

HONOR ROLL OF 50 YEARS OF SEISKAYA BALLET PRINCIPAL DANCERS

1980 Lesli Lyon, 1980 Eileen Houghton, 1980 Allison Wade, 1980 Peter Portnoy, 1982 Johanna Hsu, 1983 Peter Morrison, 1984 David Campbell, 1984 Suzanne Daly, 1984 Alexandra Kastrinos, 1984 Karen Lynch, 1986 Rachel Ruotolo, 1989 Joanna Goldberg, 1989 Jennifer Oko, 1991 Laura Feig, 1991 Alexandra Bergman, 1992 Abigail Morin, 1993 Michael Cusumano, 1994 Kyra Rzhevsky, 1994 Shannon Volk, 1995 Amy Wilks, 1995 Andrea Montechiari, 1996 Sophie Vanier, 1996 Elizabeth McGrath, 1996 Susan LaMorte, 1998 Meghan Baker, 1998 Andrea Bergeman, 2000 Amy Ruggerio, 2000 Lauren Menger, 2000 Jennifer Olesuk, 2000 Meredith-Lyn Olivieri, 2000 Paul (Cory) Stearns, 2000 Lisa Woods, 2001 Marlena Bono, 2002 Julie Miller, 2002 Emily Portoghese, 2002 Maria Fechter, 2003 Megan Liberty, 2004 Adrienne Vogt, 2005 Christina Schifano, 2005 Sara Dowd, 2005 Kiersten Engel, 2007 Danielle Morano, 2007 Liliana Janson, 2008 Mariana DeMarco, 2008 Karissa Kralik, 2008 Christina Pandolfi, 2008 Stephanie Scutari, 2009 Ashton Hsu, 2009 Alexis Lucena, 2010 Victoria Loza, 2011 Anna Craddock, 2012 Alexandra Palma, 2012 Nicole DiFiore, 2013 Alexandra Tsivitis, 2014 Danielle Lovetro, 2014 Alexandra Berti, 2015 Kristina Diaz, 2016 Jenna Lee, 2016 Diana Atoian, 2017 Brianna Jimenez, 2018 Max Lippman, 2019 Lara Caraiani, 2020 Eva Pyrros, 2021 Maya Butkevich, 2021 Kyra Allgaier, 2022 Rachel Bland, 2023 Vivian Ye, 2023 Madeline Martufi, 2023 Nina Zhang, 2024 Kaede Urso



BESFI 2024





Kevin K. Diffley, Attorney

K DIFFLEY LAW GROUP

☎ (516) 750-1973
📞 (917) 816-7310
✉ kdlawteam@kdifflaw.com
🌐 www.kdifflaw.com

26 Jericho Turnpike
New Hyde Park, NY 11040

With Offices in
Suffolk
Bronx
and
New York Counties



COMMERCIAL
REAL ESTATE



BUSINESS
FORMATION



RESIDENTIAL
REAL ESTATE



BUSINESS
LICENSING



FINANCE & LOAN
CLOSINGS



WILLS, TRUSTS
& ESTATES



TAX RESOLUTION
SERVICES



PERSONAL
INJURY



CORPORATE
TRANSACTIONS



LANDLORD/
TENANT



BALLET EDUCATION AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND, INC.

Benefit Performance

HOW LEGENDS ARE BORN

It started innocently enough. A spunky and talented nine-year-old was brought to the studio by a girlfriend of one of the child's brothers. The youngster was energetic, gregarious and, most importantly, hungry to learn. She was a walking vacuum cleaner with a huge smile usually plastered on her face and quite the chatter box. One day while in the lobby enjoying her unsolicited expounding of her views about something or other, I decided to rein her in. "Hey kid, shut up, you're nothing but a little Short Shit." Well everyone laughed and took it in good humor. Fifty years later, our goddaughter is still a family member, a BESFI Director and called "Short" for short. My wife realized early on that a ballet school cannot be built on the reputation of the teacher as a professional dancer, but rather as a teacher. In this "what have you done for my kid lately world," we had to show students' successes not harp on old accomplishments of the teacher(s). Lesli Lyon, 14, of East Setauket became a clarion call for attention. Whether it was visiting the 1st International Ballet Competition (1979) in Jackson, MI or competing at the venerable IBC in Varna, Bulgaria (1980), this technically adroit and charismatic dancer became the trailblazer for a tightly knit group of students dubbed the little "Barracudas." The group supported and challenged each other in the classroom and at auditions and competitions. By 1981, the group which included Eileen Houghton, Allison Wade, Johanna Hsu, Jennifer Portnoy and Alison Armbruster dominated Summer Program auditions in NYC. We realized the efficacy of our approach to training, and the Legend of Seiskaya Ballet was launched. Ninety+ dance careers were launched during fifty years. An auspicious metric by any measure with one simple underpinning – dancers are like potato chips, and we can make more. **It is the system baby!**

THIS WEEKEND

Eclectic. That is the word to describe what tonight's fare is all about. With several dance genres represented in lively solos and duets, a rousing classical pas de deux, an energetic and colorful set of character dances and a comedic three-scene one act ballet, this program is sure to have something for everyone's taste. This year is the first time we are featuring a ballroom piece, and we have three dances that have been choreographed by the performing artists. Although Seiskaya Ballet is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary, BESFI is forty-four years young as well. This is also

our forty-fifth season at the Staller Center. It has been an honor and a pleasure to bring so many young talents to this stage.

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 Sampurna Shrestha, Karin Engel, Danielle Lettiere, Andrea Savino, Lara Caraiani, Rosie Caston, Sergey Butkevich, Kevin Urso and Linda Pandolfi.

BESFI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Dimitri Papadakos, Chairman
- Jo-Ann Blechman-Hertzman
 - Michael Grundfast
 - Ted Kastrinos
- Valentini D. Papadakos
- Lesli Lyon Theobald
 - Susan Tuccillo

BESFI SUMMER PROGRAM

Returning instructors for 2024 include Mary Carpenter, Amy Ruggiero, Ruslan Sprague, Ramona Kelley, Alexandra Bergman, Alexis Lucena and Andrea Bergeman-Rak. Also joining us this season are Bruno Palheta and Jacqueline Kalata. Both the Advanced and Intermediate levels continue to feature three daily classes with a varied mix of class offerings. The Summer Program will run from July 8th through August 16th. The 2024 brochure will be available online after June 1, 2024 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.

MILLENNIUM SPONSORS

- The Butkevich Family
- HP & Hsin Wei
- Chi Zhang & Jin Liu
- The Berti Family

SPONSOR OF THE ARTS

- The Adamo Family

PATRONS OF THE ARTS

- The Engel Family
- Ashton Hsu

Benefactors

- The La Morte Family
- John and Dona Pellegrino
- Scott & Erica Kraft

Sponsors

- The Heaney Family
- John and Gloria Savino

Patrons

- The Fischer Family • Arianna Savino
- Averi Savino

BESFI

LONG ISLAND'S
**2024 Master
Summer Workshop**
July 8 - August 16

BESFI SUMMER WORKSHOP
P.O. Box 2146
St. James, NY 11780
Tel: (631) 584-0192, Fax: (631) 862-0507
e-mail: info@besfi.com, www.besfi.com

VALIA SEISKAYA

Artistic Director

Faculty (dates in residence 2024)

❁ **JACQUELINE KALATA**
(Jul 8-12 & Aug 5-9)

❁ **BRUNO PALHETA**
(Jul 8-12 & Jul 22-26)

❁ **MARY CARPENTER**
(Jul 15-19)

❁ **TBA**
(Jul 15-19)

❁ **RUSLAN SPRAGUE**
(Aug 22-26)

❁ **ALEXANDRA BERGMAN**
(Jul 29-Aug 2)

❁ **ANDREA BERGEMAN-RAK**
(Jul 29-Aug 2)

❁ **ALEXIS LUCENA**
(Aug 5-9)

❁ **AMY RUGGIERO**
(Aug 12-16)

❁ **RAMONA KELLEY**
(Aug 12-16)

Available classes —

*Classical & Character Ballet Technique, Pointe,
Turns, Pas de Deux, Variations, Allegro, Adagio,
Contemporary, Theatrical Dance & Yoga*

a detailed brochure is available at
www.besfi.com



Sound Endocrinology
2500 Nesconset Hwy, Bldg 3C
Stony Brook, NY 11790

THEOFANIS MITSINIKOS, D.O., F.A.C.E.
Diabetes, Endocrinology & Metabolism
Medical Director

Phone: 631.751.2400

Fax: 631.751.8323



**Gift
Certificates
Available!**

Pirouette
The Specialty Dance Store

*We are proud
to support
BESFI*

Shop Pirouette for all your dance needs!
51 Green Street | Huntington NY
www.pirouettedancewear.com
Ph: 631.271.1863

Dr. Albert C. Esposito

Dr. Gerald T. Murphy

PODIATRIC MEDICINE AND SURGERY

PHONE: (631) 475-0804
FAX: (631) 475-0806

31 OAK STREET, SUITE 8
PATCHOGUE, NY 11772

Matt Pumilia

Owner/President
mpumilany@aol.com

516-380-6590

Saint James, NY 11780

**Commercial
and
Residential**



Fidato Construction

Trustworthy / Honorable



Black Tie



**Formal Wear
& Uniforms**

@ Estelle's Dressy Dresses
1600 Broadhollow Road,
Farmingdale, NY 11735
(631) 871-7675

@ Tommy's Tunes Entertainment
691 Middle Country Road,
Selden, NY 11784
(631) 849-5914

RELIANCE
**MORTGAGE &
REAL ESTATE**

359 Lake Avenue
St. James, NY 11780
Phone: (631) 862-9000
Fax: (631) 862-2881

Email: wgarthe@optonline.net
www.SearchingLongIslandNY.com



WILLIAM J. GARTHE

*We Wish To
Acknowledge*

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

Bravo!!!

\$11,000
Valia Papadakos

\$4,500
Butkevich Family

\$2,800
Lettiere Family
Wei Family

\$1,400
Berti Family
Zhang Family
Savino Family

\$1,200
Rabbitt Family
McCarty Family

\$800
Martufi Family - Ye Family

\$600 - \$700
Engel Family - Sorahan Family

\$400 - \$500
Adamo Family - Doran Family
Bergold Family - Bland Family
Caraiani Family - Carter Family
Caston Family - Cusumano Family
Doboli Family - Jimenez Family
Li, Sara Family - Lioudakis Family
Lyon-Theobald Family
Murray Family - Palma Family
Urso Family - Zuvich Family

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 Kyrzanova 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, ninety+ 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



Johanna Hsu



Eva Pyrras



Diana Atoian



Lara Caraianni



Madeleine Martufi



Kaede Urso

**S
E
I
S
K
A
Y
A

B
A
L
L
E
T**

SEISKAYA BALLET
established 1974

7 FLOWERFIELD, SUITE 16
ST. JAMES, NY 11780
(631) 862-6925
(631) 862-1722
seiskaya@aol.com
www.seiskaya.com

Simply Long Island's Best!

at the
Staller Center

Tel: 631-632-ARTS

www.stallercenter.com
www.nutcrackerballet.com



2024

SEISKAYA BALLET'S

the Nutcracker

December 20-22

Friday, December 20 at 7PM
Saturday, December 21
at 2PM and 7PM
Sunday, December 22
at 1PM and 6PM



Valia and Dimitri.

'You are both etched into my heart forever. I am extremely grateful to have danced under your tutelage at Seiskaya and for all of the amazing memories. Thank you for being a huge part of my life. Looking forward to creating many more wonderful memories with you. Congratulations on SEISKAYA BALLET's 50th Anniversary!

