



FUSION DANCE COLLECTIVE PRESENTS

# EMBER

**SEASON TWO SHOWCASE**

SOMERVILLE THEATRE

31ST OF JANUARY, 2026

2:00 & 7:00 PM

[BOARD@FUSIONDANCECOLLECTIVE.ORG](mailto:BOARD@FUSIONDANCECOLLECTIVE.ORG)

[WWW.FUSIONDANCECOLLECTIVE.ORG](http://WWW.FUSIONDANCECOLLECTIVE.ORG)

**\*WARNING:** STROBE LIGHTS ARE USED DURING THIS PRODUCTION

## 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.

Thus, Fusion Dance Collective was founded on the pillars of **accessibility**, **artistry**, and **community**. The mission became to cultivate a space that captured the passion and youth of 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 artistically vulnerable, advocate for their opinions, and find true connections within their community. Building FDC with these challenges in mind has become our purpose.

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.

With that, we welcome you to the audience of our Season Two show, *EMBER*. Thank you for being here - for supporting us and our members who have become our family. We hope you enjoy!

xoxo

THE BOARD

# SPECIAL THANKS

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

## **SOMERVILLE THEATRE'S INCREDIBLE STAFF**

David Gruber, Lighting Designer  
Eoghan McCarthy, Production Manager  
Ian Judge, Creative Director

## **OUR MARKETING SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Ellouise Mcgonagle  
James Elwell  
Maggie Bergman  
Syrá Pandey  
Kat Mastoras

## **OUR OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Brit Tompkins  
Emily Caplis  
Maya Talwar-Hebert  
Shreya Shetty

## **OUR FRIENDS OF FUSION DONATION MEMBERS**

Allison Majka  
Cathy Simonelli  
Claire Varrieur  
John Simonelli

## **OUR INTERIM GRAPHIC DESIGNER**

James Elwell

## **OUR VIDEOGRAPHER**

Oil Lantern Studios

## **OUR PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Emma Fredericks  
Nikki Zaino (volunteer)

## **OUR VENDORS**

Lindsey Barcebal-Doyle  
(Whimsy Floral Studios)

## **OUR SOFTWARE ENGINEERING CONTRACTOR**

Sarah Canesio

## **OUR PARTNERS**

Morgan Phizenmaier from EVOLVE Physical Therapy  
Rich McKinnon from Elite Embroidery

# 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  
INTERNAL OPERATIONS



**AMANDA  
KILLAM**

DIRECTOR OF  
MARKETING

# MEET THE DANCERS

Imagery by Emma Fredericks Photography



# MEET THE CHOREOGRAPHERS



## DESTINY GONZALEZ

Destiny has been dancing since the age of five and has competed across New England. She earned a Dance minor at Boston College, where she directed and choreographed for the university's hip hop crew, Phaymus Dance Entertainment. She currently performs with Unknown Hype Dance Company and Fusion Dance Collective. With over eight years of experience teaching youth hip hop, Destiny now teaches at the Frisoli Youth Center through the City of Cambridge, where she continues to inspire the next generation of dancers.



## SYDNEY GRAY

Sydney has been dancing her entire life, starting in her hometown of Pittsford, NY where she danced competitively in a variety of styles. She went on to study Chemical Engineering at Case Western Reserve University, where she also earned a minor degree in contemporary dance from Mather Dance Center. Sydney currently works as a Battery Engineer at Form Energy, and has been performing and teaching in the Boston dance community since she moved here in 2018.



## ERIC BELTRAMI

Eric has been choreographing since his days at his performing arts high school back in Connecticut, where he received formal training in classical styles and completed dedicated choreography coursework. In his collegiate years, he led the University of Connecticut Dance Company and choreographed a range of styles in that setting including contemporary, jazz, jazz funk, and hip-hop.



## DANIELA MAIZ

Daniela began dancing at the age of 3 at Studio L Dance Co. in Waldwick, NJ, where she competed in multiple styles. She continued her passion for dance at Northeastern University where she was captain of the dance team, and has remained an active member of the Boston dance community since. Daniela is currently pursuing her PhD at Brown University in Pathobiology.

