

STEFFI NOSSEN DANCE FOUNDATION

Proudly Presents Our

87th

Annual
**BENEFIT
CONCERT**

SATURDAY
MARCH 23
2024

7PM

White Plains Performing Arts Center

Photo: Ellen Crane Photography





*"Anyone can dance –
and everyone should."*

– Steffi Nossen (1905-1979)

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Saturday, March 23, 2024
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White Plains Performing Arts Center

**PRESENTING OUR MASTER CLASS
& COMPANY DANCERS**



Dear Families, Friends, Colleagues and Alumnae,

Welcome to the 87th Anniversary Gala of the Steffi Nossen Dance Foundation; I am honored and privileged to be celebrating this monumental occasion with all of you.

Tonight, we gather in celebration of the Master Class and Company dancers and the incredible accomplishments they have made this year. Under the direction of Alyssa Fulmer, Company Director and alums, Jessica DiMauro Marks, Artistic Director, and Annie Doss, Master Class Faculty, they are rising to great artistry that would have made Steffi proud. They dance with honesty, integrity and drive every time they step into the studio while opening their hearts and minds to the great possibilities to come.

The lineage, legacy and longevity of the Steffi Nossen curriculum, school, foundation and mission have been rooted in the love, passion and commitment of our dancers, teachers, faculty, staff, board and families. As the oldest dance institution in Westchester County we strive to bring integrity, inclusivity, diversity and honesty to every class, workshop and performance. This is what has propelled us through the last 87 years and inspires us to continue to diligently work, share and spread our mission for the years to come.

As we celebrate our dancers, let's also think of both past and present tonight. We need and ask for your help in continuing to clear a path to the future. Along with our pre-professional program, we have an extensive Outreach Program with both Adaptive dance classes for youth and adults and classes for people from underserved communities. All donations go directly to fund these programs along with our Financial Aid Fund. Please help us continue to share our love and passion for dance education throughout Westchester County by making a donation.

Lastly, I am grateful for those who have led before me and those who lead alongside me; together we continue to carry Steffi Nossen's traditions, legacy and dreams into the future. Thank you to our staff, faculty, choreographers, composers, costume designers, production crew, Board and families for making this event possible and one to celebrate and remember.

Enjoy the show!

Shelley Grantham
Executive Director
Steffi Nossen Dance Foundation

Production Staff

Jessica DiMauro Marks, *Producer*
Shelley Grantham, *Executive Director*
Victor Catano, *Production Stage Manager*
David Lovett, *Lighting Designer*
Alyssa Fulmer, *Company Director*
Christa Chepurny, *Publicity*
Michelle Wert, *Creative & Program Design*
Bryan Russo, *Videographer*
Ellen Crane, *Photographer*

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Steffi Nossen School of Dance

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Bridget Cronin
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Annie Doss
Alyssa Fulmer
Sasha Gologorskaya
Kelly Ireland
Amy Kail
Silvana Larkin
Paulette Lewis
David Leventhal
Tara LeVoci
Giada Matteini
Wendy Morsberger
Courtney Murray
Caren Valente

Steffi Nossen Mission Statement

Steffi Nossen School of Dance continues today with the same philosophy that Steffi imbued it with more than eighty years ago:

“Anyone can dance – and everyone should!” –Steffi Nossen

We believe that dance is a unique form of education, developing the body, mind, spirit and character. Our supportive, inclusive environment provides a home in which dancers of all shapes, sizes and abilities may take risks and challenge themselves, thereby building confidence and self-esteem. Dancers develop poise, elegance and a high level of technique and artistry.

Education, performance and outreach shape the mission of our school. Steffi Nossen dancers are taught the importance of giving back early on and often grow into leadership roles as teaching assistants or by taking part in volunteer opportunities throughout the school. Steffi Nossen School of Dance is a strong proponent of dance literacy and emphasizes the art, joy and discipline of dance to enhance the young mind while challenging each student’s individual cognitive, technical and artistic growth.