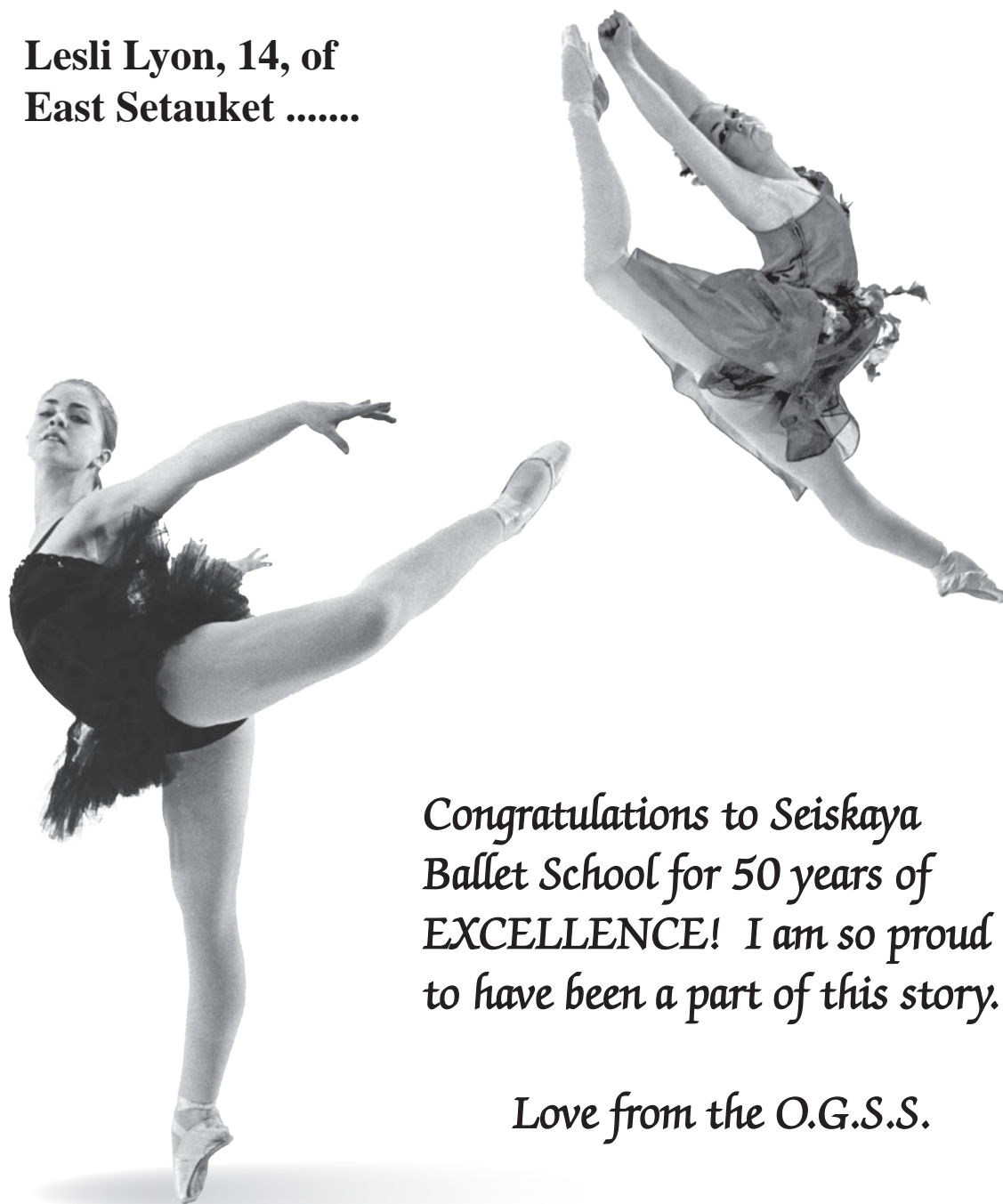
*Love,
Alex*



ALEXANDRA BERTI

Former Seiskaya Principal Dancer, Alexandra Berti, has professional credits as a dancer, actor, and model. A polymath, she was a featured dancer and actor in the OFF-BWY show **Savage Force** and performed in **A Sketch of NY** to name a few. Ms. Berti was the lead dancer and actor in the movie **One More Photo Please** (premiere: AMC Times Square) and danced on NBC's **Law and Order SVU**, Netflix's **Friends from College**, and others. She also danced professionally with Ailey's AFSD company, New American Youth Ballet, and others. Ms. Berti has acted on 25+ television shows and films; of note as Agent Annie on CBS' **FBI** for multiple seasons and as a utility stand-in for **Ray Donovan: The Movie**. She has been a product tester for Gaynor Minden, and a model for the Barclays Center, Art Stone Costumes, Prima Soft Dancewear, Estelle's Dressy Dresses, and more. Ms. Berti has driven business for MSG Entertainment (Rockettes and Live Entertainment) and other dance companies, schools, and artists. She holds a BFA in Dance from Ailey/Fordham, an MA in Communications from Johns Hopkins, and a Teacher Certification from the Bolshoi Ballet Academy. She sits on the Fordham Young Alumni Board.

**Lesli Lyon, 14, of
East Setauket**



***Congratulations to Seiskaya
Ballet School for 50 years of
EXCELLENCE! I am so proud
to have been a part of this story.***

Love from the O.G.S.S.

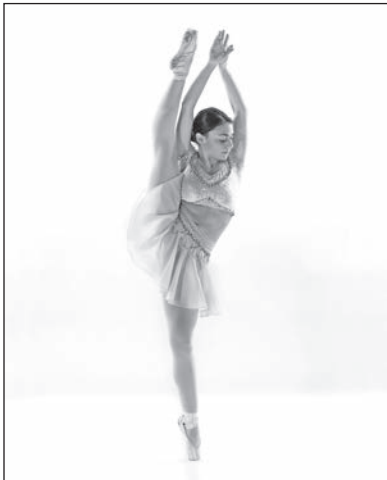
Guest Artist



BRUNO PALHETA

Bruno Palheta was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He began his dance training at the age of 14 and graduated from Centro de Danca Rio in September of 2016 where he studied and received his Performing Arts Associate's Degree. His training included ballet, contemporary/modern, jazz and musical theater. During his training, he won many awards including the Valentina Kozlova International Ballet Competition Finals in 2015. In 2016, he joined CityDance Conservatory in Bethesda, Maryland, and competed in the Youth America Grand Prix in Pittsburgh. In 2017, he won second place in the Men's Classical and Contemporary Divisions. The same year he joined the Washington School of Ballet from whom he received a full scholarship. He graduated from the Washington Ballet Professional Trainee Program in 2018. His performances with the company include John Cranko's Romeo and Juliet in Tarantella and Septime Webre's production of **The Nutcracker**. In 2018, Bruno joined Orlando Ballet's second company. During his time there, he danced in many productions including Robert Hill's **Carmina Burana**, **Bolero de Ravel**, **The Nutcracker**, Arcadian Broad's **Wonderland: Mad Tales of the Hatter** and Victoria Morgan's **Cinderella**. In 2020, Bruno joined Cleveland Ballet and has performed in roles such as the *Prince* in **The Nutcracker** and the *White Rabbit* in Margo Sappington's *Alice*.

Guest Artist - Diana Atoian



With stunning extensions and radiant persona, when Diana steps onto the stage, she is mesmerizing. A former Principal Dancer, Diana enchanted us with her profound and passionate portrayal of *Nikiya's Death Scene* from **La Bayadère** (BESFI 2022) and *Spanish Dance* from **Swan Lake** (BESFI 2023). Diana is pursuing a degree in Economics from SBU.

Guest Artist - Rachel Bland



This former Seiskaya Principal is currently on a nationwide tour under the direction of Kevin Frey at the Artistic Dance Exchange. Rachel's role as Noble Prodigy requires her to assist the world-renowned faculty in multiple styles of dance including ballet, contemporary, jazz, hip hop, musical theater, tap and ballroom. Rachel is continuing her fashion studies at NY's noted FIT.



A&R Materials
631-585-5736

*Supplying topsoil, mulch, gravel &
boulders to homeowners & contractors
for over 20 years*



FORMER SEISKAYA PRINCIPAL DANCER,
RACHEL BLAND

CONGRATULATIONS TO SEISKAYA BALLET
FOR 50 OUTSTANDING YEARS!

LUXURY CUSTOM HOME BUILDING
RESIDENTIAL RENOVATIONS
GENERAL CONTRACTING
HISTORICAL RESTORATIONS

CHRISTOPHERBLANDBUILDERS.COM



CHRISTOPHER BLAND BUILDERS
631 - 286 - 6135



Guest Artist - Maya Butkevich



Maya is currently an undergraduate student at the University of Rhode Island pursuing a double major in Marine Biology and Ocean Engineering. As a former Principal dancer, she performed the roles of *Clara*, *Sugar Plum*, and *Dew Drop* in the 2022 shows of the **Nutcracker**. For BESFI 2022, she danced the lead female role of *Policewoman* in **Street People**.

Guest Artist - Natasha Butkevich



A Seiskaya Ballet alumna, Natasha is a Ph.D. candidate studying marine microbial ecology at the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences at SBU. While earning her BS at Cornell University, she discovered and fell in love with ballroom dancing. Captain of the DanceSport team during her final year of study, she's now a member of the Stony Brook ballroom team.

Guest Artist - Lara Caraiani

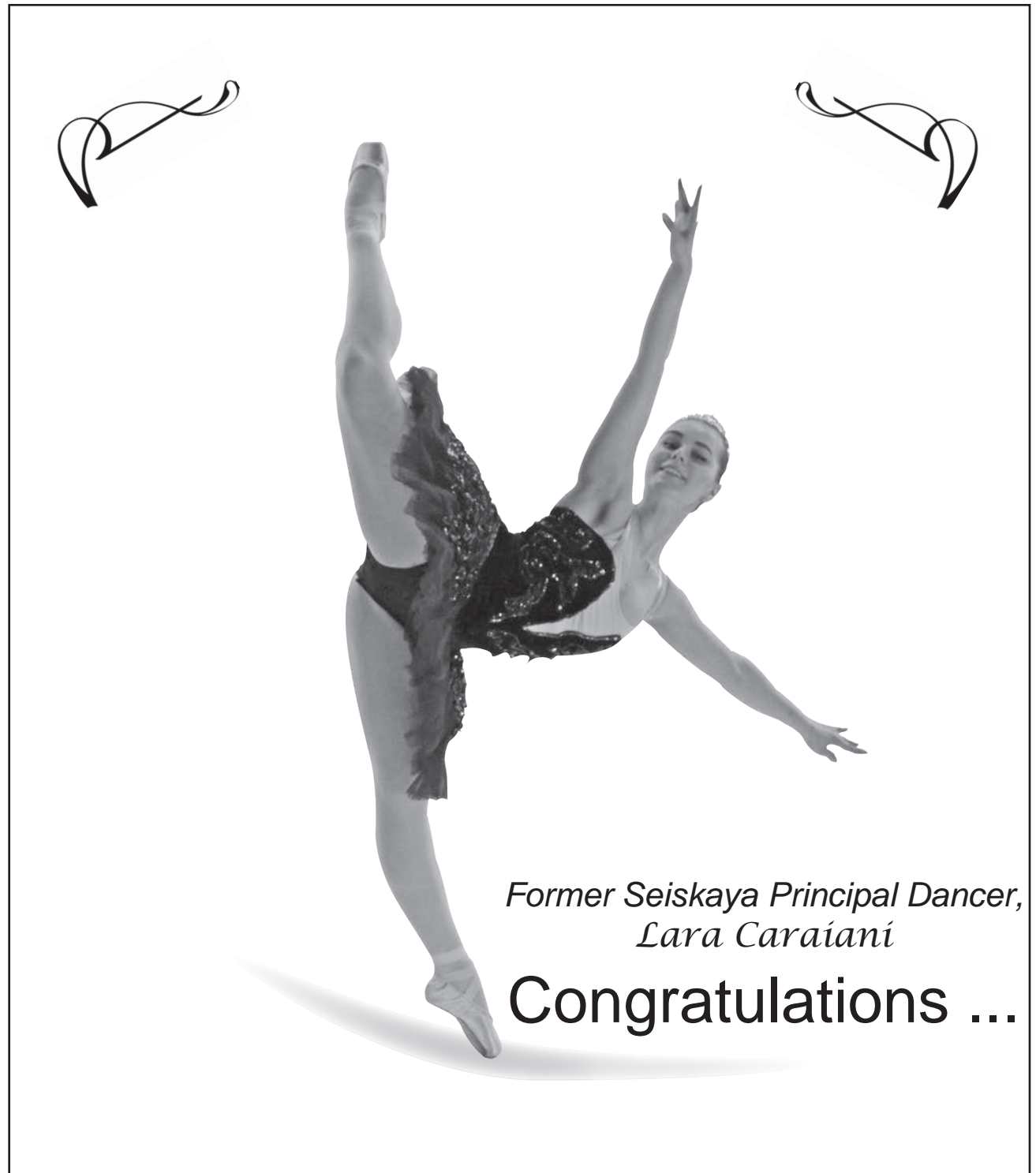


A former Principal dancer with Seiskaya Ballet, Lara performs with us once again. In BESFI 2023 she showcased her multifaceted dancing ability in the serene and solemn role of *Time* in **Dance of the Hours**, while also taking on **Swan Lake's** daring, wicked, and vivacious *Black Swan Variation*. Studying at SBU, she is double majoring in economics and sociology.

Guest Artist - Brianna Jimenez



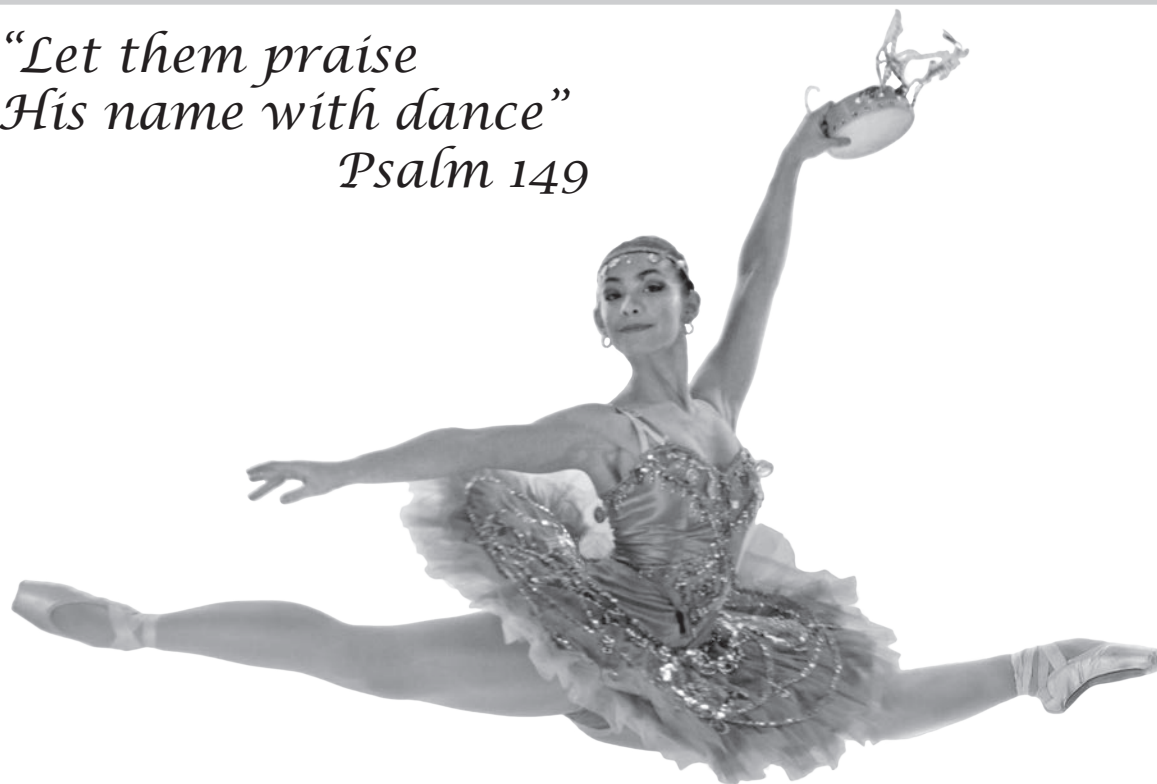
A junior at Fordham University, this former Principal Dancer is equally adept in both classical and contemporary repertoire. Performing the challenging role of the ethereal *Sugar Plum Fairy* in **Nutcracker 2022**, Brianna's aplomb makes her dedication to her craft look almost effortless. Her contemporary selections for BESFI have been electric and riveting leaving us craving more.



