



As 2020 comes to an end, I can't help but think of how proud I am of Broadway Bound. Despite the challenges we have faced we have not only persevered, but we have progressed. Let's take a moment to reflect upon this year of challenges, celebrate our accomplishments and give a cheer to our Broadway Bound family...our teachers, staff, students and their families!

January

Master Classes with the legendary Jeanette Neill who praised our students and the culture of the studio. We can't wait for the day she can return.

The Competition Team held their **Kick-Off Performance** to start the competition season.

Hip Hop Icon, **Rosero McCoy**, taught classes while he was on the east coast from Los Angeles. We are happy to have him as an on-going member of our Guest Faculty.

February

Adam Cates and Roy Lightner traveled to Broadway Bound for one of their Master Class Weekends. The Competition Team competed at the **Groove Regional Dance Competition** in Concord, NH with excellent results. The **Inferno Regional Dance Competition** in Tewksbury, MA was the next stop for the Competition Team. More awards found their home back at the studio.



March (the month when everything changed)

On March 13th we were supposed to travel to Maine to compete at the **Dancer's Inc Regional Competition**. Like so many other things it was abruptly **cancelled** and not rescheduled.

March 16th marks the day **the studio closed**. We had no idea of what was about to transpire. We all thought it would be a couple weeks and we would be good to go. As we know now, that didn't happen.

On March 30th we began teaching our **classes on Zoom**. Five teachers taught almost 60 classes per week for 9 weeks. Not only did we work on technique, but we continued with choreography in the hope we would be able to perform on stage at the end of the year.

April

Rosero taught a Zoom class for our students from LA.

We continued our exhausting Zoom schedule.

May

I believe this was our darkest month. Everyone was tired. School had been less than ideal, staying home was getting old and quite honestly, we were all pretty sick of Zoom. We kept plugging along in the hope that we would soon return to the studio.

June

June 1st was an amazing day!! **We reopened for in person classes.** Following guidelines, things looked different as we started dancing in squares, closed the lobbies and made cleaning a constant process. But the smiles were priceless! Everyone was just so happy to be back.

For the next four weeks we continued to plug along in our “new normal” in the hope an annual performance would emerge. Then the news came on June 24th. **The governor opened Performing Arts venues.** We would have a Celebration of Dance!



National Champions!!! On June 26th, our production of “Frozen” became the **2020 Inferno Virtual National Grand Champions.** “Miss Pam’s” also won the **Inferno Challenge Cup.** We also took home many other high awards during the weeklong competition.

July

In three short weeks, we prepared the necessary details for a safe celebration that allowed the dancers to perform on stage, in costume, for their families.

On July 19th, 73 dances were performed over a 10-hour period in 10-minute segments. We did it!!! The **Celebration of Dance** was an unbelievable accomplishment for the entire Broadway Bound Family. The day brought so many emotions but most importantly the kids needed this day. They needed something to not be cancelled. They needed to finish what they had started. They needed the butterflies in their stomachs. They needed to perform...and they did.

August

On August 3rd, after two weeks of well needed time off, we started our **Summer Program**. We successfully conducted all of our workshops and classes. Weeklong workshops included guest teachers, crafts and even a visit from an ice cream truck. The staff went to great lengths to make our summer experience as normal as possible. We all had a great time while staying safe.

September

On September 13th we performed onstage...in a theatre...for the **Saving Grace Ensembles production of "Artfulness"**. We joined professional companies from throughout the region to put on an amazing performance while adhering to all Covid Guidelines. Nothing can describe the feeling that comes with being in a theatre or better yet performing on a stage.

We are back. **Fall Classes began on September 14th**. Students were ready to get back to work, including our tumbling classes enjoying classes for the first time since March. And we welcomed our newest tumbling teachers, Bonney Hewett and Robert DeFelice. Eleven staff members continued to put their hearts and souls into a positive learning experience for our students. We were still in 6-foot squares. but we were dancing.



On September 23rd **we welcomed Nate Duzney to our faculty**. Due to the pandemic Nate is back in Merrimack to wait out the pandemic. Nate returned to his hometown after teaching in Sweden. He has previously performed in many Broadway shows and tours including "Beauty and the Beast" and "Finding Neverland". He teaches a special master's class once a week and is choreographing a piece for the Competition Team. He is a true ray of sunshine during this dark and challenging time.

A team of 28 individuals and 2 dogs participated in the **Alzheimer's Walk** on September 27th. The Broadway Bound team raised over \$5000. We look forward to participating again next year with an even bigger team.

October

October 9th – 11th marked **the return of Adam Cates and Roy Lightner** for an intense weekend of dancing. They choreographed two new competition pieces and taught classes for both the Competition Team as well as the Performing Company.



Merrimack Park and Recreations was successful in holding the **28th Annual Halloween Party**, The Monster Stroll, on October 24th. We were excited to participate in this event for the community which was well attended by many local families.



With Trick or Treat night at risk during the pandemic, Broadway Bound planned and sponsored a **Halloween Trunk or Treat Event** for October 31st in our parking lot. Loads of family cars gathered to hand out candy from their trunks. Awards were given for best costumes and trunk presentation.

November

To keep our commitment to community service we sponsored a drop off location for the **Girl Scout Troop 13912 Coat Drive**. The Scouts collected over 200 coats to help keep some needy families warm this winter.



Broadway Bound once again joined area dance studios to raise money for Pediatric Cancer Research with **Dancer's Making A Difference**.

On November 29th we performed in "**A Journey Through Christmas**" with the **Saving Grace Dance Ensemble**.

Twenty-two Broadway Bound dancers performed along with a professional cast in their annual Christmas Production.



December

It is a tradition at Broadway Bound to welcome new members of the Competition Team and Performing Company with a special "**Jacketing Ceremony**". This year our two seniors, Maddie Flynn and Alanna Tobin presented jackets to 27 new members. Once again COVID was not going to get the best of us! In an effort to make this a special event, we held the ceremony outside with a stage, lights, music and a host of parents and friends in attendance.

The **Merrimack Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting** has been a part of the Merrimack Community for years. We are proud to be a part of this event every year. We were not going to let this year be any different. The girls rang in the season, once again, dancing at the Tree Lighting.

On December 18th we raised our glasses in a toast. We made it through 2020! This was our last day of classes for the calendar year. What an accomplishment! We opened on June 1st and never looked back! Although we are not at the end of this pandemic, we should applaud how far we have come. Goodbye 2020! Here's to a happy, healthy and bright new 2021.