

89th ANNUAL BENEFIT

STEFFI NOSSEN DANCE FOUNDATION



Mark Liflander Photography

MARCH 14 / 2026

TARRYTOWN MUSIC HALL

5:30pm reception / 7pm performance



*"Anyone can dance —
and everyone should."*

— Steffi Nossen (1905-1979)

THE STEFFI NOSSEN DANCE FOUNDATION

proudly presents our:

**89th ANNUAL
BENEFIT**

MARCH 14 / 2026

TARRYTOWN MUSIC HALL

*Presenting our Master Class and
Company Dancers*

Dear Families, Friends, Colleagues and Alumnae,

Welcome to the 89th Anniversary Benefit Concert of The Steffi Nossen Dance Foundation. It is truly an honor to celebrate this remarkable milestone with all of you.

We are especially proud to present our Benefit Concert at the historic Tarrytown Music Hall. Sharing the stage of this remarkable theater, home to so many inspiring artists over the years is both humbling and meaningful for our community.

Tonight, we gather to applaud our Master Class and Company dancers and the extraordinary growth they have shown this year. Under the inspired leadership of alumna and Artistic Director, Jessica DiMauro Marks and Company Director, Alyssa Fulmer and Master Class Faculty these young artists have deepened their craft and embraced the creative process with courage and authenticity. Their artistry reflects a legacy that would make Steffi proud.

For nearly nine decades, the curriculum, school, and mission of The Steffi Nossen Dance Foundation have been sustained by the passion and dedication of our dancers, faculty, staff, board members, and families. As the oldest dance institution in Westchester County, we remain steadfast in our commitment to integrity, inclusivity, diversity, and excellence. These values have carried us through 89 years and continue to guide us as we look ahead with purpose and optimism.

As we honor our dancers, past and present, we also look to the future. With your support, we can continue to expand our impact. In addition to our pre-professional training program, our extensive Outreach Program provides Adaptive Dance classes for youth and adults, as well as classes for individuals in underserved communities. Contributions directly fund these vital programs and our Financial Aid Fund, ensuring that dance education remains accessible to all.

Even as we celebrate 89 extraordinary years, we are already looking ahead with excitement to our 90th Anniversary next year. This important milestone will allow us to reflect on our rich legacy while setting the stage for a strong and vibrant future. We look forward to sharing more in the months ahead and to welcoming you to be part of this next inspiring chapter.

Finally, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to those who have led before me and to those who lead alongside me today. Thank you to our dedicated staff, faculty, choreographers, composers, costume designers, production crew, Board, and families for making this evening possible and for helping create a celebration to remember.

With appreciation and joy,

Shelley

Shelley Grantham
Executive Director

Steffi Nossen Dance Foundation

Production Staff

Jessica DiMauro Marks, *Producer*
Shelley Grantham, *Executive Director*
Victor Catano, *Production Stage Manager*
David Lovett, *Lighting Designer*
Alyssa Fulmer, *Company Director*
Christa Chepurny, *Publicity*
Michelle Wert, *Creative & Program Design*
Phil Went / ALW Media, *Videographer*
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Stelli Nossen School of Dance

Shelley Grantham, *Executive Director*
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Alyssa Fulmer, *Company Director*
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Jagger Clark
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Bridget Cronin
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Alyssa Fulmer
Elmer Johnson
Amy Kail
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Sarah Kramer
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Giada Matteini
Wendy Morsberger
Courtney Murray
Lauren Olson
Milerka Rodriguez
Colin Rose
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Julie Worden

Steffi Nossen Mission Statement

Steffi Nossen School of Dance continues today with the same philosophy that Steffi imbued it with more than eighty years ago:

“Anyone can dance – and everyone should!” –Steffi Nossen

The Steffi Nossen Dance Foundation, is a not-for-profit serving Westchester County as a dance resource, enriching the lives of Westchester residents through dance classes, performances, advocacy and outreach. Regardless of age, ability or financial means, we believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to benefit from this transformative art form.