*Former Seiskaya Principal Dancer,
Lara Caraiani*

Congratulations ...

*"Let them praise
His name with dance"
Psalm 149*



*Former Seiskaya Principal Dancer,
Brianna Jimenez*

Thank you Seiskaya Ballet, Valia, Dimitri, Johanna, and all the teachers and dancers for providing such a great learning and dancing experience throughout the years and a second home and family.

— The Jimenez Family

*Congratulations Brianna Jimenez and all the Seiskaya Ballet
dancers on your 2024 BESFI performance.*

Guest Artist - Jacqueline Kalata



Juana Cala' is a Seiskaya-trained dancer and choreographer. Performing and teaching Flamenco in the US and Europe, she was a Soloist with Maria Benitez Dance Company and American Spanish Dance Theatre and Compañía Flamenco "La Moreria". She toured Europe as a Principal dancer and Artistic Director for 16 years with her own company, "Ensemble Flamenco Juana Cala".

Guest Artist - Alexis Lucena



A classically trained ballerina and songwriter, she seamlessly weaves dance into her music and visuals. She merged her passion for music and movement, birthing "LEXXE." A former Seiskaya Ballet Principal dancer, she earned a BFA in Dance Performance from SUNY Purchase. She's a star in Company XIV's "Queen of Hearts," featuring over 7 of her original songs.

Guest Artist - Eva Pyrros



Charming and elegant, Eva always commands the stage with her artful presence. She dazzled us with her musicality and fluidity as *Snow Queen* and her precision as *Doll* in **Nutcrackers 2022-23**. This former Principal dancer has also established herself as a dedicated and enthusiastic teacher, mentor and rehearsal mistress. Eva's students can't wait to dance with her on stage.

Guest Artist - Marcos Antonio



Marcos is a dancer, teacher, and actor from LA. He studied ballet and modern dance under Amy Nakamura & Michelle Shear and theater under Elizabeth Farrell. He danced in the music video "After Life" for Queen Lexxe, performed with the liturgical dance group Reinvention and wrote and performed in the production of **Brave Like Me** winning the award for Most Inspirational story.



Thank you Valia and Dimitri for giving so much of your time, dedication and love to me throughout my youth. Growing up at Seiskaya Ballet played a huge role in my development as a dancer and person, giving me the support and training to guide me into a career with American Ballet Theater, and later on performing in numerous Broadway shows. I made lifetime friendships through ballet as a child, and I have wonderful memories I cherish. Mostly I want to thank Valia for always being there for me, as not only my coach and mentor, but my family.

Love always,

Mikey Cusumano

Former Seiskaya Ballet Principal

*Former Seiskaya Principal Dancer,
Kiersten Engel*



*Dear Valia and Dimitri,
Congratulations on
Seiskaya Ballet's 50th year!
You have been an amazing
influence in my life and those
of so many other dancers.
Your training and support
gave me the opportunity to
fulfill my dream of becoming
a professional dancer and I
am forever grateful. Ballet
will always be a part of my
life and I hope to instill in my
students the same love of ballet
you fostered in me.*

*Love,
Kiersten*

Guest Artist - Nikolai Styrcas



Nikolai is a chemical engineer holding a BS from Rutgers University. After a hiatus from dance, he is now also a competitive ballroom dancer with his partner Natasha. Notably, the partners made it to the Novice Standard and Novice Latin finals at the Big Apple DanceSport Challenge 2022, a ballroom dance competition which is one of the largest on the east coast

Guest Artist - Jamie Bergold



Reprising the comedic role of *Topsy* in **Mask**, former 1st Soloist Jamie has earned plaudits for contrasting roles in **Nutcracker**. Possessing classic balletic lines, gorgeous extensions, high ballon and secure turns ensured the majesty of the glistening *Snow Queen* and the efficacy of the mechanical *Doll*, whose syncopated movements always entertain.

Three vibrant character dances, six solo variations from classical repertoire, four contemporary/modern compositions and “*Spicy Margarita*” an appealing ballroom dance encircle the feisty *Flames of Paris Pas de Deux*.

Flames of Paris Pas de Deux

This ballet, depicting episodes of the French Revolution, started a new trend in Soviet ballet. It was the first of the heroic ballets glorifying the people, an alternative to Tchaikovsky’s fairy tales. This heroic style of dancing was grander and more exultant. One of the major female roles, *Mireille*, was first danced by the great Ulanova. The pas de deux from the last act, *Grand Divertissement*, was modeled on open air celebrations in the style of painter Jacques-Louis David.

Solo Variations from Classical Repertoire

Our program features the riveting *Black Swan Variation* from **Swan Lake**, the *La Fille mal Gardée Variation*, *Esmeralda’s Variation* from **La Esmeralda** and *Juliet’s Variation* from **Romeo and Juliet**, all widely known and performed. Of equal importance with less fanfare, *Shirin’s Variation* from **Legend of Love** and *Nuneh Variation* from **Gayane** are two hidden gems.

Modern and Contemporary

First performed on the Staller stage in 2022, *Pyre* was an instant hit performed by the amazing Brianna Jimenez. *Clair De Lune*, *The Beginning* and *Le Cygne Dans Mon Coeur* are relatively new works and will have their Staller Center premier this evening.

Character Dance Miniatures

A testament to Mme. Guzikova’s ingenuity, the character dances she has choreographed for BESFI are a blend of energetic synchronized choreographic patterns, vibrant colored costumes with enchanting folk rhythms that yield toe-tapping and finger-snapping excitement. The Georgian inspired *Kazachok* follows suit. Valia Seiskaya’s rousing rendition of *Syrtaki*, a Greek Folk Classic, is always an audience pleaser. Jacqueline (Juana Cala) Kalata’s *Aragonaize* from **Carmen Suites** blends heart-warming familiar music with fiery precision.

Ballroom

We are delighted to have Natasha Butkevich blaze a new path for us with “*Spicy Margarita*.”

BALLET EDUCATION AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND, INC.

2024 Benefit Performance

Saturday, May 11th, 7PM & Sunday, May 12th, 2PM

Staller Center for the Arts

COMPOSER/CHOREOGRAPHER

PERFORMERS

BLACK SWAN VARIATION from SWAN LAKE

Tchaikovsky/Seiskaya after Petipa, Ivanov

Kaede Urso

LA FILLE MAL GARDEE VARIATION

Hertel/Seiskaya after Nijinska

Lara Caraiani

FLAMES OF PARIS PAS DE DEUX

Asafyev/Vainonen

Vivian Ye (Sat.), Madeleine Martufi (Sun.)

Bruno Palheta

PYRE

Son Lux/Jimenez

Brianna Jimenez

ESMERALDA VARIATION

Pugni/Seiskaya after Perrot

Michaela Lettiere

SYRTAKI - CHARACTER DANCE MINIATURE

Sakarlaidis/Seiskaya

Corps



FIFTEEN MINUTE INTERMISSION



SHIRIN VARIATION from LEGEND OF LOVE

Malikov/Butkevich after Greigorovich

Maya Butkevich

CLAIR DE LUNE

Debussy/Doboli

Alex Doboli

ARAGONAISE from CARMEN SUITES

Bizet/Tovar, Cala

Jacqueline Kalata

THE BEGINNING (Sun.)

Arnalds/Krapels

Rachel Bland

LE CYGNE DANS MON COEUR (Sun.)

Saint-Saëns, Lucena/Lucena, Antonio

Alexis Lucena, Marcos Antonio

SPICY MARGARITA

Derulo, Bubl , et al./Styrkas,

Natasha Butkevich,

Butkevich after Radzimierski, Vlasova

Nikolai Styrkas

NUNEH VARIATION from GAYANE

Khachaturian/Anisimova

Diana Atoian

JULIET'S VARIATION from ROMEO and JULIET

Prokofiev/Lavrovsky

Eva Pyrros

KAZACHOK CHARACTER DANCE MINIATURE

Folk Music/Seiskaya after Guzikova

Corps



FIFTEEN MINUTE INTERMISSION



MASK

Premiered April 30, 1988

Choreography: Valia Seiskaya

Lighting Design: Liz Silver

Composer: Dvorak, Brahms

Rehearsal Mistresses: Diana Atoian,

Lara Caraiani, Eva Pyrros

Stage Manager: Liz Silver

Costume Mistress: Andrea Savino

King: Sergey Butkevich

Queen: Dani Lettiere

Prince: Bruno Palheta

Princess: Morgan McCarty

General: Alex Doboli

General's Page: Isla Caston

Snobbish Daughter: Averi Savino

Earl: Sampurna Shrestha

Earl's Page: Lyanna Shrestha

Voluptuous Dau.: Molly Murray

The Viscount: HP Wei

Viscount's Page: Evangeline Correia

Sleepy Daughter: Sara Li

The Marquis: Cy Carter

Marquis' Page: Jessica Tuthill

Tipsy Daughter: Jamie Bergold

The Duke: John Savino

Duke's Page: Julia Zarccone

Ditzy Daughter: Jillian Rabbitt

Gypsy: Lara Caraiani

Washer Women: Sterling Carter, Athena Lioudakis, Racheal Xu

Villagers: Adair Carter, Isla Caston, Grace Chen, Lilah Doran, Alice Huang, Anya Li,

Emma Li, Chloe Lioudakis, Alicia Perez-Canoa, Lyanna Shrestha,

Cora Sorahan, Sihan Tang, Natalie Zhang, Sophia Zhong

Arianna Savino, Olivia Spataro, Jasmine Wei, Josephine Wei

Field Hands:

Masked Damsels:

Shy: Brianna Jimenez

Moody: Kaede Urso

Coquette: Vivian Ye

Narcissist: Michaela Lettiere

Maiden Fair: Madeleine Martufi

MASK

A light-hearted tale of the search for the perfect wife, the ballet opens on a heated debate among the Royal Family over the *Prince's* apparent lack of interest in finding a mate. All is well, he assures everyone. Given time, he will surely find the girl of his dreams. (In reality, after a brief encounter, he has already fallen hopelessly in love with a maiden he is desperate to locate.) Over their son's strenuous objections, the *Prince's* anxious parents determine to narrow the field by having members of the court present their daughters at a special audience. The *Princess*, appalled that an arranged marriage may await her as well, commiserates with her brother. The *Prince* reviews each candidate. The first seems aloof and snobbish, the second too buxom, and the third, while pretty and affectionate, proves lifeless as a doll. In her nervousness, a fourth prospect has overimbibed, and a fifth proves too whimsical and flighty for the *Prince's* liking. As the *King* and *Queen* despair over their son's disinterest, the *Princess* introduces her *Gypsy* handmaiden, who has had a vision and promises to help unite the *Prince* with the girl of his dreams. They persuade the *King* and *Queen* that the *Prince* should choose his bride from among the five candidates, each wearing a mask, on the basis of character alone. To the *Prince* they say that he will have to prove his love is real by selecting her from among five candidates. The *Prince* eagerly accepts the challenge, and all set out for the village. To the delight and amazement of the *Villagers*, they are told that one of them will marry the *Prince*. The *Princess* and the *Gypsy* select five of the most beautiful damsels, who will have to win the *Prince* by purity of heart alone. The first is too shy and withdrawn, the second moody and inconsistent, the third coquettish and worldly. Undaunted, the *Prince* dances sensually and passionately with the fourth, but ends disturbed at her self-absorption. All doubt is dispelled, however, as the fifth and final candidate begins to dance an exuberant dance, confirming that the *Prince* has, at last, found his *Maiden Fair*. All rejoice at the happy ending.

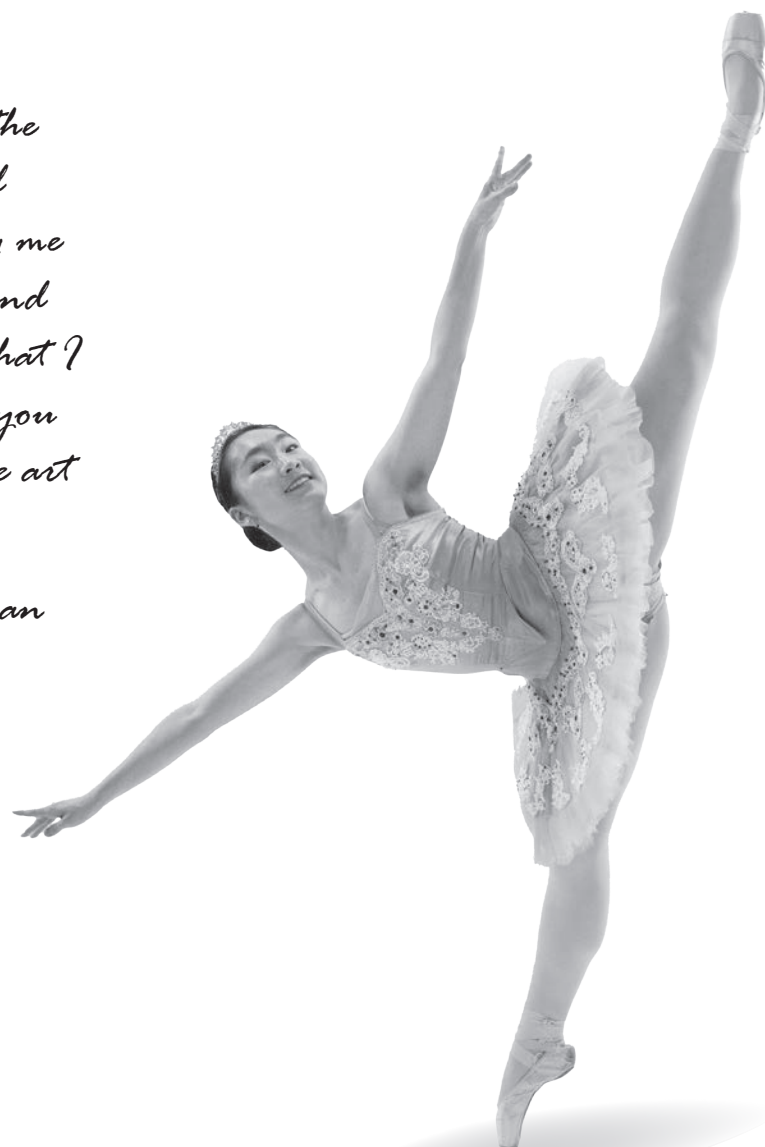


*Some succeed because they are destined to;
most succeed because they are determined to.
By Anatole France (French Author)*



