

Walpurgis Night *Dance of the Hours*



BESFI 2023



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IT IS A WAKE UP CALL

Staggered by two plus years of pandemic, rampant crime, the erosion of: work ethic, patriotism, religion and family values, we as a country are under duress. The notion to cheer-up because there is a light at the end of the tunnel is another good news, bad news scenario. The good news is there is hope, but the bad news is it is in the form of an oncoming express train named inflation. Each generation has faced trials and tribulations whether it was the Great Depression, World War II, the Korean Conflict, the Cold War, Vietnam, race riots, the several financial crises, the burgeoning drug use, successive financial crises in housing, auto loans, banks, student loans and consumer credit. And we endured and survived. We salute the resolute and stalwart. Several of the heartfelt and eloquent messages in the advertisements by parents to their youngsters are a testament to the concern that abounds due to the deluge of misinformation that bombards us all daily. It is reassuring to see parents and offspring trying to maintain **a clear focus**. To co-opt a Bette Davis quote “ballet dancing ain’t no place for sissies.” The Arts have become even more of a bastion for holding the line on classical values: there are no free lunches; if you want it, you have to earn it; every action has a consequence; respect has to be earned. The Sci-fi of yesterday is today's reality, and what are they saying about AI? And that is why - ***The show must go on. Good people make the difference!***

THIS WEEKEND

Two Seiskaya-choreographed all-time favorites anchor this evening's program: **Dance of the Hours** and **Walpurgis Night**. Dancing the lead roles in the vibrant **Dance of the Hours** are guest artist Lara Caraiani (*Time*) with Seiskaya Ballet principals Vivian Ye (*Day*) and Nina Zhang (*Night*). **Walpurgis Night**, a jaunty frolic, features guest artist Francis Lawrence as *Bacchus* and Vivian Ye as the *1st Bacchante* with Michaela Lettiere as the *1st Satyr*. In another show highlight, Seiskaya Ballet principal Nina Zhang returns to dance the elegant *Raymonda pas de Deux* (Sat.) partnered by guest artist Francis Lawrence. Seiskaya Ballet principal Madeleine Martufi dances opposite Lawrence in the charmingly playful *William Tell Pas de Deux* (Sun.). Guest artists Diana Atoian, Brianna Jimenez and Lara Caraiani will regale us with solo performances. Spirited character dances complete the 2023 BESFI offering.

ABOUT BESFI

The Ballet Education and Scholarship Fund, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization incorporated in the State of New York with the primary purpose of promoting ballet education in Suffolk County. By providing grants and scholarships and offering workshops to local dancers, BESFI enables young artists to participate in ballet programs that are not readily available to them or which are beyond their financial resources. By providing professionally staged dance performances, BESFI is able to promote the arts by catering to the need for young artists to perform and the community's desire for quality entertainment. To everyone's benefit, BESFI has had unparalleled success in bringing noted guest artists and teachers to Long Island.

This year, BESFI owes a great debt to several volunteers who gave selflessly of their time. In particular, we are proud to recognize Karin Engel, Niko Diamantopoulos, Yan Yu, Danielle Lettiere, Sergey Butkevich, Ginamarie Sagona and Johanna Hsu.

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BESFI SUMMER PROGRAM

Returning instructors for 2023 include Mary Carpenter, Amy Ruggiero, Ruslan Sprague, Ramona Kelley, Alexandra Bergman, Helena Sgouramani and Andrea Bergeman-Rak. Also joining us this season is Alexis Lucena. Both the Advanced and Intermediate levels continue to feature three daily classes with a solid mix of class offerings. The Summer Program will run from July 10th through August 18th. The 2023 brochure will be available online after June 1, 2023 at www.besfi.com. For information telephone: (631) 584-0192.

We salute those who have steadfastly supported BESFI through the current challenging times. BESFI adopted the policy that financial support should come from the constituency we serve and public support should be used only for capital projects and nonrecurring operating situations. It is with pleasure that we recognize those who support BESFI's ongoing operation.

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on stage as it does in our lives.

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*We Wish To
Acknowledge*

...an important group of individuals, without whose efforts this journal could not have been produced. Our inexhaustible fundraisers have, again, succeeded in gathering a wide array of advertising pages for this journal.

Bravo!!!

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VALIA SEISKAYA



Russian-born Valia Seiskaya took her first ballet lessons in Greece at the age of six. Her teacher was Adam Morianoff, also a Russian *émigré*. (Valia was experiencing difficulty learning Greek; thus, it was natural for her mother to seek out a fellow countryman.) At nine she became a scholarship student, showing prodigious technique—for example, *entrechat huit*, eight beats, in centre—by age ten. *Pointe* work also started at ten, character ballet at twelve. Thereafter, Mme. Seiskaya rapidly developed the combination of strong technique and high elevation which would become her hallmark as a

professional.

At fifteen, Valia continued her training under Sonia Morianova, the niece of Adam Morianoff, who had recently retired from the National Opera of Greece. She became a member of the National Opera at seventeen, soon attaining the rank of featured soloist, and touring Europe and Russia with the company. At the National Theater her preparation continued under resident ballet masters and choreographers, including the Bolshoi's Asaf Messerer, Boris Kniazev, Nina Kyrsanova and Olympia Yelodari (former judge at the *International Ballet Competitions* held in Varna, Bulgaria and Moscow).

In Greece, as in most European countries, ballet students wishing to become professionals must pass comprehensive national level examinations and obtain a license. Mme. Seiskaya fulfilled all of her requirements and was granted both a diploma and a license.

The Seiskaya Ballet School was founded in 1974, one year after Mme. Seiskaya retired from the National Opera of Greece. At that time she taught all fifteen class sections. In 1976 Studio A was doubled in size to its present 2,500 square feet, and in 1981 Studio B was opened, adding another 1,500 square feet to the dance facility. That year also saw the establishment of the Seiskaya Ballet Academy.

The Academy was designed as a professional training program for serious dancers who display the determination, physical attributes and musicality of the career-oriented dancer. Admission to the Academy is by audition only. Since the inception of the Seiskaya Ballet programs, eighty students have opted for professional careers. The OPEN program was developed in 2006 to complement the Academy and accommodate requests for more scheduling flexibility.

All Academy students are encouraged to participate in the guest teacher seminars and summer workshop programs offered by the Ballet Education and Scholarship Fund, Inc. (BESFI). As part of their professional preparation, Academy students' participation in auditions for company schools, summer workshops, internships and major dance companies is routinely encouraged.

Seiskaya students have compiled an outstanding record of achievement.

4 Through the years, full scholarships have been awarded by every major institution

for which they have auditioned, including schools affiliated with American Ballet Theatre (ABT), New York City Ballet, and the San Francisco, Houston, Joffrey, Pacific Northwest, Pittsburgh, Eliot Feld, and Boston Ballets. Some of the many dance companies Seiskaya students have joined: ABT (5), Atlanta Ballet (2), Boston (2), Ballet West, Fort Worth, Hartford, Pacific Northwest, Pittsburgh, Royal Swedish, State Ballet of Missouri, Ballet Arizona, Tennessee, Milwaukee (3), New Jersey, Alabama, Washington, Louisville, Austin, Tulsa Ballets and Momix.

In 1994 Seiskaya student Michael Cusumano captured a bronze medal and Special Commendation at the *International Ballet Competition (IBC)* in Varna, Bulgaria and a coveted Jury Award (a gold medal-level award) at the *Prix de Danse*, Paris, France. Valia Seiskaya was nominated that year as the Best Teacher and Coach at Varna, one of the few Americans ever to be so honored.

In 1996 Kirov student Rasta Thomas, coached by Valia Seiskaya, reached the pinnacle: a gold medal in the Men's Junior Division at the *17th IBC*, Varna, Bulgaria. Incredibly, he was the first American male dancer ever to win a Junior Division gold and the youngest male dancer ever to do so. In addition, his triumph ended a sixteen-year stretch in which no gold medal was awarded in the Junior Men's Division.

In 1998 Seiskaya student Elizabeth McGrath represented the U.S. in the *18th IBC* in Varna, Bulgaria. In late '98 she was a top finalist in the *8th Concours International de Danse de Paris*, France. Among the numerous awards earned during the current decade: Anna Craddock earned 2nd prize in the 2008 American Ballet Competition, Miami, Fl. and in 2009, the grand prize in the 9th International Dance Competition - Hellas (Greece). Seiskaya alum Cory Stearns (ABT principal) won the vaunted 2008 Erik Bruhn Prize in Toronto, Canada. Karissa Kralik captured 2nd place honors in the 2010, Senior Division, American Ballet Competition. In 2012, Danielle Lovetro earned 2nd place in the regional Youth American Grand Prix while Anna Craddock swept to a 1st place finish at the American Ballet Competition in Houston, Texas and a 1st place finish in the senior division at the 2013 YAGP regional. Seiskaya students have captured more than twenty national/regional awards, including those from the National Arts and Letters Competition; National Arts Recognition and Talent Competition (Presidential Scholar in the Arts); Saraband, Ltd; and the Amilita Hoffman Memorial Ballet Competition.

