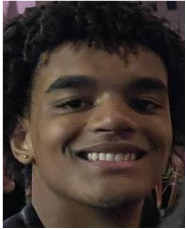




## MEET THE CAST



**Abdou Seye** - Dance Teacher Pat (He/him) Abdou is a BFA Acting Junior at Pace University. He is more than excited to share this wonderful show with you, playing the role of Dance Teacher Pat. He also was in a production of Little Prince (playing Aviator) over the summer in St. Paul. Thank you for coming out tonight and thank you to the production staff who made this possible!



**Zari Alexandria McIntosh** – Amina (She/her) Zari is a sophomore BFA Actor from North Carolina who is excited to be a part of Dance Nation! Having seen other Pace productions, she is honored to be a part of such a phenomenal team of creative people. Many thanks to the incredible rest of the cast, creative team, and all those who helped put together this wonderful production. Enjoy the show!



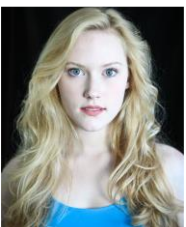
**Erin Cox** – Zuzu (She/her) Erin is a junior BFA Actor from Austin, TX. Her previous Pace credits include Spring Awakening (Ensemble, u/s Martha, u/s Thea). She holds this show so close to her heart and is overjoyed to share it with you! She thanks the cast and creative team for their support, and she especially thanks her family and friends who made the journey to be in the audience! Much love and enjoy the show!



**Sanjana Kumbla** – Connie (She/her) Sanjana is a senior BFA Acting student from Chicago who is excited to be a part of Dance Nation. This is her first MainStage production at Pace. Her previous credits include “A Sketch of New York” at The Producers Club, and a variety of short films. She’d like to thank everyone that made this show possible. And a special shoutout to her little brother, Rohan for being her biggest cheerleader!



**Alec Lai** – Luke (Any) Alec is ecstatic to be back on the Pace mainstage for this wonderful show! They are currently a junior in the BFA Acting program, and you may remember them from last year's Spring Awakening. They are endlessly grateful to the legendary Pace faculty that have brought them to this point and to the cast and crew for making this such an amazing experience. Forever one of the girls.



**Phoebe McFarland**- Maeve (She/her) Phoebe is looking for a reasonably priced pair of sensible hiking boots and the city’s best gluten free restaurants. Let her know if you can help. She also loves to dance and is slightly afraid of slugs. Come find her after the show if you want to talk about Formula 1. This show has been fun, but it’s time for a juice box and a long nap.



**Elena Tarpley** – Sofia (She/her) Elena is so excited to be joining the cast of Dance Nation. Elena is a junior BFA actor from Tampa, Florida, and this is her first Pace University production. Some of her favorite credits include: Conspiracy of Silence (Rosemarie) and her recent summer season at the Carousel Music Theater. Elena would like to thank all of her family and friends for their endless love and support. @elenatarpley



**Grace Hickey** – Ashlee (She/her) Junior BFA Actor Grace Hickey is ferociously delighted to be taking the stage this fall in Dance Nation for her PACE MainStage debut! She would like to send out imaginary balloons full of gratitude to the whole cast and crew who provided endless support, inspiration and giggles. She would also like to send thankful balloons to her mom and dad for constantly supporting her odd endeavors and to her dear friend Nat who keeps her sane and sassy. Grace wholeheartedly hopes that you enjoy the play and would like to encourage you to do a silly dance after you leave! It's fun!



**Emma Huffman** - Luke's Mom/ Sofia's Mom (She/her) Emma is a junior BFA actor from Sacramento, California who is so excited to a part of Dance Nation! This is Emma's first show with Pace and she can't wait to have fun performing with friends! Thank you to the incredible cast, the amazing crew and creatives who made this show what it is. Emma wanted to give a special thank you to her mom, dad, and sister. Hope you enjoy the show and have fun with us!



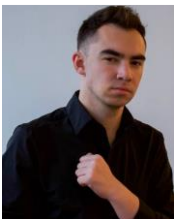
**Alex Demeny** - Vanessa/ Zuzu's Mom (She/her) Alex is a senior BFA actor all the way from Seattle WA. She is ecstatic to get the chance to perform at Pace again after an incredible run with "Firehawks" last semester. She is both equally scared and excited for life after college, and will hold on to all of the incredible memories Dance Nation has given her forever. She wants to thank the entire cast, crew, and creative team for the chance to bring this incredible story to life! She wants to thank her mom, dad and sister, as well as her dog Drake and late cat Snickers for their unconditional support and love. Special shout out to the MADs for raising her to be the dramatic b\*tch she is today! Follow me on insta: @alexdemeny



**Chloe Rigler-Gryj** – Understudy: Chloe is a sophomore BFA actor from Seattle, Washington who is ecstatic to be a part of Dance Nation, her first production at Pace! Thank you to the lovely cast, creative team, and fellow members of #swingnation who made this such a wonderful experience.