Education, performance and outreach shape the mission of our school. Steffi Nossen dancers are taught the importance of giving back early on and often grow into leadership roles as teaching assistants or by taking part in volunteer opportunities throughout the school. Steffi Nossen School of Dance is a strong proponent of dance literacy and emphasizes the art, joy and discipline of dance to enhance the young mind while challenging each student's individual cognitive, technical and artistic growth.

Live Music by **New Moon Recruit**

Vocals & Guitar: Jim Olimpieri

Bass: Adam Marianacci

Drums: Zach Marks

YOUTH IN THE NIGHT

Choreographer: Jessica DiMauro Marks

Junior Master Class

Dancers: Eliza Bass, Josie Bladt, Margot Bladt, Savannah Czerw, Vivian Danza, Eliana Dennis, Penelope Dils, Shreya Guha, Norah Hadley, Sofia Jalfen, Francesca Lacasse, Xuân Petit, Kelsey Mukwashi, Iris Neiman

Music: Original Music by New Moon Recruit, “Stank Bug” and “Youth in the Night”

Costumes: The Steffi Nossen Costume Collection

THE MIDNIGHT OIL

Choreographer: Julia Lawton

Steffi Nossen Dance Company

Dancers: Aarushi, Rebecca Bass, Charly Bauerlein, Alexis Canoni, Mia Rosario, Aaliyah Taylor*, Ruby van der Zandt, Blake Wilson, Eliana Zweig*

Music: “3 Chords” by River Consoles, “Renata” by James Holden;

“The Opening/Purple Trees” by Natureboy Flako; “Aube Marine” by Anne Pacey

Costumes: The Steffi Nossen Costume Collection

*Apprentices

O’ POSE

Choreographer: Sarah S. Kramer

Master Class I

Dancers: Julia Brown, Delancey Czerw, Madeleine Dienes, Eliana Ferguson, Kyla Joseph, Lilah Marcus, Mazie Reed

Music: “Prelude in E Minor, Op. 28, No.4” by Janusz Olejniczak, “Prelude in E Minor” Gerry Mulligan Sextet,

“Prelude in E Minor” by Jimmy Page

Costumes: The Steffi Nossen Costume Collection

Program Note: Finding opposition in the same.

LES INFANTS QUI NE DORMENT PAS

Choreographer: Annie Doss

Restaged by: Jessica DiMauro Marks

Steffi Nossen Dance Company

Dancers: Aarushi, Rebecca Bass, Charly Bauerlein, Alexis Canoni, Mia Rosario, Aaliyah Taylor, Ruby van der Zandt, Blake Wilson, Eliana Zweig

Music: “The Kuru Field of Justice” from Satyagraha, Composed by Philip Glass, performed by New York City Opera Orchestra & Chorus and Christopher Keene

Costumes: The Steffi Nossen Costume Collection

Intermission

JAZZZZZZZZZ

Choreographer: Sonia Dawkins

Rehearsal Assistants: Lily Ruiz, Darius Corbet
Steffi Nossen Dance Company

Dancers: Aarushi, Rebecca Bass, Charly Bauerlein, Alexis Canoni, Mia Rosario, Aaliyah Taylor,
Ruby van der Zandt, Blake Wilson, Eliana Zweig

Music: "Zah Zuh Zaz" by Hit Crew Master (featuring Wynton Marsalis) and
"Come Dance with Me" by Vanessa Williams

Sound Designer: Charles McCall

Costumes: The Steffi Nossen Costume Collection

ARPEGGIO

Choreographer: Kierstyn Edore
Dance Theater Group

Dancers: Julia Brown, Delancey Czerw, Madeleine Dienes, Eliana Ferguson, Kyla Joseph, Lilah Marcus, Mazie Reed

Music: "Arpeggio," Original music score by Joey Edore

Costumes: The Steffi Nossen Costume Collection

DISSIDENTS

Choreographer: Jessica DiMauro Marks
Master Class II

Dancers: Aarushi, Mackenzie Avolio, Rebecca Bass, Charly Bauerlein, Alexis Canoni, Mia Rosario,
Aaliyah Taylor, Ruby van der Zandt, Blake Wilson, Athena Zhang, Eliana Zweig

