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JUDGES [vc_column_text css=""]

Meadowlands, NJ | February 21-23, 2025

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Grace Orfao

Grace Orfao is a 23-year-old student at the University of Southern New Hampshire, where she majors in business. She has been dancing since the age of four and has danced competitively for eight years. Grace trains in all forms of dance, but especially enjoys ballet, jazz, contemporary, lyrical and acro. She has won numerous awards, including regional titles and choreography. She recently competed in the Miss New Hampshire Volunteer 2022 pageant and won the title of Miss New Hampshire Volunteer! Grace has performed at venues ranging from Faneuil Hall to local auditoriums across New England and has held many lead roles such as Clara and the Sugar Plum Fairy.

Isabella Murcia

Born in New York but raised in South Florida. Isabella’s love for dance and movement started at four years old. As a competitive dancer for fourteen years, she attended numerous conventions, workshops and competitions. After attending Alexander Dreyfoos School of the Arts she went on to study at Florida State University. Upon graduation Isabella decided to follow her heart and get fully certified in Pilates through Classical Pilates Education. She currently lives in South Florida with her husband and is a Pilates instructor specializing in training dancers as well as a dance teacher/choreographer. She is passionate about making sure dancers are strong, versatile and have a solid foundation. She currently owns a pilates studio that works to cross train dancers and helps to provide them with injury prevention. Isabella choreographs for various studios and primarily teaches jazz and contemporary. She has been teaching dancers of all ages for seven years and seen her choreography win numerous awards. She loves that she has been able to incorporate her passion for dance into different avenues!

Matthew Mancuso

Matthew Mancuso is originally from East Haven Connecticut. He began his training at the age of 8 at Gloria Jean’s Studio of Dance under the direction of Stacy Eastman. Matthew was awarded America’s Male Dancer of the Year in 2021 where he was the first male to win all four national titles at American Dance Awards. He then moved to New York City and just recently graduated from New York

University's Tisch School of the Arts where he earned a BFA in Dance and a Minor in Entertainment Business. While at school, Matthew got to learn and perform repertoire from Sidra Bell and Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company. He also was chosen to study abroad in Prague, Czech Republic at The National Theatre. After graduation Matthew became a new member of "Gaspard and Dancers" which is a contemporary based dance company. He most recently traveled with them to Romania to perform at the National Romanian Opera House of Iasi. Matthew has also performed at the Carnival Choreographer's Ball, New York City Fashion Week, Battery Park Dance Festival, and for Broadway Cares Red Bucket Follies at the New Amsterdam Theatre. He loves teaching and choreographing, as well as passing his love for dance onto the next generation.

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