During her seventeen-year professional career with the National Opera of Greece, Mme. Seiskaya gained an affinity for the grand sweep of story-line ballets and operas staged by the company. Her own choreographic works, such as **Street People**, **Las Damiselas**, **Forest**, **MASK**, and the **Nutcracker**, reflect that interest. Fresh interpretations of classical favorites **La Boutique Fantasque**, **Walpurgis Night** and **A Night on Bald Mountain** complement her signature ensemble works **Grand Waltz**, **Seasons** and **Dance of the Hours**.

Valia Seiskaya is listed in *Who's Who Among Outstanding Americans* and was *The Village Times* 1985 Woman of the Year in the Arts. Thrice, she has been awarded Teacher of the Year by YAGP. She has received commendations from, among others, President Reagan, Governor Pataki and Congressman Forbes. In 2011, Mme. Seiskaya was elected to the Long Island Volunteer Hall of Fame for her work nurturing young talented dancers. Valia Seiskaya is Long Island's grande dame of ballet.

VALIA SEISKAYA, LFB
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



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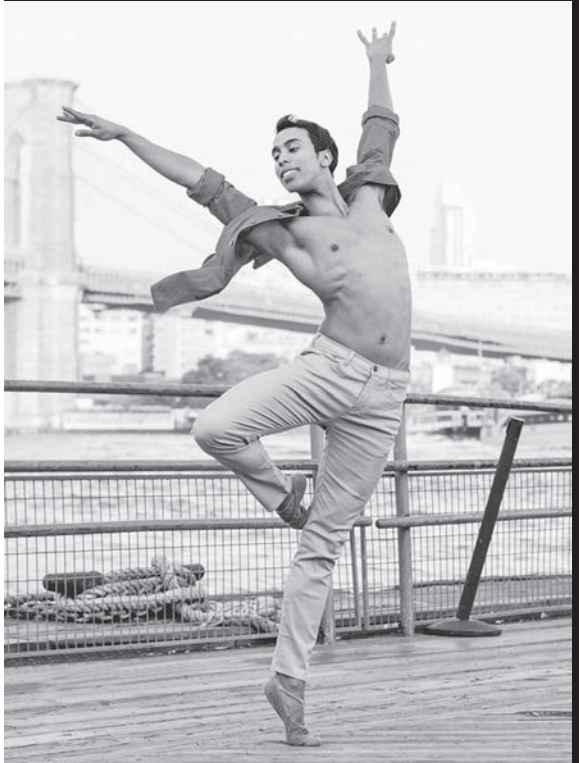
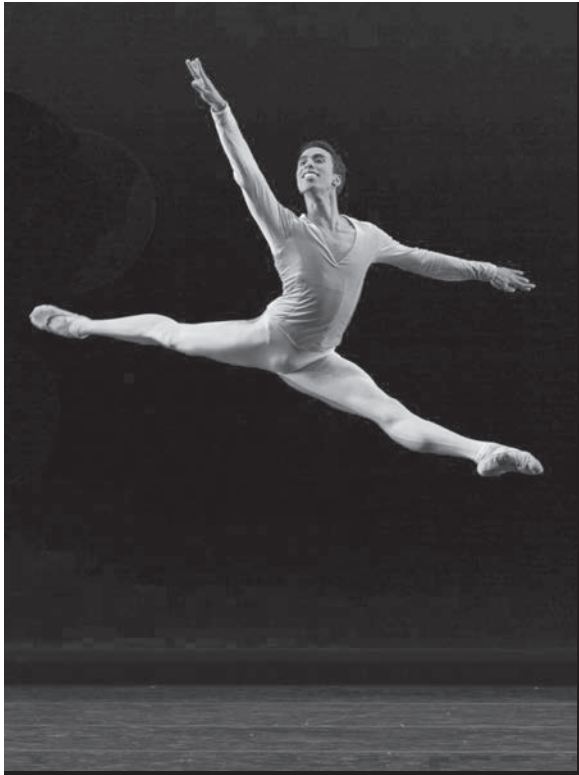
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Guest Artist



FRANCIS LAWRENCE

Francis was born in Melbourne, Australia and originally studied under Lorraine Blackburn. From there he was accepted into the Australian Ballet School where he graduated with a diploma in dance. Whilst studying at the school he toured with the Australian Ballet Dancers Company tour for two years and also danced recently with The Australian Ballet Company in John Neumeier (Nijinsky) & Peggy Van Praagh (Coppelia). Upon arriving in the states Francis joined New York Theatre Ballet for their 30th Anniversary season. Shortly after, he went on to join The Grand Rapids Ballet Company in Michigan for three seasons, under the direction of Patricia Barker. Whilst there, he danced repertoire by George Balanchine, Twyla Tharp, Jose Limon, Paul Taylor, Ulysses Dove, Lew Christensen, Olivier Weavers and Mario Radacovsky. Francis danced for five seasons with The Dance Theatre of Harlem under the direction of Virginia Johnson. He has performed works by choreographers such as George Balanchine (Agon, Glinka & Tchaikovsky Pas De Deux), Alvin Ailey (Lark Ascending), Frederick Franklin (Raymonda), Marius Petipa (Black Swan Pas De Deux), Robert Garland (Return, Gloria & New Bach) and Glen Tetley (Dialogues). Most recently Francis is performing in the North American tour of An American In Paris, choreographed and directed by Christopher Wheeldon.

Guest Artist



DIANA ATOIAN

With stunning extensions and radiant acting abilities, when Diana steps onto the stage it is near impossible to tear your eyes away. A former Principal Dancer, Diana mesmerized us with her profound and passionate portrayal of *Nikiya's Death Scene* from **La Bayadère** in last year's BESFI performance. This year she will once again enthrall us with her performance of the *Spanish Bride* from **Swan Lake**. Diana is pursuing a degree in Economics from Stony Brook University.



Guest Artist



BRIANNA JIMENEZ

A dance major at Fordham University, this former Principal Dancer lights up the stage with her serene stage presence that makes her dedication to her craft look almost effortless. Brianna returned this past year to perform the immensely challenging role of *Sugar Plum Fairy* in **Nutcracker 2022** while captivating the audience with her ethereal portrayal of the role. She joins us again this weekend to perform her contemporary piece *200 Press*.



*“Let them praise
His name with dance”
Psalm 149*



*Congratulations Brianna Jimenez
and all the Seiskaya Ballet dancers
on your 2023 BESFI performance.*

Guest Artist



EVA PYRROS

Charming and elegant, Eva will once again grace the stage with her playful stage presence. After dazzling us with her fluid and angelic performance of *Snow Queen* and *Doll* in **Nutcracker 2022**, Eva will take to the stage as the mysterious and lively *Gypsy Soloist* before taking part in the *Three Nymphs* in **Walpurgis Night**. A dedicated and enthusiastic teacher and mentor, Eva's students can't wait to dance with her on stage.



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*"There are no failures;
just experiences and your reaction to them."*

*Love always,
Any, Mommy and Daddy*

Guest Artist



LARA CARIANI

A former Principal dancer with Seiskaya Ballet, Lara performs with us once again. She will be showcasing her multifaceted dancing ability as the serene and solemn role of *Time* in **Dance of the Hours**, while taking on **Swan Lake's** daring, wicked, and vivacious *Black Swan Variation*. A freshman student at Fordham University studying mathematics and economics, Lara continues to keep ballet an integral part of her life.



Character Dance Minatures

A testament to Mme. Guzikova's ingenuity, *Oriental* and *Gypsy* character dances are a blend of energetic synchronized choreographic patterns, vibrant colored costumes with enchanting folk rhythms that yield toe-tapping and finger-snapping excitement. The Character Ballet Teacher for several years at ABT, she often collaborated on BESFI projects.

Dance of the Hours

A delightful score drawn from Ponchielli's opera **La Gioconda**, the ballet **Dance of the Hours** features three principals with a corps de ballet of twelve dancers. Set in part as a White Ballet, the choreography highlights the corps during slow passages and allows the vibrant music to be utilized for virtuoso solo performances. The Seiskaya adaptation features three demanding roles: *Day*, *Night*, and *Time*. The ballet recounts the timelessness of the struggle between Day and Night as each claims its due. All three roles are tests for the respective ballerinas. *Day* is quite lyrical and poignant, *Night* requires a bravura display, while *Time*, which is a melding of both night and day, combines elements of both. Numerous Seiskaya dancers have distinguished themselves in these roles that have, coincidentally, been springboards to careers.

Raymonda Pas de Deux

A Petipa ballet set to the music of Glazounov, *Raymonda* has become a classical yardstick for ballerinas. Raymonda dreams that her lover, who is away at war, descends from his portrait and leads her into the garden to dance a pas de deux. But the vision is dispelled and in her lover's place she finds the sinister Saracen who renews his advances.

William Tell Pas de Deux

Set to the glorious score by Rossini, this ballet by the great Danish ballet master Bournonville, has an interesting story. One popular version of this ballet has it originating as a divertissement in the original production of Rossini's **William Tell**, which was first performed at the Paris Opera on August 3, 1829.