# MEET THE CHOREOGRAPHERS



## SYRA PANDEY

Syra Pandey is a performer and choreographer originally from Shrewsbury, MA. She received her BA in Dance (with a concentration in performance and choreography) and minor in Psychology from Dean College. She has had the honor of performing works by Stephen Ursprung, Tara Iacobucci, Kayla Luoma, Kimberley Calore-Sedlak, and other artists, but Syra also has been able to choreograph a variety of pieces focusing in Contemporary, Modern, and Jazz during her time at Dean.



## BRIT TOMPKINS

Brit is an established choreographer specializing in hip hop and contemporary fusion. She taught for many years at her local dance studio and has since choreographed for competitions and conventions. Brit continues to teach workshops throughout the Boston area and has performed with multiple dance companies. She holds a degree in technical design and has worked at Jacob's Pillow, experiences that continue to influence her work in live performance and the dance community.



## MARISSA SIMONELLI

Marissa moved to Boston after graduating from the University of Connecticut in 2018. She has continued her dance journey throughout her life, starting at age two with the Dance Academy of Somers, followed by the UConn Dance Company, and finally with various organizations and studios throughout Boston. She is one of the FDC Founders and has been so proud watching FDC continue to grow through SZN 02.



## JAMES ELWELL

Originally from the greater Philadelphia area, James has been dancing for over ten years, training in styles such as contemporary, jazz, modern, ballet, hip-hop, street choreography, and tap as well as some experience training in waacking, house, and popping. He previously choreographed for FDC's SZN 01 performance, is a choreographer and member for Urbanity 2, an instructor at Dawn's School of Dance, and a member of the dance group QWAM. With an overwhelming love for dance, James has been incredibly excited to choreograph again for FDC's SZN 02 performance.

# MEET THE CHOREOGRAPHERS



## BROOKE DIEFENBACH

Brooke has danced most of her life training in contemporary, modern, jazz, ballet, hip hop, and heels. Primarily focused in any commercial styles during high school, she spent summers training in Boston, New York, and LA with hopes to be in music videos. With a knee injury taking her out from her college dance studies, she taught contemporary and jazz for 4 years at a local competition studio. After taking some time off, she restarted dance with Danceworks Boston and has not stopped dancing since.



## ANALISA PALLA

Analisa Palla is a passionate choreographer who creates to make empowering choreography for dancers of all backgrounds. She has found her creative voice and style through professional training in Laban Technique and House Hip-Hop. Her work has been performed throughout the Northeast in Greater Boston studios, Urbanity Dance, and the American College Dance Association. As Analisa continues to teach and choreograph, she is inspired by her students, family, and friends that challenge and support her creative voice.



## MADISON MCNAMARA

Maddie began dancing at age 4 at Dancer's Workshop in Sudbury, MA, and never stopped! She choreographed for a student-run dance company in high school, specializing mostly in contemporary/contemporary fusion. She continued to dance after moving to Boston during law school and found her happy place with FDC, where she choreographed a drop-in class and danced as a season one cast member.



## TAYLOR FINELLI

Taylor grew up training and competing in all styles of dance at Liza Indiciani Studio of Dance, where she developed a deep foundation in tap, jazz, ballet, contemporary, hip-hop, and lyrical. She continued her dance journey at the University of New Hampshire, where she studied both dance and aerial arts, and began choreographing. Taylor's style blends technique with dynamic musicality and storytelling, and she's passionate about creating pieces that challenge dancers while connecting with audiences.