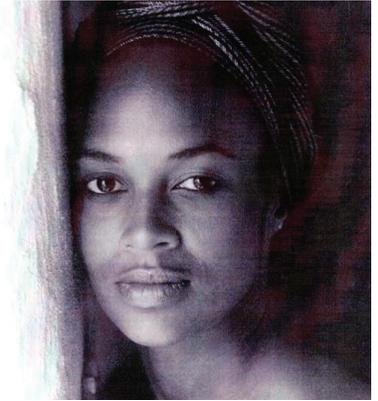
Music: "The Train," "Funeral" and "Sunja Leaves" by Nico Muhly

Costumes: Hennie Bijsmans Fry

Program Note: This piece is dedicated to the dancers performing it.

May you always know how powerful you are.

Sonia Dawkins (BFA, University of the Arts; MFA, SUNY Brockport) is founder and artistic director of SD Prism Dance Theatre and member of SDC. The first African American female faculty member and choreographer at Pacific Northwest Ballet, she has served as guest teacher/choreographer at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater School, UNC School of the Arts, University of Oklahoma, and Cornish College of the Arts. Ms. Dawkins has choreographed and directed across the U.S. and internationally, including Jamaica, Bulgaria, Spain, France, and Mexico. Currently, Ms. Dawkins choreographs for the Repertoire Class at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater School, directs SD Prism Dance Theatre Workshops, teaches at the Nacho Duato Academy, and serves on faculty at Baltimore School of the Arts.



Jessica DiMauro Marks, Artistic Director and Steffi Nossen alumna, is a modern dance choreographer invested in creating work that is rich in physicality and deeply communicative. Jessica holds an MFA in Choreography from Jacksonville University and a BFA in Dance from Marymount Manhattan College. She has taught and choreographed works extensively for both pre-professional and professional dance companies throughout the United States. Her company, DiMauro Dance, has been selected to perform at numerous curated festivals including Dance Conversations at The Flea and WHITE WAVE's WAVE RISING Series. She is on faculty at Marymount Manhattan College and Montclair State University. She is a frequent guest artist for workshops and intensives throughout the tri-state area including the Martha Graham School and Earl Mosley's Institute of the Arts. In 2013, Ms. DiMauro Marks was proud to be among the first few students to be certified in May O'Donnell Technique.

Jessica is a Certified Kripalu Yoga Teacher (RYT 200) and is a Certified Prenatal and Postnatal Yoga Teacher.

Annie Doss began teaching at Steffi Nossen in 2006. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from Marymount Manhattan College, studied at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, and is currently pursuing her MS in Movement Therapy at Pratt University. A Steffi Nossen alumna with many performing credits, Ms. Doss has also presented her own choreography at the Theresa Lang and Red Room Theaters, Dance Theatre Workshop (DTW), SUNY Purchase, and Peridance Center. She is a founding member of DiMauro Dance and a Certified Pilates Instructor. In addition to her role as faculty member and choreographer at Steffi Nossen School of Dance, Ms. Doss is also a member of the Faculty at Trapeze School New York.

