

FUSION DANCE COLLECTIVE PRESENTS

unveil

SEASON ONE SHOWCASE

ARTS AT THE ARMORY
SOMERVILLE, MA

17TH OF MAY, 2025
SATURDAY, 3:30 & 7PM

BOARD@FUSIONDANCECOLLECTIVE.ORG
WWW.FUSIONDANCECOLLECTIVE.ORG

***WARNING:** STROBE LIGHTS ARE USED DURING SOME PERFORMANCES

OUR STORY

A LETTER FROM THE BOARD

In 2023, six Founders came together with a shared dream: to build a non-profit dance collective that prioritizes the voices and needs of its members, given the evolving demands of our city.

Thus, Fusion Dance Collective was founded on the pillars of accessibility, artistry, and community. The mission became to challenge the norm of “adult dancing” and cultivate a space that captured the passion and youth ever-present in the dance world. The overwhelming support we have received is a testament that the industry is evolving, and our peers are seeking not only dance, but a platform where they are encouraged to be vulnerable in their art, advocate for their opinions, and form genuine relationships within their community. We as the Board recognize the world’s thirst for depth and honesty and are committed to meeting its challenge.

Tonight’s showcase is a remarkable culmination of our community’s hard work, growth, commitment, and belief in our vision. To our incredible members: thank you for trusting us and for showing up with passion and purpose. To our choreographers: your brilliance, generosity, and artistry have transformed this space into something extraordinary. And to our families and friends: your love and support sustain us. Thank you for believing in what we are building.

It feels surreal to welcome you to the audience of our debut show. We never expected this level of support, and the curtain rising to two sold-out performances is beyond our wildest dreams. Thank you so much for being here and for sharing this experience with us. We can’t wait to see where this community will lead us next, but we know we’ll be guided by full hearts, open minds, and steadfast determination.

xoxo

THE BOARD

fusion
dance collective

SPECIAL THANKS

FDC WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR INCREDIBLE SUPPORT STAFF, SPONSORS, AND THE VENDORS WHO HAVE MADE THIS SEASON POSSIBLE.

OUR FRIENDS OF FUSION DONATION MEMBERS

Allison Majka	John Simonelli	Lynda Kelly
Cathy Simonelli	Joy Playter	Thomas Thompson
Claire Varrieur	Kimberly Gray	Todd Chamberlain

OUR VENUE STAFF, STAGE MANAGERS, & VOLUNTEERS

Arts At The Armory	Carpentry by:
Ella McGonagle	Henry Tompkins
Shira Magram	John Simonelli

OUR SOFTWARE ENGINEERING CONSULTANT

Sarah Canesio

OUR SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

Brooke Diefenbach	Logan Forster
Inas Ianali	Maddie McNamara
Jessica Fappiano	Maya Talwar-Hebert

OUR PHOTOGRAPHERS & VIDEOGRAPHER

Emma Fredericks, Mickey West, Toon TV

OUR VENDORS

Lindsey Barcebal-Doyle (Whimsy Floral Studios)
Rich McKinnon (Elite Embroidery)

OUR SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ashley Houston-King (yoga)
Morgan Phizenmaier from EVOLVE PT (physical therapy)

MEET THE BOARD

Imagery by Emma Fredericks Photography



**MARISSA
SIMONELLI**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**EMMA
KELLY**

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



**SYDNEY
MAJKA**

**DIRECTOR OF
FINANCE**



**SYDNEY
GRAY**

**DIRECTOR OF
EXTERNAL OPERATIONS**



**ALLY
CHAMBERLAIN**

**DIRECTOR OF
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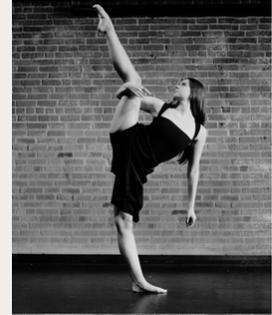


**AMANDA
KILLAM**

**COMMUNICATIONS
DIRECTOR**

MEET THE DANCERS

Imagery by Mickey West Photography



MEET THE CHOREOGRAPHERS



ALLISON CROSS

Allison began dancing at age two at Donna Miceli Dance Center and continued through high school and college. After returning home, she joined Danceworks Boston, choreographing for five seasons. She's now excited to debut work in Fusion Dance Collective's first showcase!