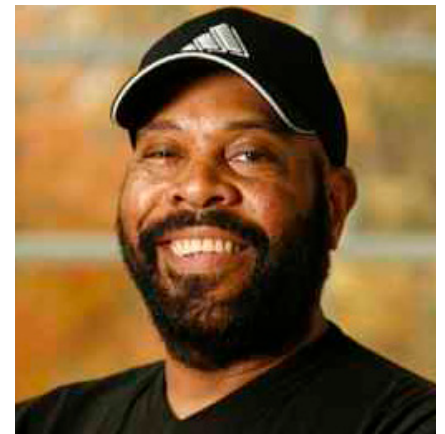
*Tonight we honor and remember two great artists
connected to Steffi Nossen*



Sarah Stackhouse was a masterful performer with the Limón Dance Company. Known for her deeply performative presence, her legacy can be traced back to her roots at Steffi Nossen, where she dove into the world of early modern dance. Her NY Times obituary states: “After the family relocated to Scarsdale, N.Y., she enrolled in the Steffi Nossen School of Dance and graduated from Scarsdale High School in 1954. It was at the Nossen school that Ms. Stackhouse came into direct contact with the first generation of modern dance innovators. Ms. Nossen admired the work of the

pioneering choreographers Ruth St. Denis and Ted Shawn. In the first decades of the 20th century, they blended ballet traditions with influences from India, Asia, Africa and Indigenous cultures that were rarely seen on professional stages in America at the time. As a result, Ms. Stackhouse’s early training was unusually eclectic.” We are honored to have been a part of her distinguished dance journey.

Kevin Wynn was a celebrated faculty member at Steffi Nossen for many years. He brought his richly complex and visually stunning movement style to both the Master Class program and as a commissioned company choreographer. His vibrant and genuine smile lit up the Steffi studio over many years. Kevin’s creative light was both generous and inspiring. His choreographic genius was impressive in all ways. In his rehearsals, he demanded excellence, while lifting up each dancer’s confidence and ability. Those who had the gift of working with him (including Master Class choreographers Jessica DiMauro Marks and Annie Doss, and Board Chair Anna Rotante Canoni) were indelibly affected by his remarkable spirit and warm laugh. We are eternally grateful for the imprint he has left on his students and the greater dance world.



Sarah Stackhouse, Limón Dance Company



Kevin Wynn, Limón Dance Company

The end is the beginning.

Choreographer: Jessica DiMauro Marks

Steffi Nossen Seniors

Dancers: Stephanie Avolio, Jinju Prince, Veronica Rubio

Music selection: "Drones & Violin: Part III Material in Two Keys" by Nico Muhly & Pekka Kuusisto

Waltz/ Tango

Choreographer: Annie Doss

Junior Master Class

Dancers: Delancey Czerw, Madeleine Deines, Eliana Ferguson, Lilah Marcus,

Kelsey Mukwashi, Mazie Reed, Adelaide Wright

Music selection: "3 Microids: No1, My Foot, on the other hand" by Guy Klucevsek and

"Tanguedia III" by Astor Piazzola

Costume Alterations: Hennie Bijsmans Fry

Liberty Park After Dark

Choreographer: Annmaria Mazzini

Steffi Nossen Dance Company

Dancers: Eva Aggarwal, Stephanie Avolio, Kaylee Canoni, Liam Maor, Jinju Prince, Annelia Ritter,

Mia Rosario, Veronica Rubio, Emiko Tonachel, Blake Wilson

Music selection: Mark Mellits, Regina Spektor

Costume Alterations: Hennie Bijsmans Fry

*Created on commission in 2012 by the Steffi Nossen Dance Foundation.***Dwalm Chorus**

Choreographer: Sarah Kramer

Steffi Nossen Dance Theater Group

Dancers: Aarushi, Mackenzie Avolio, Rebecca Bass, Alexis Canoni,

Ruby Van der Zandt, Eliana Zweig

Music selection: "Dawn Chorus" and "Impossible Knots" by Thom Yorke

*Program note: When placed under a trance, at what point does one fight or succumb?***Tilted Sanctuary (2019)**

Choreographer: Cameron McKinney

Repetiteur: Emmy Wildermuth

Steffi Nossen Dance Company

Dancers: Eva Aggarwal, Stephanie Avolio, Kaylee Canoni, Liam Maor, Jinju Prince,

Annelia Ritter, Mia Rosario, Veronica Rubio, Emiko Tonachel, Blake Wilson

Music selection: "Material Things" by Tom Diccico

Costumes: Hennie Bijsmans Fry

*Program note: Tilted Sanctuary places the dancers inside a house club floating precariously off the edge of a cloud.**This work was originally commissioned by Princeton University.*