*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



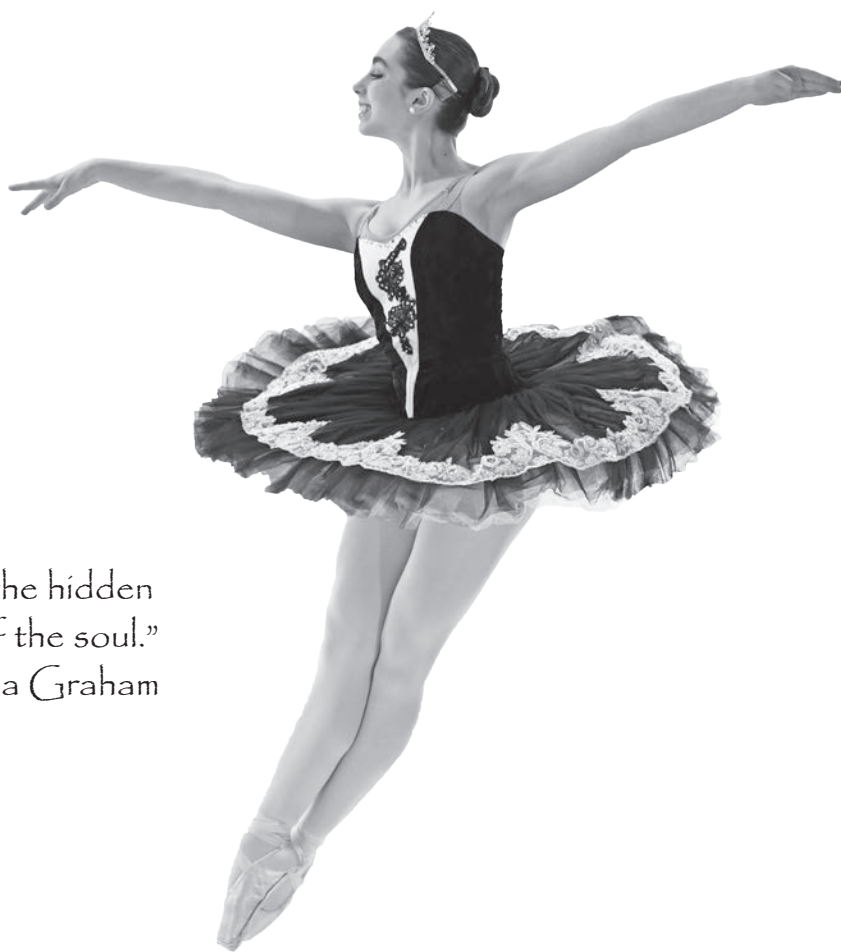
VIVIAN ZIJIA YE – Age 17
Ward Melville High School
Twelfth Grade

With her exuberant stage presence, powerful jumps and precise technique, Vivian was exceptional reprising her role in the *Sugar Plum Pas de Deux* opposite sensational Guest Artist David Wright in **Nutcracker 2023**. She also imbued her performances of *Dew Drop*, *Clara*, *Friend of Clara*, *Chinese*, and *Flower Soloist* with elan and bravura. Vivian had a tour de force in **BESFI 2023** as the 1st *Bacchante* opposite Guest Artist Francis Lawrence's powerful rendition of *Bacchus* in **Walpurgis Night**. In this year's BESFI performance, Vivian will command the stage in the jaunty *Flames of Paris Pas De Deux*, while culminating her **2024 BESFI** performance show as *Coquette* in **MASK**. Vivian is a multifaceted dancer, having performed in traditional Chinese dances at various Asian-American cultural events, including Mid-Autumn celebrations, Lunar New Year, and the annual Port Jefferson Dragon Boat Festival. Besides ballet, she is an accomplished academic student. Vivian is a National Merit Finalist and has been awarded various state and national awards in Science Olympiads. With an interest in the US justice and legal system, Vivian will be attending Cornell University in the fall majoring in Statistics with a minor in Law and Society.

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 15
Commack High School
Tenth Grade

With her exquisite musicality and effervescent stage presence, Madeleine is proof that hard work is the manifestation of perseverance. In **Nutcracker 2023**, Madeleine dazzled audiences with her debut as *Sugar Plum Fairy*, demonstrating her clean turns, refined presentation and quintessential elegance of mythical royalty. She emoted the vulnerable yet charismatic character of *Clara* and performed *Chinese* with verve. Her rendition of *Dew Drop* was electric. This weekend, Madeleine imparts her talent to the high-spirited *Flames of Paris Pas De Deux*; she will then display her dynamic port de bras and elegance as *Maiden Fair* in **MASK**. Madeleine strives to pursue a career in ballet and has been accepted to the Connecticut John Cranko and The Rock School for Dance Education summer programs. She finds joy in performing and wants a career in dance to share her dedication to ballet with others. An outstanding student, Madeleine is on high honor roll and plays an active role in her school's Student Government, along with both French and Tri-M Honor Societies. A talented violinist, Madeleine achieved a perfect score at NYSSMA and performed in LISFA and SCMEA ensembles. When not dancing, Madeleine likes to read, listen to music, and play with her dog.



DIMITRIOS FURS

my grandpa says its **STORAGE TIME**

keep your furs, leathers, shearlings
& cashmere outerwear with us. Safe,
secure and trusted by thousands of
satisfied clients for over two decades

early package special
expires July 31st

storage*clean&glaze*minor restitching
\$89.

EXPERT SEAMSTRESS ON PREMISES

professional tailoring
&
dress alterations

prom dresses * gowns * men suits

DIMITRIOS FURS
464 N. COUNTRY RD
ST. JAMES, NY 11780

Basic Storage \$79.
Clean & Glaze \$60.
Storage & Clean/Glaze \$99.



*Congratulations Kaede on
your BESFI performance!*



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

-- Martha Graham



Your Trusted IT Solutions Provider

- Technology Solutions • Managed IT & Security Services • Cyber Security Monitoring and Protection
- Compliance Services • Disaster Recovery & Backup Solutions • Professional IT Services

7 Flowerfield St. James, NY 11780

www.connectedtechnology.com

631-724-6504

Principal Dancer



KAEDE URSO – Age 15
Ward Melville High School
Tenth Grade

Seiskaya Ballet's Principal dancer Kaede Urso, known for her rock-steady turns and high-energy jumps, combines grace, elegance, and poise in every role she performs. For BESFI this year, she will be dancing the *Black Swan* variation from the ballet **Swan Lake**. She will also captivate audiences in the role of *Moody* in **MASK**. Her role as the *Sugar Plum Fairy* in **Nutcracker 2023** showcased dazzling partnering sequences with the *Cavalier*, flawlessly performing the *Grand Pas de Deux* as the pinnacle of the show. Her previous roles as *Chocolate Soldier*, majestic *Flower Soloist*, and an enchanting *Chinese dancer* are some of the most demanding roles in the Seiskaya repertoire. Kaede started dancing at an early age, having performed as *Angel* in her first year of the *Nutcracker*. Aside from dancing, Kaede is a dedicated leader in her school and community. She is a Student Government class representative, Honor Student, and Key Club member. Kaede has also received the Girl Scout Bronze and Silver Awards, along with the Presidential Volunteer Award for the past five years. Fearless on and off the stage, Kaede is a volunteer firefighter, as well. She enjoys doing community service, traveling with family, and hanging out with her friends.



*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 2024 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*

*“A dream does not become reality through magic;
it takes sweat, determination, and hard work...”*

— Colin Powell



J.D.I.

First Soloist



MICHAELA D. LETTIERE – Age 13
Harbor Country Day School
Eighth Grade

With an impressive and diverse repertoire, Michaela demonstrates her ability to morph into a range of characters with depth and subtle distinction. Her inaugural portrayal of *Clara* in the **2023 Nutcracker** infused the role with innocence and wonder. Performances as *Chinese* and *Flower Soloist*, showcased her versatility and flair, while her return performances of the rambunctious *Fritz*, delicate *Dew Drop*, and steadfast *Chocolate Soldier* dazzled with precision imbued by her magnificent fouetté turns. In the 2023 BESFI performance, she was charismatic with her artistry as she soared in the *Jumping Girl Variation* from **Paquita** and projected the explosive energy of the *Head Satyr* in **Walpurgus Night**. This BESFI season, she will again mesmerize, taking on the iconic roles of the enigmatic *Esmeralda* and *Narcissist* in **MASK** with her trademark elegance and passion. Renowned as a consummate technician, her technique is matched only by her emotive storytelling and stage presence. For Michaela, ballet isn't just a passion—it's a discipline that fosters resilience, determination, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. Her ambitions extend beyond the stage, as she harbors aspirations of becoming a pediatric surgeon.



Life is not about having things handed to you, and even when they are, don't settle.

—Skylar Brandt



To Valia, Dimitri and all of my Seiskaya teachers,

*Thank you so much for your love and support.
I am so grateful for the opportunity and experience
you have given me.*

*Love,
Morgan*

*Congratulations Morgan and all of the Seiskaya dancers
on your 2024 **BESFI** performance!*

Love, Mommy, Daddy and Madison

Life is not about having things handed to you, and even when they are, don't settle.

—Skylar Brandt

To Valia, Dimitri and all of my Seiskaya teachers,

*Thank you so much for your love and support.
I am so grateful for the opportunity and experience you have given me.*

*Love,
Morgan*

*Congratulations Morgan and all of the Seiskaya dancers on your 2024 **BESFI** performance!*

Love, Mommy, Daddy and Madison



First Soloist



MORGAN MCCARTY – Age 13
Westhampton Beach Middle School
Eighth Grade

A beautiful dancer with impressive flexibility and immaculate turns, Morgan is a dancer to be reckoned with at Seiskaya. Her exemplary work ethic, elite learning aptitude, and attention to details and musicality yield a nuanced dancer who captivates when on stage. Morgan made her debut as the youthful *Clara* and presented her powerful fouettés as *Dew Drop* in **Nutcracker 2023**, along with being featured as a *Friend of Clara*, *Flower Soloist*, and *Fritz*. In her first BESFI performance, Morgan will highlight her stage presence, performing as *Princess* in **MASK**. A skillful dancer, Morgan was accepted to the Connecticut John Cranko School and Ellison Ballet summer programs this year, and attended The Rock School for Dance Education summer intensive in 2022 and 2023. Morgan's dream career is to become a Principal Dancer in a large ballet company, and her diligence in the studio is a testament to her determination. Tenacious in her studies, Morgan was awarded Student of the Quarter in her school for maintaining high grades and being a positive role model. While not dancing, Morgan enjoys golfing, relaxing at the beach, and traveling.



*Congratulations to Morgan and all of the Seiskaya Ballet dancers on
your **BESFI 2024** performance!*





Dear Sara,
Congratulations on another
wonderful year of dancing.

Love,
Daddy, Mommy,
Emma and Ray

First Soloist



SARA LI – Age 16
Ward Melville High School
Eleventh Grade

Steadily rising through the ranks to 1st Soloist, Sara is excited to be returning to the Staller Center stage in a featured role as *Sleepy* in **MASK**. Returning as an ebullient member of the *Syrtaki* corps, she executes the demanding choreography to the rousing toe tapping music of this Greek Folk Classic. In BESFI 2023, Sara performed in the *Bacchantes Pas de Quatre* in **Walpurgis Night**, the evening's centerpiece one act ballet. Sara cherished dancing the mysterious and lively *Gypsy* in BESFI 2023, which is quite colorful and a longtime BESFI audience favorite. In Seiskaya's **Nutcracker 2023**, she proved great versatility as a fanciful *Bo-Peep*, delicate *Snowflake*, synchronized *Flower* soloist, exotic *Arabian* soloist, joyous *Friend of Clara*, and mischievous *Friend of Fritz*. Sara has attended several BESFI Summer Workshops to expand her ballet education. In addition to ballet, Sara plays the flute, is part of Science Olympiad, and is in marching band. She was accepted to the All County Band in 2023. In the future, Sara desires to pursue a career as an Engineer.



LIBERTY

Promoting Peace of
Mind With Great Care

Personal Coverage

Home | Renters | Auto | Flood
Classic Auto | Motorcycle
Watercraft | Umbrella
& Life Insurance

Business Coverage

Liability | Property | BOP | Auto
Flood | Professional | Umbrella
Workers' Compensation
& Life Insurance

Dan Waldeck
631.264.0579
Amityville, NY
www.libertycompany.com
dwaldeck@libertycompany.com
www.linkedin.com/in/dan-waldeck

*"To watch us dance is to hear our hearts speak."
—Hopi Proverb*



*Jillian, you amaze us every day.
We can't wait to see you light up that stage!*

*Love,
Mom, Dad, Abigail, Ryan
Grandma & Grampy
Grandma Rosie & Grandpa Jack*

First Soloist



JILLIAN ROSE RABBITT – Age 14
Samoset Middle School
Eighth Grade

Last year, Jillian brought her stunning extensions and beautiful turns to a plethora of roles during **Nutcracker 2023**. She was featured as *Friend of Clara and Fritz*, *Flower Soloist*, *Arabian Soloist* and as a *Snowflake* in *Snow*. This year in BESFI 2024, she will exhibit her lively stage presence in *Syrtaki*. A central character in the hilarious first scene of **MASK**, Jillian's evocative acting skills will bring the role of *Ditzzy* in **MASK** to life. Jillian's versatility and strength is evident as she confidently presents her dynamic range as a dancer. While Jillian loves to dance, she also loves to write. She hopes to become either a writer or a professional ballerina, and loves that both forms of art allow her to be completely free and creative in expressing herself. An accomplished violinist, Jillian has achieved perfect scores on her NYSSMA solos and has had the honor of performing in LISFA and SCMEA ensembles. Jillian is an ardent academic student. She is a member of National Junior Honor Society and was awarded as Student of the Month at her school. In her free time, Jillian also loves listening to music and enjoys spending time with her family and friends.



