

# ADA IN CLASS FACULTY BIOS

## BUFFALO, NY

*Michaela Marfoni* received her dance training from In Motion Dance Project in Orlando, Florida, where she trained extensively in all styles. At 17, she made her Broadway debut in West Side Story and has since been based out of New York City.

Most recently, she performed in the opening number of the 76th Annual TONY Awards alongside Ariana DeBose, choreographed by Karla Puno Garcia. She has also had the opportunity to perform with the Metropolitan Opera at Lincoln Center, Walt Disney World's 50th Anniversary Celebration, and Breitling's New York Fashion Week Navitimer launch, hosted by Misty Copeland and Charlize Theron.

She has had the privilege of working with many prestigious choreographers including Sonya Tayeh, Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker, Denis Jones, Kellen Stancil, Charlie Sutton, and Ricky Jinks. In addition to performing, Michaela has grown to love both teaching and choreographing. She hopes to share her passion for dance with young artists and inspire them to be the best versions of themselves.

*Julie La Mancuso* is the National Tour Director of the American Dance Awards, and the Director of ADA in Class. After growing up competing on the ADA stage, Julie transitioned into a regular adjudicator, teacher and choreographer for the company, both at the Regional and National level. Julie is also a sought-after choreographer and teacher based out of Buffalo, NY. Known for her high energy classes and award-winning choreography, Julie has been on faculty and taught as a guest artist at many of Western New York's premier dance schools.

Julie obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University at Buffalo in Dance in 2012. Julie's work has represented the University at Buffalo's Department of Dance at the American College Dance Festival at Penn State University. She served as the Assistant to the Director for both of the university's resident dance companies, Zodiaque Dance Ensemble and Zodiaque Dance Company, which gave her invaluable experience in arts management and theatrical production. Julie is a past recipient of the Amanda Occhino Endowment Scholarship of the Arts, given annually to the dance

major who shows the most dedication to the program of Theatre & Dance. In the summer of 2011, Julie was named America's Young Choreographer of the Year at the American Dance Awards National Championship in Boston, MA. In the Spring of 2012 she joined the American Dance Awards team as a judge and faculty member, and the rest is history.

In addition to her work with ADA and ADA in Class, she currently guest teaches and choreographs across the US and Canada. Julie's favorite part of her work is that it gives her the opportunity to help students come to realize their full potential as dancers, artists, and people. Participating in American Dance Awards since 1998 as a competitor, teacher, judge, faculty member, and now a Director has given her a great appreciation for and first hand experience of the pillars on which this company is built – integrity, education & inspiration. Julie is honored to help lead ADA into its next 40 seasons of family friendly, education based dance competitions and events.

*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. She has studied with artists such as Medhi Waterski, Jesse Zaritt, Douglas Becker, Adi Salant, Jermaine Spivey, Spenser Theberge, and Tilman O'Donnell. Most recently, she performed at Madison Square Garden for Phish's 2020 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 TMilly TV: The Studio, Broadway Dance Center, Edge PAC, Movement Lifestyle, Genesis Studios, and Peridance Capezio Center. She received her BFA in Dance from the University of the Arts in 2015. Mary Grace is represented by BlocLA.

*Matthew Mancuso* is originally from East Haven, CT. He began his training at the age of 8 at Gloria Jean's Studio of Dance under the the direction of Stacy Eastman. In 2018, Matthew and his teammates traveled to Riesa, Germany for the World Tap Championships where they were awarded Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals. He was also awarded America's Male Dancer of the Year in 2021 at American Dance Awards, where he was the first male in ADA history to win all four national titles - Young, Junior, Teen and Senior! Matthew then moved to NYC and just recently graduated from NYU'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. Matthew most recently performed at the Carnival Choreographer's Ball, New York Fashion Week, Battery Park Dance Festival, and for the Steps Beyond Foundation. He loves teaching and choreographing, as well as passing his love for dance onto the next generation.

*Tommy Sutter*

(Coming Soon!)