

## TEWKSBURY, MA #1 JUDGES

A native of Buffalo, NY, *René Giglia* has worked as a dancer and choreographer for film, television, and stage. She performed at the Michael Landon Awards in NYC, the MTV Movie Awards with the Pussycat Dolls in LA, and choreographed and performed in France for the Cannes Music Festival. She choreographs for world renowned record label, Del Oro Music, in Studio City, CA. René has been seen on T.V. in shows such as The West Wing, Charmed, ER, American Dreams, a judge on Dance Moms, and in the movies The Italian Job, Oh Baby!, and Freaky Friday. Musical performances include, *A Chorus Line* (Sheila), *The Wild Party* (Nadine), *Anything Goes* (Purity), *Oklahoma!*, *The Who's Tommy* (Sally Simpson), and *West Side Story* under the coaching of George Chakiris. René graduated with a BFA in dance and continued performing, training, and auditioning in Los Angeles. After re-routing back to the East Coast, she teaches ballet, jazz, hip hop, modern, lyrical, contemporary, musical theatre, tap, and continues to adjudicate and teach master classes throughout the US and Canada. René became a licensed instructor for the GYROTONIC® exercise method and has discovered a way to heal past injuries, to improve the skeletal structure, gain muscle tone, and strengthen the cardiovascular system. She also has certifications in Booty Barre and Ultra Barre. Her most rewarding accomplishment by far is being a mommy to two very active children!

*Lisa Heath* comes from Massachusetts where she is the assistant director of the Hackworth School of Performing Arts. Lisa's passion and dedication came from her first dance teacher, Betty Champion, who she studied with until college. Lisa attended the University of Massachusetts and then Westfield State University, earning a degree in Elementary Education. She continued dancing and teaching throughout college at the Hackworth School of Performing Arts. Lisa has taught, choreographed and adjudicated for numerous dance organizations throughout the country. Her students and choreography have won numerous Regional and National Awards. Lisa and her students traveled to Germany and were members of the United States Tap Team in 2002, 2008 and 2009. In 2002, her students won gold medals in Adult Female Solo, Adult Male Solo and Adult Duo. Many of Lisa's students have gone on to dance professionally on Broadway, in companies such as Lehrer Dance and Shaping

Sound, and as Celtics Dancers and Patriots Cheerleaders. To Lisa, her greatest accomplishment is watching her students grow as dance teachers and pass on their love and passion of dance to their own students. Sharing her love of teaching to her students has given Lisa the greatest joy.

*Fran Coyle* (A.R.A.D., T.D., A.I.S.T.D.) has been teaching in Canada, in the Ottawa area for over 35 years. Her early training with the founders of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet (RWB) prepared her to attend renowned summer schools at the RWB and The Banff School of Fine Arts before graduating from the Canadian College of Dance at Ryerson Theatre School. Having danced professionally for several years she then opened the Canadian School of Dance (CSD) to pursue teaching, pass on the passion for dance she herself enjoyed as a child. Her love for technical precision in training has pushed many of her students to reach the highest of achievements in their careers. Ms. Coyle's award winning choreography has received many accolades, the one she holds close to her heart is the 'Gloria Jean Cuming Award of Excellence' at American Dance Awards National competition. Through Fran, CSD has bragging rights as the only Ottawa dance studio with three successful RAD Solo Seal Award candidates. Most recently she was found doing choreography for a movie short with the hopes of it turning into a larger project. These last two years have taught us all a great deal, *resilience*, is always the word that comes to mind, as well gratitude for this wonderful world of DANCE. Good luck to all this weekend, it is truly a pleasure to be here!

*Diane Gудат* is a freelance writer, teacher and choreographer from Indianapolis, Indiana. She now teaches at the studio she owned, The Dance Company for more than 28 years and has been a dance educator for more than 45 years. She is the author of seven dance books specifically designed for the dance teacher: The Time Step Dictionary Volumes One and Two, Acrobatics for the Dance Studio, Variables for Teaching Tap, Music Theory for the Dance Studio, and her latest series of books, Step by Step; Book One: Beginning and Advanced Beginning, Step by Step; Book Two: Intermediate and Advanced Intermediate. She also has also produced the Flash Tap product line including Flash Tap Cramproll and Time Step Cards. She was a contributor to Dance Studio Life Magazine and appears on DanceLifeTV.com. Diane has taught for Teacher's Training Schools all over the United States, Canada and

South Africa. She has served as a faculty member for numerous regional and national conventions and workshops, has been a guest artist and award-winning choreographer for many private studios, companies and musicals. She is an adjudicator, special awards judge and host for many regional and national dance competitions. Diane is an internationally certified judge and has judged the 2013, 2016 & 2019 IDO World Tap Championships in Riesa, Germany. She has taught and adjudicated for American Dance Awards in South Africa and runs a teacher's training school in Pretoria, South Africa. She was recently honored with a lifetime membership and was the recipient of the 2009 CNADM Artistic Achievement Award. Diane's commitment to continuing education has inspired her to gather, organize and share information for the next generation of Dance Educators and performers.

