

HILARY THORNBURGH NICOLAI

[Ballet With Hilary](#)

99 Willowdale Avenue (646) 642-8565

Montclair, NJ 07042

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EDUCATION

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

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

New Jersey School of Ballet , Florham Park, NJ Ballet, Pointe, Repertoire, Choreographer • Summer Intensive, 2024 and 2025 • Year-round faculty, upper division, 2024 and 2025	2024-Present
Ballet With Hilary , New Jersey and New York City Elite Ballet Instruction and Private Coaching • Personalized classes in ballet technique, pointe and variations, all abilities and ages • Offered 'pay what you can' online lessons during the pandemic • Built a loyal clientele and strong online presence	2020-Present
AC Dance , Bloomfield, NJ Ballet Master: Technique, Pointe and Variations and Rehearsal Director • Increased classroom numbers by 50% • Assessed for pointe readiness and class advancement via researched criteria • Boosted revenue for studio by \$100 per week through studio rentals	2022-2023
5678 Dance , Totowa, NJ Ballet Instructor, Senior Company • Full year ballet faculty	2022-2023
New Jersey Dance Theater Ensemble , Summit, NJ Ballet, Pointe and Variations Instructor • Summer intensive and full year faculty, upper division	2021-2022

Sharron Miller Academy for the Performing Arts , Montclair, NJ	2013-2020
Ballet, Pointe and Variations Instructor and Choreographer	
• Head of ballet division • Taught upper-level classes, participated in department meetings and annual open houses, parent/teacher liaison	
Class Act Performing Arts School , South Orange, NJ	2017-2018
Ballet Instructor and Choreographer	
• Men's and women's classical ballet technique classes	
Prestige Academy of Dance , Fairfield, NJ	2015-2016
Substitute Teacher and Competition Coach	
DanceWorks Studios , Montclair, NJ	2014-2015
Ballet Instructor and Choreographer	

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Metropolitan Opera Ballet	1998-1999
• Tannhauser • Turandot	
Ballet Internationale	1997-1998
• Giselle • The Nutcracker • Walpurgis	
Indianapolis Ballet Theater	1987-1997
• Swan Lake • The Nutcracker • Giselle	

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

• 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

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

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

NDEO Poster Presentation, Detroit, MI (expected 2025)

- Centering Feminist Leadership Pedagogy for 14–18-Year-Olds in a Preprofessional Ballet Program: A 21st 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

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

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

New Jersey School of Ballet, End of Year Performance, 2025

<https://share.icloud.com/photos/0d515N4gZpUet31Zi68Iuw47w>

https://share.icloud.com/photos/086c_obgzCPGzRKetxVvkXwOA

New York University, Masters Concert, 2025

<https://share.icloud.com/photos/0abAEzyeb89zfjuyVOIHWKKBKQ>

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

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

PRESS AND MEDIA

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

INTERNSHIP

Kofago Dance Ensemble	2025
• 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

Pamela Levy, Director
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