La Bayadère 3rd Shade Variation

Often performed as its own standalone

BALLET EDUCATION AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND, INC.

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Saturday, May 13th, 7PM & Sunday, May 14th, 2PM

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COMPOSER/CHOREOGRAPHER

PERFORMERS

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ORIENTAL - CHARACTER DANCE MINIATURE

Folk Music/Guzikova

Corps

Dance of the Hours

Premiered May 14, 1982

Composer: Amilcare Ponchielli

Choreographer: Valia Seiskaya

Lighting Design: Liz Silver

Stage Manager: Liz Silver

Night

Nina Zhang

Day

Vivian Ye

Time

Lara Caraiani

Corps

Diana Atoian, Sterling Carter, Amber Corrigan, Michaela Lettiere, Sara Li, Madeleine Martufi, Isabella Morlas, Jillian Rabbitt, Averi Savino, Kaede Urso, Daphne Vaisman, Victoria Ye



FIFTEEN MINUTE INTERMISSION



RAYMONDA PAS DE DEUX (Sat.)

Glazunov/Petipa

Nina Zhang, Francis Lawrence

WILLIAM TELL PAS DE DEUX (Sun.)

Rossini/Bournonville

Madeleine Martufi, Francis Lawrence

THIRD SHADE VARIATION from LA BAYADÈRE

Minkus/Petipa

Amber Corrigan

SPANISH DANCE from SWAN LAKE

Tchaikovsky/Petipa

Diana Atoian

BLACK SWAN VARIATION from SWAN LAKE

Tchaikovsky/Petipa

Lara Caraiani

PAQUITA VARIATION

Minkus/Petipa

Michaela Lettiere

GYPSY - CHARACTER DANCE MINIATURE

Folk Music/Seiskaya after Guzikova

Soloist

Eva Pyrros

Corps

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Madeleine Martufi, Isabella Morlas, Jillian Rabbitt, Averì Savino,
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FIFTEEN MINUTE INTERMISSION



WALPURGIS NIGHT

Premiered May 31, 1980

CHOREOGRAPHER: Valia Seiskaya

SET DESIGN: Tassos Syntelis

STAGE MANAGER: Liz Silver

COMPOSER: Charles Gounod

LIGHTING DESIGN: Liz Silver

WALTZ OF THE BACCHANTES

Corps

Sterling Carter, Sara Li (Sun.),
Madeleine Martufi, Isabella Morlas (Sat.), Jillian Rabbitt,
Averì Savino, Daphne Vaisman (Sat.), Victoria Ye (Sun.)

ADAGIO - BACCHUS AND 1ST BACCHANTE

Francis Lawrence, Vivian Ye

DANCE OF THE SATYRS

1st Satyr: Michaela Lettiere and Corps

BACCHUS

Francis Lawrence

PAS DE QUATRE

Sara Li (Sat.), Isabella Morlas (Sun.),

BACCHUS AND THREE BACCHANTES

Kaede Urso, Daphne Vaisman (Sun.),

Victoria Ye (Sat.)

DANCE OF THE NYMPHS

Amber Corrigan, Eva Pyrros, Nina Zhang

1ST BACCHANTE VARIATION

Vivian Ye

FINALE

Soloists and Corps

divertissement, *La Bayadère's Kingdom of the Shades* portrays the Underworld and the spirits or "shades" that inhabit it. Known for its simple yet physically challenging choreography, we watch as *Solor's* grief following *Nikiya's* death transports him to the netherworld.

Spanish Dance from Swan Lake

Tchaikovsky's earlier *Swan Lake* (1876) had a set of national dances in Act III, danced by the eligible maidens at Prince Siegfried's ball: a Hungarian Czardas, a Spanish dance, a Neapolitan dance, and a Polish mazurka.

Black Swan Variation

The duality in *Swan Lake* has long captivated audiences for its versatility and its hypnotizing musical score. *Odile*, also known as the *Black Swan* has duped *Prince Siegfried* into believing that she is the innocent *Odette*. Bewitching the prince with her wicked pirouettes, she ensnares him into marriage like a black widow.

Paquita Variation

Paquita, a Spanish gypsy, loves *Lucien*, a French nobleman. Marriage is impossible because of their difference in social status. All turns out well when *Paquita* discovers that she is the daughter of a nobleman. *Paquita's* wedding pas de deux encompasses seven widely different variations performed by her bridesmaids. These variations vary from delicate and controlled adagio to bravura grand allegro. This ballet through history has given dancers the opportunity to showcase their strengths.

WALPURGIS NIGHT

Originally choreographed by Leonid Lavrovsky, this ballet was first presented by the Bolshoi Ballet in Moscow in 1941. Since the original staging, numerous versions have become staples in ballet company repertoire the world over. A ballet drawn from the opera *Faust*, *Walpurgis Night* loosely depicts the celebration of Bacchus (the god of wine and revelry), the Bacchantes (his priestesses), and Satyrs (his demigod attendants) on the eve of May Day. Joining the festivities, but beyond Bacchus' power are the Three Graces. The final scene brings to a close an evening of frenzied merriment.



*Some succeed because they are destined to;
most succeed because they are determined to.
By Anatole France (French Author)*



*Thank you to all the
Seiskaya staff and faculty
for helping me achieve my
goals and make me become
what I am today. Thank
you for teaching me the
art of classical ballet.*

— Vivian



Principal Dancer



VIVIAN ZIJIA YE – Age 16
Ward Melville High School
Eleventh Grade

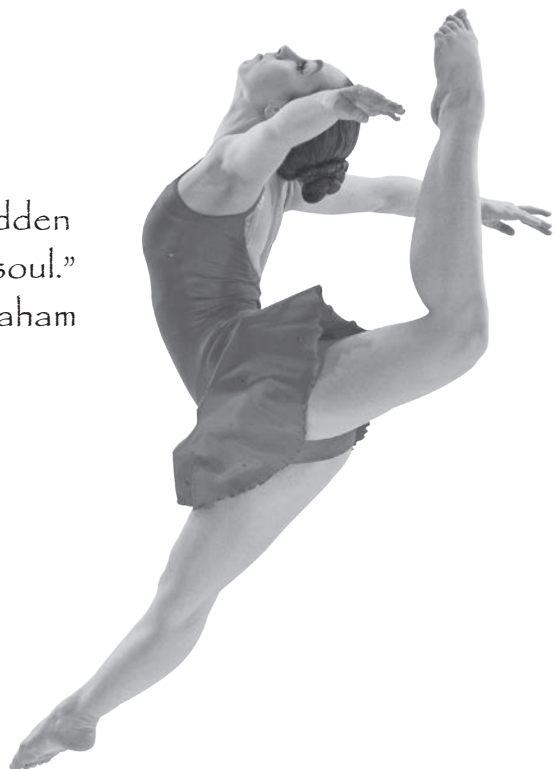
With her energetic, powerful jumps and sharp technique, Vivian was a standout in her debut as *Sugar Plum Fairy* in **Nutcracker 2022**. Strong and consistent in her dancing, she also lent her talents to performing *Dew Drop*, *Clara*, *Friend of Clara*, and *Flower Soloist*. In this year's BESFI performance, Vivian will again show her exuberant stage presence as the joyful and radiant *Day in Dance of the Hours*, while culminating her performance in this year's show, as the mystical *First Bacchante* of **Walpurgis Night**. An accomplished student outside of ballet, Vivian is a Science Olympiad National Medalist and New York State Champion. She is also a USA Biology Olympiad semifinalist, DECA New York State Marketing top four, which qualified her for the international competition. Vivian is also a National Merit Semifinalist, a Cellist and the Science Editor of Ward Melville's Kaleidoscope Newspaper. With her interest in Science, Vivian plans to continue her scientific studies in hopes of one day becoming a Biomedical Researcher or Scientist. Outside of ballet and her school studies, she enjoys working on graphic design for fun.

To Valia, Dimitri, and all of my teachers,
Thank you so much for your love and support
throughout the years. I am so grateful for the
opportunities and experiences you have given me.

Love,
Madeleine



“Dance is the hidden
language of the soul.”
— Martha Graham



Principal Dancer



MADELEINE MARTUFI – Age 14
Commack High School
Ninth Grade

With exquisite musicality and effervescent stage presence, Madeleine is proof that mind of over matter is the physical manifestation of determination. Sensitive, gentle and earnest in her dancing, Madeleine not only captivated us as *Clara* and *Dew Drop* in 2022's **Nutcracker** performance but lent her expressive stage presence to other roles such as *Friend of Clara*, *Snow*, *Flower Soloist* and *Arabian Soloist*. This weekend Madeleine imparts her talent to the joyful *William Tell Pas De Deux*, showcasing her beautifully elegant representation of Bournonville's choreography while displaying her divine turning ability as a demi-soloist in this years performance of *Gypsy*. Striving to continue her training in ballet and the performing arts, Madeleine plans to pursue a collegiate dance program before joining a professional ballet company. An accomplished Violinist outside of her ballet training, Madeleine performed a level six solo at NYSSMA as well as performing at both the Long Island Festival Association and the Suffolk County Music Educators Association. A well-rounded student, Madeleine is on the honor roll, enjoys reading, listening to music and spending time with her friends.