BRIT SEIPP

Brit began dancing at age 5 in New York. They studied Neuroscience and Dance at Bates College and earned an MSc in Dance Science from Trinity Laban in London. Since 2022, Brit has been active in Boston's dance scene and is now the Administrative Manager at Boston Dance Studios. She's thrilled to join FDC's first performance season!



BROOKE DIEFENBACH

Brooke graduated from the University of Hartford in 2020 with a degree in Entrepreneurship. She has taught dance and currently choreographs and trains with Fusion Dance Collective and DanceWorks Boston. Outside of dance, she works as a MedTech software consultant and supports women entrepreneurs through freelance consulting.



COURTNEY SPERO

Courtney, a Vassar College graduate, performed with Vassar Repertory Dance Theater and led student groups FlyPeople and Vassar On Tap. Her choreography has been featured at major festivals, earning the 2024 People's Choice Award at New Century Dance Project. Now based in Boston, she dances with Urbanity 2, Danceworks Boston, and Fusion Dance Collective. More at sperodance.com

MEET THE CHOREOGRAPHERS



DANIELA MAIZ

Daniela started dancing at age 3 at Studio L Dance Co. in NJ and continued at Northeastern University as captain of the dance team. Now pursuing a PhD in Pathobiology at Brown, she remains active in Boston's dance scene and is pumped to join FDC Season 1!



EMILY CAPLIS

Emily began dancing at age 3 in Gilbert, AZ, training competitively in styles like ballet, jazz, and contemporary. Now based in Boston, she performs, teaches, and choreographs for local groups, and is excited to join FDC's first season!



EMMA KELLY

Emma competitively danced for nearly a decade. She apprenticed with BalletX before earning a Biology degree and Dance minor from Union College, NY. Now based in Boston, she works at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and serves as Artistic Director of Fusion Dance Collective.



HALEY GYORDA

Haley began dancing at age three and later led the hip-hop group Dance Fusion at Quinnipiac University. She has since taught across New England and assisted top educators. Now pursuing an MBA at Bentley, Haley works in marketing while continuing to perform and teach in Greater Boston.

MEET THE CHOREOGRAPHERS



JAMES ELWELL

James (he/they) is a dancer from outside Philadelphia with over a decade of experience. A recent Tufts graduate in Biomedical Engineering with a Dance minor, James now trains at Boston Dance Studios and performs with Urbanity Underground. They also work in choreography, lighting design, and media editing.



JESSICA FAPPIANO

Jess began dancing at age 5 at Steppin' Out Dance Academy in Kingston, NH, training in multiple styles. She danced with the UNH Dance Company while earning a degree in Environmental Engineering. Since moving to Boston in 2021, she has worked full-time as an Environmental Engineer and continues to dance and choreograph.



MAYA TALWAR-HEBERT

Maya is a Boston native who has danced with Urbanity Dance and Danceworks NYC. She recently graduated with her Masters of Public Health and is excited to return to the Boston dance scene with Fusion! She's passionate about creating a welcoming space for collaboration and co-creation.



SYDNEY GRAY

Sydney grew up dancing competitively in Pittsford, NY, and later studied Chemical Engineering and Contemporary Dance at Case Western Reserve University. Since moving to Boston in 2018, she has worked as a Battery Engineer at Form Energy while performing, teaching, and co-founding FDC. She's excited to help build a vibrant dance community and choreograph for the inaugural season.

act one

UNVEILING BY SYDNEY MAJKA

Music by : Maggie Rogers

Performed by the full SZN 1 cast

★ **WELCOMING REMARKS** FROM THE BOARD

HERETIC* BY EMMA KELLY

Music by : Florence + The Machine

"This piece is about control and the complexities of removing yourself from a bad situation. It represents a desperate attempt at gaining back your power and the juxtaposition of how little you can feel during that process."

Cast : Alexis Callen, Amanda Killam, Brit Tompkins, Brooke Diefenbach, Danielle Minieri, Inas Lalani, Jessica Fappiano, Kristen Cormier, Marissa Simonelli, McKenzie Plaza, Meghan D'Arcy, Meghan Hubbard, Rachel Pincus, Sydney Gray, Taylor Finelli

TILTED BY COURTNEY SPERO

Music by : Christine and the Queens

"My piece is set to a song richly produced with a driving synth and punchy percussion that makes me (and hopefully you!) want to dance! My choreographic style is an energetic amalgamation of my experiences in concert and commercial dance, a groovy good time. It has been a joy to explore movement and music with a cast and community of talented and passionate dance."

