

ANNA HESS

Company Ballet Director

Anna grew up in East Lansing, Michigan and began her dance training at Greater Lansing Ballet Company, a Regional Dance America (RDA) company. Her participation in RDA over five years brought opportunities to attend many summer intensives under scholarship. In 2019, Anna was awarded a full scholarship to Nashville Ballet Summer Intensive, after which she was accepted into their Professional Training Division. The following year, she accepted a two-year Trainee contract with Fort Wayne Ballet and attended their summer intensive. As a Trainee she studied ballet primarily using American Ballet Theatre's National Training Curriculum, point, character dance, jazz, Graham modern, and musical theater. She performed in main stage productions of *The Nutcracker* and *The Sleeping Beauty*. After two years, Anna was fortunate enough to be promoted to the Corps de Ballet. As part of the Corps, she expanded her repertoire in *The Nutcracker* and also performed in Tracy Tritz's *Dracula* and *Carnival of the Animals*, *Swan Lake*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and participated in their annual *Firefly Tour*. One of her favorite aspects about Fort Wayne Ballet were the frequent opportunities to understudy roles, which allowed more learning experiences and performance opportunities. As a teacher, she loves the process of learning and wants to continue the tradition of passing the art form onto younger dancers. Anna is committed to fostering a studio culture that is uplifting and loving where dancers can thrive. When she is not dancing, Anna can be found baking, sewing, or doing hand embroidery.