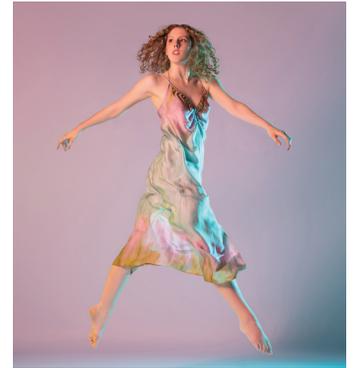




Kierstyn Edore (North Jersey) graduated from Montclair State University with her B.F.A. in Dance and a Minor in Psychology. She is the director of Opus//The Company, which has presented work at Koresh Artist Showcase, 14th Street Y (NYC) at S.H.I.F.T. with One Day Dance, Montclair Dance Festival, Williams Center, and Oskar Schindler Performing Arts Center. She is a founding member of KM Dance Collective, and is currently dancing with Freespace Dance Company and Puluka Projects. Kierstyn has performed for events including DUMBO Dance Festival, Whitewave Solo/Duo Dance Festival, APAP, Koresh Artist Showcase, the Capezio ACE Awards, NJPAC and Nimbus Emerging Choreographers, The Chita Rivera Awards, and American College Dance Association Showcase. She has been a featured choreographer across school districts and dance studios for both concert and competitive work, and her student work has been presented at County College of Morris and Montclair State University. Kierstyn has worked closely with renowned

artists Stefanie Batten Bland, Leslie Kraus, Dan Safer, Yusha-Marie Sorzano, Dolly Sfeir, Jaclyn Walsh, and Christian von Howard.

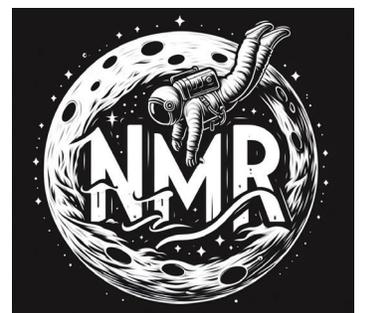
Sarah Kramer is a dancer and choreographer based in New Jersey, with training from Montclair State University, the Martha Graham School, b12 Berlin Workshop Festival, GagaLab NYC, and Parsons Dance Choreography Workshop. As a performer, she has performed works by Martha Graham, Ben Wright, Brandin Steffinsen, Maxine Steinman, and others, and is currently a member of Unbound Dance Collective. Her own work has premiered in several festivals in New York, notably 92nd Street Y's Dance Up! Emerging Choreographers series and the KoDaFe International Dance Festival, as well as internationally at the Romanian National Opera. Her most recent work, "can u hear me calling," premiered in November 2025 with Unbound Dance Collective in Brooklyn, NY.



Julia Lawton is a New York-based dancer and choreographer, and the Artistic Director of Lawton Dance Collective. She graduated with her BFA in Dance from Adelphi University in 2024, where she performed works by choreographers including Paul Taylor, Orion Duckstein, and Frank Augustyn. Julia has danced professionally with Chutzpah Dance, SHIFT Dance, Arts, and Media, and currently with the Taylor Outreach Ensemble. She is the Taylor School Associate for the Paul Taylor Dance Company and a Community Director at Arts On Site. In her choreographic practice, Julia emphasizes creative investigation through collaboration and conversation with dancers. Her work has been presented at numerous venues, including Arts On Site, The Workroom Theater Northampton, American College Dance Association Northeast Conference, Adelphi University Scholarship and

Creative Works Conference, 14th St. Y, The Emelin Theatre, The Tank, Balance Arts Center, Hofstra Choreography Seminar, and Mashup Dance International Women's Day Dance Festival.

New Moon Recruit, commonly referred to as NMR, is a NY-based rock trio serving up original compositions and classic covers. As experienced musicians in both technique and improvisation, NMR has been slaying at venues, events, and private functions throughout the tri-state area for the past 5 years. Their blend of energetic music has captivated and entertained audiences alike. To learn, head to their [website](#). Featuring: Jimi Olimpieri - Guitar/Vocals, Zach Marks - Drums/Percussion, Adam Marianacci - Bass.





(L-R) Ruby van der Zandt, Blake Wilson, Mia Rosario, Alexis Canoni

Company Officers

Co-President Mia Rosario

Co-President Blake Wilson

First Officer Alexis Canoni

Second Officer Ruby van der Zandt



Co-President

Mia Rosario is a Senior at Sacred Heart High School and is Company Co-President this year. She has been at Steffi for 11 years, and has been in Company for 3 of those years. Outside of Steffi, Mia is a Student Council representative, a student ambassador, and is a member of the National Honor Society. She has enjoyed her time in Company and at Steffi, and she is so grateful for all the memories she has made during her time here. Mia is so looking forward to spending her last moments on stage with these amazing dancers. She is thrilled to be a part of this year's Benefit performance and hopes to inspire others through dance.

