

Judges

Youngstown, OH | February 13-15, 2026

Katie is a native of Columbus Ohio and began training in ballet, jazz and contemporary at a young age. She attended Akron University as a dance and education major, later transferring to Ohio State University where she graduated with a degree in early childhood development and a dance minor. Katie has trained under Missy Lay Zimmer, Andrew Hubbard and Jennifer Rutherford since 2008. Katie has served as a tribe member, rehearsal director and now resident choreographer for Exhale Dance Tribe in Cincinnati, a contemporary jazz company. Katie has performed alongside Bootsy Collins, Over The Rhine and assisted Zimmer and Hubbard in Cincinnati Ballet's 2013 performance with Frampton Live! Katie is currently a Master Teacher Trainer and Choreographer for Xponential Fitness and manages a Club Pilates studio. When Katie is not teaching barre or pilates, she choreographs groups, solos and local musicals around the Tri-State area.

Mandy Arroyo, is a dedicated dance educator with over 25 years of teaching experience, began her dance training in the Tampa Bay Area and continued her studies at Howard W. Blake School of the Arts and the University of South Florida. Her passion for the arts and commitment to cultivating confidence and artistry in young dancers has led many of her students and apprentices to successful careers in various genres of dance and the performing arts worldwide. Currently serving as the Dance Department Director at a performing arts school, Mandy has received numerous accolades, including Outstanding Choreographer by Youth America Grand Prix and Dance Teacher of the Year for Hillsborough County Public Schools. She also served as Head Coach of the Plant High School Dancers Dance Team. She is known for her ability to instill technical excellence, artistry, and performance skills in her students.

Sara hails from the outskirts of Atlanta, Georgia, where she was born and raised. From the tender age of two, she immersed herself in the world of dance, stepping onto the competition stage at just four years old. Blessed with the opportunity to train at esteemed institutions across the industry, Sara honed her skills at renowned centers such as Broadway Dance Center, EDGE Performing Arts Center, Giordano Dance

Chicago, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, River North Dance Company and Dance 101.

Her journey in dance has taken her both nationally and internationally, gracing stages for

prestigious brands and events including Bloomingdales, The Coca-Cola Company, Delta

Airlines, JLL, Music Midtown, National Auto Sales, Peloton, SEC Championship Game, Siemens, and Walt Disney World.

Beyond the spotlight, Sara has shared her passion for dance as a teacher and choreographer in numerous studios, while also captivating audiences as a performer

with various entertainment companies. Seasonally, she imparts her knowledge and expertise as she guides and mentors aspiring contestants for upcoming pageants.

Currently calling Stamford, CT home, Sara proudly celebrates her sixteenth season as an adjudicator.