: *Intermission* :

The Start of the Sequel

Choreographer: Gabriella Mittenthal
Steffi Nossen Dance Company

Dancers: Eva Aggarwal, Kaylee Canoni, Jinju Prince, Annelia Ritter,
Mia Rosario, Veronica Rubio, Emiko Tonachel, Blake Wilson, *Stephanie Avolio, *Liam Maor **Apprentice*
Music Selection: "Home" Live (Micheal Petrucciani, Steve Gadd, Anthony Jackson)

no shade, just vibes

Choreographer: Annie Doss
Master Class I

Dancers: Aarushi, Rebecca Bass, Charly Bauerlein, Paola Parra, Aaliyah Taylor,
Ruby Van der Zandt, Adena Zitrin, Eliana Zweig
Music selection: "Enjoy the Silence" & "Never Let Me Down Again,"
written by Martin Gore, performed by Depeche Mode
Costume Alterations: Hennie Bijsmans Fry

Create, Collapse (excerpt)

Choreographer: Jessica DiMauro Marks
Master Class II

Dancers: Eva Aggarwal, Mackenzie Avolio, Stephanie Avolio, Alexis Canoni,
Kaylee Canoni, Liam Maor, Jinju Prince, Annelia Ritter, Mia Rosario, Veronica Rubio,
Emiko Tonachel, Blake Wilson
Music Selection: "Exposure, Collapse" and "Deep Water Channel" by Scanner,
"oneelevensixteen" (excerpt) by Meshell Ndegeocello
Costumes: Designed by Marlene Hamm for Montclair State University
Alterations: Hennie Bijsmans Fry
This work was originally commissioned by Montclair State University.



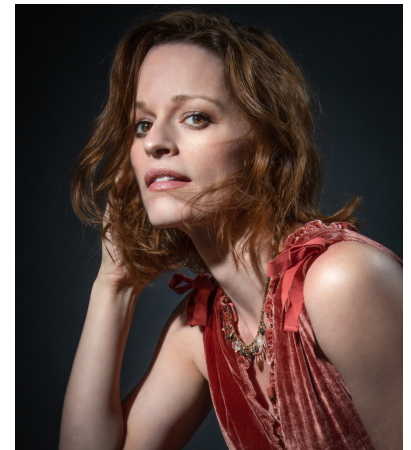
Jessica DiMauro Marks, a Steffi Nossen alumna, is a modern dance choreographer invested in creating work that is rich in physicality and deeply communicative. Jessica holds an MFA in Choreography from Jacksonville University and a BFA in Dance from Marymount Manhattan College. She has taught and choreographed works extensively for both pre-professional and professional dance companies throughout the United States. Her company, DiMauro Dance, has been selected to perform at numerous curated festivals including Dance Conversations at The Flea and WHITE WAVE's WAVE RISING Series. She is on faculty at Marymount Manhattan College and Montclair State University. She is a frequent guest artist for workshops and intensives throughout the tri-state area including the Martha Graham School and Earl Mosley's Institute of the Arts. In 2013, Ms. DiMauro Marks was proud to be among the first few students to be certified in May O'Donnell Technique. Jessica is a Certified Kripalu Yoga Teacher (RYT 200) and is a Certified Prenatal and Postnatal Yoga Teacher.

Annie Doss began teaching at Steffi Nossen in 2006. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from Marymount Manhattan College, studied at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, and is currently pursuing her MS in Movement Therapy at Pratt University. A Steffi Nossen alumna with many performing credits, Ms. Doss has also presented her own choreography at the Theresa Lang and Red Room Theaters, Dance Theatre Workshop (DTW), SUNY Purchase, and Peridance Center. She is a founding member of DiMauro Dance and a Certified Pilates Instructor. In addition to her role as faculty member and choreographer at Steffi Nossen School of Dance, Ms. Doss is also a member of the Faculty at Trapeze School New York.



