



*Francine
Espiritu*

Francine is a New York Based Director/Choreographer/Educator. Growing up in Orange County, CA, she was already showing signs of becoming a performer at the young age of 3. Constantly hamming it up and entertaining her family, it was inevitable that the stage would become her second home. By the age of 6 she was performing in industrials, music videos and live performances. She trained at a competitive dance studio under established choreographers and continued her training at the University of California, Irvine where she obtained her BFA in Dance Performance with a minor in Sociology. A visit to New York City got her hooked on Musical Theater and she has been pursuing it ever since. She currently serves as an Adjunct Faculty Member for the Department of Theatre Arts at Marymount Manhattan College. Recent credits include Footloose and Mary Poppins at the MUNY. A Chorus Line at New York City Center, National/International Tour (Dance Captain/Female Swing). Choreography credits include The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical (Assoc. Choreographer for Broadway/National Tour) A Chorus Line (Asst. Choreographer for Hollywood Bowl, National Tour), A Chorus Line (Director/Choreographer at The Argyle Theater) Virgin Voyages Entertainment (Install Director/Choreographer) and most recently, OKLAHOMA! (Director/Choreographer at Montclair State University).



*Tony
Jackson-Hood*

Tony Jackson-Hood is a dedicated dance educator, performer, and choreographer originally from Philadelphia. His formal training began at the prestigious Philadelphia High School for Creative & Performing Arts and was further enriched by studies at PHILADANCO, The Rock School for Dance Education, and Dance Theatre of Harlem. In 2004, Tony was honored as a Coca-Cola Arts Award Scholar and received a Presidential Scholarship to attend the University of the Arts, where he earned his B.F.A. in Dance in 2008. During his collegiate years, he performed works by esteemed choreographers such as Louis Johnson, Christopher Huggins, Roni Koresch, and Darrell Grand Moultrie. Tony's professional performance career includes credits with Eleone Dance Theatre, Smoke, Lillies & Jade Arts Initiative, Rebecca Davis Dance Company, Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley, Dance Del Bello, the Philadelphia Opera, and Philadanco's D/2. From 2017 to 2022, Tony served as the Artistic Director of the Making Moves Dance Collective in Beltsville, Maryland. He currently adjudicates for national dance competitions, including Headliners Dance Championships, On Point Dance National Talent, and American Dance Awards. Since 2017, Tony has been a full-time dance educator with Anne Arundel County Public Schools. He is the Dance Director at Brooklyn Park Middle School, where he leads a thriving public magnet dance program. He is a certified K-12 Dance educator in the state of Maryland. Tony has completed the ABT® Teacher Training Intensive in Pre-Primary through Level 3 of the ABT® National Training Curriculum. In 2023, Tony was named Maryland Dance Educator of the Year (K-12) by the Maryland Dance Education Association, recognized for his excellence in fostering student growth in technique, creativity, and performance. Next month, Tony will graduate with a Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Curriculum & Instruction from the American College of Education, continuing his mission to inspire and uplift through dance education.



*Katie
Kozul*

Katie Kozul began her dance training at The Gold School in Brockton, Massachusetts under the direction of Rennie Gold and her mother, Kathy Kozul. She attended the Walnut Hill School for the Performing Arts and later went on to attend the Alvin Ailey/Fordham University BFA program. Kozul joined Hubbard Street 2 of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago as an apprentice in September 2012. She was later promoted to company member in August 2013 and toured nationally and internationally with the company. She has performed works by George Balanchine, Alejandro Cerrudo, Francesca Harper, Robyn Mineko Williams, Terence Marling, Ihsan Rustem, and Bryan Arias. While in Chicago, she also had the opportunity to participate in a number of collaborations with The Symphony Orchestra, The Civic Orchestra, The Art Institute, and The Second City.

Katie is incredibly passionate about teaching, choreographing, and arts education. Her teaching credits include Hubbard Street Dance Chicago Teen Intensive, Walnut Hill School for the Arts, and The Gold School. She is honored to be a three time recipient of American Dance Awards' Choreographer of the Year. Currently, Katie is on faculty at Charlotte Klein Dance Centers. She is also a certified Pure Barre instructor.



EAST HAVEN, CT SPECIAL AWARDS JUDGE



*Bailey
Harding*

Bailey V. Harding, hailing originally from Central Florida, has been gracing the stage with the Radio City Rockettes since 2012. Over the span of her career, she has captivated audiences as a Rockette and Swing in the Radio City Christmas Spectacular, led by esteemed directors Linda Haberman and Julie Branam, as well as in The New York Spectacular under the direction of Mia Michaels. Among her standout performances are appearances on the The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, The Tony Awards, The MTV Video Music Awards, Christmas in Rockefeller Center, The Today Show, The Tonight Show, and the New York Knicks Half Time Show. She has also shared the stage with iconic celebrities such as Michael Bublé, Mariah Carey, Katy Perry, Jimmy Fallon, and James Cordon to name a few. Most recently, Bailey can be seen in the Hallmark Channel's latest production, A Holiday Spectacular, a beloved story featuring the Rockettes set in the 1950s. Her film credits continue as Bailey debuted in the feature film, Are You There God? It's Me Margaret, working with choreographer Mandy Moore. Her portfolio extends beyond the Radio City stage, encompassing roles in Disney productions, regional theater, television/film, and cruise lines.

Now a resident of New York, Bailey remains committed to honing her craft through continuing education. Outside of her performance commitments, Bailey's passion lies in inspiring the next generation of dancers. With certifications in Progressing Ballet Technique, Exhale's Barre Fitness, and Cirqfit's Lyra Arts, she applies her expertise in fitness and physiology to instill safe dance practices in her students. Actively engaged in the Rockettes' Dance Education department, Bailey imparts her wealth of experience through teaching in the Rockettes Conservatory, conducting audition prep workshops, and leading precision jazz master classes. She endeavors to empower the next generation by inspiring them to pursue their dreams with the utmost support.