## act one

### **EMBER** BY ALLY CHAMBERLAIN

Piece Music : "Golden" by Harry Styles

Performed by the full SZN 2 cast

### ★ **WELCOMING REMARKS** FROM THE BOARD

### **ALRIGHT** BY DESTINY GONZALEZ

Interlude Music : "Availability" by Ethel

Piece Music : "Alright" by Victoria Monet

*"This piece is a sultry, jazz-infused celebration of confidence, transformation, and unapologetic self-expression."*

Cast : Adriana Callen, Alia Campbell, Chloe Chen, Brooke Diefenbach, James Elwell, Vasia Fotopoulos, Destiny Gonzalez, Sydney Gray, Dayra Hidalgo, Cass Ng, Bhavya Ram, Courtney Spero

### **RAIN DANCE** BY SYDNEY GRAY

Interlude Music : "FoolMoon" by KAMAUU

Piece Music : "Rain Dance" Marian Hill Remix by Whilk & Misky

*"This piece is inspired by the cleansing power of rain when the world is burning."*

Cast : Christopher Butler, Emily Caplis, Nicole Crispino, Taylor Finelli, Sydney Gray, Angela Ji, Kristen Jones, Syra Pandey, Natalie Phelps, McKenzie Plaza, Cass Rompala, Brit Seipp, Marissa Simonelli, Megan Stevens, Sarah Stevens, Nikki Zaino

### **THE GROOVE** BY ERIC BELTRAMI

Interlude Music : "Everything She Wants" Remix by Wham!

Piece Music : "Everything She Wants" by Gus Dapperton

*"This piece is about yearning, at the disco."*

Cast : Eric Beltrami, Isabel Bowen, Sofia Fauza, Julia Henriques, Sara Lowell, Annie McDonald, Kenni O'Donnell, Brit Tompkins, Siena Wood, Hannah Zaheer, Cordelia Zawarski

### **HALLUCINATIONS** BY DANIELA MAIZ

Interlude Music : "The Signs" by Tash

Piece Music : "Hallucinations" by dvsn

*"Hallucinations explores the disorienting and nuanced feelings of missing someone you love."*

Cast : Christopher Butler, Adriana Callen, Emily Caplis, Ally Chamberlain, Kristen Cormier, Allyson Crisa, Brooke Diefenbach, Sydney Gray, Angela Ji, Emma Kelly, Shira Magram, Daniela Maiz, Sydney Majka, Maddie McNamara, Brit Seipp

*JDC*

## **ODYSSEY** BY SYRA PANDEY

Interlude Music : "Flight" by Son Lux  
Piece Music : "Dream State" by Son Lux

*"This piece is about embracing this adventure we call life. We are all on our own paths and life is full of uncertainties, but our journeys is just beginning."*

Cast : Eric Beltrami, Kristen Cormier, James Elwell, Sofia Fauza, Vasia Fotopoulos, Sherry Fung, Maya Talwar-Hebert, Emma Kelly, Danielle Levy, Halle Loring, Caroline Melvin, Natalie Phelps, Rachel Pincus, Megan Stevens, Sarah Stevens

## **CALI HEAT\*** BY BRIT TOMPKINS

Interlude Music : "California" by Trinix Remix  
Piece Music : "Sippin Yak" by Cloonee, "Lose Control" by Young Franco/Earthgang/Jafunk, "Dopeness" by Black Eyed Peas, "Drop" by Timbaland/Fatman Scoop

*"This is a high-energy hip hop piece that mixes smooth grooves with explosive moments and musical precision. This choreography captures the feeling of stepping into the room with full confidence and heat."*

Cast : Annie McDonald, Brit Tompkins, Cass Ng, Christopher Butler, Ellouise McGonagle, Eric Beltrami, Katrina Mastoras, Kenni O'Donnell, Maggie Bergman, Marissa Simonelli, McKenzie Plaza, Nicole Lambi, Nicole Zaino, Serena Petruzello, Sydney Gray, Taylor Finelli

## **act two**

## **UNCHAINED MELODY** BY MARISSA SIMONELLI

Interlude Music : "Be My Baby" by The Ronettes  
Piece Music : "Unchained Melody" by The Righteous Brothers

*"This piece is dedicated to all the lovers who've been lost to their own reality."*

Cast : Adriana Callen, Emily Caplis, Chloe Chen, Kristen Cormier, James Elwell, Jessica Fappiano, Taylor Finelli, Sydney Gray, Emma Kelly, Danielle Levy, Ellouise McGonagle, Danielle Minieri, Syra Pandey, McKenzie Plaza, Marissa Simonelli, Ellen Timothy, Brit Tompkins