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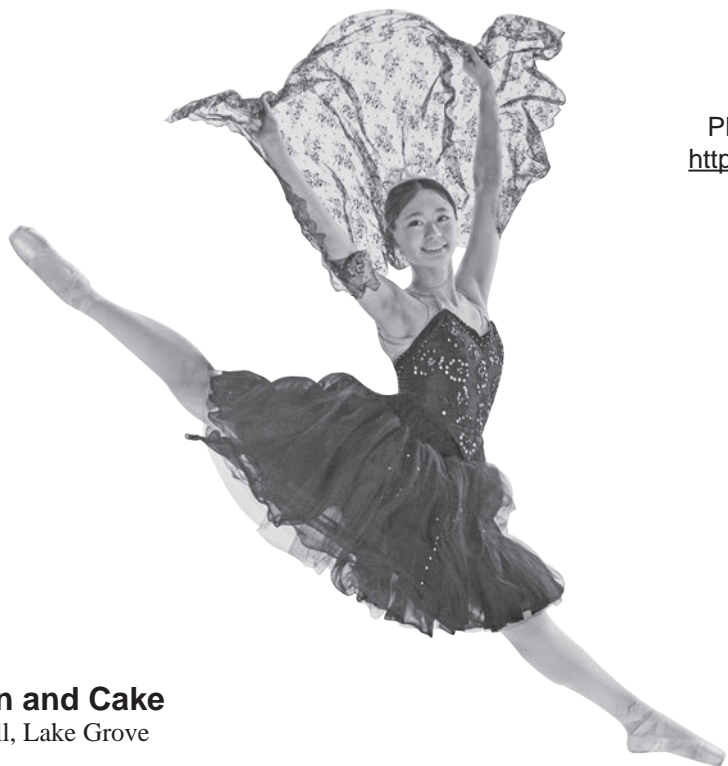


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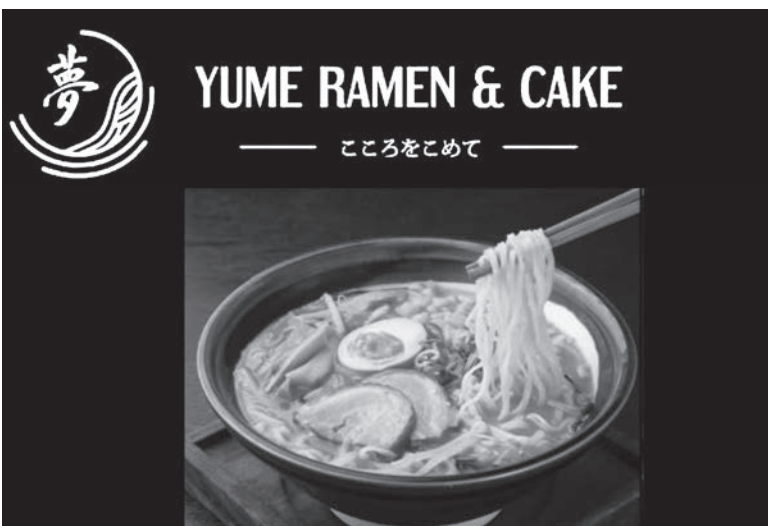
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From an unassuming kiosk at the Smith Haven Mall food court, Kai Wang prepares some of the most interesting bowls of ramen and Japanese bites on Long Island. The chef cut his teeth at David Chang's Momofuku empire as well as the modern Korean ramen house Jeju Noodle Bar, which has been called the most affordable Michelin-starred restaurant in New York City. At Yume (which means "dream"), he embraces seasonal cooking and plays with unexpected flavor

combinations, like macadamia nuts on a plate of spicy edamame beans. Truffle's earthy aroma catches your nose as a tray appears from the kitchen holding shiitake mushroom skewers that have been graced with soy sauce and Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese.

Wang's kombu chicken ramen (\$12.99), with its artfully arranged toppings of little fish cake flowers floating in a crystalline pond of scallions, evokes a tranquil feeling like looking into a Japanese woodblock print. This may actually be the dreamiest dish on the menu, and is delightfully lighter than you expect a ramen to be. But you can see that a lot of time and skill went into it, as the roasted chicken is just right and the hot broth is elegant yet comforting and homey.

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Principal Dancer



NINA LEMENG ZHANG – Age 16

Ward Melville High School

Eleventh Grade

In Seiskaya Ballet's 2022 performance of the **Nutcracker**, Nina showcased her outstanding flexibility and long extensions in her performances of *Snow Queen*, *Doll*, *Chinese*, *Bo Peep*, and *Flower Soloist*. She will lend these talents again in the ethereal *Raymonda Pas De Deux*, as a **Walpurgis Night Nymph**, in addition to taking command of the stage in the daunting and striking role of *Night in Dance of the Hours*. A veteran of the BESFI and Bolshoi Ballet summer intensives, Nina has time and again shown her innate talent towards the arts. She plans to put her analytical and curious mind to the test as a pre-med or engineering student, when she moves into her collegiate studies. While participating in lab research at the Brookhaven National Lab and being a Science Olympiad, Nina is interested in environmental justice and advocacy. She was awarded honors at the Long Island Science Congress while looking to partake in a neuroscience or anesthesiology program in the future. In her free time, Nina enjoys reading, music, and traveling.



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*Congratulations Kaede on
your BESFI performance!*



*“Great dancers are not great
because of their technique,
they are great because of their
passion.”*

-- Martha Graham



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First Soloist



KAEDE MARIE URSO – 14
Paul J. Gelinas Junior High School
Ninth Grade

Known for her impeccable turns and powerful jumps, Kaede is sure to captivate audiences this BESFI season as a soloist in *Bacchantes Pas De Quatre* and a demi-soloist in *Gypsy* while also being able to demonstrate her grace in **Dance of the Hours**. Kaede took command of the stage this past **Nutcracker** season as the *Chocolate Soldier*, *Flower Soloist*, *Chinese*, *Friend of Clara* and *Snow*. She also showed off her power and mastery of the stage in her performance of the *Skull Gang Soloist* in **Street People**. Kaede is a dedicated student and she is a member of the National Junior Honor Society and the World Language Junior Honor Society. She has won an impressive number of community service awards, including the Presidential Volunteer Service Award, a Proclamation from the Suffolk County Legislature, a Certificate of Appreciation from the Town of Brookhaven and a Certificate of Appreciation from the Suffolk County Department of Parks and Recreation. Kaede hopes to one day become a professional dancer.



*My Dear Mic,
I am beyond incredibly proud of everything you do, all your hard work, and how far you
have come. You continue to amaze me every day! All my love, Mama*



*Congratulations to all the
Seiskaya Ballet dancers
on your
BESFI 2023 performance!*



*Dear Valia and Dimitri,
Thank you for your endless support and
encouragement and always pushing me
to be better. I am forever grateful!
Love, Mic*

*Dear All My Teachers,
Thank you for all you have
and continue to do for me.
Love, Mic*

*“Ability is what you are capable of doing,
motivation determines what you do,
attitude determines how well you do it...”*

— Lou Holtz



J.D.I.

First Soloist



MICHAELA D. LETTIERE – Age 12
Middle School
Seventh Grade

Michaela will be showcasing her trademark vivacious turns and boundless jumps in this year's BESFI performance. She will astound audiences by showcasing these skills as she takes to the stage in **Paquita's Jumping Girl Variation** before delivering a striking performance as lead *Satyr* in **Walpurgis Night**, in addition to **Dance of the Hours**. In one of her most notable performance seasons, Michaela was one of the youngest Seiskaya dancers to ever grace the stage as *Dew Drop* and *Chocolate Solider*. This radiant, effervescent dancer amazed audiences with intricate fouetté turns and robust technique in the **2022 Nutcracker**. She further enchanted audiences in *Flowers*, *Friend of Clara*, and a mischievous and playful *Fritz*. A well-rounded performer, she is affectionately called “Swiss Army Knife Smurf” for her innate ability to quickly memorize and execute choreography, her adept musicality, and her small stature. This high-honors recipient has performed in Mandarin at the Chinese Consulate as a student ambassador since 2017. She will be attending the BESFI Summer Intensive for the seventh year. Michaela also enjoys golf, art, piano and flute, participating in NYSSMA, receiving a perfect score.



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"To be creative means to be in love with life. You can be creative only if you love life enough that you want to enhance its beauty, you want to bring a little more music to it, a little more poetry to it, a little more dance to it."

