

JUDITH SVALANDER DANCE THEATRE



THE
NUTCRACKER



WOODSTOCK OPERA HOUSE

DECEMBER 8-17, 2023



Photos by: CameraLady.com



Richard Burton Amundsen

January 14, 1947 – August 26, 2023

Judith Svalander Dance Theatre – 40+ Years Lighting Designer

Rick, you have made our lives shine from behind the footlights, side lights, and overhead lights for over 40 years! You are irreplaceable in our hearts as an artist and friend. To your beloved family, thank you for sharing Rick for the countless hours he worked to allow others to bask in his treasured theatrical lighting. You truly allowed us to create beauty, drama, and dance.

Fly free friend. We will always miss your smile, kindness, and generosity. Our performances are the caliber they are, because of you.

With love, Judith Svalander and Company



The Woodstock Opera House

The Woodstock Opera House is owned and proudly maintained by the City of Woodstock as a service to the public.

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Judith Svalander (Director and Choreographer for *The Nutcracker*)

A former professional dancer, Mrs. Svalander danced for 10 years in the United States and Northern Europe before returning home to open Judith Svalander School of Ballet. She has danced in – or directed – *The Nutcracker* almost annually since the 1960's. Mrs. Svalander, once again, eagerly looks forward to sharing these performances with you at the Woodstock Opera House. She is grateful for the support of the school, the cast, the community, and the Woodstock Opera House. May the spirit fulfill you and may your holidays bring peace. (Full bio available on our website)

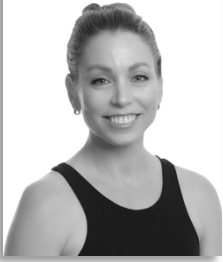


Julie Fiore-Hirsch (Staging Repetitur, Assistant Director for JSSB) Mrs. Hirsch has taught at JSSB for over 20 years and assists Mrs. Svalander throughout the year with the school's various rehearsals and performances. She has also choreographed classical ballet, contemporary pointe and character pieces for JSDT for over 20 years. Her choreography has been featured in Dance Chicago, Best of Dance Chicago and Winter Festival of Dance. A JSSB alumna, she trained directly and extensively under Judith Svalander while also enjoying a variety of accomplished guest teachers throughout the years such as Marek Cholewa, Rosanna

Ruffo Cholewa and Edward Villella. Later, she furthered her ballet training at Milwaukee Ballet and was selected to join their trainee program. While there, she worked with Susan Clark and Basil Thompson, among others. In tandem, she earned her Associate of Science degree while extending her professional training under some of Chicago's finest such as the Ruth Page Foundation, Lou Conte Dance Studio and River North Dance. Other specific influencers include Roger Turner, Linda Spriggs, Greg Begley, and Larry Long. She currently enjoys guest teaching engagements throughout the Chicagoland area.

Laura Bobowski (Creative Dance Director, Mother Ginger, Maid) Ms. Bobowski has a Master's Degree in early childhood education, has retired from teaching the children at SEDOM and is widely known for the wonderful dance programs she has produced for these children. Ms. Bobowski has been teaching at JSSB over 30 years, and her Creative Dance program stands alone as the premiere training for 4-6 year olds. She continues to perform with the Judith Svalander Dance Theatre; most recently as the Stepmother in *Cinderella*.





Chesney Lofgren (Staging Repetitur) A JSSB graduate, Mrs. Lofgren has a BA in Dance from Columbia College Chicago with a concentration in Performance & Choreography. She worked with some of the country's most well-known choreographers & companies, including Joe Goode Performance Group, before changing her focus to teaching and choreography. She has taught throughout the Chicagoland area at both the recreational and pre-professional level and has created programming and curriculum for dance programs for children and adults of all ages, specifically for early childhood dance. She values strong technique and strives to create an environment for her students that allows them to train safely and study the art of dance while learning skills that will encourage confidence and strength both inside and outside of the studio. Her choreography has been seen in dozens of musical theater productions, and she continues to work on new shows when scheduling allows.



