

# HILARY THORNBURGH NICOLAI

[Ballet With Hilary](http://BalletWithHilary.com)  
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## EDUCATION

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<b>MA</b>	New York University, Dance Education: ABT Pedagogy Thesis: “American Ballet Theatre Outline and Analysis” Advisors: Pamela Levy (ABT) and Allegra Romita (NYU)	2023-2025
<b>BA</b>	Columbia University, Literature and Writing Graduated Cum Laude	1999-2003

## PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

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ABT® National Training Curriculum: Pre-Primary through Level 5 Full certification through Level 7 & Partnering	2014-2015 2024
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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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<b>New Jersey School of Ballet</b> , Florham Park, NJ Ballet, Pointe, Repertoire, Choreographer <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Summer Intensive, 2024 and 2025</li><li>• Year-round faculty, upper division, 2024 and 2025</li></ul>	2024-Present
<b>Ballet With Hilary</b> , New Jersey and New York City Elite Ballet Instruction and Private Coaching <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Personalized classes in ballet technique, pointe and variations, all abilities and ages</li><li>• Offered ‘pay what you can’ online lessons during the pandemic</li><li>• Built a loyal clientele and strong online presence</li></ul>	2020-Present
<b>AC Dance</b> , Bloomfield, NJ Ballet Master: Technique, Pointe and Variations and Rehearsal Director <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased classroom numbers by 50%</li><li>• Assessed for pointe readiness and class advancement via researched criteria</li><li>• Boosted revenue for studio by \$100 per week through studio rentals</li></ul>	2022-2023
<b>5678 Dance</b> , Totowa, NJ Ballet Instructor, Senior Company <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Full year ballet faculty</li></ul>	2022-2023
<b>New Jersey Dance Theater Ensemble</b> , Summit, NJ Ballet, Pointe and Variations Instructor <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Summer intensive and full year faculty, upper division</li></ul>	2021-2022

<b>Sharron Miller Academy for the Performing Arts</b> , Montclair, NJ Ballet, Pointe and Variations Instructor and Choreographer	2013-2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head of ballet division</li> <li>• Taught upper-level classes, participated in department meetings and annual open houses, parent/teacher liaison</li> </ul>	
<b>Class Act Performing Arts School</b> , South Orange, NJ Ballet Instructor and Choreographer	2017-2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Men's and women's classical ballet technique classes</li> </ul>	
<b>Prestige Academy of Dance</b> , Fairfield, NJ Substitute Teacher and Competition Coach	2015-2016
<b>DanceWorks Studios</b> , Montclair, NJ Ballet Instructor and Choreographer	2014-2015

#### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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<b>Metropolitan Opera Ballet</b>	1998-1999
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tannhauser</li> <li>• Turandot</li> </ul>	
<b>Ballet Internationale</b>	1997-1998
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Giselle</li> <li>• The Nutcracker</li> <li>• Walpurgis</li> </ul>	
<b>Indianapolis Ballet Theater</b>	1987-1997
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swan Lake</li> <li>• The Nutcracker</li> <li>• Giselle</li> </ul>	

#### PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

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• Joffrey Ballet School	1996
• School of American Ballet	1993-1995
• Indiana University Ballet Theater	1991-1993
• The Rock School of the Pennsylvania Ballet	1992
• School of Washington Ballet	1991
• Chautauqua School of Dance	1990
• Jordan College Academy of Dance	1981-1991

#### HONORS AND AWARDS

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**[Suburban Essex Magazine: Best of Essex 2024](#)**  
Silver Winner for Best Children's Instruction

## Suburban Essex Magazine: Best of Essex 2023

Bronze Winner for Best Children's Instruction

### CONSULTANT PROJECTS

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#### **Essex Dance Academy**

- Head of ballet program
- Designed holistic training curriculum for competition dancers
- Increased enrollment for 2025/2026 season

