

JR, born and raised in Connecticut, began his dance career when he was only three years old and has made it his life's passion. Since his early beginning in dance, JR trained under many notable teachers including Judy Bassing, Laura Hausmann, Bob Rizzo and Tom Ralabate. JR excels in many styles of dance and that versatility has earned him various roles in musical productions such as *42nd Street*, *A Chorus Line*, *South Pacific*, and *Music Man* and ballets including *The Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty*, and *Cinderella*. In the fall of 2014, JR was cast as a dancer in the 2014 national Wayfair.com holiday commercial.

JR graduated from the Dance Masters of America Teacher Training School at the University of New York at Buffalo in 1998 and received his certification as a dance educator in Ballet, Tap, and Jazz. For 16 years he was a member of the Dance Teachers' Club of Connecticut, Chapter 18 where from 2002 to 2004 he served on the Board of Directors. In the fall of 2014 he transferred his membership to Dance Masters of New England Chapter 5 where he sat on the Board of Directors from 2020-2022. From 2003 to 2005, he served as the National Co-Director of the Teen Miss/Mr. Dance of America title competition.

For the past decade, JR has served as an adjudicator at the regional and national levels throughout the United States and Canada and is a highly-sought-after master teacher and guest choreographer. He has gained immense experience working for companies including many Chapters of Dance Masters of America, the American Dance Awards, Elite Dance Challenge, Dance Ovations, Star Systems, Dance Odyssey, Star Quest, Dance Xplosion and the Canadian Edge Dance Competition.

In June 2017, Jr established the nonprofit Dancers at Heart. Dancers at Heart believes we can all shine bright on stage but shining bright in life by helping and lifting others up is where we can all make an everlasting difference. DAH is committed to raising funds that benefit the health and wellness of those in need while fostering kindness and support. To date DAH has raised over \$500,000 for various organizations. For more information please visit www.dancerstheart5678.org.

Currently, JR is a dedicated and enthusiastic faculty member at Melissa Hoffman Dance Center (Hudson, NH). He was also on the faculty for 10 years at Let's Dance Inc (Stoneham, MA) and Concord Dance Academy (Concord, NH). He and his students are continually recognized for delivering clean, precise, and technical routines, winning many special, high overall and choreography awards at both the regional and national level. His students have held the titles of Dance Master's of America National Teen Miss Dance of America 2017 and National Junior Miss Dance of America 2016. Some of his students held the title of National Teen Miss Turn It Up and National Petite Miss Turn It Up in both 2013 and 2014. His students also won the 2012 Senior Solo at Dance Xplosion Nationals (Orlando, FL) and Step Up to Dance National Senior Soloist 2012. His students have been selected as back-up dancers for young pop stars such as B-Capp and Kenzie, have performed with the Boston-based hip hop company StreetHype, and have traveled as apprentices with Excel in Motion and Motiv8 Convention Tours. Many students have been accepted to programs at the Boston Ballet, Kirov Academy, Walnut Hill, National Ballet of Canada and Juilliard. Others have succeeded in careers in dance as teachers, choreographers, and performers.

JR is a graduate of Southern New Hampshire University where he received Bachelors of Science Degree in Accounting (cum laude) and a Master's Degree in Business Administration (magna cum laude). He works fulltime as the Director of Finance for Boys & Girls Club of Manchester located in Manchester, NH, and resides in Concord, NH, with his wife Cathy and their daughter Sophie.