Cast : Alexis Callen, Annie McDonald, Brianna McCuaig, Courtney Spero, Lacey Chambers, Regina Milkani

ANGEL NUMBERS* BY HALEY GYORDA

Music by : Chris Brown

"This piece will be a celebration of dance - exerting positive energy, and feeling deeply connected with the cast and the dance community as a whole. We're all here for a reason, to continue our passion for dance and have fun, and that's exactly what we'll do!"

Cast : Ally Rzesza, Alyson Yawitz, Analisa Palla, Bayleigh Nugent, Christopher Butler, Danielle Levy, Destiny Gonzalez, Haley Gyorda, Katya Droznin, Kristen Cormier, Marissa Simonelli, Sydney Gray, Syra Pandey, Taylor Finelli

DARKNESS ON THE RUN BY BRIT SEIPP

Music by : Troels Abrahamsen

"With this piece, I hope to use the song's melancholic vocals and music production to evoke some deep emotions, and offer a moment of introspection and self reflection."

Cast : Alexis Callen, Brooke Diefenbach, Courtney Spero, Inas Lalani, Kristen Cormier, Regina Milkani, Vasia Fotopoulos

NIGHTMARES AND DAYDREAMS* BY MAYA TALWAR-HEBERT

Music by : The Mamas and The Papas

"This piece gives a creepy spin to a syrupy oldies classic, turning a dream into a bit of a nightmare..."

Cast : Allison Cross, Annie McDonald, Danielle Levy, Eva Brady, Maya Pandey, Maya Talwar-Hebert, Shira Magram, Sofia Fauza, Sydney Majka, Victoria Robichaud

ESCALATE* BY EMILY CAPLIS

Music by : Tsar B

"Escalate is a contemporary fusion piece combining fluid grace with sharp, percussive motion. It challenges dancers to explore new movements, express their style, and build confidence on and off stage."

Cast : Alexis Callen, Ally Rzeska, Bayleigh Nugent, Danielle Levy, Danielle Minièri, Haley Gyorda, Inas Lalani, Jessica Fappiano, Kristen Cormier, Logan Forster, Meghan D'Arcy, Sydney Gray

act two

DESPERADO BY DANIELA MAIZ

Music by : Rihanna

"The vision for this piece is to lean into the sharp, clean lines, and attitude of jazz, while also relying on the musicality to bring us a fusion groove. The song's moody vibe taps into feelings of vulnerability, and the need to break free and find someone to escape with."

Cast : Adriana DeFilippis, Ally Chamberlain, Corazón Núñez, Daniela Maiz, Danielle Levy, Danielle Minièri, Emma Kelly, Haley Gyorda, Imi Donovan, Isabel Hansen, Jessica Fappiano, Marissa Simonelli, Natalie Phelps, Sara Lowell, Shira Magram

THE DINER* BY BROOKE DIEFENBACH

Music by : Billie Eilish

"The overarching theme of this piece is human bias and judgment, but more specifically, it's about feeling judged for certain aspects of your life, while also judging others for theirs. In the dance, every person carries a risqué secret but, at the same time, casts judgment on others."

Cast : Alexis Callen, Annie McDonald, Brooke Diefenbach, Caitlyn Corcoran, Courtney Spero, Eric Beltrami, Eva Brady, Inas Lalani, Isabel Bowen, Katerina Koch, Kathryn Warren, Kristen Cormier, Meghan D'Arcy, Regina Milkani, Shira Magram

WON'T BY JAMES ELWELL

Music by : Tanerelle

"Designed to incorporate themes of a broken romance that one holds knowing that it's destined for failure. Lots of themes of resistance and feeling as if you're throwing yourself into a pattern that you've grown accustomed to."

Cast : Analisa Palla, Connie Yu, Emma Kelly, Inas Lalani, Maya Pandey, Maya Talwar-Hebert, Meghan D'Arcy, Natalie Phelps, Quilla Flanagan-Burt, Rachel Pincus, Sarah Stevens, Sofia Fauza, Sydney Gray, Syra Pandey, Vasia Fotopoulos

ON MY SOUL* BY SYDNEY GRAY

Music by : Nas and Tobe Nwigwe ft. Jacob Banks

"This piece embodies how it feels to be invincible. These dancers exude confidence, power, and energy, and they certainly can't be messed with."