#### **AC Dance**

- Co-crafted and edited Mission Statement
- Brainstormed ideas with management including, but not limited to scholarship initiatives, performance opportunities, classroom attire, staffing
- Increased social media engagement through successful online marketing strategies

#### **Sharron Miller's Academy for the Performing Arts**

- Ballet consultant on teacher and student assessment templates
- Oversaw evaluation classes and level placement

### LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

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#### **NDEO Poster Presentation, Detroit, MI** (expected 2025)

- Centering Feminist Leadership Pedagogy for 14–18-Year-Olds in a Preprofessional Ballet Program: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Curriculum

#### **Sharron Miller's Academy for the Performing Arts**

- Researched, created, and co-presented 'Pointe Shoe Workshop', 2015

#### **School of American Ballet, New York City Ballet Education Department's Lecture Demonstration Program** under the direction of Suki Schorer, 1995

- Martin's *Eight Easy Pieces*
- Balanchine's *Sugar Plum Fairy*
- Balanchine's *Puss n' Boots*
- Balanchine's *Cortege Hongrois*

### PREPROFESSIONAL PERFORMING EXPERIENCE

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#### **School of American Ballet, Spring Workshop, 1993-1995, Avery Fisher Hall, NYC**

- *Serenade*
- *Western Symphony*
- *La Source*
- *Four Temperaments*

#### **School of American Ballet, Fall Workshop, 1994, Avery Fisher Hall, NYC**

- Christopher Wheeldon's inaugural choreographic piece, *Le Voyage*

#### **Indiana University Ballet Theater, Bloomington, Indiana**

- Principal roles in *Swan Lake* and the *Nutcracker*, under the direction of Patricia McBride and Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux

**Jordan College Academy of Dance**, Clowes Hall, Indianapolis, Indiana

- *Les Sylphides, Coppélia, Paquita*

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND DEVELOPMENT**

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National Dance Education Organization (NDEO), 2023, 2024, 2025  
 Dance New Jersey, 2023, 2024, 2025  
 New York State Dance Education Association (NYSDEA), 2023, 2024, 2025  
 Steinhardt Dance Education Association (SDEA), *first year representative*, 2023  
 Armatus Learn to Protect System, *Abuse Prevention Training*, 2019

**CHOREOGRAPHIC EXPERIENCE**

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New Jersey School of Ballet, End of Year Performance, 2025  
 New York University, Masters Concert, 2025  
 New Jersey School of Ballet, Student Division Performance, 2025  
 Class Act Performing Arts School, End of Year Showcase, 2017  
 Montclair High School Dance Company, End of Year Showcase, 2017  
 Sharron Miller’s Academy for the Performing Arts, Annual Benefit Dance Concert, 2016  
 DanceWorks Studios, 2014

**SCHOLARSHIPS AND COMPETITIONS**

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Peggy Dorsey Scholarship, First Place  
 Young Woman of the Year, First Place, *Don Quixote*  
 Carey Rose Winski Scholarship, honorable mention

**PRESS AND MEDIA**

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<a href="#"><u>Interview with To The Pointe Nutrition</u></a>	2025
Insights on balance, nutrition, wellness	
 <a href="#"><u>Interview with The Whole Dancer</u></a>	
Insights on balance; from professional dancer to dance coach	2023
 <a href="#"><u>Montclair Local: Baristanet Profile</u></a>	
Ballet With Hilary interview	2020
 <a href="#"><u>Macaroni Kid</u></a>	
Enrichment options for outdoor activity during the pandemic	2020
 <a href="#"><u>Toni’s Kitchen</u></a>	
Montclair Business Improvement District donation	2020

**INTERNSHIP**

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Kofago Dance Ensemble	2025
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- Social media marketing: content planning/visual branding
- Cultural fluency: deepened understanding of West African aesthetics/design elements
- Team communication: collaborating with staff on visual and promotional strategies

## REFERENCES

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**Pamela Levy**, Director

ABT/NYU Master's Degree Program in Ballet Pedagogy

New York University

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**Kelby Brown**, Dance Educator

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