An Interview with Daniel Ulbricht

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Can you describe your career and how it led you to where you are today?

I started my career at a very young age with the New York City Ballet. After working my way through different intensives, I decided to move to NYC to pursue my dream. Within that year, I had my first performance as a dancer with NYCB. It has been almost 20 years and I have had the time of my life. I get to enjoy being on stage and give back through programs like NYSSSA.

How long have you worked with NYSSSA?

I have worked with NYSSSA for almost 15 years.
How did you become involved with NYSSSA?

My involvement with NYSSSA started when I was asked to guest teach at the summer program. It was my first time teaching and I quickly discovered a love for it. I began to fine-tune my approach and gather experience. I then transitioned into the liaison position which allowed me to teach as well as schedule the students schedule and guest teachers. Later I became co-director and then director.

How has your career shaped your artistic direction with the School of Ballet?

I am always trying to bring what I learn to the students. I want to keep them informed of the dance world using my current dancing position; otherwise, we would have the same program every year. I want to challenge the faculty, staff and students to evolve into incredible artists but importantly incredible people. That is one of the most important impressions that dance/ballet can bring out.

What has been your favorite NYSSSA memory?

The end of the summer program is always my favorite. The kids have worked so hard and grown. Their parents come back and see their progress and the dedication the kids have brought every day. They get to showcase their class work as well as repertory that they get to see while attending NYCB performances at SPAC. It is a program that I wish I had the opportunity to attend when I was a kid.

What advice would you offer to our NYSSSA students?

The best advice I can offer is to encourage every student to seek growth; both inside and outside the studio. To become a dancer is not easy and if one continues to grow, dedicate and work hard, you are sure to maximize your potential. Each student, pianist, teacher inspire and that is key to be successful whatever you end up doing in life.