— Osho



*Congratulations Daphne
and all the Seiskaya dancers
on your 2023 **BESFI**
performance!*

First Soloist



DAPHNE VAISMAN – Age 14
Central Islip High School
Ninth Grade

This weekend Daphne will delight audiences in this year's BESFI performance as she dances the *Bacchantes Pas De Quatre* of **Walpurgis Night**. She will also light up the stage with her grace and impeccable technique in *Dance of the Hours* and *Gypsy*. Daphne's dedication and perseverance were exemplified in the **2022 Seiskaya Nutcracker** as she was featured as a *Friend of Clara*, *Arabian Soloist*, *Snow* and *Flower*. She is an extremely active and accomplished musician, performing as a vocalist in the Suffolk County Music Educators Association Division 3 All-County Choir and Sweet Adelines all-female barbershop choir. Daphne is also a flautist in her high school's Symphonic Band, Marching Band and Jazz Band. She is planning on pursuing a career in Environmental Science or Engineering, with a focus on finding solutions for environmental issues. Daphne was selected as a Junior Commissioner for Central Islip High School by *Keep it Clean*, a non-profit environmental organization.



*Dear Amber,
We're so proud of
you and all of your
accomplishments. Big
things are coming!
Love,
Mom & Caitlin*

"To dance is to be out of yourself. Larger, more beautiful, more powerful. This is power, it is glory on earth and it is yours for the taking."

— Agnes de Mille —



*Dear Valia & Dimitri,
Thank you for believing in my talents and ability to achieve my dreams. I'm
forever grateful to Seiskaya Ballet for shaping my technique and artistry into the
dancer I am today. Much love to you and the Seiskaya Family, always ~
Amber*

First Soloist



AMBER CORRIGAN – Age 18
**The Institute for American Musical
Theatre**

An exceptional dancer with only six years of training, Amber has made extraordinary progress during her short time at Seiskaya. With an unbridled passion for ballet, she has exhibited exceptional stamina, tenacity and work ethic. A captivating dancer with gorgeous lines and outstanding control, Amber will make her BESFI debut this weekend with an eloquent and angelic performance of the *Third Shade* from **La Bayadère**. She will also perform as a member of the *Three Nymphs* in **Walpurgis Night, Dance of the Hours** and *Gypsy*. Amber delivered a mesmerizing performance in **Nutcracker 2022** as *Snow Queen* and *Doll*, demonstrating her flawless technique, elegant extensions and incredible stage presence, emoting to the last row in the audience. She is the recipient of many scholarships, most notably, the 2023 Bolshoi Ballet Academy Summer Intensive Extraordinary Talent Scholarship. Amber continues to pursue her dream of being a professional ballerina and expressed, "When I dance, the stage is my canvas and I'm the paint brush. I feel alive when I dance and cannot imagine dedicating myself to anything else."

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*Sometimes a picture is
worth a thousand words.*



Featured Soloist



VICTORIA JINGRAN YE – Age 13
Paul J. Gelinas Junior High School
Eighth Grade

This weekend, Victoria will showcase her delightful stage presence and impeccable musicality in **Walpurgis Night's Bacchantes Pas De Quatre**, **Dance of the Hours** and *Gypsy*. Known for her playful interpretations and energetic jumps, Vicky is a veteran of the dedication it takes to perform with Seiskaya Ballet. In the **2022 Seiskaya Nutcracker** she performed the lead role as *Fritz* while showcasing her agility, stamina and strength as *Friend of Clara*, *Snow*, *Flowers*, *Arabian*, *Trepak* and *Mouse*. She also showed off her versatility as a dancer in the BESFI 2022 performance in *Carmen* and in **Street People's Skull Gang**. Victoria has attended the BESFI Summer Intensive program seven years in a row. When Victoria is not dancing, she enjoys playing the piano and trumpet. She was awarded third place in the American Protégé International Piano Competition, and she performed in this year's SCMEA music festival. Victoria is a member of Science Olympiads and she is a Science Olympiad State Medalist. She is also a member of 2023 MoMathalon Regional Championship Team.



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*"Some people want it to happen.
 Some wish it would happen.
 Others make it happen."*

— *Michael Jordan*

Dear Michaela,
 You are smart, intelligent, and driven.
 Be patient. Nothing can stop you from
 whatever you wish to achieve. You are
 unique in the way you are and you are
 more lucky than you think. Just believe in
 yourself and everything will come to you
 at the right time. You are always loved.
 Keep going and shining!

Cora,

We are so proud of you! You have not stopped dancing since the day you started at Seiskaya Ballet, and we hope you never do. We look forward to watching you perform at this year's BESFI and for years to come. We love you baby girl!

*Love,
Mommy,
Mike and Lyla*



Featured Soloist



ISABELLA MORLAS – Age 15
Smithtown High School East
Ninth Grade

Isabella will captivate the audience this weekend with her long lines and sweet personality as she executes **Walpurgis Night's** *Bacchantes Pas De Quatre*, **Dance of the Hours** and *Gypsy*. With ethereal grace and elegance, Isabella is blossoming into a beautiful dancer with tremendous potential. Her warming stage presence and thoughtful interpretations landed her roles such as *Friend of Clara*, *Snow*, *Flowers* and *Arabian* in the **2022 Seiskaya Nutcracker**. We also saw Isabella show of her powerful and quick technique in **Street People's** *Skull Gang* and in the feisty character piece *Carmen*. Isabella hopes to one day become a physician. She is CPR and AED certified and was accepted into a BioMedical program in Boston. Isabella likes traveling, windsurfing, going to the beach and spending time with her family and friends.



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*"When you dance, you can enjoy the luxury of being you."
– Paulo Coelho*



*Congratulations to our beautiful ballerina Jillian!
Keep dancing with joy, grace, and passion.
We are so proud of you!*

*Love,
Mom, Dad, Abigail, Ryan, Grandma & Grampy*

Soloist



JILLIAN ROSE RABBITT – Age 13
Samoset Middle School
Seventh Grade

Jillian will bring her stunning extensions and beautiful turns to this year's BESFI performance in *Gypsy*, **Dance of the Hours** and *Tree* in **Walpurgis Night**. Flexibility, ballon jumps and sky high extensions are the defining characteristics of this confident dancer. Jillian displayed her versatility and strength during the **2022 Seiskaya Nutcracker** as *Friend of Fritz*, *Snow*, *Flower*, *Trepak*, and *Mouse Soloist*. While Jillian loves to dance and apply herself at school, her true passion is writing. She hopes to become a writer one day and loves the opportunity that writing gives her to be completely free and creative in expressing herself. Jillian is an extremely accomplished violinist and she had the honor of performing at this year's LISFA and SCMEA Festivals. She also loves listening to K-Pop and enjoys spending time with her family and friends in her free time.



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Dear Sara,
Congratulations on another
wonderful year of dancing.

Love,
Daddy, Mommy,
Emma and Ray


Soloist



SARA LI – Age 15
Ward Melville High School
Tenth Grade

Sara will showcase her long lines and serene stage presence when she takes the stage in this weekend's BESFI performance. Featured in the corps of **Dance of the Hours**, Sara will then take part in the enthralling ensemble character piece *Gypsy*. Culminating her performance, will be the challenging *Bacchantes Pas De Quatre*. Known for her grace, flexibility, turns, and impressive split jumps, Sara showed her versatility as a dancer in the **2022 Seiskaya Nutcracker** as *Bo Peep*, *Friend of Clara*, *Flower Soloist*, *Flower corps*, *Snow Corps*, *Friend of Fritz* and *Arabian*. A strong academic student, Sara plans to become a mechanical engineer and she works hard as a member of her high school's Science Olympiad club. She also excels at the flute and performs regularly with her high school band and marching band. In addition, Sarah enjoys reading and computer coding.