Sarah Kramer (New Jersey), received her BFA in Dance at Montclair State University in 2021 and an Advanced Studies Certificate in Composition from the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance in 2023. She has received additional training at GagaLab NYC, Parsons Dance Choreography Workshop, and b12 Berlin Workshop Festival. As a performer, she has performed in works by Martha Graham, Ben Wright, Brandin Steffinsen, Maxine Steinman, Jessica Dimauro Marks, and others. Her own work has premiered in several venues and festivals in and around New York, notably 92nd Street Y's Dance Up! Emerging Choreographers series, the 2022 Steffi Nossen Fall Choreography Showcase, and the KoDaFe International Dance Festival. Her most recent works, "Tylwyth Teg" and "Beginning" premiered in May 2023 at the Martha Graham Studio Theater in New York City.

Annmaria Mazzini is a New York City dancer, choreographer, and teaching artist. From Allentown, PA, she began her performing career in local summer stock productions before earning a BFA in Dance from Southern Methodist University. A sixteen year tenure with the legendary choreographer Paul Taylor followed: first as a member of Taylor 2, then as a principal dancer of the Paul Taylor Dance Company, where she created roles in beloved pieces like Black Tuesday, Promethean Fire, and Changes. She remains on faculty at the Taylor School, serving as a teacher and répétiteur of works such as Esplanade and Cloven Kingdom. Her choreography has been presented by Steffi Nossen Dance Company, Moving Youth, and her own company, the Mazzini Dance Collective. She is currently performing with the Legacy Project, the Montreal based company of soloist Margie Gillis. An accomplished jewelry designer, her Dancing Amulets have been popular since 2006.





Cameron McKinney is a New York City-based choreographer and educator. As the Artistic Director of Kizuna Dance, he uses the performing arts to further connections between American and Japanese cultures. In addition to being both a U.S.-Japan Friendship Commission Creative Artist Fellow and an Asian Cultural Council Individual Fellow, he has been awarded choreography fellowships from The School at Jacob's Pillow, Princeton University, and the Alvin Ailey Foundation. He has presented work and taught in 20 states and four countries, including in the U.S. Ambassador's Residence in Tokyo. His commissions include The Ailey School, the Let's Dance International Frontiers Festival, and Marymount Manhattan College, among numerous others. His professorial credits include Princeton University, Montclair University, and NYU Tisch, among others. Each year, he organizes

Kizuna Dance's Open Intensive, a week of day-long intensives made entirely free for all participants.

Gabriella Mittenthal grew up in the Chicago Metropolitan area where she started training at the Academy of Dance Arts. Mittenthal graduated from Marymount Manhattan College in 2023, with a BFA in Dance concentrating in Choreography and Modern. While studying at Marymount she received the coveted Gold Key for Choreography, and performed works by Andrea Miller, Mary Ann Lamb, Caleb Teicher, Belinda McGuire, and many more. Mittenthal has shown her choreography at events including: American Heart Association's Go Red for Women 2022 Gala, Earl Mosley's Dancing Beyond 2023, and the 2023 NYSDEA/NDEO conference. Recently her work "LOLA" was featured at the 92Y virtual Future Dance Festival run by Harkness Dance Center.



Originally from Littleton, Colorado, **Emmy Wildermuth** is a New York City-based freelance performing artist and choreographer. Currently, Emmy is a member of companies including Kizuna Dance, NewBrese Dance, and rogue wave. Additionally, Emmy has presented work in New York City at Arts On Site, TADA! Theater, and Mark Morris Dance Center. She is the artistic director of dance.WILD and has presented work at the Oklahoma International Dance Festival and the Atlanta Science Festival. Emmy and her artistic partner, Catherine Messina, founded the unKEMpT Dance Festival, with a mission to provide performance opportunities for artists, regardless of background or resources. She continues to choreograph, edit, and produce dance films and staged choreographic works that inspire others to view the world through a redefined lens.



(L-R) Annelia Ritter, Jinju Prince, Veronica Rubio, Emiko Tonachel

Company Officers

President Jinju Prince

Vice President Veronica Rubio

First Officer Emiko Tonachel

Second Officer Annelia Ritter



Jinju Prince

Jinju Prince is a senior at Blind Brook High School and is honored to be this year's Company President. She has danced at Steffi for seven years and this is her fourth and final year in Company. Jinju is extremely proud of all the hard work she and her fellow dancers have put in to make this performance possible. Jinju will be attending Barnard College in the fall and she is tremendously grateful for the support Steffi has given her and for all the memories she has made here. Although bittersweet she is looking forward to her final benefit performance with the Steffi Nossen Dance Company.