Congratulations on your final Gala performance! Watching you dance has been a reminder of how powerful dedication and passion can be. You should feel incredibly proud of everything you've achieved on this stage. This may be your last performance here, but it's only the beginning of everything you're capable of creating next. Shine on – the world is yours.

With love, Mom and Dad

Co-President

Blake Wilson is a senior at The Ursuline School and serves as Co-President this year in the Company. She has been at Steffi for 13 years and been in the Company for the last 3. Beyond the walls of Steffi, she is a Senior Writer/Editor for her school's three publications and Corresponding Secretary for her Jack & Jill Chapter. Blake wants to thank all of her teachers for making her time at Steffi unforgettable and is grateful for all the memories made with her fellow dancers. She is thrilled to be a part of this year's Benefit performance and hopes to leave people with a sense of love and appreciation for dance.



Dearest Blake, Your dance is a light that warms and inspires everyone around you. You have served Steffi with such grace, and we are incredibly proud of the woman you've become. Keep shining—the world is brighter because of you!"

Love, Your Entire Village



First Officer

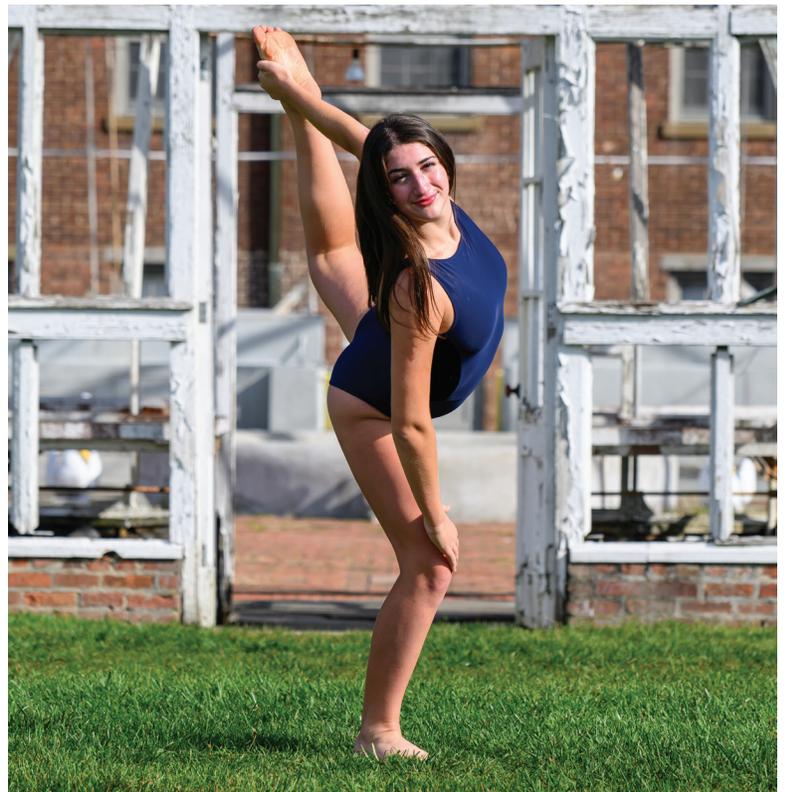
Alexis Canoni is a junior at Horace Greeley High School, and the First Officer in the Steffi Nossen Company. She has been dancing at Steffi for 13 years and is in her second year as a member of Company. Outside of Steffi, Alexis is a varsity cheerleader and has balanced both cheer and dance over the past two years. Alexis loves assisting the beginner ballet class each week and loves working with the little kids. She truly loves her time in the Company and adores the friendships she has made and the great community in the Company. Dance has always been a huge part of her life, and she is grateful for the joy it brings her every day.

Alexis! We are so incredibly proud of your dedication to dancing. We see your passion, hard work, focus, determination, time, energy, humor, and love are imbued in every step.

