

# Judges

## Hampstead, MD | February 20-22, 2026

Konner is a seasoned entertainment professional with over 15 years of experience in the industry. Starting his dance journey at the age of 12, Konner immersed himself in various styles, including jazz, ballet, lyrical, tap, modern, musical theatre, contemporary, and hip-hop. His passion for performance led him to the world's biggest stages including various theme parks, theaters, and cruise lines where he was a Dancer, Aerialist, Dance Captain, and Company Manager. In his dance career, Konner also taught at numerous studios and dance teams across the Midwest, sharing his expertise and love for dance with the next generation of performers. Now based in Atlanta, he combines his flair for storytelling and entertainment as an Unscripted Casting Producer, contributing to hit shows including American Idol, MasterChef, and LEGO Masters. Thrilled to be part of the NexStar family, Konner aims to empower and uplift dancers, helping them reach their highest potential in artistry, performance, and technique. Konner's extensive background and passion make him a fun and engaging judge who brings both warmth and wisdom to every competition!

Lily Flanders, an Orlando native, is a versatile dancer and performer with a broad range of experience. She began her professional career at 18 in "Jungle Book: Alive with Magic" at Walt Disney World. After living in Japan for a year performing at Tokyo Disney Resort in "One Man's Dream II", she moved to New York City, studied at Steps on Broadway, and danced at Lincoln Center in the 2018 "Table of Silence Project". Lily's love for travel led her to perform as both a dancer and aerialist with Celebrity Cruises for three contracts, and later return to Tokyo for "Broadway Christmas Wonderland" in 2022. Her U.S. credits include performing in "Extravaganza: The Vegas Spectacular" at Bally's Las Vegas and "The All New Piano Men" at the Palace Theatre in New Hampshire. She is excited to be a part of the Nexstar panel of judges and wishes all dancers the best of luck!

Tonya Ferrucci began her dance training at the age of three and has studied under the late Bette-Ann Monti Rossi for the past 30 years. Her dance training is both extensive and impressive and she was well known in the competition world winning many prestigious regional and national awards. She has trained in Boston, New York, and spent a brief time in California pursuing her dancing career. She was the owner and director of APAC Dance, Inc., one of the most successful studios in the New England area. Her students have won many prestigious regional and national awards including Petite Miss Dance of New England; Petite Miss American Dance Awards, Junior Miss Candance North America, dance-off champions and many national dance scholarships. Her students were gold medal World Dance Champions for the United States in Reisa, Germany. Her unique choreography has been the recipient of many regional and national awards as well. Tonya loves sharing her passion of the artform dance to the next generation of artists.