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JSSB PRODUCTION STAFF

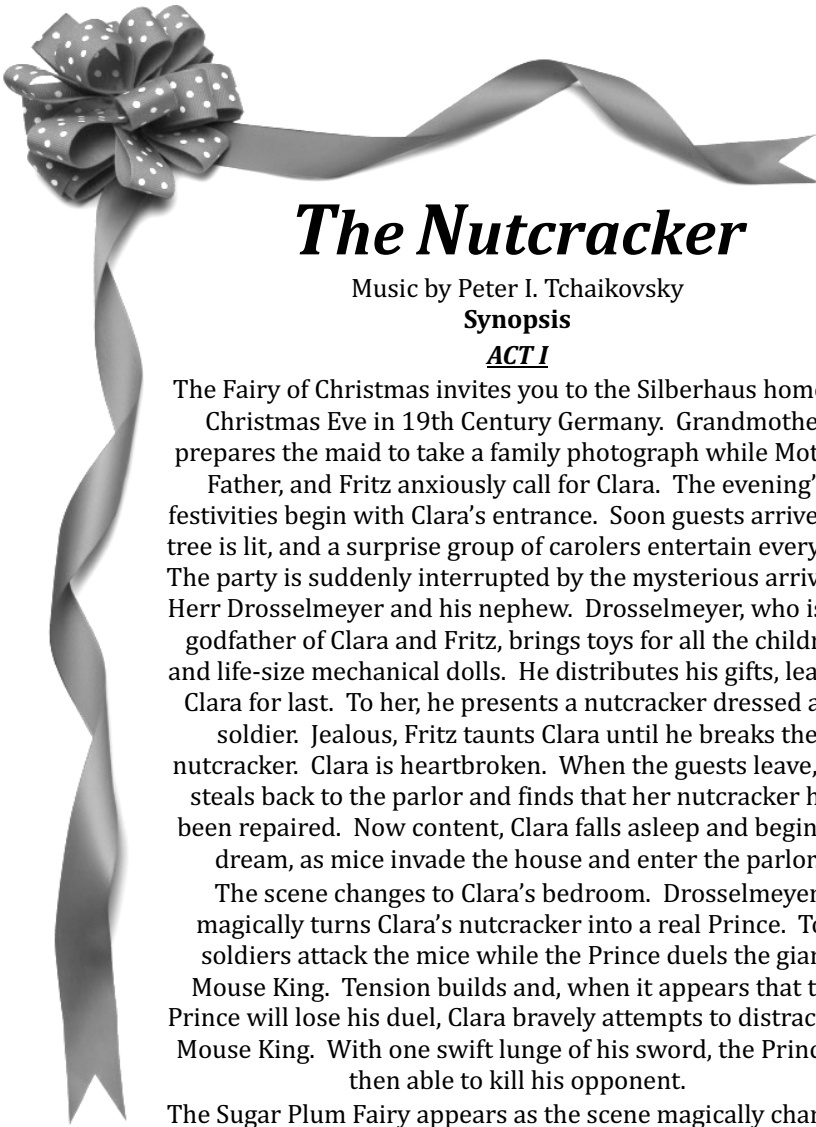
Director and Choreographer	Judith Svalander
Asst. Director and Staging Repetitur	Julie Fiore-Hirsch
Business Advisor	Nora Kay Pelt
Administrative Coordinator	Alex Vucha
Office Manager	Cassady Wille
Lighting Designer	Rick Amundsen
Lighting Operator	Nicole Weber
Scenic Designer	Patricia Makatura
Production Manager	Cathy Olson
Assistant Stage Manager	Donna Handelsman
Rehearsal Directors	Laura Bobowski, Chesney Lofgren, Kathryn Rowley, Ella Weyland
Costume Director	Cassady Wille
Asst. Costume Director	Cathy Olson
Wardrobe	Erin Hogue, Jalina Petrik
Costume Construction	Dance Theatre Designers, KJ Costumes, Lynn Gronow*
Props	Cathy Olson, Donna Handelsman
Photographs	CameraLady.com
Wigs & Hair	International Hairways
Playbill Design	Alex Vucha

**JSDT honors the loving memory of Lynn Gronow (1947-2023) for her many years of costume design. JSDT also remembers Carol Nystrom (1954-2022) for her years of volunteer work.*

<u>2023 Performance Dates</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Cast</u>
Friday, December 8	7:00PM	A
Saturday, December 9	2:00PM	A
Saturday, December 9	7:00PM	A
Sunday, December 10	2:00PM	A
Sunday, December 10	6:00PM	A
Friday, December 15	7:00PM	B
Saturday, December 16	2:00PM	B
Saturday, December 16	7:00PM	B
Sunday, December 17	2:00PM	B
Sunday, December 17	6:00PM	B

A very special THANK YOU to our guests...
Brandon Clouse, Curtis Ducommun, and Evan Kozlowski.