**Grace Pierlott** - Understudy: Grace is a junior BFA Actor hailing from South Jersey and is thrilled to be a part of Dance Nation! Grace wants to thank the incredible team that worked tirelessly to put together the show. Enjoy the show!



**Simon Gottlieb** – Understudy (He/him/his) Simon is a junior BFA actor from Philadelphia and is THRILLED to be a part of this amazing show. This is his first Pace Production. Previous roles have included John Proctor in the Crucible (Walnut Street Theatre) and Borachio in Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing (MacGuffin Theatre and Film Co.) A huge thanks to the entire creative team for this magical experience. BREAK LEGS EVERYONE and ENJOY THE SHOW!!!!



**Naomi Saini** – Understudy (She/her/hers) Naomie is a junior BFA Actor at Sands College of Performing Arts, Pace University. Born and raised in the vibrant city of New Delhi, India; Naomie strives to bring a unique cultural perspective to her craft, showcasing versatility and commitment. Previous credits include Pussysludge, Gruesome Playground Injuries and Close your eyes and do your duty. She is on cloud nine and excited to be a part of Dance Nation! Enjoy the show!

## MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM AND CREW

**Karim Muasher** - Director (He/him) Karim is an Arab-American theatre maker, intimacy director, educator, and parent. His work sits at the intersection of the Lecoq pedagogy, consent-based practice, and the Alexander Technique. Recent projects include writing and performing Henrietta Solway (regional tour), a new play commissioned by the National Willa Cather Center, co-directing Specially Processed American Me (Dixon Place), Jaime Sunwoo's surreal exploration of SPAM and the Korean War, and intimacy directing Big Fish (Pace University). Karim is the Co-Artistic Director of Animal Engine Theatre Company (animalengine.com), the TA Manager at Roundabout Theatre Company, and an adjunct professor at Pace University. He studied acting at Ithaca College, the Lecoq pedagogy at the London International School of Performing Arts, intimacy direction with Intimacy Directors and Coordinators, and the Alexander Technique at Balance Arts Center. @karimmuasher

**Jarod Smith** – Choreographer (He/ Him/ His) Jarod is a senior in the BFA Commercial Dance program who is thrilled to be invited and involved in this magical and unique experience. He has trained in all styles of dance. However, his choreographic styles employ a mixture and blending of genres of dance to create abstract art. He attended Orange County School of the Arts, where he studied Commercial Dance throughout middle school and high school. He is furthering his training at Pace University in New York City as a BFA Commercial Dance major with a minor in Psychology as an Honors Student. He has worked with choreographers such as Billy Goodson, Lauren Gaul, Scott Jovovich, and Bo Park. Jarod has choreographed at studios across the country, providing many students with performance pieces that have earned choreography and overall awards. Jarod consistently tries to enable and share his unique and artistic style of movement through his choreography and teachings.

**Maria Hubbard** - Intimacy Director (She/her) Maria is a New York City based acting coach and intimacy professional, crafting intimate storytelling for theater and film. She has been an Adjunct Professor at Pace University since 2018, and is a frequent guest lecturer at acting programs across the country. Thank you to Karim and the incredible cast and crew of Dance Nation for inviting me to join your story. Much love to J, L & Z.

**Eliana Estevez** - Scene Designer (She/her) Eliana is so excited for you to see her first show at Pace University as the Scenic Designer. Making Dance Nation her 7th production at Pace. She wants to express her gratitude to her family for always supporting her. Even when it means helping her pick up a broken Ac unit off someone's curb at 11pm for the show. She would also like to thank her mentor, April Bartlett, for all her help and encouragement throughout the process. And of course a big thank you to her assistant, Ryan Birnbaum, always keeping her on track, being such a great help, and a wonderful person to work with! She Hopes.