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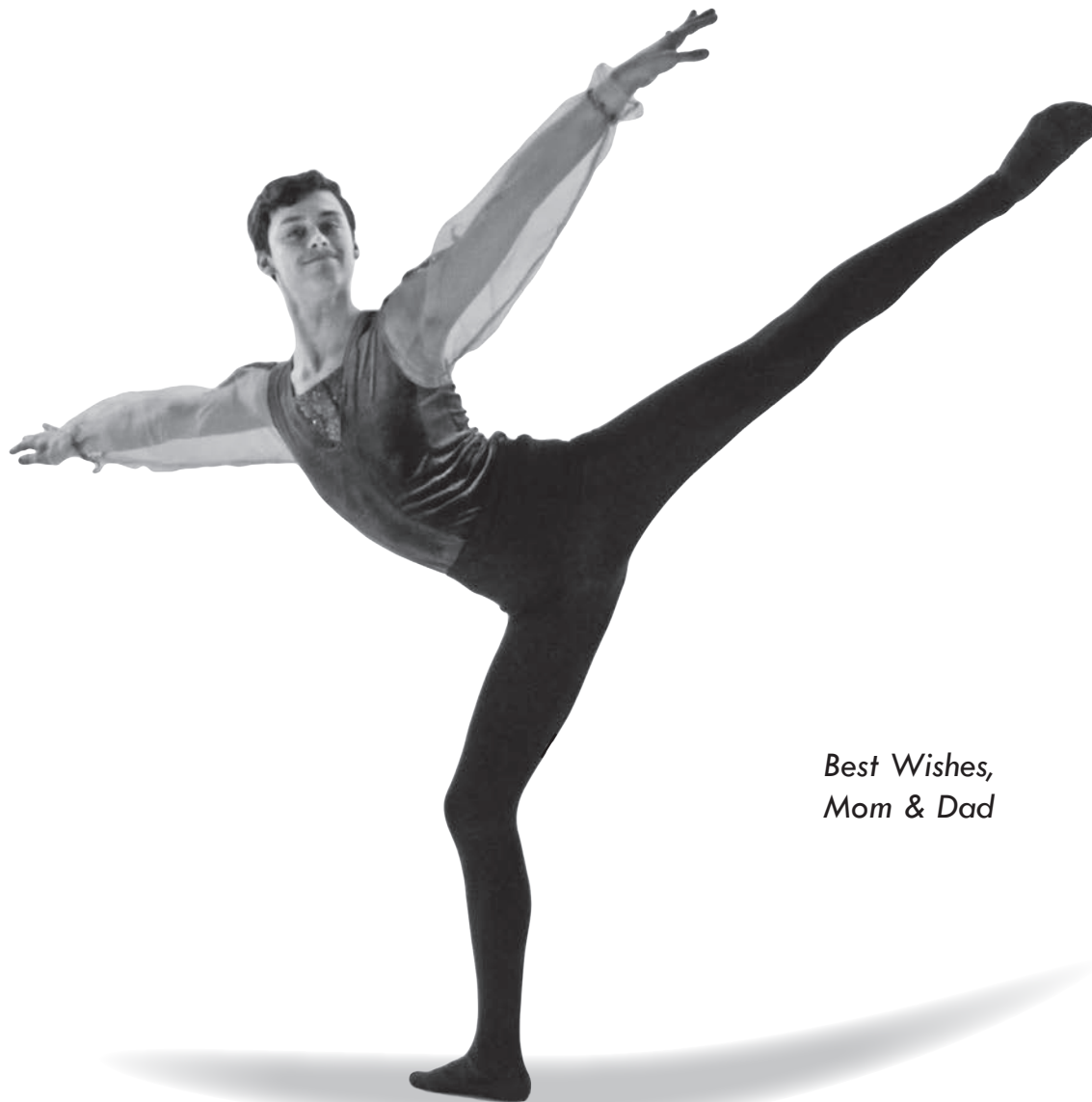
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*Congratulations to the Cast of
BESTI 2023!*

*Dear Alex,
Congratulations on completing your first months at Seiskaya!
Thank you to all of the instructors who helped
improve Alex's technique.*



*Best Wishes,
Mom & Dad*

Soloist



ALEXANDER DOBOLI – Age 17
Stony Brook School
Eleventh Grade

Relatively new to Seiskaya Ballet Academy, Alexander will delight audiences with his expressive execution and musicality of his *Contemporary Variation* in this weekend's BESFI performances. Alexander is a dynamic and versatile dancer who attended the 2022 Joffrey Jazz and Contemporary Summer program, as well as the 2021 Joffrey Tap Summer Intensive. He is a Regional Soloist Competition winner and a Maximum Velocity Artist finalist. Alexander plans to study linguistics and computer science in college and he would love to be a linguistics professor or work at Google. He is fascinated by the study of languages and how they have evolved over time. Alexander also plans to continue to study dance and implement his ballet technique into future choreography.

Choryphee



STERLING CARTER – Age 14
The Stony Brook School
Eighth Grade

Graceful and poised, Sterling shines in her ballet studies. She will appear in both **Dance of the Hours** and **Walpurgis Night**, as well as in *Gypsy* this weekend. Outside ballet, Sterling has worked as a fashion model and has been recognized for her writing at Harbor Country Day School. She continues to excel in her studies and is an Honors Student at The Stony Brook School.



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Community for another great year.*



*Sterling and Adair
you make us so proud.*



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"Heart Associates of Long Island congratulates Averì and Arianna Savino, as well as all the Seiskaya students on another wonderful performance!"



Choryphee



AVERÌ LYNN SAVINO – Age 11
St. Patrick School of Smithtown
Sixth Grade

A seasoned dancer with beautiful lines, Averì enjoyed performing *Mice* and *Flowers* in **Nutcracker 2022**. This year BESFI sees Averì performing in *Gypsy*, **Dance of the Hours**, and **Walpurgis Night**. Averì earned the Presidential Education Award for Outstanding Academics and would one day like to pursue a career as a dancer, singer, and doctor.



Corps



ADAIR MADELEINE CARTER – Age 10
Harbor Country Day School
Fourth Grade

With jumps and turns well beyond her years, Adair has captured audiences as a *Sheep* and a *Polichinelle* in **Nutcracker 2022**. She will delight the audience this weekend in *Oriental* and as a *Satyr* in **Walpurgis Night**. Adair is also an Honors Student at her school. Ever the performer, Adair hopes to become an actress, a ballerina, or perhaps both!



~ Best of Luck ~

Congratulations

*Michael Grundfast
and
Law Office Staff*



*"We should consider every day lost on
which we have not danced at least once."
— Friedrich Nietzsche*



John Lioudakis
Plumbing & Heating

Corps



ATHENA LIOUDAKIS – Age 16
Comsewogue High School
Ninth Grade

Gracing the BESFI stage for her debut performance, Athena is thrilled to be dancing in the rousing *Gypsy*. Her love of ballet was on full display as a *Mouse* and *Polichinelle* in the **2022 Nutcracker**. With dreams of becoming a ballerina one day, Athena's commitment to her craft is evident in her long hours spent in the studio.



Corps



SABRINA LIU – Age 10
Minnesauke Elementary School
Fifth Grade

Prepare to be dazzled as Sabrina takes the stage this weekend in the delicate *Oriental*, and as an energetic *Satyr*. She continues to show her dedication to improving her ballet skills after a glorious run as a *Polichinelle*, *Angel* and *Soldier* in the **2022 Nutcracker**. Striving for posture and grace on and off the stage, Sabrina plays the piano and the violin, and also enjoys tennis.



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*Dear Jasmine and Josephine,
We are so proud of you for perseverance and
diligence, for advancement to another level.
Keep up the good work and enjoy the show.*

*Love,
Mom, Dad and Tom*

GG



Corps



JASMINE WEI – Age 10
Harbor Country Day School
Fifth Grade

Jasmine is an energetic dancer, as evident in her performance as a *Polichinelle*, *Soldier* and *Mouse* in **Nutcracker 2022**. She will return to the stage this weekend with that same energy as a member of the lively *Gypsy* ensemble and as a *Satyr*. With a love of small animals, she endeavors to become a veterinarian. Jasmine also placed first in the Chinese Recitation Competition.



Corps



JOSEPHINE WEI – Age 10
Harbor Country Day School
Fifth Grade

You last saw Josephine ignite the **Nutcracker 2022** stage as a playful *Polichinelle*, valiant *Soldier*, and a mischievous *Mouse*. This weekend, she will light up the stage once again as a *Satyr* and in *Gypsy*. With a strong work ethic, Josephine has hopes of becoming a lawyer one day. When she is not reading, Josephine is creating Lego masterpieces and playing Minecraft.



Congratulations to the entire BESFI cast!



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Natalie,

We are proud of
your kindness, hard
work and courage to
challenge yourself.

- Mommy, Daddy
and Marcus



Corps



NATALIE ZHANG – Age 10
Nassakeag Elementary School
Fifth Grade

After her heartwarming performance in **Nutcracker 2022** as a *Sheep*, *Angel*, and *Polichinelle*, Natalie is excited to return to the Staller Center Stage. This weekend, she will charm audiences as a *Satyr* and in *Oriental*. Multitalented, Natalie was the 2nd Place performer in the 2022 Suffolk Piano Teachers Foundation Piano Competition.

Our best wishes to
VALIA AND THE ENTIRE BESFI CAST



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Junior Corps



ISLA ROSE CASTON – Age 8
Home-schooled
Second Grade

Isla delighted audiences as a playful *Lamb Chop* and *Child at Party*, a dutiful *Soldier*, and a heavenly *Angel*, during the **2022 Nutcracker**. A vibrant young dancer with a passionate work ethic, she will charm audiences in the character piece *Oriental* and as a *Satyr* in **Walpurgis Night**. She aspires to be a ballerina, loves to cook and bake, as well as swim and crochet.

Some things make you laugh
 until it hurts.



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Let them praise His name with dancing.
Psalm 149:3

*"Dancing with the feet is one thing.
Dancing with the heart is another."*



*We are so proud of you Lilah!
Keep following your heart.*

*Love,
Mom, Dad,
Charlotte & Gabriel*

Junior Corps



LILAH DORAN – Age 8
Sts. Philip and James School
Third Grade

Lilah charmed audiences in her **Nutcracker 2022** performance as *Child at Party*, *Angel*, *Soldier* and *Polichinelle*. This diligent young dancer is overjoyed to captivate audiences as a *Satyr* in **Walpurgis Night** and in the character piece *Oriental*. Lilah enjoys going to the beach. She hopes to become a dancer and cannot wait to go en pointe in a few years.

