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JUDGES [vc\_column\_text css=""]

## **Baton Rouge, LA | March 21-23, 2025**

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## **Ashlyn Bolton**

Ashlyn has been trained in all genres of dance and theater but her true love is Tap. She has performed in and choreographed for music videos, concerts, and benefits. Her Tap Company, Rhythm and Sole Tap Ensemble, has numerous performances each season and has performed at Walt Disney World, The Big Apple Tap Festival at Alvin Ailey Theater, Tap City in NYC, Opening for Friends of Music concerts at Ruth Eckerd Hall and has opened for Chris Daughtry and Counting Crows Band. Ashlyn is also the Festival Director of Tampa Bay Tap Festival which this year featured tap dance extraordinaires Derick Grant and Aaron Tolson. Besides her love and expertise in the genre of Tap, Ashlyn has also trained in Classical Ballet with Next Generation Ballet and several other intensives and programs including the Rockettes Summer Intensive in New York City. She also was a theater apprentice at the Patel Conservatory Triple Threat program. Ashlyn has been teaching tap, ballet, jazz and musical theater classes at the Patel Conservatory for several years.

## **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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