**Kat Belfer** - Costume Designer (She/ They) Kat is a junior BFA costume designer from the Jersey Shore, making her PPA design debut. Her previous credits include costume design for 24 Hour Plays, Moonglow (an NYU senior thesis short film), and Princess and the Pauper (New York Theater Festival). She appreciates the hard work and dedication of the cast and crew, and is excited to continue growing as a designer in future productions.

**Amanda Ryan** - Lighting Designer (She/her) Amanda is a New York City based theatrical designer, educator, and administrator, and she is ecstatic to be joining such a talented group of artists to bring the world of Dance Nation to life! Some of her favorite credits include This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing (Lighting Designer), Everybody (Production Electrician), and more concerts than she can count as a lighting engineer at a Live Nation venue in Brooklyn. She also works as a Teaching Artist with Roundabout Theatre Company, teaching lighting & electrics in the public schools and as part of the Theatrical Workforce Development Program. BFA: Emerson College. MFA: Brooklyn College.

**Lindsey Hough** - Sound Designer (She/ They) Lindsey is a Sound Designer within the BFA Production and Design program who is excited to be part of the Dance Nation creative team! She has previously worked on Pumpnickel and Firehawks. Lindsey is excited to debut as a designer at Pace! Thanks to the incredible team who made this show possible. They would also like to thank their parents for always believing in her.

**Mariana Jennings** - Production Stage Manager (She/ her) Mariana Jennings is a senior Stage Management student from Massachusetts, and she is thrilled to be the PSM here at Dance Nation! Select credits include A Complicated Woman at Goodspeed Opera House, Tartuffe at Pace University, and BatBoy at Weston Drama Workshop. Special thanks to her friends and family, who have supported her through every show she's worked on. Congratulations to this wonderful cast and crew, and a special shoutout to this SM team!

**Arden Egerton** - Assistant Director (She/her/ hers) Arden is a directing student with the International Performance Ensemble at Pace. This is her first mainstage show with Pace and she is so excited to have helped put this show together and gotten to work with such an amazing group of people. She hopes you enjoy the show and maybe let out your inner baby sexy robot gremlin.

**Mikayla Fischer** - Assistant Director (She/ Her) Mikayla is a Sophomore Directing major at Pace University. This is her first MainStage production at Pace and she is so excited to be here. She hopes you enjoy the show and get to live out your dance team dreams!

**Lauren Chavez** - Props Master: Lauren is a props designer based in NYC and a senior BFA Production Design student. Their selected academic credits include Small Mouth Sounds, If/Then, and Urinetown. Other selected credits include Houses (The

Tank), and the film Lonerism (Props Coordinator). Thanks to the incredible cast and crew for capturing the heart of this production. @neurenmoon

**Ryan Birnbaum** - Assistant Scenic Designer (He/ Him) Ryan Birnbaum is a sophomore production design student and is thrilled to be working on his fifth Pace production and first show as part of the scenic team. He would like to thank his designer, Eliana, the scenic mascot, Shawn Aaron Young III and the rest of his friends and family.

**Francesca Cannava** - Assistant Costume Designer (She/ they) Francesca Cannava (Fran) is a costumes and scenic designer from Staten Island, NY who couldn't be more thrilled to be apart of such a great team for their first design role at Pace. Previous Pace credits include Dance Space and Tartuffe. Thanks you to the cast and creatives for such a great experience!

**May Harris** - Lighting Programmer (They/them) May is a Sound and Lighting Focus at Pace and has worked on many shows including Into the Woods, Urinetown, and Small Mouth Sounds. They are happy to work with all the amazing people on Dance Nation. Go see Apple Tree this November where they will be making an appearance as the Lighting Designer!

**Lily Mihnos**- 1st Assistant Stage Manager (She/ her) Lily Mihnos is a junior in the BA Stage Management program. Her past Pace credits include IPE NOW 2024 (PSM), IPE NEW 2023 (1st ASM), and 9 to 5 (PA). Congratulations to the cast and crew, and special thanks to Mariana and Emma!

**Emma Higton** - 2nd Assistant Stage Manager (She/ her) Emma is a second-year stage management major. This is her 3rd show at Pace, and she is thrilled to be working with this incredible team on Dance Nation! Previous SM credits include 5 Lesbians Eating A Quiche, Big Fish, A Little Night Music, Sister Act, and The Spongebob Musical. Other production credits include Mean Girls Jr. (director), Spring Awakening: A Children's Tragedy, Willy Wonka Jr. (director), and Little Shop of Horrors. She would like to thank Mariana and Lily for all of their support.