**Morticia is really
a blonde!**



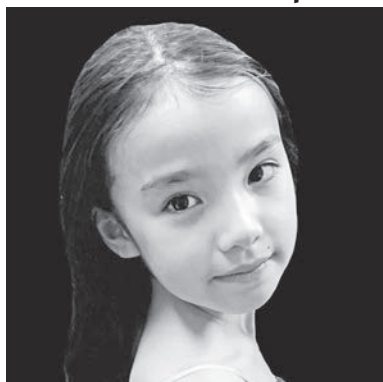
Junior Corps



ALICE HUANG – Age 8
William Sydney Mount Elementary School
Third Grade

Alice graced the stage in last years BESFI performance as member of the character ensemble *Persian*. She will shine again in this year's BESFI showcase as both a *Satyr* and *Oriental* corp member. Alice enjoys singing in her school chorus. She can often be found reading a book while stretching in a split position, and dreams of becoming a professional dancer.

Junior Corps



SAYURI CRISTINA ISHIDA – Age 8
Homeschool
Second Grade

With an enduring stage presence, Sayuri entertained audiences as *Angel*, *Polichinelle*, *Soldier* and *Child at Party* in **Nutcracker 2022**. This BESFI, she will perform in *Oriental* and as a *Satyr* in **Walpurgis Night**. A multi-talented performer, she plays the piano, violin, and sings. She enjoys crafts, baking, and studying the Japanese language and traditional dance.



Dear Alice,
 We are so proud of you.
 Keep reaching for the stars.

Love,
 Mom & Dad



*Dearest Sayuri:
 We are so very proud of you!*



*Congratulations to the wonderful dancers of
 the Seiskaya Ballet Academy.*

*Thank you, dear teachers,
 for all that you do!*

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Junior Corps



CHLOE LIOUDAKIS – Age 8
Norwood Elementary
Second Grade

Chloe is thrilled to perform in her first BESFI performance in the *Oriental* character piece. She made her stage debut as a *Soldier* and *Child at the Party* in Seiskaya's 2022 **Nutcracker**. Chloe is multitalented and excels at playing the ukulele and traditional Greek dance. She hopes to become a professional ballerina or dentist someday.

Junior Corps



EMMA LI – Age 9
Sawmill Intermediate School
Third Grade

Emma returns to the stage after her impressive performance in the 2022 **Nutcracker** as an *Angel*, *Soldier*, *Polichinelle* and *Child at the Party*. In her second BESFI performance, she will showcase beautiful arabesques as a *Satyr* and in *Oriental*. Emma enjoys playing the piano, traveling and reading. She wishes to become a teacher who inspires students.



*Dear Emma,
You dance love, and you
dance joy, and you dance
dreams.*

From Dad & Mom

Junior Corps



WENDI LI – Age 9
Nassakeag Elementary School
Fourth Grade

Wendi returns to the stage after her lovable performance in the **2022 Nutcracker** as *Child at Party* and *Lamb Chop*. For this, her second BESFI performance, she will charm audiences in *Oriental*. Wendi also enjoys studying mathematics, reading and writing fiction, painting and drawing. In 2021 she won first prize in a public speaking contest in Chinese class.



*Dear Valia, Dimitri,
 and all my teachers at Seiskaya,
 Thank you so much for teaching
 me so well! I love dancing and
 you have helped me amazingly to
 reach my goals and to pursue my
 dreams.*

*Love,
 Wendi*

Junior Corps



ALICIA PEREZ-CANOA – Age 11
Minnesauke Elementary School
Fifth Grade

Alicia returns to the stage after her beautiful performance in the **Nutcracker** as *Child at Party*, *Angel*, and *Soldier*. She will perform in **Walpurgis Night** and *Oriental* in this year's BESFI Showcase. Alicia studies karate and is in her school orchestra and chorus. Drawing and sketching are her favorite hobbies, and she aspires to one day be a professional artist.

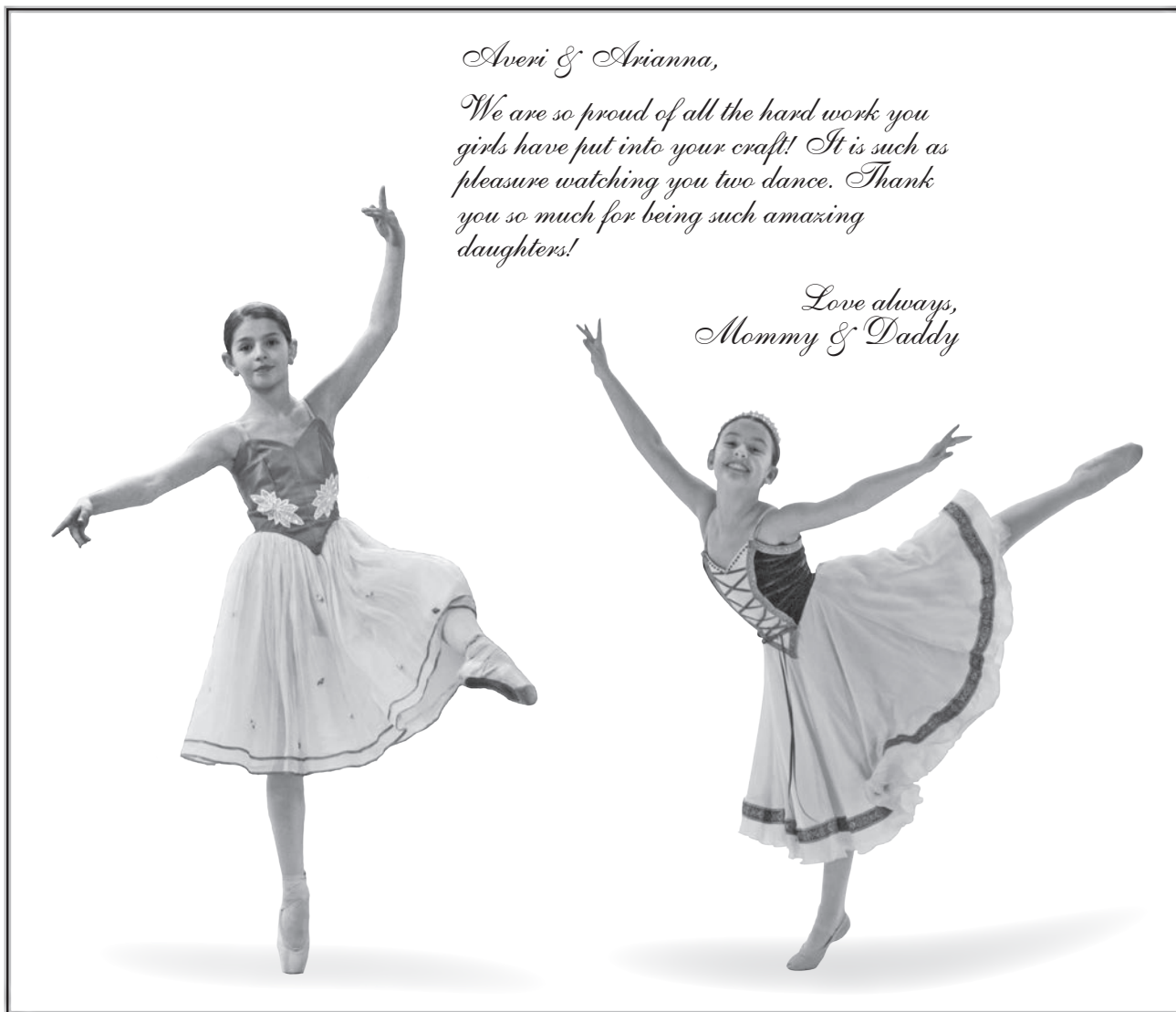
**"When you get the choice to sit it out or dance,
 I hope you dance."**

— Lee Ann Womack

Dear Olivia,
 We are so proud of you and all your
 accomplishments. Enjoy this year!

Love,
 Mom, Dad
 and Grandma Kay





Junior Corps



ARIANNA LEE SAVINO – Age 8
St. Patrick School of Smithtown
Third Grade

An enthusiastic performer with beautiful feet, Arianna will grace the stage as a *Satyr* in **Walpurgis Night** and a corp member of *Oriental*. She has taken on numerous roles in Seiskaya's **Nutcracker** including *Angel*, *Soldier*, *Child at Party*, *Polichinelle*, and *Sheep*. When she isn't dancing, Arianna enjoys singing, reading, hiking, drawing, and playing the violin.

Modern Class



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Junior Corps



OLIVIA CLAIRE SPATARO – Age 10
RJO Intermediate School
Fifth Grade

A charming young dancer, Olivia will perform in *Oriental* and as a *Satyr* in **Walpurgis Night**. She thrilled audiences in **Nutcracker 2022** as a *Child at Party*, *Angel*, *Soldier*, *Polichinelle*, and *Sheep*. Olivia also participated in NYSSMA for piano, viola, and voice, and SCMEA for voice this year. Olivia has a strong love of animals and hopes to one day become a veterinarian.