## **I FEEL LOVE** BY JAMES ELWELL

Interlude Music : "Feelings Gone" by SG Lewis  
Piece Music : "I Feel Love" by Donna Summer

*"This piece is dedicated to the beautiful journey of self-love and love for others, all with a futuristic disco flair."*

Cast : Adriana Callen, Annie McDonald, Caroline Melvin, Dayra Hidalgo, Ellouise McGonagle, Halle Loring, Hannah Zaheer, Heidi Farrell, Logan Forster, Maya Talwar-Hebert, Rachel Pincus, Sarah Stevens, Siena Wood, Sofia Fauza, Syra Pandey, Vasia Fotopoulos, Zoe London

## **FEELING WHITNEY** BY BROOKE DIEFENBACH

Interlude Music : "Tomorrow" by Shakey Graves  
Piece Music : "Feeling Whitney" by Post Malone

*"Feeling Whitney is for those who have ever pretended everything is okay when it's really not."*

Cast : Eric Beltrami, Isabel Bowen, Ally Chamberlain, Caitlyn Corcoran, Kristen Cormier, Allyson Crisa, Destiny Gonzalez, Angela Ji, Emma Kelly, Shira Magram, Daniela Maiz, Brit Seipp, Megan Stevens

## **GIRLFIGHT** BY ANALISA PALLA

Interlude Music : "Ring the Alarm" by Beyonce  
Piece Music : "Girlfight" by Brooke Valentine

*"Girlfight is an empowering piece that celebrates the confidence of women in all backgrounds through Hip Hop."*

Cast : Kady Darrow, Heidi Farrell, Sofia Fauza, Vasia Fotopoulos, Dayra Hidalgo, Sunnie Hodge, Katrina Mastoras, Syra Pandey, Serena Petruzello, Natalie Phelps, Cass Rompala, Shreya Shetty, Courtney Spero

## **ZOMBIE** BY MADDIE MCNAMARA

Interlude Music : "Nothing Else Matters" by Metallica  
Piece Music : "Zombie" by The Cranberries

*"Not about the living dead! A piece exploring themes of loss, control, and unresolved pain."*

Cast : Ally Chamberlain, Alia Campbell, Emily Caplis, Brooke Diefenbach, James Elwell, Sydney Majka, Brianna McCuaig

## **MOULIN ROUGE** BY TAYLOR FINELLI

Interlude Music : "So Exciting! (The Pitch Song) Moulin Rouge!" by The Original Moulin Rouge Broadway Cast

Piece Music : "Welcome to the Moulin Rouge!", "The Sparkling Diamond", "El Tango De Roxanne", "More More More! (Encore)" by The Original Moulin Rouge Broadway Cast

*"This upbeat, energetic piece draws on the dazzling world of the Paris Cabaret and the film's story of passionate, tragic love. It is designed to make the audience feel like they are in on the action."*

Cast : Allison Cross, Brit Tompkins, Caroline Melvin, Danielle Minieri, Destiny Gonzalez, Ellen Timothy, Ellouise McGonagle, Julia Henriques, Kady Darrow, Marissa Simonelli, McKenzie Plaza, Natalie Phelps, Rachel Pincus, Serena Petruzello, Sherry Fung, Taylor Finelli, Vasia Fotopoulos

## ★ **BOWS**

### FULL SZN 2 CAST

Please consider joining us for our post-show reception upstairs in the venue at the Crystal Ballroom. Expected run time is 8:30-10:30 pm weather permitting.

