan had won a choreography award for his piece, “*Prelude Trois*” at the American Dance Awards in Las Vegas and Headliners in Lancaster, PA. He had the opportunity to choreograph as an alumni artist at Merrimack High School in New Hampshire with the production of “*Once Upon A Mattress*” and “*Aladdin*”. With the numerous tours he was a part of, Nathan had the opportunity to teach at various schools, universities, and workshops around the United States and Canada. His class styles include Ballet, Jazz, Musical Theatre, Tap, and Contemporary. Past schools of note are: University of Nebraska, PACE University, University of New Hampshire, Ballet Misha, New Hampshire School of Ballet, Petrov Ballet School, and many more. While teaching and dancing in New York City, he was invited by the Ehrstrand Dance Collective to perform and create amazing works in Viksjöfors, Sweden in 2010 with the amazing Julia Ehrstrand. For almost a decade, he has been going to Europe and most recently Taiwan to create new choreography and teach workshops to the local student body and professionals alike under the umbrella of the Ehrstrand Dance Collective.

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