Lots of love from your whole family!

Second Officer

Ruby van der Zandt is a sophomore at Dobbs Ferry High School and is Company Second Officer this year. This is Ruby's eighth year at Steffi Nossen and second year in Company. Outside of dance, Ruby participates in school clubs such as student council and Model UN in addition to working part time at a local after school program with elementary schoolers. Ruby is very thankful to everyone at Steffi and is excited to perform at this year's Benefit!



Ruby, Watching you do what you love brings us so much joy. We're so proud of you!

Love, Mom, Papa, and Zoë.

Steffi Nossen Dance Company members are selected from the most technically advanced dancers in our Master Class Program through ongoing review and audition. Their love of dance and dedication set the tone for the school. Each year, two new works are commissioned and created for the Company by professional choreographers. Dancers rehearse extensively and perform throughout the metropolitan area with other pre-professional and youth dance companies. Company members serve as mentors and teaching assistants with our younger dancers. The Steffi Nossen Dance Company embodies the mission and values of the Steffi Nossen School of Dance. We welcome performance opportunities at your school, agency or community event.



STEFFI NOSSEN DANCE COMPANY

(L-R) Back Row: Aarushi, Aaliyah Taylor, Ruby van der Zandt, Eliana Zweig, Paola Parra
(L-R) Front Row: Blake Wilson, Mia Rosario, Alexis Canoni, Charly Bauerlein, Rebecca Bass



MASTER CLASS II

(L-R) Back Row: Aaliyah Taylor, Ruby van der Zandt, Paola Parra, Mackenzie Avolio

(L-R) Middle Row: Athena Zhang, Rebecca Bass, Aarushi, Eliana Zweig

(L-R) Front Row: Charly Bauerlein, Blake Wilson, Mia Rosario, Alexis Canoni



Movement Transcends Boundaries, Bridges Gap & Enriches Lives

**MASTER CLASS I**

(L-R) Back Row: Lilah Marcus, Eliana Ferguson, Julia Brown
(L-R) Front Row: Madeleine Dienes, Kyla Joseph, Delancey Czerw, Mazie Reed

**JUNIOR MASTER CLASS**

(L-R) Back Row: Xuân Petit, Savannah Czerw, Shreya Guha, Vivian Danza, Iris Neiman
(L-R) Middle Row: Eliza Bass, Eliana Dennis, Francesca Lacasse, Norah Hadley, Penelope Dils
(L-R) Front Row: Sofia Jalfen, Josephine Bladt, Margot Bladt, Kelsey Mukwashi



Aarushi



Rebecca Bass



Charly Bauerlein



Alexis Canoni



Paola Parra



Mia Rosario



Aaliyah Taylor



Ruby van der Zandt



Blake Wilson



Eliana Zweig

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The Company necklace began as a gold charm bracelet, worn by Steffi on her left wrist. Over the years, she adorned it with charms that told the story of her life and her devotion to dance. Many were gifted to her in recognition of the countless contributions she made to the dance community. Others were deeply personal, tokens she chose herself, including a delicate silhouette of a young boy's head in honor of her son, Peter.

By the early 1970s, the collection had grown so beautifully that Steffi transformed the bracelet into a necklace. From then on, she wore it proudly on special occasions, including the school's performances, where it became as much a symbol of her legacy as of her presence.

When Steffi passed away in 1979, the necklace took on an even deeper meaning. It became a cherished tradition for the Company President to receive it in recognition of their dedication and leadership, and in tribute to Steffi's enduring spirit. Each year, a new charm bearing the President's name and year is added before the necklace is passed from one leader to the next.

From the Board of Directors

*Sending our love and congratulations to all of our Steffi dancers!
It is an honor and a joy to be able to support your dedication to dance.
Enjoy this moment, you've earned it!*

— With love from the Steffi Nossen Board of Directors



**Council on
the Arts**

This program is made possible in part by ArtsWestchester with funds from Westchester County Government, along with support by the New York State Council of the Arts.