Veronica Rubio

Veronica Rubio is a senior at Westlake High School and this year's Company Vice President. She has been dancing at Steffi Nossen for 12 years and this is her fourth and final year as a member of Company. Veronica will be attending Boston University in the fall as a Mathematics and Physics Major with a Dance Minor. She is deeply grateful to Steffi Nossen for being a source of joy, support, and countless cherished memories throughout the years. It has been her second home and a place where she has grown as both a person and a dancer. Veronica expresses her heartfelt appreciation to the staff and her fellow dancers for the meaningful years shared together and for making this last one unforgettable. She would also like to thank her family for their long-lasting love and support!





Emiko Tonachel

Emiko Tonachel is a junior at White Plains High School and Company First Officer this year. She has been dancing at Steffi for ten years and this is her second year in Company. She is so proud of all the hard work that everyone has put into this year's Benefit and cannot wait to perform onstage. Emi is so appreciative of all the memories and knowledge that Steffi has afforded her, and she is so excited to spend her senior year here.

Annelia Ritter

Annelia Ritter has been a part of the Steffi Nossen Dance Company for three years and she currently holds the position of second officer. Dancing has been her passion for as long as she can remember, and her favorite styles are ballet and jazz. Annelia is also actively involved at school, where she plays tennis, studies photography, and is editor of her school's yearbook. Annelia would like to thank her teachers, family and friends for guiding her to where she is today.



Steffi Nossen Dance Company members are selected from the most technically advanced and talented dancers in our Master Class Program through ongoing review and audition. Their love of dance and dedication set the tone for the school. Each year, two new works are commissioned and created for the company by professional choreographers. Dancers rehearse extensively and perform throughout the metropolitan area over the course of the year in benefits, lecture demonstration and outreach showings, often sharing the stage with professional dancers. Company members serve as mentors and teaching assistants with our younger dancers. The Steffi Nossen Dance Company embodies the mission and values of the Steffi Nossen School of Dance. We welcome performance opportunities at your school, agency or community event.



STEFFI NOSSEN DANCE COMPANY

(L-R) Back Row: Stephanie Avolio, Veronica Rubio, Jinju Prince
(L-R) Middle Row: Blake Wilson, Eva Aggarwal, Kaylee Canoni, Liam Maor
(L-R) Front Row: Mia Rosario, Annelia Ritter, Emiko Tonachel



MASTER CLASS II

(L-R) Back Row: Eva Aggarwal, Veronica Rubio, Stephanie Avolio, Liam Maor

(L-R) Middle Row: Blake Wilson, Mia Rosario, Kaylee Canoni, Annelia Ritter

(L-R) Front Row: Alexis Canoni, Mackenzie Avolio, Emi Tonachel, Jinju Prince



MASTER CLASS I

(L-R) Back Row: Aarushi, Ruby Van der Zandt, Paola Parra

(L-R) Front Row: Aaliyah Taylor, Charly Bauerlein, Rebecca Bass, Adena Zitrin

Not pictured: Eliana Zweig



JUNIOR MASTER CLASS

(L-R) Back Row: Eliana Ferguson, Adelaide Wright, Lilah Marcus

(L-R) Front Row: Delancey Czerw, Kelsey Mukwashi, Mazie Reed

Not pictured: Madeleine Dienes



DANCE THEATER GROUP

(L-R) Back Row: Aarushi, Ruby Van der Zandt, Mackenzie Avolio

(L_R) Front Row: Alexis Canoni, Rebecca Bass

Not pictured: Eliana Zweig



Eva Aggarwal



Stephanie Avolio



Kaylee Canoni



Liam Maor



Jinju Prince



Annelia Ritter



Mia Rosario



Veronica Rubio



Emiko Tonachel



Blake Wilson

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From the Board of Directors

“Dance is the hidden language of the soul.” — **Martha Graham**

Thank you to all of our hardworking and dedicated dancers for sharing this incredible art form with us all. Our sincere appreciation to the choreographers, faculty, and staff for putting together this magnificent evening of dance.

— **The Steffi Nossen Dance Foundation Board of Directors**



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**Council on
the Arts**

This program is made possible in part by ArtsWestchester with funds from Westchester County Government, along with support by the New York State Council of the Arts.