And **THANK YOU** to all our wonderful volunteers!



The Nutcracker

Music by Peter I. Tchaikovsky

Synopsis

ACT I

The Fairy of Christmas invites you to the Silberhaus home on Christmas Eve in 19th Century Germany. Grandmother prepares the maid to take a family photograph while Mother, Father, and Fritz anxiously call for Clara. The evening's festivities begin with Clara's entrance. Soon guests arrive, the tree is lit, and a surprise group of carolers entertain everyone. The party is suddenly interrupted by the mysterious arrival of Herr Drosselmeyer and his nephew. Drosselmeyer, who is the godfather of Clara and Fritz, brings toys for all the children and life-size mechanical dolls. He distributes his gifts, leaving Clara for last. To her, he presents a nutcracker dressed as a soldier. Jealous, Fritz taunts Clara until he breaks the nutcracker. Clara is heartbroken. When the guests leave, she steals back to the parlor and finds that her nutcracker has been repaired. Now content, Clara falls asleep and begins to dream, as mice invade the house and enter the parlor.

The scene changes to Clara's bedroom. Drosselmeyer magically turns Clara's nutcracker into a real Prince. Toy soldiers attack the mice while the Prince duels the giant Mouse King. Tension builds and, when it appears that the Prince will lose his duel, Clara bravely attempts to distract the Mouse King. With one swift lunge of his sword, the Prince is then able to kill his opponent.

The Sugar Plum Fairy appears as the scene magically changes. The Prince rewards Clara for her courage by taking her on a special journey to the Land of Snow. Here Clara and the Prince meet the Snow Queen and the Sugar Plum Fairy. Snowflakes come alive and dance for her.

ACT II

A Court of Fairies, led by the Dew Drop Fairy, lead Clara and the Nutcracker Prince to the Kingdom of Sweets, where a series of divertissements are performed for her enjoyment. Ruling over this Kingdom is the beautiful Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier.

In the final scene, Clara awakens in her own parlor, unsure if this was all a dream.

Act I/Scene I

The Fairy of Christmas

Mother

Father

Fritz

Clara

Cousin Marie

Grandmother

Maid

Aunts

Uncles

Cousins

Carolers

Herr Drosselmeyer

Nephew

Ballerina Doll

Toy Soldier

Cast A

Maja Tyrba

Kathryn Rowley

Antonio Cruz-Uribe

Delainey Shasteen

Keira Kozlowski

Samantha Lowrey

Claudia Heinz

Laura Bobowski

Katie Losseva

Emily Quinton

Brandon Clouse

Evan Kozlowski

Asher Getty

Zoe Imhoff

Mia Landa

Wilhelmina Schabdach

Jack Shasteen

Cecelia Speciale

Sophia Trujillo

Aylina Baigabylova

Nora Busby

Leah Clouse

Fiona Fitzgerald

Lucy Marquis

Lenali Petrik

Peter Heinz

William Chamberlin

Isla Browne

Ella Weyland

Cast B

Olivia Eisch

Kathryn Rowley

Antonio Cruz-Uribe

Aleksandra Durik

Ava Hirsch

Matilda Durcan

Claudia Heinz

Laura Bobowski

Erin Gitchell

Ella Weyland

Curtis Ducommun

Evan Kozlowski

Piper Ducommun

Asher Getty

Lotte van Opstal

Delainey Shasteen

Jack Shasteen

Sloane Shasteen

Emmie Wille

Delilah Diaz

Madelyn Pludeman

Layla Querubin

Julia Unverzagt

Mikayla Vaverek

Colette Wallen

Peter Heinz

William Chamberlin

Annabella Getty

Mary Jost

Act I/Scene II

Cast A

Sydney Barr

Kennedy Barry

Ali MacInnes

Alana Pellegrino

Sloane Shasteen

Antonio Cruz-Uribe

William Chamberlin

Morgan Barry

Frances Carrick

Emme Gannon

Elizabeth Jost

Michaela MacCarthy

Cast B

Sabrina Davila

Eve Garner

Leah Harrison

Alisyn Hoffman

Scarlett Wallen

Antonio Cruz-Uribe

William Chamberlin

Arianna Amador

Isabella Amador

Megan Harrison

Daisy OBrien

Aria Shirazi

Mice

Mouse King

Nutcracker Prince

Soldiers

Scene I/Scene III

Sugar Plum Fairy
Snow Queen
Snow King
Snowflakes

Snow Fairies

Cast A

Arianna Hogue
Olivia Eisch
Daniel Lossev
Matilda Durcan
Erin Gitchell
Mary Jost
Kathleen Mailey
Kathryn Rowley
Ella Weyland
Isabella Amador
Aleksandra Durik
Annabella Getty
Aria Shirazi

