

## Mini-Nutcracker 2019 New Faculty



**KATIE ELIASON** Originally from Manchester, Conn., Katie Eliason began her dance training at Hartford Ballet under the direction of Susan Brooker and Franco De Vita. While at Hartford Ballet, she was in Kirk Peterson's *American Nutcracker* and *The Sleeping Beauty*. She also was the inaugural recipient of the Francine Goldfarb Scholarship in 2005. Eliason spent her summers furthering her training at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Virginia School of the Arts and Walnut Hill, among others. Eliason danced with BalletMet Columbus and Atlanta Ballet as a trainee prior to joining NB2 in 2010. While at Atlanta Ballet, she danced in John McFall's *Peter Pan* and Lauri Stalling's *Big*. In her three years as a member of Nashville Ballet second company, Eliason had the pleasure of performing in many Community Engagement productions across Tennessee as well as participating in W.I.P. (Works In Progress), a project to benefit local animal shelters. She has been featured as The Cat in Nashville Ballet Artistic Director & CEO Paul Vasterling's *Peter and the Wolf* and a soloist in Kelsey Bartman's *Sonata Representativa*. Eliason has had the opportunity to dance with the company in such performances as Vasterling's *Carmina Burana*, *Peter Pan* and *The Ben Folds Project*. Eliason was also in Gina Patterson's *...but the flowers have yet to come*, Dominic Walsh's *The Whistling* and Christopher Bruce's *Moonshine*. When not dancing, Eliason is an avid reader, a budding chef and loves exploring all Nashville has to offer. Photo by Chad Driver courtesy of Nashville Ballet.



**KARI GREGG** has studied dance her entire life and the art of moving is something she constantly craves. She began her passion of dance at the age of 4 at a studio in central Indiana. Soon, she was accepted at an early age into Butler University's early admittance program in Indianapolis to focus more on her classical ballet training. Kari continued with Butler University and received her Bachelor of Science in dance and arts administration. She also spent a summer studying with four distinguished teachers at the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory in St. Petersburg, Russia. Kari launched her professional dance career both domestically and abroad. For the past 15 years, she has performed in cities all across the United States including 10 years with the Radio City Rockettes. Kari recognized early on the benefits of practicing Pilates as a way of cross training for her professional dance career and took it with her throughout her travels. She was immediately drawn to the disciplined traditional method of Pilates, and thus became certified by the New York Pilates Studio® Teacher Certification Program. Her continuing education includes but is not limited to an additional certificate through the Pilates Youth Organization, ABT National Training Curriculum Certified Teacher in Pre-Primary through Level 3 and Functional Anatomy & Kinesiology for Dance Education through Harkness Center for Dance Injuries in New York City.



**JULIA MITCHELL** started in the second company of Nashville Ballet in 2011 and quickly became a company dancer. During her time with the company she performed as Dew Drop fairy, Snow Queen, and Sugar Plum in Paul Vasterling's *Nashville's Nutcracker*, Lucy in Vasteling's *Dracula*, a principal role in Christopher Wheeldon's *Ghosts*, and many other productions, and started teaching at Nashville ballet in 2016. Ms. Mitchell started her training at Boston Ballet at age 7, and became a trainee with the company. She spent time working with Kathleen Mitchell, Margret Tracey, Franco Devita, Celia Marino, Helen Pickett and Jorma Elo. Above all Julia believes ballet should be fun and accessible to everyone.



**TONY MONTALVO** Born and raised in Chicago, USA, Tony began dancing professionally at 10 years old. In 2003 he performed and toured with the Joffrey Ballet as a part of the world premiere of "I/DNA" the final creation by Gerald Arpino, founder and artistic director of The Joffrey. After this tour, Tony danced in multiple performances with the Chicago Opera Theatre including "Nixon in China", "A Death in Venice" and "La Resurrezione". While working with these companies, he continued his ballet training at Faubourg School of Ballet under the direction of Watmora Casey as well as Salt Creek Ballet under the direction of Sasha Kozadayev. After winning awards at numerous dance competitions across the United States, Tony continued his education at Interlochen Arts Academy. There he performed lead roles in ballets including "The Sleeping Beauty," "Les Patineurs," and "Gaité Parisienne." After graduating in 2011, Tony moved to Nashville, Tennessee and danced with the Nashville Ballet for three years. In 2014 he left the ballet company to be a founding member of the contemporary company New Dialect under the direction of Banning Bouldin. While at New Dialect, Tony worked with international choreographers including: Idan Sharabi, Alex Ketley, Brian Arias, and Peter Chu. In the fall of 2017, Tony traveled to China to dance and choreograph with his sister Elisa Montalvo. In Shanghai they collaborated to create the "We Are The Night" choreography for Bacardi's Halloween events. This took Tony to Beijing to set and perform the choreography. The brother sister duo continued their collaboration and performed in the inaugural showcase for the opening of the first Millennium Dance Complex in China. While in Shanghai Tony became a collaborator and dancer with the collective SLATE where they created film and gallery performances. Tony was also invited to Lanzhou as a master teacher to share his passion for contemporary dance at the 2017 Pioneer Dance Camp. Upon returning to the states in the winter of 2018, Tony premiered as a soloist dancer with the Lyric Opera of Chicago's production of "Cendrillon". Tony then traveled to Washington, D.C. to have his Kennedy Center premiere with the Washington National Opera and their production of "Eugene Onegin".