FDC

# FUTURE PROGRAMMING

# FDC SZN 03 IS COMING!

## DANCER AUDITIONS

- **REGISTRATION OPEN NOW - THURS FEB 5TH @ NOON**
- Saturday, Feb 7
- BU FitRec (915 Commonwealth Ave, Boston)
- Video option available

## REHEARSALS

Feb 23 - June 18

Midway Artist Studios (15 Channel Ctr St, Boston)

Bi-weekly 1.5 hour rehearsals

## THE SHOW

- Saturday, June 27
- Somerville Theatre (55 Davis Square, Somerville)
- Tech & Dress on Sunday, June 21

## THE SCHEDULE

### WEEK A STARTING THE WEEK OF 2/23

TUES 7-8:30 PM	SHERRY FUNG	CABARET	MUSICAL THEATRE
TUES 8:30-10 PM	ERIC BELTRAMI	KILLSHOT	JAZZ
WED 7-8:30 PM	BHAVYA RAM	GEEDHARA KILIYE	CONTEMP/INDIAN FUSION
WED 8:30-10 PM	CHRISTOPHER BUTLER	ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST	JAZZ FUNK
THURS 7-8:30 PM	ALLY CHAMBERLAIN	ESCAPES INTO MOONLIGHT	CONTEMPORARY
THURS 8:30-10 PM	EMILY CAPLIS	SEVEN DEVILS	CONTEMP/JAZZ FUSION

### WEEK B STARTING THE WEEK OF 3/2

TUES 7-8:30 PM	VASIA FOTOPOULOS	BAD OMENS	CONTEMPORARY
TUES 8:30-10 PM	BRIT SEIPP	I FOUND YOU	CONTEMP/JAZZ FUSION
WED 7-8:30 PM	SYDNEY GRAY	DOECHIIIII	HIP HOP
WED 8:30-10 PM	DANIELLE LEVY	MY OLD WAYS	CONTEMP/JAZZ FUSION
THURS 7-8:30 PM	SOFIA FAUZA	ALIBI	CONTEMP/LATIN FUSION
THURS 8:30-10 PM	SYRA PANDEY	WAITIN' ON YOU	JAZZ/HIP HOP FUSION

## 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](#)

# FILM REPERTOIRE

## midnight oil

ORIGINAL WORK BY  
ALLY CHAMBERLAIN  
*filmed by toon tv*

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Midnight Oil represents the effects of burn out in the corporate workplace and the struggle to find purpose and balance in a high pressure environment. The piece explores going through the motions of everyday tasks to crashing out when the pressure is at its peak, but ultimately getting back on the hamster wheel to finish what you've started. © OCT 07 2025

[watch video here](#)



## chihiro

ORIGINAL WORK BY  
JESSICA FAPPIANO  
*filmed by huck vaughan and  
giancarlo lavall*

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The song Chihiro is inspired by the main character from the film Spirited Away. The piece is about feeling lost and alone (something everyone has felt) and navigating through that feeling. Each section of this music is unique (some soft, some intense, some full of accents/beats) and I wanted to play with all these elements in the choreography to really highlight each section and help bring the music to life. © JAN 27 2026

[watch video here](#)

# BEHIND THE CURTAIN

enjoy a sneak peak of our tech rehearsal  
(hosted during Boston's biggest snow storm)

alright  
choreographed by destiny gonzalez



photography by Nicole Zaino (@nikkizphoto)

rain dance  
choreographed by sydney gray



photography by Nicole Zaino (@nikkizphoto)

the groove  
choreographed by eric beltrami



photography by Nicole Zaino (@nikkizphoto)

hallucinations  
choreographed by daniela maiz



photography by Nicole Zaino (@nikkizphoto)

odyssey  
choreographed by syra pandey



photography by Nicole Zaino (@nikkizphoto)

cali heat  
choreographed by brit tompkins



photography by Nicole Zaino (@nikkizphoto)

unchained melody  
choreographed by marissa simonelli



photography by Nicole Zaino (@nikkizphoto)

i feel love  
choreographed by james elwell



photography by Nicole Zaino (@nikkizphoto)

feeling whitney  
choreographed by brooke diefenbach



photography by Nicole Zaino (@nikkizphoto)

girlfight  
choreographed by analisa palla



photography by Nicole Zaino (@nikkizphoto)



**THANK YOU &  
ENJOY THE SHOW!**