Junior Corps



AURORA XU – Age 9
Nassakeag Elementary School
Fourth Grade

A charming young dancer, Aurora brightened the stage in the **2022 Nutcracker** as a *Child at Party* and *Angel*. She is excited to be taking the stage to perform in the spirited character piece *Oriental*. Multitalented, Aurora plays the violin and piano and enjoys figure skating. Aurora loves doing step jumps in class and aspires to one day be a professional dancer.

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Junior Corps



CORINNA ZHIXIN YOU – Age 9

**William Sydney Mount Elementary School
Third Grade**

Corinna charmed audiences as a graceful *Angel* and energetic *Soldier* in Seiskaya's 2022 production of **The Nutcracker**. She will be performing as a *Satyr* and *Oriental corp* member in her BESFI debut. She excels at grand jete leaps and works hard on her ballet technique. Corinna is an award-winning pianist who aspires to be a teacher or professional dancer.

Corpse de ballet



Junior Corps



SOPHIA J. ZHONG – Age 9

**William Sydney Mount Elementary School
Third Grade**

A promising newcomer, Sophia brightened the stage in the **2022 Nutcracker** as an *Angel* and *Soldier*. She is elated to be performing in her first BESFI showcase in the roles of *Satyr* and *Oriental*. Sophia is a dedicated student who enjoys reading, playing with friends, and studying piano. She is also interested in astronomy and space exploration.

**So you want to know
who is on Mt. Olympus?**



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*Dear Sophia,
We are so proud of your
courage and achievements
by playing a role in the
"Nutcracker" show during
your first year at Seiskaya
Ballet School. Far beyond
the physical and psychological
benefits associated with
the practice of the art of
Ballet, we are also hopeful
the same great values which
will allow you to pursue
excellence in the art of
ballet, such as persistence,
perseverance, strength,
discipline, teamwork, ... et
al, shall also positively impact
you in many aspects of your
academic and professional life
in the future.*

*Mom, Dad, Emily, and
Steven*



*Dear Regina,
We both love you so much and are so proud of you!
Enjoy your first **BESFI** Performance!*

*Love always,
Mom and Dad*



Trainee



REGINA CHEN – Age 7
W.S. Mount Elementary School
Second Grade

Regina Chen is a lovely young dancer. She will give her debut performance with Seiskaya in the *Oriental* dance at the **2023 BESFI** performance. A multitalented scholar, Regina enjoys math, Chinese, swimming, and playing the piano. Last year, Regina was awarded second prize in a Chinese Speech Competition and one day, she hopes to become a doctor and a graphic designer.

Finally, a ballet pose
that is comfortable.



Trainee



LYANNA SHRESTHA – Age 6
Laurel Hill School
Kindergarten

Lyanna is a young dancer with a great deal of promise. Her excellent listening skills and enthusiasm served Lyanna well when she performed *Lamb Chop* and *Girl at the Party* in the **Nutcracker 2022**. She is excited to perform *Oriental* in BESFI this weekend. Lyanna is a talented young violinist and when she grows up, she would like to be a dancer and a violinist.

next pose ... this
is not the time to
pray.



Dear Lyanna,

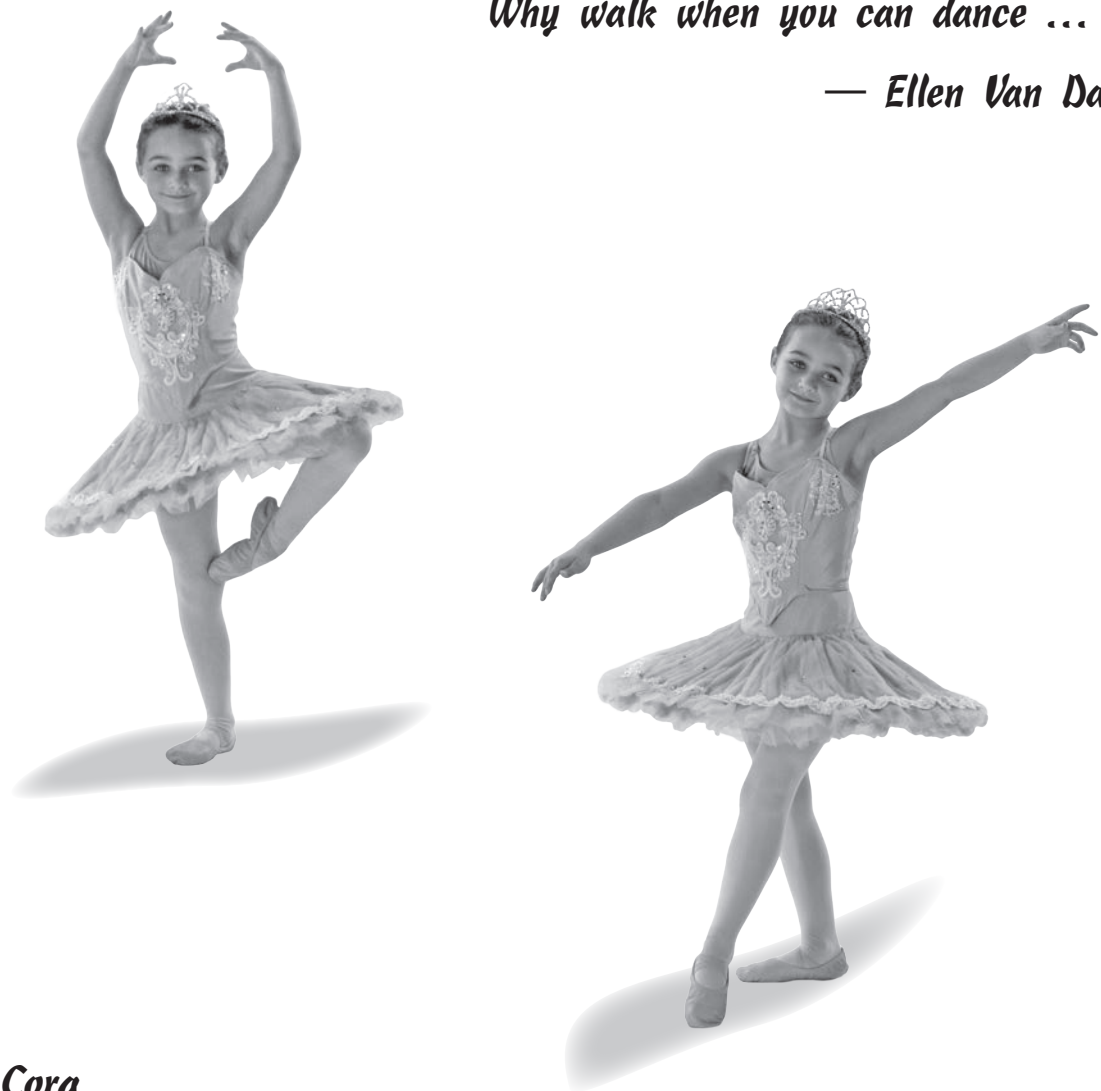
*Watching your dedication
and devotion to whatever
you set your eyes on has
given us tremendous joy.
Keep shooting for the
stars past the sky's limit
while we proudly admire
everything that you've
already achieved!*

*- Daddy, Mommy,
and GrandMa*

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Why walk when you can dance ...

— Ellen Van Dam

*Cora,
We are so proud of the ballerina you are becoming.
Continue to follow your heart and putting smiles on all
of our faces. Love, Your devoted family and friends
We Love you - ♥*

Trainee



CORA ROSE SORAHAN – Age 8
St. Patrick School of Smithtown
Third Grade

A newcomer to Seiskaya, Cora will dance her first role in *Oriental* in BESFI this weekend. Cora particularly enjoys jumps and splits. She also received a “Camper of the Year” award in 2019. Cora would like to grow up to become a dancer and a nurse, because she wants to help people and teach children to dance.

Would you let this
woman teach your
child ballet?



Trainee



JULIETTE ANNE STRUSS – Age 6
Mills Pond Elementary
First Grade

Juliette is a charming dancer who appeared in the 2022 **Seiskaya Nutcracker** as a *Child at the Party*, *Lamb Chop*, and *Angel*. Juliette is excited to perform *Oriental* in BESFI. In addition to ballet, Juliette enjoys playing soccer and lacrosse and being a girl scout. In her free time she enjoys making crafts, playing with her brothers and spending time with her family.

There's an easier
way to scratch your
head!



Dreams do come true



Juliette

*Juliette, the joy you find through dance fills
our hearts. We are so proud of you and
look forward to watching you on stage for
many years to come.*

Love,

Mom, Dad, Landon and Matthew



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*Jessica, keep shooting for
the stars!*

*Love,
Aunt Karen and
Uncle Mike*

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*Jessica
Congratulations
and good luck on
your first BESFI
Performance!
We Love You,*

*Mom, Dad and
Alison*

Trainee



**JESSICA TUTHILL – Age 6
Elementary School
First Grade**

Jessica is thrilled to perform in BESFI in the charming *Oriental* character dance. In addition to dancing, Jessica plays the piano and is on a track team. When she grows up, Jessica hopes to be a teacher. Her other favorite activities include reading, playing outside, riding her bicycle, and swimming.

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