Congratulations on 50 years!



serving dancers for over 34 years

Maria Rignola, Owner

POINTE SHOES BY:

- Bloch • Capezio • Chacott • Freed
- Gaynor Minden • Merlet • Mirella • Nikolay
- R-Class • RP Collection • Siberian Swan
- SoDanca • Suffolk

~ Call for an appointment ~

10 Farber Drive, Suite 31, Bellport, NY 11713
(631) 289-7742

***Congratulations Molly,
we are so proud of you!***

Love, Mom, Dad and Joseph



First Soloist



**MOLLY MURRAY – Age 16
Center Moriches High School
Eleventh Grade**

With explosive jumps, Molly is excited to perform as *Voluptuous* in **MASK**, and in *Syrtaki*. In Seiskaya's **Nutcracker 2023**, she danced as *Snowflake*, *Flower*, *Arabian*, *Bo-Peep*, *Mouse*, and *Friend of Clara*. Molly's ballet training has included the Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory and Eglevsky Ballet Summer Intensives. She has been accepted to summer intensives with Princeton at American Repertory Ballet, The Rock School for Dance Education, and Boston Ballet. Outside of ballet, Molly is an accomplished musician who plays the bassoon, flute, and piano. She played the bassoon as a soloist in Hampton Music Educators Association and has received outstanding ratings in NYSSMA. In addition to the arts, Molly studies foreign language and is President of the Student Council at her school. She has won awards for the National Health Science competition, Science Mu Theta, Tri-M, RhoKappa, English and Art Honor Society, Academic Excellence in Science, Presidents Excellence Award of Outstanding Academic Excellence, and is a part of the International Baccalaureate Program. Looking towards the future, she hopes to continue dancing and to land a career in Biogenetics and Biodesign.



Richard Goelz

William Pittenger

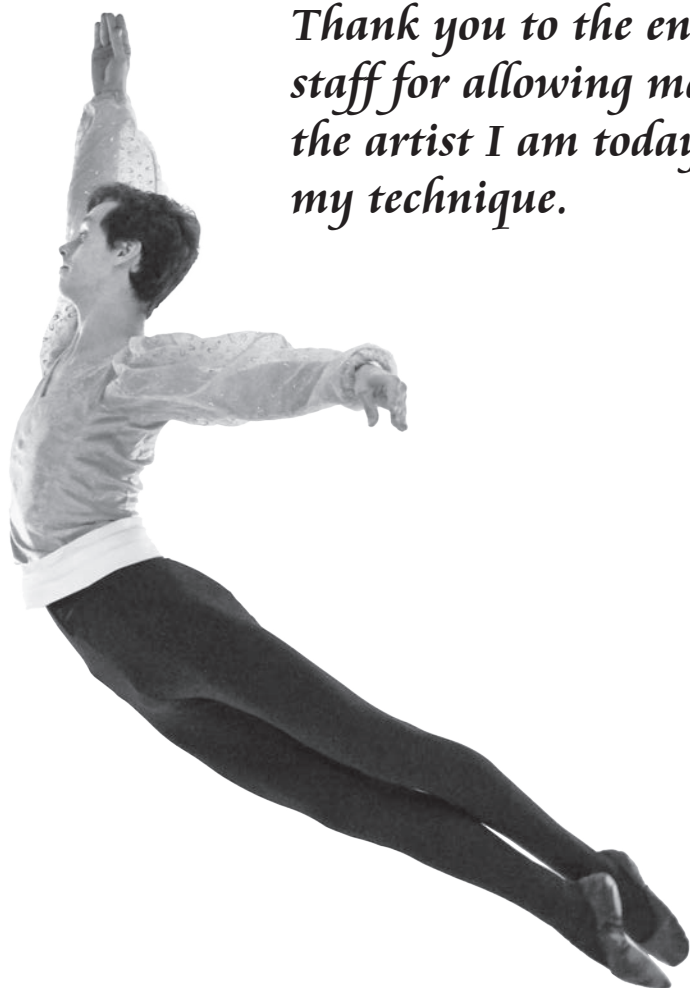
ALL SUFFOLK

Plumbing Contractors, Inc.

***Commercial & Residential
Licensed & Insured***

**1565 Sycamore Avenue
Bohemia, NY 11716**

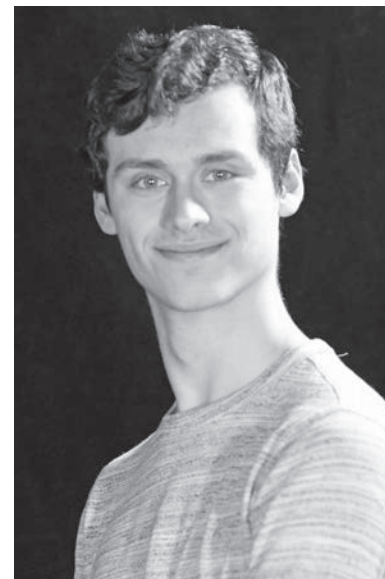
**631-467-1919
Fax: 631-467-1934**



Thank you to the entire Seiskaya staff for allowing me to blossom into the artist I am today and improve my technique.

—Alex

Featured Soloist



ALEX DOBOLI – Age 18
The Stony Brook School
Twelfth Grade

Alex will be performing his self-choreographed contemporary solo “*Clair de Lune*” as well as *Snob’s Father* in **MASK**. In BESFI 2023, he performed his piece *Icarus*, and was *Cossack* in Seiskaya’s **Nutcracker 2023**. His workshop acceptances are: Joffrey Contemporary and Jazz Summer Intensive, Joffrey Ballet Summer Intensive, and the BESFI Summer Workshop in 2023. He was a Velocity MVA Finalist and regional award winner. Alex has won multiple national and regional medals in the Science Olympiad, is the International Council Vice President, and is in the Columbia Science Honors Program. He also won 1st place in the North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad in 2021 and received 2nd place in 2022. Next year, Alex will attend Cornell University to pursue a degree in Linguistics and Computer Science, as well as a minor in Dance. His goals include receiving a PhD in Linguistics and Computer Science, becoming a professor, and dancing in a contemporary-ballet dance troupe.



TIMES BEACON RECORD NEWS MEDIA



Serving the North Shore from Cold Spring Harbor to Wading River

- The Village TIMES HERALD
- The TIMES of Smithtown
- The Port TIMES RECORD
- The TIMES of Middle Country
- The Village BEACON RECORD
- The TIMES of Huntington, Northport & E. Northport

SPECIAL NICHE PUBLICATIONS

- North Shore Homes
- Dickens Festival Guide
- Summer & Harvest Times
- Time for Giving
- Focus on Health
- Congrats Grads
- Prime Times Senior Living
- Arts and Eats
- Parent Connection
- Maps & so much more



**TBR
NEWS MEDIA**

www.tbrnewsmedia.com

24/7 Delivered to Your Desktop or Mobile Device

news • sports • events • advertising • multimedia marketing
Multimedia advertising programs – Print + Web + Social Media

P.O. Box 707, 185 Rt. 25 A • Setauket, New York 11733
631.751.7744

*Best Wishes on your
50th Anniversary*

*Congratulations to the Seiskaya Community
for another successful
BEST!*



Sterling and Adair,

We couldn't be more proud of your perseverance and grace!

The Carter Family

Featured Soloist



STERLING CARTER – Age 15
The Stony Brook School
Ninth Grade

A radiant performer with supple extensions and a noble bearing, Sterling will dance the role of *Washer Woman* in **MASK**. In Seiskaya's **Nutcracker 2022**, Sterling entertained us with memorable portrayals of a charming and watchful *Bo-Peep*, as a member of the stylized, synchronized *Arabian* and exuded enthusiasm as *Boy at the Party*. The **Nutcracker** features two major ensembles on pointe: the dance of the *Snowflakes* and the dance of the *Flowers*. Sterling performed in outstanding fashion. She attended the BESFI Summer Intensive Program in 2023. Having a strong presence at school, Sterling participates on her school's Admission Council and excels in academics, earning high honors. When not dancing, Sterling enjoys baking, reading, and walking with her dogs. Sterling hopes to help people heal from hard events in their life as part of her career.

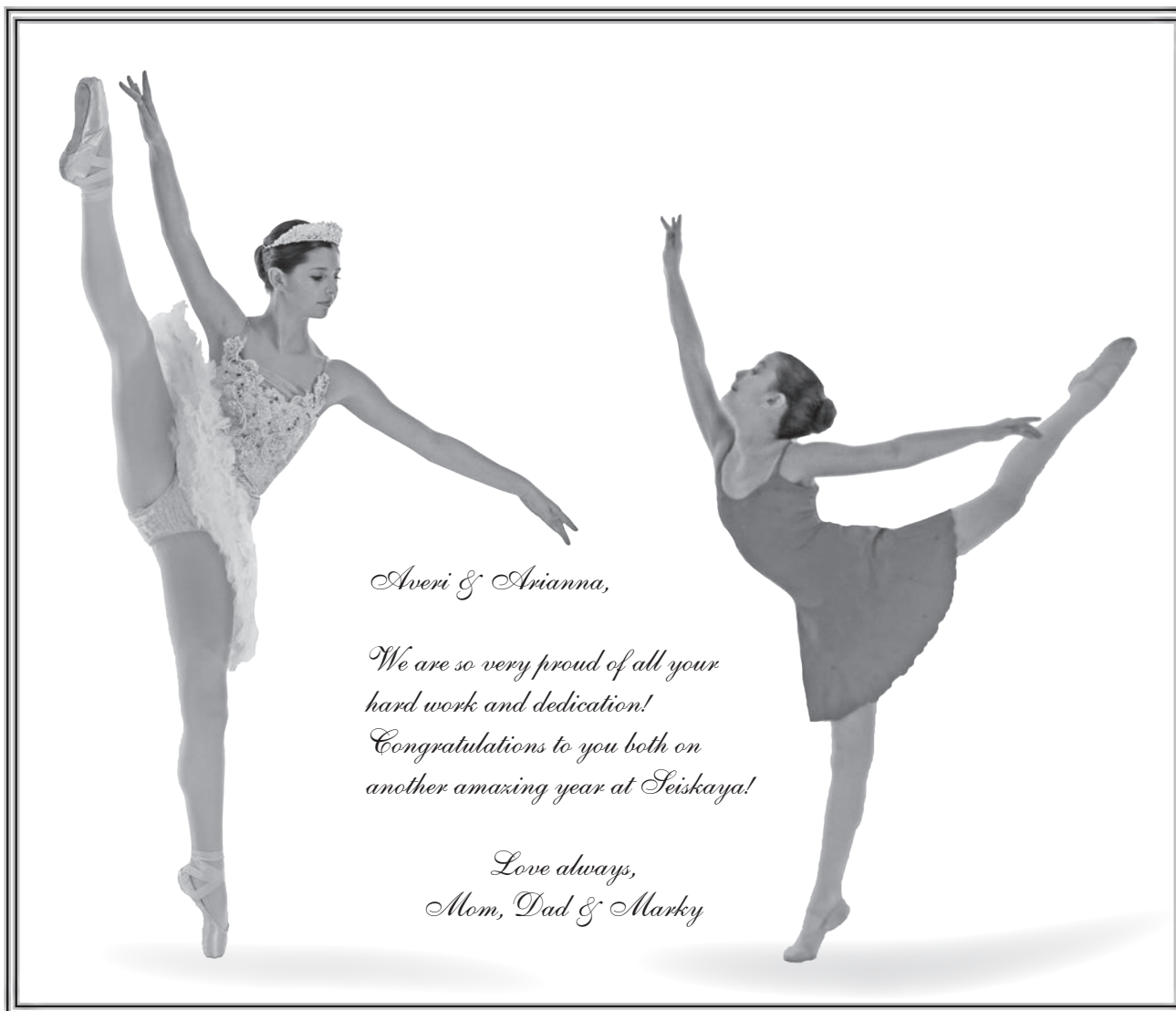


Stony Brook Medicine

Stony Brook Medicine
Community Medical Group
Heart Associates of Long Island
631.941.2273

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





Averi & Arianna,

*We are so very proud of all your
hard work and dedication!
Congratulations to you both on
another amazing year at Teiskaya!*

*Love always,
Mom, Dad & Marky*

Featured Soloist



AVERI LYNN SAVINO – Age 12
St. Patrick School of Smithtown
Seventh Grade

A seasoned dancer with beautiful lines, Averi was a delight to watch in **Nutcracker 2023** as a *Friend of Clara* and *Flower Soloist*. Averi also thrilled audiences as an *Arabian Soloist*, *Trepak*, and *Snow*, displaying her high extensions and technical turns. In BESFI 2023, Averi was seen performing in *Gypsy*, **Dance of the Hours**, and **Walpurgis Night**. This year, BESFI showcases Averi performing in *Syrtaki*, then later taking on the role of *Snob* in **MASK**. A devoted academic, Averi is an active member of the National Junior Honor Society. Averi also earned the Presidential Education Award for Outstanding Academics and aspires to pursue a career in engineering. When not working hard in the studio, Averi can be found singing and choreographing her own dances.



David M. Dunaief, M.D.
Integrative Medicine

Helping You Navigate to
Optimal Health

47 Route 25A, Suite 1
E. Setauket, NY 11733

Office 631.675.2888
Fax 631.380.6608

DrDunaief@medicalcompassmd.com

medicalcompassmd.com



Katie Amella
www.pbse.com/kathleenanna
www.gazze.com/kamella
kamella7551@gmail.com

Custom designs available upon request.