Cast B

Arianna Hogue
Maja Tryba
Daniel Lossev
Savannah Davila
Genavieve Diaz
Kaitlyn Erickson
Katie Losseva
Samantha Lowery
Emily Quinton
Isla Browne
Caroline Fetzner
Kaitlyn Lyons
Sophia Trujillo



I N T E R M I S S I O N

We will now take a 15-minute pause in our story. Please visit the event room for refreshments and to view the Christmas trees!

ACT II

The Fairy of Christmas
Dew Drop Queen
Rose Queen
Princess Rose

Christmas Fairy Court

Sparkling Ribbon Fairies

Cast A

Maja Tryba
Mary Jost
Kaitlyn Erickson
Delainey Shasteen
Sophia Trujillo
Evie Benavides Conner
Amanda Brewer
Lucy Marquis
Daisy Obrien
Kayden Petrik
Lenali Petrik

Cast A

Anna Deutsch
Evelyn Liu
Imri Petrik
Lira Phan

Cast B

Olivia Eisch
Emily Quinton
Kathleen Mailey
Arianna Amador
Aria Shairazi
Annabella Getty
Michaela MacCarthy
Kayden Petrik
Julia Unverzagt
Mikayla Vaverek
Naomi Wozniak

Cast B

Emmersyn Heisler
Isla Landess
Lola Vecchio
Emmie Wille

	Cast A	Cast B
Rosebuds	Isabelle Albright Ellie Benavides Conner Bella Darling Mia Landa Annelie Murray	Piper Ducommun Willow Hedrick Noelle MacCarthy Milada Rosulek Lotte van Opstal
Spanish Chocolate Ballerina	Lillia Kaye	Lillia Kaye
Mother Ginger	Laura Bobowski	Laura Bobowski
Gingerbread Ballerina	Ava Hirsch	Caroline Fetzner
Gingerbreads	Nora Busby Evangeline Hinojosa Cecelia Speciale Gemma Wadman	Kailynn Pearce Grace Petersen Madelyn Pludeman Kaia Raju
Miniature Clara	Fiona Fitzgerald	Delilah Diaz
Miniature Arabian	Zoe Imhoff	Colette Wallen
Miniature Marzipan	Leah Clouse	Layla Querubin
Candy Cane Ballerina	Katie Losseva	Samantha Lowrey
The Fairy of Christmas	Maja Tryba	Olivia Eisch
Arabian Coffee Soloist	Emily Quinton	Ella Weyland
Arabian Cavalier	Daniel Lossev	Kenneth Bieschke*
Arabian Corps	Savannah Davila Genavieve Diaz	Kaitlyn Erickson Katie Losseva
Marzipan Candies	Matilda Durcan Kathleen Mailey Ella Weyland	Matilda Durcan Mary Jost Keira Kozlowski
Sugar Plum Fairy	Arianna Hogue	Arianna Hogue
Russian Corps	Arianna Amador Morgan Barry Megan Harrison Michaela MacCarthy	Frances Carrick Aleksandra Durik Emme Gannon Elizabeth Jost
Russian Ballerina	Kayden Petrik	Daisy OBrien
Russian Cavalier	Kathryn Rowley	Kathryn Rowley
Dragon Children	Daniel Lossev Aylina Baigabylova Sydney Barr Kennedy Barry Alana Pellegrino	Kenneth Bieschke* Sabrina Davila Leah Harrison Alisyn Hoffman Scarlett Wallen
Chinese Tea Ballerina	Erin Gitchell	Erin Gitchell
Chinese Tea Cavalier	Antonio Cruz-Uribe	Antonio Cruz-Uribe
Chinese Princess	Frances Carrick	Morgan Barry
Chinese Umbrella Girls	Evie Benavides Conner Amanda Brewer	Eve Garner Naomi Wozniak

