

SUMMER INTENSIVES 2026



July 13-17
ages 4+

August 3-7
Ages 11+



ELEVATE YOUR ARTISTRY. PUSH YOUR BOUNDARIES

Join us for an immersive summer experience designed to challenge your technique and ignite your passion. With an exceptional faculty and a curriculum spanning a wide range of styles, our intensives are the perfect place to level up your training.

Why Choose Our Intensives?

- Diverse & Challenging Styles: Deep dives into Ballet, Hip Hop, Contemporary, Jazz, Musical Theater, Acro, strength training, and more.
- Elite Mentorship: Train with guest artists and industry professionals.
- Flexible Scheduling: Extended day options available.
- Comprehensive Training: Programs designed to build stamina, versatility, and technical precision.



SCAN ME

REGISTRATION DETAILS:

Registration Fee: A \$50 non-refundable registration fee is required to secure your spot.

Enrollment: Space is strictly limited to ensure personalized attention for every student.

Ready to Secure Your Spot?
Register today to join our incredible faculty for a summer of growth, transformation, and fresh choreography!

CONTACT:

- www.dgridance.com
- 401-919-5252
- defyinggravityri@gmail.com
- 816 Middle Rd. Unit 4 East Greenwich, RI 02818

SUMMER INTENSIVES 2026



WEEK 1: JULY 13-17

AGE	HOURS	EXTENDED OPTIONS	LEVEL/FOCUS
4-6	9am - 12pm	Until 5pm	Foundational skills & creative movement
7-10	12pm - 5pm	Starts at 8:30am	Technical growth & style exploration
11+	9am - 5pm	Starts at 8:30am	Two Levels; placement at teacher discretion

WEEK 2: AUGUST 3-7

AGE	HOURS	EXTENDED OPTIONS	LEVEL/FOCUS
11+	9am - 5pm	Starts at 8:30am	Two Levels; placement at teacher discretion

Dancer Essentials & Requirements

Nutrition:

Ages 4-10: Please pack a healthy snack and a reusable water bottle.

Ages 11+ (and Full Day students): Please bring a nut-free lunch and a water bottle.

Footwear & Dress Code:

Shoes: All dancers must pack Tap, Ballet, and Turning shoes daily.

Ballet Days: Dancers are required to wear ballet tights and a bodysuit.

Hair: Must be secured neatly (a bun is required for all ballet sessions).

General Classes: Standard dance attire suitable for movement.



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Pricing:

AGES 4-6 (9AM - 12PM)	\$175
FULL DAY OPTION (9AM - 5PM)	\$325
AGES 7-10 (12PM - 5PM)	\$250
FULL DAY OPTION (9AM - 5PM)	\$325
AGES 11+ (9AM - 5PM)	\$325

2026 Summer Intensive Faculty



NOAH ANDRADE

Noah Andrade is a passionate dancer, choreographer, and movement director from Providence, Rhode Island with 14 years of formal training and professional experience in New York City and Los Angeles. A Pace University alumnus who studied Business Management while pursuing dance, Noah blends creative vision with strong technical foundation and real-world industry knowledge. He has earned multiple choreography awards, including recognition from Youth America Grand Prix, and his performance work includes an appearance in Disney's Hocus Pocus 2. Noah's versatility extends into modeling and editorial work, with features in VOGUE Italia and campaigns for Calvin Klein and Target. As a movement and artistic director, he leads creative projects across stage, screen, and commercial shoots, continually pushing the boundaries of storytelling through movement. Noah remains committed to evolving his craft and mentoring the next generation of performers.



TRAVIS ATWOOD

Travis Atwood is an award-winning dancer, choreographer, and instructor with a career that spans television, national competitions, and international performances. A recipient of honors from NYCDCA and The Dance Awards and formerly signed with Clear Talent Group, he studied Commercial Dance at NYU at Pace University and placed 6th on Season 2 of Abby's Ultimate Dance Competition. Travis brings performance experience and technical expertise to every class, teaching Dance and Acro across Rhode Island and Massachusetts and mentoring students from beginner to competition level. Passionate about storytelling through movement, he helps dancers build confidence, artistry, and strong technique.



