



Barrington Dance Ensemble and
The Sanfilippo Foundation
Present

UNDER THE BIG TOP

— ◊ — A Circus Ballet — ◊ —

Story by **LISA STAMOS** • Photography by **LINDA M. BARRETT**



ON JUNE 10 and 11, 2023, Barrington Dance Ensemble and the Sanfilippo Foundation collaborated once again to bring the circus back to Barrington with four showings of BDE's well-received production of "Under the Big Top" at the Sanfilippo Estate's Carousel House. Celebrating the greatest show of yesteryear, Under the Big Top is a fun family event, featuring diverse entertainment, a performance of BDE's circus ballet, carousel rides, and tours of the Carousel House. A local organization, SOUL Harbour Ranch Animal Therapy Program, provided circus dogs and miniature ponies before each show.

Under The Big Top kicked-off the summer with a full lineup of lively entertainment including a stilt walker, face painting, clowns and balloon artists, and rides on the historic 1890 Eden Palais Carousel. Several well-known area residents joined in on the fun as costumed circus characters. Parent



BDE Artistic Director Mary Brennan

volunteers helped prepare and serve food for guests.

Following all the amusement, Barrington Dance Ensemble presented the main attraction, its turn-of-the-century circus ballet featuring BDE company members, Barrington Dance Academy students, and professional guest artists. This year four circus ballets were presented. A total of 80 dancers of all ages entertained the audience with fun acts from the Circus Ballet.

Sanfilippo Foundation Executive Director Greg Leifel, who welcomed guests and offered rides on the carousel, said "Barrington Dance Ensemble is the Foundation's longest running charity partner." The Sanfilippo Foundation has provided exceptional support in assisting area nonprofits with their fundraising events. U

For more information visit barringtondance.org or call 847-382-6333.



From left: Saloni Jain, Liz Gumowski, Kate Duncan, and Jonathan



Sanfilippo Foundation Executive Director Greg Leifel





James Sanfilippo and children



From left: Grace Pacini, Lily Wu, Paul Cusimano, Loreta Bulvanaite, Ella, and Catherine Kim



Koltz Family



Sela Anderson, Myra Broederdorf, and Sophia Sheeran