** Courtesy of Ballet Co. Laboratory*

Dew Drop Queen
Dew Drop Attendants

Sugar Plum Cavalier
Tiger Lilies

Iris

Chrysanthemums

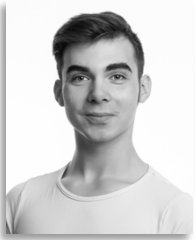
Cast A

Mary Jost
Emme Gannon
Elizabeth Jost
Kaitlyn Lyons
Daniel Lossev
Genavieve Diaz
Caroline Fetzner
Isla Browne
Savannah Davila
Emme Gannon
Megan Harrison
Elizabeth Jost
Kaitlyn Lyons
Morgan Barry
Frances Carrick
Aleksandra Durik
Annabella Getty

Cast B

Emily Quinton
Isabella Amador
Savannah Davila
Megan Harrison
Daniel Lossev
Genavieve Diaz
Caroline Fetzner
Isla Browne
Savannah Davila
Emme Gannon
Megan Harrison
Elizabeth Jost
Kaitlyn Lyons
Morgan Barry
Frances Carrick
Aleksandra Durik
Annabella Getty

~ Guest Artists ~



Kenneth Bieschke (Russian and Arabian Coffee)

Kenneth has been dancing for over 13 years and is a JSSB alum who this past summer received a full scholarship to the prestigious Ballet Austin summer intensive in Texas. From there, his professional career had begun, taking him to St. Paul, Minnesota where he is currently dancing as Apprentice Artist with Ballet Co. Laboratory. He was recently featured in *The Snow Queen* in Minneapolis. We graciously thank Ballet Co. Laboratory for allowing him to return to guest dance in some of his memorable roles in this annual celebration.



Antonio Cruz-Urbe (Father, Mouse King, Chinese Tea Cavalier)

Antonio has been dancing for over 20 years and joins us in the roles of Mouse King, Chinese, and Father. Most recently, he was seen in "La Fille mal Gardée", with UBallet at the University of Chicago. His favorite Nutcracker role ever was Snow Cavalier with UBallet. When asked for advice for younger dancers, Antonio encouraged them to, "always enjoy performances and take all the opportunities to dance you are presented with."



Peter Heinz & Claudia Heinz (Herr Drosselmeyer, Grandmother)

The Heinz Family has been proud to be involved with JSSB Nutcracker since 2008 behind the scenes while their daughter Greta danced. Their first appearance on stage was in 2010 and they, as a family, have enjoyed being a part of this magical story ever since; Claudia has done theatrical hair styling, had various parts in Opening act & Mother Ginger while Peter has had the opportunity to portray Herr Drosselmeyer for the last 7 years.

MEET OUR ADULT COMPANY



Ella Weyland (Aunt, Toy Soldier, Snowflake, Arabian Coffee Soloist, Marzipan Candy)

A JSSB graduate and current Company Member, Miss Weyland has been dancing at JSSB for fourteen years. She continues to perform with the Judith Svalander Dancer Theatre, most recently as Sugar Plug Fairy and Arabian Princess. Miss Weyland is very passionate about dancing, performing, and acting. She is an accomplished voice over actress, having appeared in multiple national commercials. She is a rehearsal assistant and teacher of ballet, character, and Jazz at JSSB. She emphasizes strong technique that she has learned under the tutelage of JSSB and faculty.



Kathryn Rowley (Mother, Russian Soloist, Snowflake)

A JSSB graduate, current company member, and college student. Miss Rowley has been dancing since the age of 3 and joined JSSB in 2010. Recognizing her deep love for dance and hoping to follow in the footsteps of her instructors, she recently ventured into teaching ballet. She found immense fulfillment in guiding aspiring dancers and instilling in them the same passion that continues to drive her. Miss Rowley's journey as a dancer and student is a testament to her unwavering dedication, perseverance, and genuine love for the art form that has shaped her life today.



Daniel Lossev (Sugar Plum Cavalier, Russian Cavalier, Arabian Cavalier)

Daniel, a JSSB graduate, is happy to return to the Woodstock Opera House stage for his 10th season. Daniel continues to perform while establishing his medical career at the University of Illinois Chicago. Traveling to Crystal Lake weekly to rehearse with students, Daniel continues to provide dancers the opportunity to perform challenging pas de deux work.

