

*Breanna Willis* With over 20 years of experience as a professional dancer, dance educator, international adjudicator and choreographer, holding a BPE with a major in Dance, from the Universities of Alberta and Otago (New Zealand) Breanna Willis is thrilled to bring her love, passion, and dedication to dance into her new role as tour director of the Canadian Dance Awards. Originally from Sherwood Park, Alberta, Breanna's passion for dance and travel has led her to perform and choreograph in film, TV, and on stages across Canada and the world, including The Stratford Festival (Guthrie Award Recipient), Canadian Opera Company, Vancouver Opera, and Drayton Entertainment to name just a few. Her love of teaching and choreography began at a young age and in 1997, she began her teaching career. Over the past 25 years she has honed her skills as a dance educator, working with all ages and skill levels, and is committed to the development and growth of every performer with whom she works. She is an award winning choreographer both nationally and internationally, working with dancers from across Canada, the US, Germany, South Africa, Slovenia, Russia, Australia and New Zealand. She has travelled and danced her way to nearly 60 countries, and Breanna now calls Stratford, Ontario home. In 2018 she founded the Stratford Dance Collective, a drop in dance and training program for aspiring and professional dancers. In 2003, Breanna began adjudicating dance festivals and competitions across Canada. In 2009 she obtained her license with The International Dance Organization, and currently represents Canada as a judge and choreographer for their events in Germany, Poland, Croatia, the Czech Republic, South Africa and Mexico. Her choreography has brought home 5 gold, 1 silver and 3 bronze medals in jazz, tap and streetdance show categories. In 2012, Breanna began working with ADA as a judge at the Nationals in Florida, and since that time has judged regional, national and international events in South Africa for the company. Breanna is now branching out into the role of Tour Director of the Canadian Dance Awards and could not be more excited for this endeavor. Fostering growth, and creating opportunities for dancers to realize their potential, to deepen their connection to their art, and strengthen the Canadian Dance community as a whole is what drives and motivates her. She values and cares deeply for everyone in the dance community, and hopes to inspire each and every dancer that takes the stage with CDA, creating positive experiences and memories that will last a lifetime.

*Ashley Payne* hails from Buffalo, NY holding a B.A. in Dance Performance from Point Park University. As an international adjudicator,

professional dancer and choreographer, Ashley has studied and taught throughout New York City, Miami, and now Chicago. As a performer, Ashley has appeared in film, television, concert dance and theatre productions. Ashley's first standout roll was in the University production of *Contact* where she was a featured dancer and served as dance captain. Professional credits include: Regional Performances of: *Contact*; *Grease*; *Mame*; *Fame* and *Sing, Sing, Sing*; Episodes of: *The Rachel Ray Show*, *Blue Bloods*, *The Dark House*, and *Company Work*: [11:11](#) (The Company by Slam); *DSMR*; *Crazy Love*. Ashley has served as a choreographer for Jordan Sparks, Flash Mob America, Chicago Freelance Dance Festivals, Alluvion Dance and created an original work for ConvergeDance Dance Company. You may recognize Ashley from promotions for Verizon, Oreo Cookies, M&Ms, Estee Lauder, Suave and Avon. Ashley spends her time traveling internationally for multiple dance competitions and conventions as an adjudicator, teacher and choreographer. In addition to her dance training she is a licensed Group Fitness Instructor and developed BarreStrength, an original take on "barre fitness" for Lifetime Fitness. Ashley is the Director of Management for Quest Intensive, the most prestigious in-studio intensive. With Quest, Ashley develops educational programs for studios across the country as well as teaches master classes on technique, musicality and creating artistry! And because she didn't have enough to do, she started her own Dance Studio in 2021, Artistic Pursuit, located in the suburbs of Chicago.

*Hannah Zin*, a New York City based dancer, received her early training at the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School as well as many summer programs across the country. She graduated *summa cum laude* with a BFA in Dance and Art History from Fordham University and The Ailey School. Amongst other professional credits, she has been most proud of her work dancing in opera. Over the past six seasons, Hannah has had the pleasure of performing with The Metropolitan Opera in productions of *Guillaume Tell*, *Rusalka*, *Parsifal*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Macbeth*, with Opera Saratoga in *Zemire et Azor*, with the Lyric Opera of Chicago in *Florencia en el Amazonas*, and with the Washington National Opera, originating roles in new productions of *La Traviata*, *Carmen*, *Elektra*, and *Samson et Delilah*, for which she also served as the dance captain. Most recently she had the pleasure of traveling to Italy to join the cast of Francesca Zambello's production of *West Side Story* at Teatro Lirico di Cagliari. As a teacher, Hannah loves to bring aspects of her Pilates and functional anatomy training into the dance studio, knowing that it has helped her recover from injuries and has prevented many more! She is thrilled to be both an Adjudicator and the Nationals Title Program Coordinator for American Dance Awards and cannot wait to see what these talented dancers bring to the stage!

*Bailey Callahan*, originally from Central Florida, has been kicking with the Radio City Rockettes since 2012. Throughout her career, she has performed for thousands in the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular* under the direction of Linda Haberman and Julie Branam as well as *The New York Spectacular* directed by Mia Michaels. Her most memorable performances include the CBS Mariah Carey Special, The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, The Tony Awards, The MTV Video Music Awards, The Rockefeller Tree Lighting, The Today Show, The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon, NBC's Michael Buble Christmas Special, and the New York Knicks Half Time Show. Most recently, Bailey can be seen dancing in the Hallmark Channel's newest film, *A Holiday Spectacular* featuring the Rockettes. Additional credits include dancing for Disney, regional theater, and tv/film. Now residing in New York, Bailey continues to train in New York City to further her knowledge in the performing arts. When she is not performing, Bailey is most passionate about dance education. With certifications in the Progressing Ballet Technique, Exhale's Barre Fitness, and Cirqfit's Lyra training, Bailey applies her extensive knowledge in fitness and physiology to help dancers understand the 'why' behind their movement. Bailey is actively involved in the Rockettes' Dance Education department, having taught the new Rockettes Conservatory, audition prep workshops, and numerous precision jazz master classes. Most recently, she has traveled internationally to teach the audition tour for Virgin Voyages. Bailey brings her extensive experience to the classroom (and judges' table) in the hopes to inspire the next generation to follow their dreams!