Nature photography, cards, and prints



INFO@ADAMLBEARDDS.COM

WWW.ADAMLBEARDDS.COM



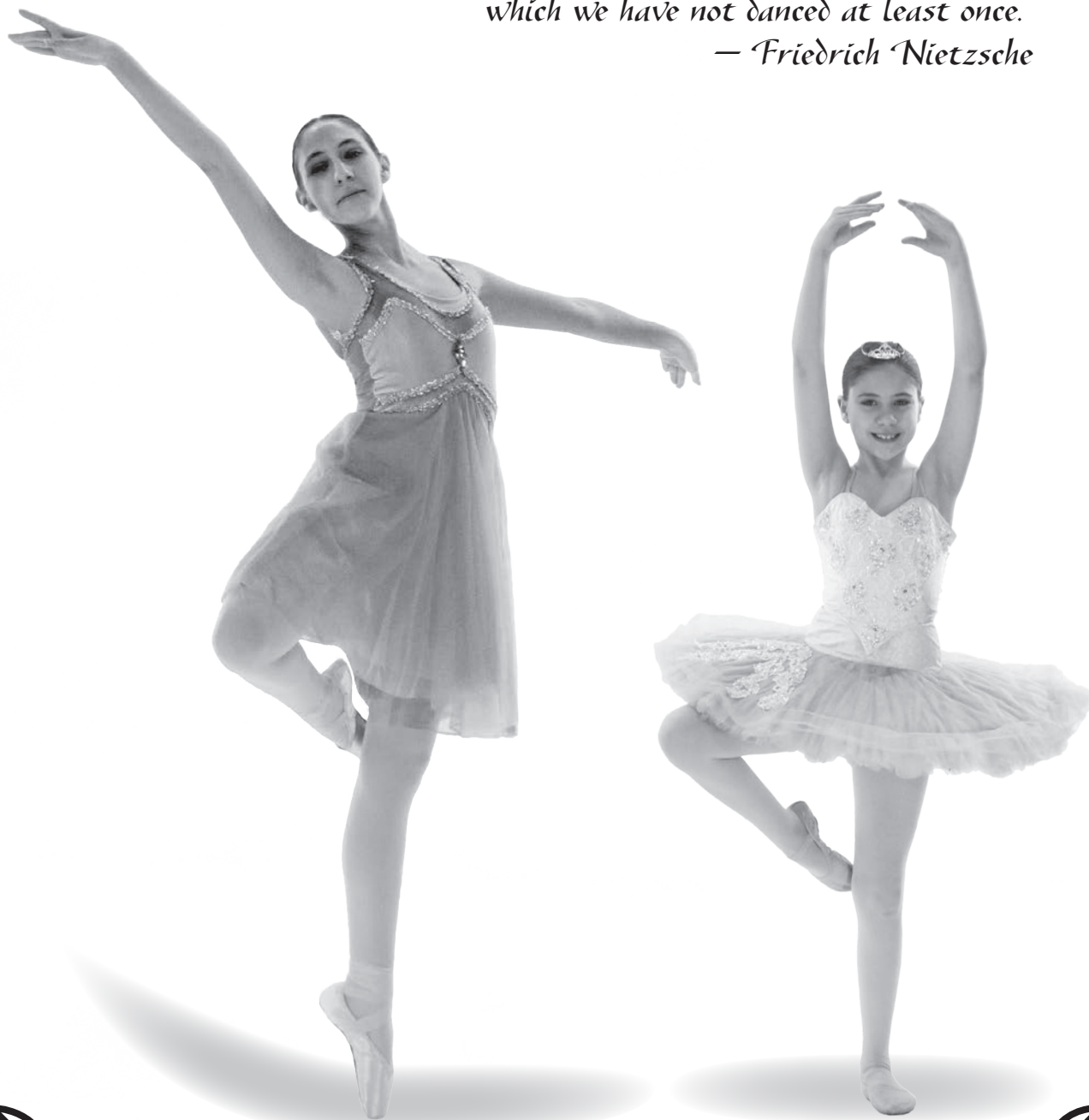
ADAM L. BEAR, DDS, PLLC
PERIODONTICS & IMPLANT SURGERY

Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology

Benton Plaza
365 County Road 39A, Suite 1
Southampton, N.Y. 11968
Telephone (631) 287-1900

Brookhaven Professional Park
285 Sills Road, Suite 4A
Patchogue, N.Y. 11772
Telephone (631) 289-7670

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



Soloist



ATHENA LIOUDAKIS – Age 16
Comsewogue High School
Tenth Grade

With elegant jumps and a passion for performing, Athena will grace the stage as a *Washer Woman* in **MASK** and in *Syrtaki*. In Seiskaya's **Nutcracker 2023**, Athena showcased her fluid lines as a *Snowflake*, *Flower*, *Arabian*, *Mouse*, and *Boy at the Party*. She also recently danced in her school's production of **Anastasia**. Last year, in BESFI 2023, Athena performed in *Gypsy*. Seeking to further her ballet education, Athena attended the BESFI Summer Workshop and hopes to continue her training throughout her life. She has high hopes of pursuing a career as a dancer. In addition to ballet, she plays the violin, crochets, and participates in her school's Art Club. She received the Three Hierarchs Award for scoring a 98 on the Greek Regents Exam.



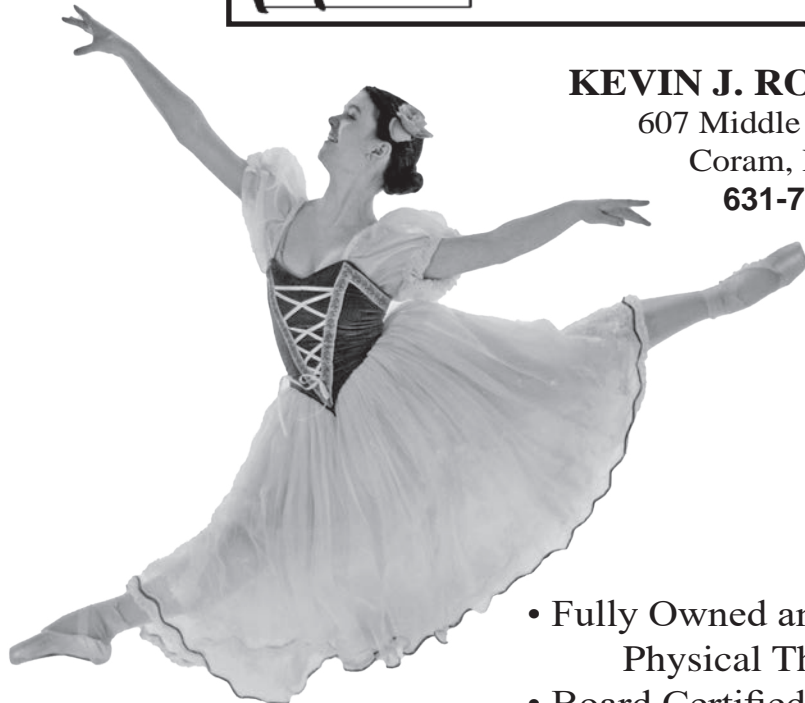
~ *Best of Luck* ~

Congratulations

*Michael Grundfast
and
Law Office Staff*

"Destiny is not a matter of chance... It is a matter of choice!"

CHOOSE YOUR PHYSICAL THERAPIST WISELY



KEVIN J. RODEN, PT, OCS

607 Middle Country Road

Coram, NY 11727

631-732-3900

- Fully Owned and Operated by Physical Therapists
- Board Certified Orthopedic Clinical Specialist in Physical Therapy
- Distinguished Alumnus Award from SUNY Stony Brook
- Carlton Jones Award for Outstanding Clinical Education, Medical College of Virginia
- Adjunct Professor SUNY Stony Brook
- Certified Athletic Trainer on Staff
- Large Indoor Heated Pool

Soloist



RACHEAL RUOCHEN XU – Age 15

Ward Melville High School

Tenth Grade

This BESJ season, Racheal will delight the audience as a *Washer Woman* in **MASK** and as a part of *Syrtaki*. In Seiskaya's **Nutcracker 2023**, she entertained us as a *Snowflake*, *Flower*, *Arabian*, *Mouse*, and *Boy at the Party*. In addition to ballet, Racheal excels at the violin, is a part of Science Olympiad, and is a participant in Model UN. She was ranked NYSSMA Level 6 for the violin for 3 years and has won awards in both the national and state levels of the Science Olympiad competitions. She enjoys reading books, studying, and writing. In the future, Racheal aspires to receive a doctorate degree and to become an Engineer working with simulations.

Choryphee



ADAIR MADELEINE CARTER – Age 11
Harbor Country Day School
Fifth Grade

With jumps and turns well beyond her years, Adair has captured audiences as *Sheep* and a *Polichinelle* in **Nutcracker 2022**. She will delight the audience this weekend in *Kazachok* and as a *Villager* in **MASK**. Adair is also an Honors Student at Harbor Country Day School. Ever the performer, Adair hopes to become an actress, a ballerina - or perhaps both!



Harry L. Hackett III, CFM, CRPC®
First Vice President - Investments
Wealth Management Advisor

Global Wealth Management
57 Hampton Road Ste 1
Southampton, NY 11968
T 631 204 8663 Direct
T 800 234 3816 Toll Free
F 631 456 4901
harry_hackettiii@ml.com



Merrill Lynch

CASTON CREATIVE CONSULTING



WEB DESIGN
GRAPHIC DESIGN
BRANDING SERVICES
BUSINESS SERVICES
SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING

WWW.CASTON.CC
CONTACT ROSIE AT 631 604 4406

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

Choryphee



ISLA ROSE CASTON – Age 9
Homeschool
Third Grade

Isla captivated audiences in **Nutcracker 2023** as *Angel*, *Party Girl*, and *Soldier*. From her dynamic portrayal of *Satyr* and *Oriental* in the 2023 BESFI performance, to her upcoming roles this weekend, including *Kazachok*, *Villager*, and *Page*, Isla's stage presence is undeniable. Committed to making a positive impact in the world, she always leaves a lasting impression.



Choryphee

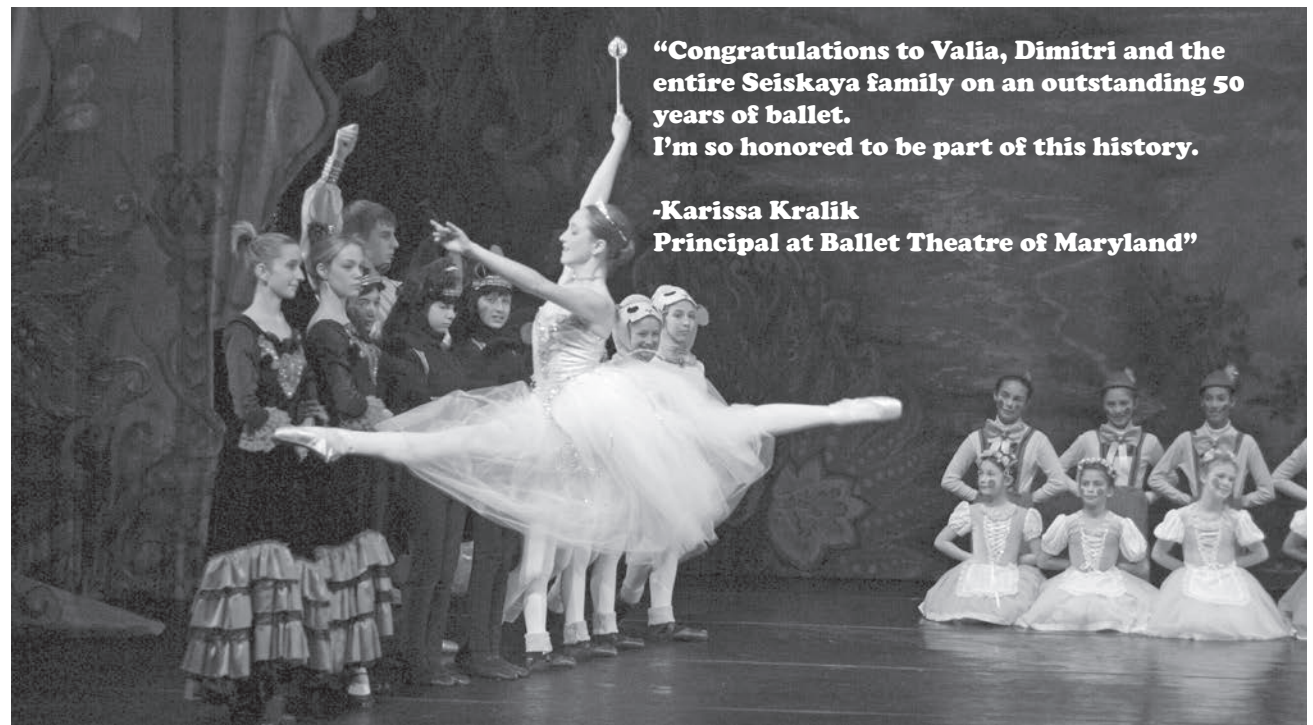


GRACE CHEN – Age 9
Smithtown Christian School
Fourth Grade

Grace is a dedicated young dancer with a passion for ballet that shines through in every performance. In **Nutcracker 2023** she proved to be a brave *Soldier* and a delightful *Party Girl*. This BESFI season, she storms the stage in *Kazachok* and charms as *Villager*. Grace is looking forward to going en pointe and desires to become a teacher, as she loves being with kids.

Dance and be glad!
— *Jeremiah*

*Congratulations **Grace Chen** and
all the Seiskaya Ballet Dancers
on your 2024 **BESFI** performance!*



**“Congratulations to Valia, Dimitri and the
entire Seiskaya family on an outstanding 50
years of ballet.
I’m so honored to be part of this history.**

**-Karissa Kralik
Principal at Ballet Theatre of Maryland”**

"Learning to walk sets you free.
Learning to dance gives you the
greatest freedom of all: to express
your whole self, the person you
are."



Lilah,
We love watching you light up the stage!