NICOLE BIBBY

Nicole is a well known dancer and choreographer residing in Warwick, Rhode Island. Nicole has extensive knowledge in ballet, jazz, tap, hip hop, and lyrical dance. Her training includes Kelly Cannone, Gerianne Genga, Dante Sciarra, Myles Marsden, and Michael Taylor. Throughout her career, she has performed across the country in various shows and competitions. Some dance titles won include Starquest, American Dance Awards, Dance Alliance, and Tremaine dancer of the year. Over the years she has performed for the Helping Hands Foundation, Dancers Responding to Aids, Miss Rhode Island Pageant, and United We Dance in association with the Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre. She was a choreographer/teacher for All Star Dance Academy (Portsmouth, RI), Extensions School of Dance (Bristol, RI), Jean Deluca Dance Studio (Johnston, RI), Paula Coffee Dance Center (MA), Falmouth Dance Academy (Falmouth, MA), and Greta Lemming Dance Studio (Ottawa, CA) More recently, she has graduated from Salve Regina University receiving her bachelors degree in marketing in May 2007. While at Salve she earned the position as senior captain of the dance team.



GRACE BRESSNER

Grace Bressner is a Rhode Island raised dance instructor with a specialty in Acrobatics, Jazz, Jumps, and Tricks. A former competitive dancer, Grace has trained extensively in classical styles and has explored a wide variety of dance genres throughout her career. During the pandemic, she took her passion online, building a TikTok following of over 1.1 million by creating original choreography and reimagining trending dances for a global audience. Today, Grace brings that same creativity and energy to the classroom, focusing on jump techniques and acrobatic training for her students at DGRI.



KELLY CANNONE

Kelly Cannone is an arts educator with more than 25 years of experience who founded Dance Artistry, Inc. in Warwick, RI, in 1981 and grew it into a studio Dancer Magazine named among the nation's most successful. She also created the Dance Artistry Dancers, a nonprofit company for students ages 7-20 that performs nationally and has toured in Copenhagen, Minsk, and Moscow. A committed community leader, Kelly has served on numerous boards—including The Arts Advocate of Rhode Island, Dance Teachers Club of Connecticut, and Dance Masters of America—while adjudicating major competitions and teaching at conventions like Dance Olympus and Candance. Her choreography credits span corporate events, commercials, music videos, and pageants, and she has appeared in television commercials and theater. A black belt in American Kenpo Karate, Kelly developed self-defense workshops for high school students and designed early-education arts curricula used in over fifteen Rhode Island preschools, championing arts education across the region.

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ANYA CONNELLY

Anya Connelly is an experienced cheerleading instructor with over 10 years of all-star cheerleading experience. She is passionate about helping athletes develop new skills while building strength, confidence, and teamwork. Her classes provide a supportive and energetic environment where students are encouraged to try something new, grow as athletes, and have fun along the way. Anya strives to create a positive space where every student can reach their goals and become their best self.



ASHLEY DESCHAMPS

Ashley Deschamps is a dedicated ballet, tap, jazz, and pointe instructor who brings professional performance experience and formal teacher training to every class. A graduate of the Dance Teachers' Club of Boston teacher training program, Ashley began dancing at age three at Krylo Dance Studios in Woonsocket, RI. She danced with Festival Ballet Providence's junior company — performing in *The Nutcracker*, annual culminates, and a Degas-themed concert at RISD — and competed in the New York City finals of the Youth America Grand Prix. Ashley continued her training at Dean College, performing in cabarets and showcases before earning a Bachelor of Arts in Dance with a minor in Business in 2011. She has served as a teacher and judge for Dance Masters of America's New England scholarship event and has judged for Take Centerstage Dance Challenge. A member of the Greater Brockton Dance Teacher Association since 2018, Ashley is also Pure Barre certified and currently teaches in Foxborough.