## NORWOOD, MA JUDGES

*Mary Grace McNally* is a dance artist, originally from Massachusetts. She has produced two evening-length shows, *Not For Picking* and *When It Falls*, which premiered in New York City and Los Angeles. Mary Grace was honored to be the winner of the 2018 Capezio A.C.E Award. Mary Grace is the founder of [MG + Artists](#), a project-based dance collective. Her work has been presented at The Joyce Theater, The Dance Gallery Festival, Dixon Place, Young Choreographer's Festival, Centre National de la Danse in France, and deSingel in Belgium. As a dancer, she has performed the work of Doug Varone, Jon Rua, Monika Felice Smith, Tommie-Waheed Evans, Katie Swords-Thurman, Emma Portner, Erica Sobol and Ryan Spencer. Most recently, she performed at Madison Square Garden for Phish's NYE Concert, and can be seen dancing in music videos for OneRepublic and Angel Olsen. She has acted and danced in commercials for Microsoft and Splash Blast Water. Mary Grace is a guest instructor and choreographer at competitive dance studios, workshops and universities across the country, as well as Guest Faculty at Peridance Capezio Center and Broadway Dance Center. She received her BFA in Dance from the University of the Arts in 2015. Mary Grace is represented by BlocLA.

Since 1985 through August 2021 *Brenda Barna* has been the owner and artistic director of The Dance Slipper in Southwick MA. She is a member of Dance Masters of America and Dance Educators of America, Brenda served on the board of directors for Dance Masters of America chapter 18 and as their 1st Vice President. Students of The Dance Slipper have won many awards including Mr. & Miss America's Dancer of the Year, Jr. Miss America's Dancer of the Year, The Gold Family Award of Excellence \$5000, and The Bill Como Award Of Excellence \$10,000. Brenda has won American Dance Awards Choreographer of the Year. Many of Her students have go on to work professionally some of the companies include, Paul Taylor Dance Company, The Bad Boys of Ballet, and Ballet Hispanico. For 37 years Brenda has dedicated her life, energy, and talent to training young dancers, bring out the best they can be.

*Catie Whalen* is a well round dancer and has been dancing since the age of two. She is signed with McDonald Selznick Associates in NYC and LA. Catie has been working professionally since the age of 18. Kicking off her career Catie was featured in a Madonna music video as well as a few others throughout the years. She has appeared in the "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" while working with choreographer Marguerite Dericks and also seen in Sephora, Macy's and other make up stores worldwide for her feature in Shisiedo's Foundation Ad Campaign where she worked with Ryan Heffington. She has walked and danced in New York Fashion Week shows including Ralph Lauren's 50th Anniversary Show, KENZO X H&M's Collaboration, Desigual, and more! Catie has also worked with Tanisha Scott for a Toyota Tokyo Commercial and Desmond Richardson recently when performing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Catie has been featured in many ad campaigns such as Micheal Koor's and Carolina Herrera. She has worked with Bryan Tanka for a John John Denim Ad Campaign, starring Ansel Elgor. Catie performed as the famous Vina for Mac Cosmetic's Star Trek Collection reveal at their Bi-Annual Event in Orlando! Catie has danced as live art for Sotheby's Impressionist and Modern Art Preview Event. Interpreting Picasso, Monet and many others' original artwork. Catie grew up as a competition kid from Pennsylvania through the years she competed. Catie has taught and judged for competitions including Dance Masters of America, American Dance Awards, and more at the young age she is. Catie looks forward to watching these beautiful dancers grace the stage this weekend and

wishes them all good luck. Some advice she would offer the dancers today would be to let it all go on the floor and do NOT hold back!

*Julie White* is a teacher, choreographer and studio owner from the New England area. Julie holds degrees from both Dean College and Rhode Island College. Julie's students are current and past recipients of numerous regional and national titles. Many of Julie's dancers have gone on to perform in companies, amusement parks, cruises, and circuses. Her students have been awarded scholarship and acceptance into many prestigious programs, including NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Juilliard, and Joffrey. As a choreographer Julie has been recognized often for her style and composition. Julie is proud to have been nominated for America's National Choreographer of the year four times and honored to have been the National Choreographer of the Year for EDC in 2018. In addition to teaching and owning a studio, Julie enjoyed a position as Adjunct Faculty for the Joan Phelps Palladino School of Dance at Dean College for almost a decade. While there she was given an award of distinction for excellence in teaching. Her thoughts on teaching as an Adjunct were published in Rhee Gold's *Dance Studio Life* publication in Fall of 2016. Recently she has retired her role as a professor to focus on her family and Studio.