Love,
Mom, Dad,
Charlotte, Gabriel
Grandma & Pa



Choryphee



LILAH DORAN – Age 9
Sts. Philip and James School
Fourth Grade

Lilah has graced Seiskaya's **Nutcracker** stages in roles from *Angel* to *Soldier*, *Party Girl* to *Sheep*, all showcasing her versatility. Last BESFI, she mesmerized as *Oriental* and *Satyr*. This season, Lilah embodies the rustic *Villager* and spirited *Kazachok*, infusing each step with excitement. Renowned for her extensions and stage presence, she is sure to delight this BESFI.



Choryphee



NINA ELIZABETH HATEAU – Age 12
Albert G. Prodel Middle School
Seventh Grade

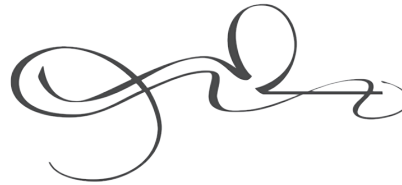
Nina will be making her BESFI debut in the traditional Greek dance *Syrtaki*. She is an elegant dancer with impressive extensions. In the **2023 Nutcracker**, Nina performed the roles of *Mouse* and *Polichinelle* with confidence and poise. An accomplished violinist and vocalist, she has been selected for SCMEA for three consecutive years. Nina aspires to be a lawyer and a dancer.



Nina,

We are so proud of all your
 dedication and hard work.
 Keep shining!

Love,
 Mom, Dad and Henry

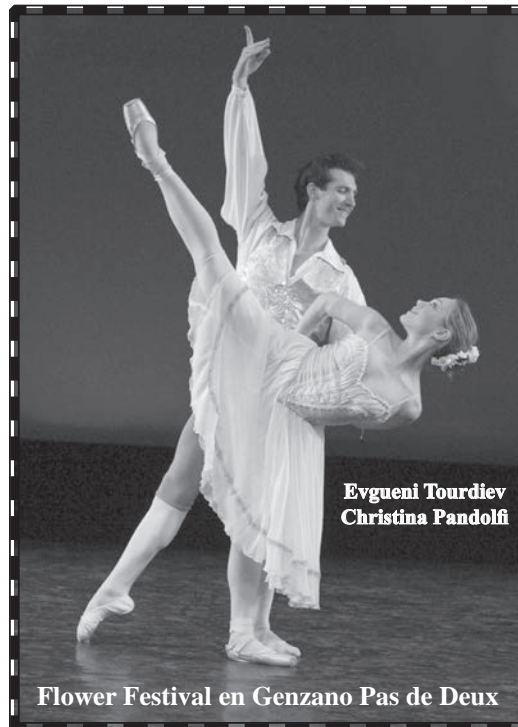


Happy 50th Anniversary Seiskaya Ballet!

Valia and Dimitri:

Thank you for your constant support
 and love - you have touched the lives
 of more people than you know.

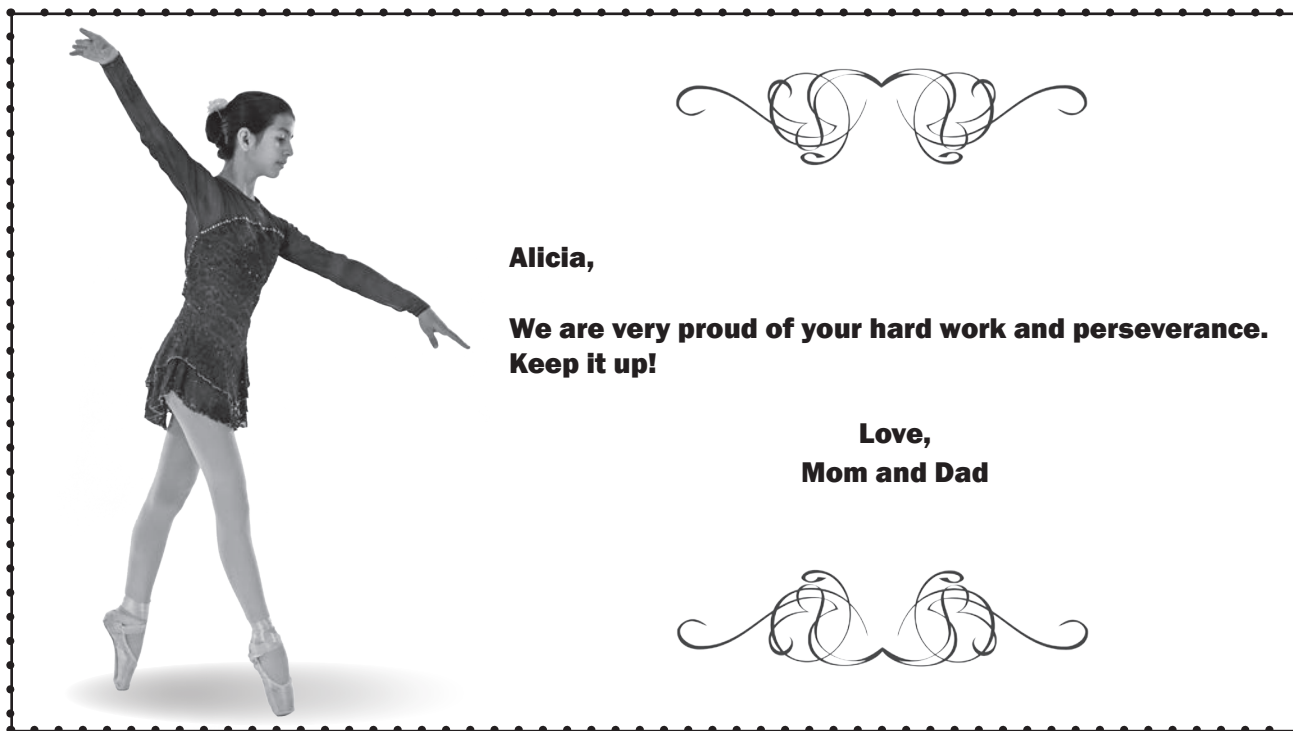
Love you,
 Seven



Evgueni Tourdiev
Christina Pandolfi

Flower Festival en Genzano Pas de Deux





Choryphee



ALICIA PEREZ-CANOA – Age 12
Minesauke Elementary School
Sixth Grade

Alicia returns to the BESFI stage to charm audiences in *Kazachok* and as *Villager* in **MASK**. In **Nutcracker 2023**, she performed the roles of *Soldier*, *Polichinelle*, and *Sheep*. A strong turner with a love for dancing, Alicia is always striving to improve her ballet skills. With a passion for physics, Alicia hopes to become a theoretical physicist.

Our best wishes to
VALIA AND THE ENTIRE BESFI CAST



Harry Boutis, D.D.S.

General & Cosmetic Dentistry

2500 Nesconset Hwy., Building 16A,
Stony Brook, NY 11790
631-265-0030



Choryphee



ARIANNA LEE SAVINO – Age 9
St. Patrick School of Smithtown
Fourth Grade

Arianna shined in diverse roles from *Soldier* to *Angel*, and *Sheep* to *Polichinelle* in the **2023 Nutcracker**. In BESFI 2023, she embraced the *Oriental* allure and mischievous charm as *Satyr*. This BESFI season, Arianna performs the spirited *Kazachok* and as a humble *Fieldhand* in **MASK**. With beautiful feet and regal carriage, she infuses every step with purpose and grace.





Keep on dancing!
 With love,
 Nana & GBob





AEC
 National Recruiters, Inc.
www.aecnationalrecruiters.com

“Serving the construction industry
 for more than 40 years”
 Supporting the Arts for 4 Generations

Lake Grove **DINER**



2211 Route 347 • Lake Grove, NY 11755

Phone: 631-471-5370

Fax: 631-471-9474



**A FAMILY-FRIENDLY CAMPGROUND LOCATED IN
THE FOOTHILLS OF THE ADIRONDACKS.**

**4948 STATE HWY 29
JOHNSTOWN, NY 12095
ROYALMOUNTAINCAMPGROUND.COM
(518) 762-1946**



Choryphee



**OLIVIA CLAIRE SPATARO – Age 11
William T. Rogers Middle School
Sixth Grade**

An engaging young dancer, Olivia will perform in the rousing *Kazachok*, and as a *Fieldhand* in *MASK*. She thrilled audiences in the **2023 Nutcracker** as a *Polichinelle*, *Angel*, and a *Sheep*. Olivia excels in music, participating in NYSSMA for the piano and viola, as well as SCMEA for vocals. Outside of ballet, Olivia enjoys making jewelry, writing and drawing.

ELYSE S. RAFAL, MD, FAAD
Rafal Center for Dermatology & Cosmetic Surgery
DermResearchCenter of New York, Inc.



DermResearchCenter of New York, Inc.
Diplomate, American Board of Dermatology
Stony Brook Medical Park, 2500 Route 347, Building 22A
Stony Brook, NY 11790
erafal@drcny.com
rafaldermatology.com
T 631.689.0300
F 631.689.2112



Choryphee



JASMINE WEI – Age 11
Harbor Country Day School
Sixth Grade

Jasmine has enchanted audiences with her varied roles in the **2023 Nutcracker** as *Boy at Party*, *Arabian*, *Trepak*, *Mouse*, and *Flower*. This BESFI season we will see her delight in the lively energy of *Syrtaki* and bring rustic charm to a *Fieldhand* in **MASK**. Jasmine enjoys singing and has graced the stage at Carnegie Hall with the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra.



Dear Jasmine and Josephine,

*Congratulations on another year of great works.
You made us proud. Enjoy the show.*

*Love,
Mom, Dad and Tom*

GG





**Registration
Fee: \$325**

LONG ISLAND LITTLE DRAGONS CHINESE SCHOOL

ASIAN CULTURAL SUMMER CAMP

Activities:

- Arts and Crafts
- Chinese Yo-Yo
- Traditional Dance
- Chinese Calligraphy
- Taiko Drum
- Aikido

Date:

Aug 12-16, 2024

Time:

9:00am -4:00pm

**Early drop-off & late pick-up
available for \$15/day or
\$50/week**

Address:

**Centereach High School
14 43rd Street
Centereach, NY 11720**

SPACE IS LIMITED

Register now at:

**[littledragonschineseschool.com/
summer-camp](http://littledragonschineseschool.com/summer-camp)**



Long Island Little Dragons Chinese School, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
The summer camp program is not affiliated with Middle Country School District.



Choryphee



**JOSEPHINE WEI – Age 11
Harbor Country Day School
Sixth Grade**

With precise movements and a shining stage presence, Josephine brought her **2023 Nutcracker** roles of *Boy at Party*, *Mouse*, and *Trepak* to life. In BESFI 2024, she will dazzle audiences in *Syrtaki* and as a *Fieldhand* in **MASK**. Having performed with the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra at Carnegie Hall, Josephine's love of the arts makes her a standout performer.

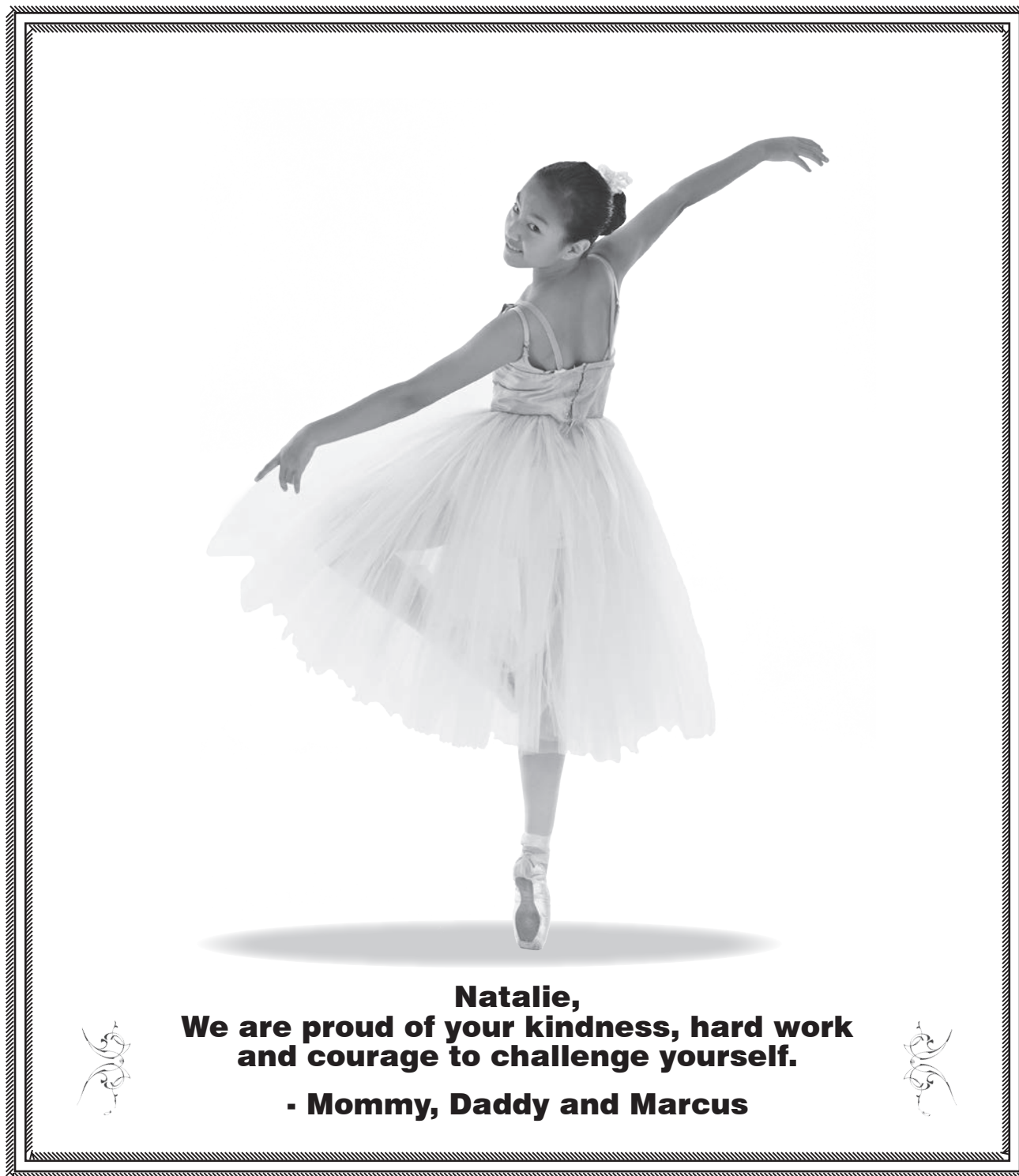


Choryphee



NATALIE SAILIN ZHANG – Age 11
Nassakeag Elementary School
Sixth Grade

After her heartwarming performance in **Nutcracker 2023** as *Mouse*, *Polichinelle*, and one of *Bo Peep's* playful *Sheep*, Natalie is thrilled to return to the Staller Center stage. This weekend, she will charm audiences as a *Villager* in **MASK** and in *Kazachok*. A talented musician, Natalie placed second in the SPTF 200s Piano Competition this year.