LAUREN DIFEDE

Lauren Difede was born in St. Croix of the U.S. Virgin Islands, but has primarily grown up in Houston, TX. She began dancing at 8 years old at North Harris Performing Arts in Spring, TX and is grateful for her versatile training in ballet, contemporary, jazz, and tap. Lauren graduated from the dance department at the High School for Performing and Visual Arts in Houston and then received her Bachelor of Liberal Arts in Psychology, with a minor in Philosophy, from the University of St. Thomas in Houston. Lauren has danced for Revolve Dance Company (Houston, TX), Dominic Walsh Dance Theater (Houston, TX), Infinite Movement Ever Evolving (Houston, TX), Spindle City Ballet (Fall River, MA), Untitled Collective (NYC), and is currently a dancer with the Island Moving Company in Newport, RI. Lauren has also had the privilege to work and train with notable choreographers from all over the world including Paul Lightfoot, Sol Leon, Marco Goecke, Natalia Horena, Maurice Causey, Priscilla Nathan Murphy, and Fred Strobel. Lauren has been teaching for 14yrs and currently provides instruction in Ballet, Contemporary, Jazz, and Tap in ages 3-adult.



GERRIANNE GENGA

Gerrienne Genga is an accomplished actor, singer, dancer, and choreographer whose career spans stage, screen, and television. She starred as Maggie Jones in the Broadway National Tour of *42nd Street* and has brought to life some of her favorite roles, including Velma Von Tussel in *Hairspray*, Maria Morelli in *Lend Me a Tenor*, Dorothy Brock in *42nd Street*, and Elaine Navazi in *The Last of the Red Hot Lovers*. On screen, Gerri recently appeared in Netflix's *Harlem*, Lifetime Movie Network's *Murder at Blackthorne Manor* and can be seen in numerous films and commercials. As a choreographer, her credits include national campaigns for Hasbro, halftime shows for the FIFA World Cup, and *NSYNC's sold-out Giant Stadium concert. Her acclaimed choreography for *Anything Goes* earned her the BroadwayWorld Award for Best Choreography.



JADE GENGA

Jade Genga is a professional performer and teaching artist based in Rhode Island. Having spent the last ten years teaching at universities, dance studios, and high schools across New England, she is currently part of the adjunct faculty of Salve Regina University's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. She is also grateful and proud to be represented by Firestarter Entertainment. Select dance company credits include: Liv3ilhood Szn 4, KPC Dance Company (NYC), Mississippi: The Dance Company (MS), and Hinge Dance Company (MS). Select regional theatre and touring credits include: PBS Kids' *The Odd Squad Live!*, the National Tour (*Dance Captain/Female Swing*), *Fairytale Farm*, *Nevermore: The Fantastic Terrors of Edgar Allan Poe*, *How to Be a Widow*, *Cabaret*, *It's A Wonderful Life*, *Anything Goes* and *My Fair Lady*. Select New York City credits include *A Night Of Play*, *Blood & Water*, *I Could Never Love Anyone*, *Connections*, *Your Name On My Lips*, *Marilyn Exposed*, and *Diary: A One Act Play*.

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JAMIE GIUSTI

Jamie Giusti has been dancing for over 27 years and has been teaching for over 12 years. She grew up studying various styles of dance including Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Lyrical and Acro. She spent many years competing at various regional and national competitions. After graduating Cranston High School West she continued dancing for the UFL team, Hartford Colonials. In 2016 Jamie graduated from Johnson & Wales University receiving her Bachelors degree in Business Management. She enjoys sharing her passion and love for dance while creating a positive and fun environment for her students.



BRIAN GOMEZ

Brian Gomez is a Company Dancer with Ballet RI, having joined the organization in September 2023. Originally from La Habana, Cuba, he received his training at the prestigious National Ballet School of Cuba "ENA," where he developed the strong technical foundation and artistry that define his performances today. Brian's passion for ballet is rooted in dedication and perseverance, guided by his belief that "Without sacrifice there is no victory." Among his favorite roles is Solor from Le Bayadère, a role he considers a dream to perform and hopes to revisit in the future. One of Brian's proudest achievements is being promoted to Principal Dancer at just 18 years old, a testament to his exceptional talent, discipline, and commitment to his craft.