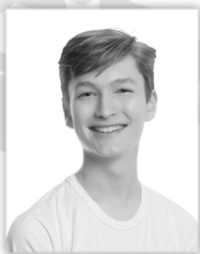


Lillia Kaye (Spanish Chocolate Ballerina)

Lillia Kaye began dancing when she was twelve years old and began training at JSSB in 2018. Some of her favorite roles include Maid of Honor, Spanish Ballerina and Dewdrop. She is also extremely grateful for the opportunities she has had to choreograph during her time at JSSB. Lillia's most recent role was a moving work she choreographed at the Raue Center for the Arts for Alicia Kuranda's - Celebration of Life. Lillia now attends Moody Bible Institute.

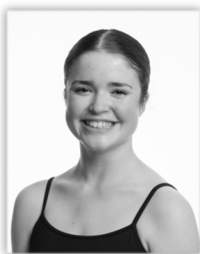
MEET OUR COMPANY/APPRENTICE CO.

William Chamberlin



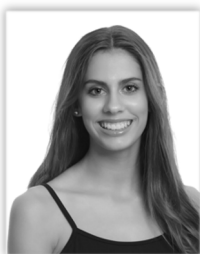
Nutcracker Prince,
Nephew

Matilda Durcan



Cousin Marie, Marzipan
Candy, Snowflake

Olivia Eisch



Fairy of Christmas,
Snow Queen,

Kaitlyn Erickson



Rose Queen, Arabian
Corps, Snowflake

Erin Gitchell



Chinese Tea Ballerina,
Aunt, Snowflake

Arianna Hogue



Sugar Plum Fairy

Mary Jost



Dew Drop Queen, Toy
Soldier, Marzipan,
Snowflake

Katie Losseva



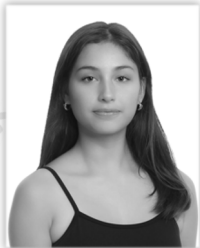
Candy Cane Ballerina,
Arabian Corps, Aunt,
Snowflake

Kathleen Mailey



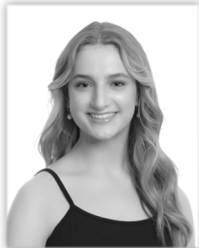
Rose Queen, Marzipan
Candy, Snowflake

Emily Quinton



Dew Drop Queen,
Arabian Coffee Soloist,
Aunt, Snowflake

Maja Tryba



Fairy of Christmas,
Snow Queen



Spring 2024

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STUDENT ALUMNI

Mrs. Svalander and faculty strive to help every student realize their full potential, both in and out of the dance studio. Many of our alumnus have gone on to successful careers in numerous occupational fields. Here is a small sampling of what some have achieved after training at the Judith Svalander School of Ballet.

Currently Dancing in Professional Companies

- Kenneth Bieschke – Ballet Co. Laboratory (St. Paul)
- Colin Ellis – St. Louis Ballet
- Alexa Glomp – Virginia National Ballet
- Catherine Lasak – Colorado Ballet
- Kelanie Murphy – American Midwest Ballet
- Kogan Murphy – American Midwest Ballet
- Elise Pekarek – Ballet Austin (Principal Dancer)
- Jenna (Liberati) Sherman – Alison Chase/Performance
- Fabiana Santiago – Menlowe Ballet

Current Dance Instructor/Studio Owners

- Alivia Schaffer – Jacob’s Pillow – Winter Residency
- English Swanson - Illinois
- Lynne Alberding – Illinois
- Kathleen Taylor Baffert – Minnesota
- Kimberly Chmielewski – Colorado
- Mare Darling – Wisconsin
- Beth Fowler – Illinois
- Ashley James – Illinois/Wisconsin
- Rebecca McCarthy – Illinois
- Arion Tanabe – Arizona
- Kristen (Olson) Throne – Wisconsin
- Tiffany Tynan – Texas
- Brittany Tynan-Sisk – Texas

Musical Theater Performers/Actors

- Bridgette Ane Goddard – Brighton, England
- Sara Haverty – Metropolis Performing Arts Center
- Jennifer Ladner – Phoenix Theatre
- Lexis Danca – NYC AEA Actor

Authors, Writers, Editors & Critics

- Alyssa Furholzer – Author
- Amelia Mularz – Editor & Writer
- Marina Mularz – Author
- Anthony Vaver – Author & Publisher
- Lauren Warneke – Dance Critic & Writer

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