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

- Mommy, Daddy and Marcus



Break a leg to all the Sziskaya Ballet dancers.
Smile big, jump high and dance with your whole heart.

Love, your proud former teacher,
Alexandra Palma

On the lighter side...
Boy, do I need
physical therapy!



I see it ... it's a
bird, it's a plane,
it's ...



result of
too much
rehearsing

Corps



XUANJI (ALICE) HUANG – Age 9
Nassakeag Elementary School
Fourth Grade

Alice dazzles audiences with her spectacular jumps. Her many credits include *Angel*, *Soldier*, *Sheep* and *Polichinelle* in the **2023 Nutcracker**. Alice's performance in *Kazachok* and as a *Villager* in **MASK** is not to be missed. She is an accomplished clarinet player and attends Kumon, Chinese School and School Nova. She plans to become a teacher and dance instructor.



Dear Alice,

Well done!

We are so proud of your hard work and persistence!
 Keep dancing with grace and passion!

Love,
 Mom, Dad & Chi



FOR THE LIFE LESSONS YOU
 PREPARED ME FOR, I AM
 GRATEFUL FOR YOUR FIERCE LOVE
 VALIA AND DIMITRI!

— BB

*For bringing my Mom and I together to
 always do something we love... the ballet!
 Love, Maria and Erica (aka- the O.G BB)*





*Congratulations to the Cast of
BESFI 2024!*

Dance 'N' Things

*Open 6 days a week
for all of your dance needs.*

*Pointe shoe fittings
— appointment
recommended —*

We carry:

- Bloch • Capezio
- Russian Pointe

*79 East Main Street
Smithtown, NY 11787
631-360-4339*

Corps



EMMA LI – Age 10
Sawmill Intermediate School
Fourth Grade

A dedicated dancer with a strong work ethic, Emma will entertain audiences in *Kazachok* and as a *Villager* in *MASK*. Emma portrayed a heavenly *Angel*, strong *Soldier*, playful *Polichinelle* and *Child at Party* in the **2023 Nutcracker**. She is an accomplished pianist and an aspiring lawyer, and loves how studying dance helps her grow both physically and mentally.



Chris E. Lascarides, MD
Department of Medicine, Gastroenterology
Clinical Associate Professor
NYU Long Island School of Medicine

**NYU Langone Long Island Medical Associates -
East Patchogue**

285 Sills Road, Bldg. #5-6, Suite H, East Patchogue, NY 11772
T 631-228-5802 F 929-455-9868

Dear Valia and Dimitri:

Thank you for teaching Katie how to practice discipline, to strive for perfection in all things, and to have grace – on and off the barre. Your lessons will never be forgotten and our love for Siskaya will be eternal.

—The Lascarides Family

Corps



CORA SORAHAN – Age 9
St. Patrick School of Smithtown
Fourth Grade

Cora has risen quickly through the ranks and cannot wait to showcase her energy and strong stage presence as a *Villager* in **MASK**, and in the *Kazachok* ensemble. In her **2023 Nutcracker** debut, Cora danced as *Soldier*, *Angel* and *Child at Party*. Cora enjoys painting, putting on stage makeup, and performing for audiences. Cora hopes to be a professional dancer someday.



"Dancers don't need wings to fly"



*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 - ♡*

Zhong & Li Services, Inc
Phone: 516-896-0995
Email: nzhong2014@gmail.com

Medicare plans can be complicated and confusing, but we can help you get informed and make the right choice.

We contracted with multiple Medicare insurance plan sponsors (UHC, Aetna, Wellcare, Humana and BCBS).

Dear Sophia,

We are so proud of you and all your accomplishments.

Mom, Dad, Emily, and Steven



Corps



SOPHIA BELLE ZHONG – Age 10
William Sidney Mount Elementary
Fourth Grade

Sophia takes the stage this weekend as a *Villager* in **MASK** and in the spirited *Kazachok*. Her **2023 Nutcracker** performances as *Child at Party*, *Soldier*, *Sheep* and *Polichinelle* were notable. Sophia excels at her studies, loves mathematics, and hopes to become a software engineer. She plays the piano and violin. Sophia was awarded her school's prestigious SCORES award.

Dear Cora,

You have come so far and we are very proud of you. Wishing you and the entire Seiskaya family a great show!

Love,
Mom, Mike, Lyla and Katie



Junior Corps



ANYA CANRU LI – Age 9
Holbrook Road Elementary School
Fourth Grade

Anya is excited to make her BESFI debut this weekend in *Kazachok* and as a *Villager* in **MASK**. She shined in her many roles in the **2023 Nutcracker** including: *Child at Party*, *Soldier*, *Sheep* and *Polichinelle*. In addition to her devotion to ballet, Anya plays the flute and enjoys ice skating, drawing and reading. She hopes to become an art teacher and a dancer.

Dear Anya,

We are so proud of you!
Dance to the rhythm of your inner moonlight!

Love,
Mom & Dad



Junior Corps



CHLOE LIOUDAKIS – Age 9
Boyle Road Elementary School
Third Grade

Chloe will showcase her skills this weekend as a *Villager* in **MASK** and in the *Kazachok* character dance. She brought energy and poise to her roles of *Soldier*, *Polichinelle* and *Child at Party* in the **2023 Nutcracker**. Chloe attends Greek school and studies traditional Greek dance. She is a skilled ukulele player. She aspires to become a ballerina and help people as a dentist.


Smile!

YOUR SMILE IS
OUR SPECIALTY

 **THREE VILLAGE**
ORTHODONTICS

**Braces and Invisalign for
 Children and Adults**

Dr. Andrew Everett
2500 Nesconset Hwy Bldg 6B
Stony Brook, NY 11790
(631) 689-3131



DIAMOND
MEDICAL CLINIC

30941 Mirada Blvd,
San Antonio, FL 33576 (352) 668 4018

IV/IM Vitamin Therapy
Weight Loss Meds and Injections
T- replacement
Shockwave Therapy

Dear Lyanna,

*Keep rising above all expectations.
You can achieve anything that you set your
heart on!*

*—Love you very much!
Mommy, Daddy, & Grandma*



BB & GG

FARM • GREENHOUSE • NURSERY

625 Route 25A • Saint James, NY 11780

Ph. 631-862-9182

Fax. 631-862-9075

Bill, Bob, Gary, or Leonna

Junior Corps



LYANNA SHRESTHA – Age 6
Minnesauke Elementary School
First Grade

A promising young dancer, Lyanna will delight BESFI audiences in the roles of *Earl's Page* and *Villager* in **MASK** and in the lively *Kazachok*. She endeared herself to audiences as *Lamb Chop*, *Angel*, *Soldier* and *Child at Party* in the **2023 Nutcracker**. Lyanna strives to grow as a dancer and is also an accomplished violinist who achieved a perfect score in Level 2 NYSSMA.

Junior Corps



SIHAN TANG – Age 8
Nassakeag Elementary School
Third Grade

Sihan will grace the stage this year in her first BESFI performance as a *Villager* in **MASK** and will demonstrate her character technique in *Kazachok*. She charmed audiences with her performances as *Angel*, *Soldier* and *Child at Party* in the **2023 Nutcracker**. Sihan works hard on her ballet technique and hopes to pursue a career as a teacher.

Trainee



EVANGELINE SIENNA CORREIA – Age 8
Dogwood Elementary School
Third Grade

Evangeline returns to the stage after her lovable performance in the **2023 Nutcracker** as *Child at Party*, *Lamb Chop*, *Soldier* and *Angel*. She is thrilled to showcase her skills in *Kazachok* and as the *Viscount's Page* in **MASK**. Evangeline loves dancing, writing and drawing. She aspires to be an author and illustrator and has been recognized as "Author of the Month" twice in school.

Our sweet Evangeline,

Congratulations on your first **BESFI** performance!
 We are so proud of you and the amazing ballerina
 you are becoming.

Follow your dreams and your heart and continue to
 let your happiness and passion shine through.

We love you so much!

Love,
 Mommy, Daddy, Mason & Scarlett



Trainee



JESSICA TUTHILL – Age 7
Tackan Elementary School
Second Grade

Jessica pleased audiences as a playful *Lamb Chop*, *Child at Party*, *Soldier* and *Angel* in the **2023 Nutcracker**. This weekend she will be featured in *Kazachok* and as the *Marquis' Page* in **MASK**. Jessica excels at jumps and hopes to pursue a career in teaching. When she is not in the dance studio, Jessica enjoys reading, playing outside, bike riding and swimming.

Julia,

We are so proud of you and the ballerina you are becoming.

Congratulations on your first **BESFI** performance!

Continue to follow your heart.

We love you so much!

Love,
 Mommy, Daddy, Henry & Isabella



Proudly keeping Smithtown in Good Hands



Living in Smithtown can be expensive, but I'm here to help you find ways to save. I'll help you find the right amount of coverage specific to your needs to keep more of your hard-earned money in your wallet. Give me a call today.

THE TROIANO AGENCY INC.
631-724-2100
25 MANOR RD
SMITHTOWN



I'm always here with local advice you can trust.

Prices vary based on how you buy. Not applicable in CA. Subject to terms, conditions and availability. Allstate Fire and Casualty Insurance Co., Northbrook, IL

15248172

Trainee



JULIA M. ZARCONE – Age 8
Minnesauke Elementary School
Third Grade

Julia is excited to take the stage as the *Duke's Page* in **MASK** and in the *Kazachok* character dance. She captivated audiences as *Angel*, *Soldier* and *Child at Party* in the **2023 Nutcracker**. Julia enjoys playing the violin, participating in Girl Scouts, and drawing. She is enthralled by outer space and her future dreams include studying astronomy and becoming a ballerina.

Modern Class



Bug-on-a-windshield

Corpse de ballet



I may have bad
news for you -



one leg is shorter
than the other.



Fully Insured
Free Estimates

ARBOR VISTA TREE SPECIALISTS

Pruning, View Work, Sun-Trimming,
Elevating, Pool Areas, Tree Surgery
Emergency Storm Damage
Large Tree Removal
Firewood - Woodchips

JON ROSNER
631-246-5377

Lic# 18902HI

The Smithtown News

A Weekly Tradition...

... for those who want
complete coverage of their community
including local government and school news,
local sports, people, community events
and so much more!

Publishers of

The Smithtown News • The Observer • Huntington News
Commack News • The Mid-Island News • Islip News

1 Brooksite Drive • Smithtown • Long Island

631-265-2100

Sometimes looks can
be deceiving ...



and then again



Behind the Scenes

Costume Mistress: A. Savino

Costume Design: B. Bergeman, R. Camhi,
S. DiFiore, K. Kralik, A. Savino

Costume Helpers: L. Caraiani, J. Hsu,
D. Lettiere, E. Pyros, B. Spataro

Rehearsal Mistresses: D. Atoian,
L. Caraiani, E. Pyros

Office Manager: K. Engel

Office Assistants: D. Lettiere, A. Berti,
K. Valosis

Ad Composition: D. Papadakos, S. Shrestha,
K. Urso

Biographies: A. Berti, C. Doran,
D. Lettiere, M. Martufi, A. Savino

Bio Editors: D. Lettiere, K. Engel

Proofreaders: D. Lettiere, L. Pandolfi

Electronic Imaging: S. Shrestha, K. Urso,
D. Lettiere

Photographers: S. Butkevich, L. Caraiani,
D. Lettiere

Ad Tracking: K. Engel

Ad Accounting: K. Engel

Ticket Purveyor: V. Papadakos

Bulk Mailing: V. Papadakos

Webmaster: K. Engel

Lighting Design/ Tech Director: L. Silver

Stage Manager: L. Silver

Thank you to all our friends and supporters
not listed here who have helped to make these
performances and program journal possible.

Law Offices of

Nicole J. Zuvich, P.C.

NICOLE J. ZUVICH, ESQ.



Founding Partner

Elder Law & Estate Planning Attorney

nicole.zuvich@zuvichlaw.com

Tel:(631) 840-0100 Fax:(631)840-0084

**Former president, Suffolk County Women's Bar Assoc.*

**1050 Franklin Ave Ste#308
Garden City, NY 11530**

**400 West Main Street Ste#332
Babylon, NY 11702**



**American Ballet Theatre
Principal Dancer Gil Boggs
Sugar Plum Pas de Deux**



**Seiskaya Ballet Principal
Dancer Amy Wilks
inaugural Seiskaya
Nutcracker 1995**

Home of Fine



Greek Cuisine



Come in and enjoy a thoughtfully prepared meal, friendly service, relaxed and casual dining perhaps over a glass of wine or a mug of cold beer.

*Your host,
Loucas Pericli*

*127-16 Smithtown Blvd
Nesconset Plaza
(631) 979-0924*

Black Hat Consulting, Inc.

Translating technology into plain English

Your trusted technology partner,
specializing in Azure/Microsoft 365 Cloud-based solutions,
cyber security and consulting services.



631.488.5324

max@bhcny.net

www.bhcny.net



*Bravo Seiskaya Ballet for
50 years of excellence!
Congratulations to the cast of BESFI 2024*