

PROMOTIONS

As Ballet West announced their end of season promotions for the coming year. It is amazing to look back and see just how many of these incredible dancers were part of the Ballet West Academy during their training years.

Corps Artist Victoria Vassos was promoted to Soloist. Victoria started as a Trainee, the highest level of BWA in 2016.

Nikole Faney was promoted from Corp Artist to Demi-Soloist. She also joined BWA as a Trainee in 2016.

Vinicius Lima was also promoted from Corp Artist to Demi-Soloist. Vini joined BWA as a Trainee in 2016 – a year full of talented dancers!

Stella Berkinshaw was promoted from Ballet West II (BWII) to the main company. Stella started dancing at BWA in 2011 when she was a child.

Anderson Duhan was promoted from BWII to the main company. He began as Trainee in 2019.

Maren Florence was also promoted from BWII to the main company. Maren began dancing at BWA in 2012 and grew up dancing here.

Jonas Malina-Thompson (below) was promoted from BWII to the main company. Jonas began dancing at BWA when he was 7.

BWA is helping dreams come true!



THE AMAZING MS. CONNIE



You CAN'T be around Ms. Connie without being in awe of her energy and enthusiasm for whatever she is engaged in at the moment. Whether teaching pre-ballet to a rambunctious class of 3-year-olds, or conditioning to the upper levels, she is always so fun for the kids to have as a teacher. One student said, "I want Ms. Connie for my grandma!" She's kind of everyone's favorite!

Ms. Connie began dancing when she was very young. She eventually trained at the University of Utah under BW founder Willam Christensen and Bene Arnold. She continued her training in dance and theater at Brigham Young University.

She shared her love for all aspects of ballet as the owner of her own studio for more than 20 years prior to teaching at Ballet West Academy. One fun fact about Ms. Connie is that 3 generations of her family, including herself, have been in Ballet West's *The Nutcracker*, choreographed by Willam Christensen!

Currently Ms. Connie is working in costuming for Academy shows in Park City, Utah County and Trolley Corners-Salt Lake City. If you have seen any of our shows, you know how amazing a Ms. Connie show looks! The costumes are beautiful and the kids feel special. She works tirelessly to make sure that each piece is ready and matches her vision prior to going on stage. The kids are always excited for the days they see Ms. Connie come to class with her bags and bins full of things to try on!

You can see Ms. Connie's handiwork on our fantastic dancers in "The Carnival of the Animals" in Park City on the evening of the 20th, and "The Seasons" in Salt Lake on the morning of the 20th.



Ms. Connie fitting students for the Trolley Corners Primary School Show "The Seasons".

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PERFORMANCES

- **Salt Lake City Upper School Spring Performance** (Levels 1 – Trainee) – May 18-20, The Rose Wagner Performing Arts in SLC, 7:00pm for each performance [Click to purchase tickets.](#)
- **Salt Lake City Primary School Spring Performance** (Beginner, Elementary and Movement Mentor) – May 20, The Rose Wagner Performing Arts in SLC, 10:00 am and 12:30pm [Purchase tickets here.](#)
- **Park City Campus Spring Performance** – May 20, The Eccles in Park City 1:00pm and 5:00pm [Purchase tickets.](#)
- **Invite your friends to join BWA! Audition** for **new student** placement, ages 12-18 at JEQBC May 27th – 12:00 check-in, 12:30-2:00 Audition, fee \$25.
- **Father's Day ballet class** – June 18th at BC, 10-11:00, come take a ballet class with dad!
- **Last Day of classes – May 27th**
- **Register for Summer Camps!** Camps begin June 5th!
- **Nutcracker Auditions September 16th.** Held at the JEQBC. Registration opens in July.