Cast : Alyson Yawitz, Amrita Anbarasu, Christopher Butler, Danielle Levy, Destiny Gonzalez, Francisca Rocha, Katerina Koch, Katya Droznin, Kristen Jones, Madison McNamara, McKenzie Plaza, Regina Milkani, Sarah Finamore, Sydney Gray

SHOW ME YOUR TEETH* BY ALLISON CROSS

Music by : Lady Gaga

"We are so excited to take the stage and perform this sexy jazz dance for you all. Please make some noise for the beautiful dancers and do not be afraid to cheer throughout! "Love is like a brick. You can build a house, or you can sink a dead body." ~ Lady Gaga"

Cast : Alexis Callen, Alia Campbell, Allison Cross, Angelina King, Annie McDonald, Brianna McCuaig, Caitlyn Corcoran, Eva Brady, Isabel Bowen, Julia Henriques, Katherine Antos, Maya Pandey, Rachel Pincus, Shira Magram, Victoria Robichaud

CHIHIRO BY JESSICA FAPPIANO

Music by : Billie Eilish

"Inspired by the film Spirited Away and its main character, Chihiro, this piece is meant to evoke the feeling of being lost and alone in an unknown world."

Cast : Ally Chamberlain, Bayleigh Nugent, Daniela Maiz, Danielle Levy, Danielle Minieri, Emma Kelly, Haley Gyorda, Imi Donovan, Isabel Hansen, Logan Forster, Marissa Simonelli, Natalie Phelps

★ **BOWS** FULL SZN 1 CAST

Please consider joining us for our casual reception at the venue following the 7 pm show. Expected start is around 8:30 pm. The bar will remain open.

FUTURE PROGRAMMING

SUMMER 2025

FDC is thrilled to announce plans for our upcoming year of programming.

OPEN WORKSHOPS

We will continue hosting open workshops taught by members of our community. While we are still finalizing contracts, we anticipate the following:

TIMELINE	June 23rd - August 20th
DATES	Mondays & Wednesdays

For those interested in teaching a class, our choreographer interest form will be released promptly following the end of show week. It will remain open for about two weeks. Keep an eye on our socials for the drop!

PROFESSIONAL FILM OPPORTUNITY

This summer we will also offer a professional film opportunity with ToonTV for a limited cast of dancers. There will be three closed rehearsals throughout the summer on Wednesdays in place of the typical open workshops. Those looking to participate will audition by submitting a video. Deadlines will be announced shortly although we anticipate them being in June.

STYLE	Contemporary
REHEARSALS	7/30, 8/6, 8/13
AUDITION DEADLINE	June - exact date TBA
FILM DATE	August - exact date TBA

FUTURE PROGRAMMING

FALL/WINTER 2025

FDC plans to host our next performance season starting this fall. To remain aligned with our values, we will be surveying our SZN1 cast to assess where we can improve. These results will help inform our SZN2 plans.

SZN2 IS COMING!

Our second performance season will remain familiar - we will host choreographer auditions over the summer, followed by dancer auditions, and then kick-off rehearsals in September. The season will conclude with our SZN2 showcase.

Throughout the season we will continue hosting open classes taught by our community.

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

FDC will continue offering two membership options for our dancers. We remain passionate about continuing to build a community of both dancers joining us on stage and in class.

- **Performance Membership**
- **Class Membership**

SUPPORT FURTHER

Fusion Dance Collective is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations qualify as a deductible charitable contribution to the extent the law provides. *Note: The Board remains a non-paid, volunteer commitment, so know that all donation will be reinvested into the business to fulfill our mission.*

Our **Friends of Fusion Membership** (FoF) was born out of the incredible amount of support we received from community members who will not be participating in our dance programming but remained committed to aiding our mission. The FoF Membership is an annual donation of \$100 per year and can be canceled at any time. Members can follow FDC's growth with personalized newsletters from the Board. They will also receive the following perks:

- Discounted tickets to our performances
- Discounted merchandise
- Tax deduction benefit as a qualified 501(c)(3) organization

Donations enable us to:



Secure space for future workshops, rehearsals, and performances



Subsidize future membership costs for our dancers



Cover operational costs (insurance, business tools, corporate applications, etc)

DONATE HERE

JOIN FRIENDS OF FUSION HERE

**THANK YOU &
ENJOY THE SHOW!**