NIKKI GYFTO

Nikki Gyfto is a choreographer, educator, and creative director whose work reaches dancers across New England and the nation. With over 25 years in the dance world, a BA in Public Relations & a Masters in Business Administration, Nikki brings a diverse perspective as Blank Space co-owner & creative director of LIV3LIHOOD -- a professional dance crew that has earned top honors at leading competitions across the country. A celebrated creator, Nikki has received over 75 choreography awards, including IDA Best Performance of the Year. She is a respected and insightful convention educator, empowering dancers nationwide as faculty for Soul De Soul and Turn It Up Dance Conventions. Nikki was the assistant director for the 2024 Monsters of Hip-Hop show under the direction of Alex Fetbroth, and most recently, her collaborative choreography with Alex Mateo was selected as a finalist for the Choreographer's Cup presented by the Dance Educators Collective. Throughout her career, Nikki has trained and mentored dancers who have gone on to sign with major agencies and perform on world tours, Super Bowl halftime shows, and Coachella stages. Her passion lies in uplifting dancers to reach their highest potential and sharing her artistry with young creators all across the nation.



DELANEY INMAN

Delaney Inman is a versatile dancer and choreographer from Providence, Rhode Island, with additional professional experience in Los Angeles, California. She is deeply passionate about both performance and creation, and has trained in a wide range of styles including Contemporary, Jazz, Hip-Hop, and Ballet. After nine years in the competitive dance scene, Delaney continued her training with respected companies and crews such as BCDP Global, Providence Ballet Theatre, and LIV3LIHOOD. She has shared her work nationwide as both a performer and educator, teaching at events like Turn It Up Dance Challenge and BCDP's MOTIVIZE, and previously serving on faculty at Thr3e LIV3 Dance Complex. Her choreography has been featured on national television and has earned numerous top awards. Her performance credits include New Kids on the Block, Diogo Piçarra, and appearances at Choreographer's Carnival in New York and Los Angeles. She also placed first in the U.S. at the World of Dance Finals with LIV3LIHOOD, and continues to pursue growth in the professional dance industry.



KATIE KELLEY STAMM

Katie Kelley Stamm, originally from Cranston, RI, began her classical dance training at age five at Festival Ballet Providence. She performed with the school's Junior Company and later with the professional company in productions such as Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, and The Nutcracker. She also trained on full scholarship at the Harid Conservatory and performed with Gelsey Kirkland Ballet in New York City. In 2013, Katie joined Part of the Oath Dance Theater as an apprentice and later became a soloist through 2016. She has since expanded her work into choreography and teaching, co-creating The Nutcracker for The Talent Factory and serving as rehearsal director at American Ballet Academy. Her choreography has earned top placements at YAGP Boston and the W.B.A.C. Grand Prix, and her students have achieved top awards at major competitions including YAGP, CT Classic, Revel, ADE, and Radix. Katie is certified in all three levels of Progressing Ballet Technique™ and in the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet curriculum. She is passionate about inspiring and training the next generation of dancers.

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TALIA LAURITO

Talia Laurito is a former competitive and professional dancer, she has always prioritized strength, conditioning, and overall wellness as key to performance and longevity. She began her training at Atwood Performing Arts Center and went on to teach at studios across New England, including Defying Gravity School of Dance. She also performed professionally as a New England Patriots Cheerleader, gaining experience in elite performance and fitness. After transitioning into a full-time fitness career, she focused on helping clients build strength safely and effectively, emphasizing proper technique and injury prevention. Discovering Solidcore became a turning point, providing the challenging, results-driven training she sought. Today, she is passionate about creating supportive, motivating environments where clients feel empowered and confident in their strength.



ANDY PROCOPIO

Andy Procopio established AMP Training Center in November, 2013. After 6 years of strength and conditioning experience in various settings, and interaction with athletes of all sports/skill levels, he knew it was time to share that experience in a new way. Upon graduation from the University of Rhode Island in 2007, Andy became an assistant strength and conditioning coach, working with all of their varsity athletic teams. Following 2 years of coaching at URI, and another 2 years working in the health club industry, Andy entered graduate school at URI where he taught as a graduate assistant in the Kinesiology program completing a Master's degree in exercise science. During that time Andy researched the effects of resistance training on adolescent athletes. Andy's passion for coaching is evident in the way that he oversees, empowers, and challenges both staff and clientele at AMP Training Center. Movement and strength drive every training session, whether one on one or group lead. Expectations are high while maintaining a fun, loose environment.



KENTARO SHIOZAWA

Kentaro Shiozawa was born in Japan and raised in Irvine, California, beginning their training at age seven at Maple Conservatory of Dance under Charles Maple. They continued their studies at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre's Full-Time Program and attended summer programs with organizations including Washington Ballet, Milwaukee Ballet, and Oklahoma City Ballet. In 2018, they toured Eastern Europe with Butler Ballet, and in 2020 earned a BFA in Dance Performance from Butler University. They are currently pursuing a graduate degree in Clinical Mental Health at the University of Wisconsin-Superior.

Ken is also an accomplished choreographer and educator, with work set on Minnesota Ballet and experience teaching ballet, jazz, and modern. Their performance credits include featured roles such as Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the Snow King in *Nutcracker: A Duluth Tale*, Prince Ivan in *Firebird*, and the Wizard in *The Wizard of Oz*.



NICOLE SHOREY

Nicole Shorey is a professional dancer with a strong foundation in jazz, contemporary, lyrical, jazz funk, and hip hop. Based in Los Angeles, Nicole has performed at the professional level in music videos and live stage productions, working as a backup dancer for major artists and appearing in projects across the entertainment industry. They currently perform for the WNBA, bringing powerful stage presence and technical excellence to high-energy live events. With years of industry experience, Nicole has developed a deep understanding of performance, choreography, and the dedication required to succeed in the professional dance world. Now, they are passionate about sharing that knowledge and giving back to the next generation. Nicole is committed to inspiring and training young dancers—helping them build confidence, develop strong technique, and pursue their own dreams through the art of dance.



KAREN SWIATOCHA

Karen Swiatocha is a graduate of Connecticut College, she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Dance, magna cum laude, and was selected as a soloist to represent the college at the Bates Intercollegiate Dance Showcase. She was awarded the Richard Ellner Scholarship to study at Broadway Dance Center, where she later joined the Children's Program faculty. Her professional experience includes performing with Tracey Stanfield's Synthesis Dance Project and serving as a substitute instructor at Broadway Dance Center. She also received a full scholarship to the José Limón Summer Dance Intensive and worked as resident choreographer for Theatre Kidz in New York City. Additionally, she was Assistant Director and a soloist with the Rebutal Dance Group, and served as a Stage One competition judge at both regional and national levels. A longtime member and soloist with Fusionworks Dance Company from 2005–2013, she also contributed as a guest choreographer. Throughout her career, she has trained with numerous influential teachers and choreographers across both commercial and concert dance.

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HANNAH TEIXEIRA

Hannah Teixeira began her dance training at Defying Gravity, where she spent over nine years as a competitive dancer, earning numerous high scores and special awards. Her dedication to performance and growth helped shape her strong foundation and passion for dance. She attended the Community College of Rhode Island and is currently in cosmetology school, continuing to build her skills in a new creative field. Hannah's primary focus in dance is jazz and acrobatics, where she brings energy, precision, and athleticism to her movement. She remains passionate about both artistry and hands-on creative work.

MASSIEL VALDERRAMA

Massiel Valderrama was born in Lara, Venezuela, and graduated in 2016 from the María Teresa Alford School. She began her professional career in 2017 with the Teresa Carreño Theater Company in Caracas, later joining Ballet Municipal de Lima in 2018, where she performed for four years. In 2021, she moved to Miami and became a company member of Dimensions Dance Theater of Miami, and she is currently dancing with Ballet RI. Throughout her career, Massiel has performed both corps de ballet and soloist roles in classical and contemporary works, including *The Nutcracker*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, and *La Bayadère*, as well as works by choreographers such as Septime Webre, Yanis Piskieris, and Gerald Arpino. In addition to performing, she has over seven years of teaching experience, working with schools including Lucy Telge Studio in Peru, María Verdeja School of the Arts in Miami, Prodigy Dance Studio in Miami, and Ballet RI School.