

★ ROBERT MILLS, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

DECEMBER 11-19, 2021
CIVIC CENTER MUSIC HALL

OKLAHOMA
CITY
BALLET



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NUTCRACKER
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OKLAHOMA CITY BALLET

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Robert Mills

Rehearsal Directors

Ryan Jolicoeur-Nye Miki Kawamura Khalfan

Principal Artists

Courtney Connor Jones DaYoung Jung

Soloists

Nikolas Gaifullin Alejandro González Autumn Klein
Mayu Odaka Erik Thordal-Christensen Benjamin Tucker

Corps de Ballet

Ryland Acree, Kara Troester Blythe, Mickayla Carr, Daniel Cooke,
Randolph Fernandez, Joseph Hetzer, Nicholas Keeperman,
Jameson Keating, Gabrielle Mengden, Alison Ramoran,
Paige Russell, Alexandra Schooling, Mayim Stiller, Zane Winders

Apprentices

Oslaniel Castillo, Elena Damiani, James Klump, Kaileah Long,
Grace Manuel, Henrique Neumann, Carlie Preskitt

OKCB II

Amelia Aroneo, Samantha Efaw, Savannah Lee, Darcey Lynn,
Annie Medich, Maura Moody, Savannah Payne, Leah Reiter, Kira Robinson,
Anna Tateda, Ana Vega, Flannery Werner

Trainees

Nicole Bak, Caterina Brown, Eva Chronert,
Freestone Dopp, Morgan Dunham, Samantha Dunham,
Jacy Fletcher, Stephanie Frase, Katie Kelley, Dietrich Klawonn,
Anya Matejczyk, Michael O'Neill, Abby Quinton, Cheyanne Rowland,
Bella Saclolo, Tristan Thompson, Sarah Beth Wriston

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Stage Manager Courtney DiBello

Resident Lighting Designer Aaron Mooney

Company Teachers Bruce Steivel

Company Pianists Karen Bentley, Clement Braden, Miho Fisher

Company Physician Dr. Megan Meier

Company Physical Therapist Dr. Emily Love, Turning Pointe Physical Therapy

Company Chiropractor Dr. Mila Mohsenzadeh, Fit Spa

Photography Jana Carson, Kate Luber, Shevaun Williams

Performance Photography Diana Bittle, Jana Carson, Bill Crouch, Kate Luber

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Crew Rob Brodersen, Ben Conley, Star Conley, Matt Dorman,

IATSE LOCAL 112, Robert Romanishin

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SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Racheal Nye

STAFF

School Administrator Macaira Pinto

Studio Company Manager Amanda Herd-Popejoy

School Coordinator Emma Capen

School Administrative Associate Kaitlin Alter

School Receptionist Quincy Allen, Morgan Dunham, Brannon Tallant

INSTRUCTORS

Kaitlin Alter, Victoria Bearden, Emma Capen, Joshua Brooksher, Natasha Brooksher, Morgan Dunham, Alejandro González, Amanda Herd-Popejoy, Joseph Hetzer, Chloe Jensen, Ryan Jolicoeur-Nye, Miki Kawamura Khalfan, Racheal Nye, Macaira Pinto, Erica Portell, Madeleine Purcell, Briana Sayles, Jacob Sparso, Bruce Steivel, James Williams

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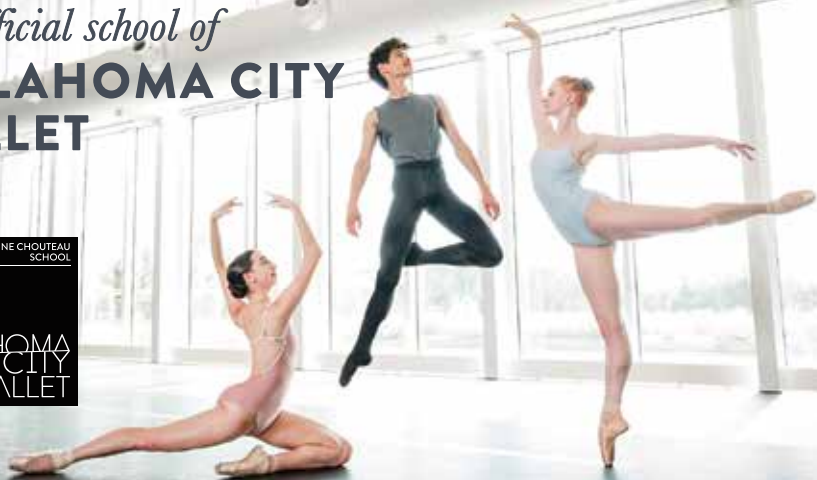
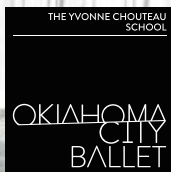
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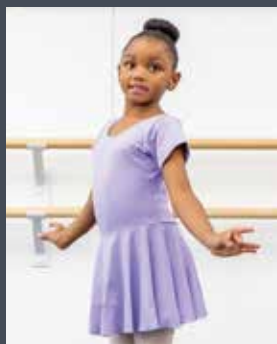
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**OKLAHOMA CITY
BALLET**



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The Yvonne Chouteau School is the official school of Oklahoma City Ballet offering classes for students ages three to adult from beginner to advanced levels. Our students share a facility with the professional company, enriching each student's experience by allowing them to observe those dancers in classes, rehearsals, and performances.



» *for more information*

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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY



ROBERT MILLS

Since being named Artistic Director of Oklahoma City Ballet in 2008, Robert Mills has established himself as a prominent member of the Oklahoma arts scene and in the process has brought the company national recognition as one of the fastest growing ballet companies in the United States.

Born in Gary, Indiana and raised just outside of Chicago, Robert had access to world class ballet training at an early age. In Indiana he trained with Natalie Mayoch-Kolosci before moving on to study with some of Kolosci's mentors in Chicago including Richard Ellis, Christine DuBoulay, Larry Long, and Anna Paskevka. He completed his training at the School of the

Philadelphia Ballet, and at the Joffrey Ballet School in New York City. He then enjoyed a 14-year professional performing career dancing with numerous companies across the United States including Oklahoma City Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, Milwaukee Ballet, Philadelphia Ballet, among others.

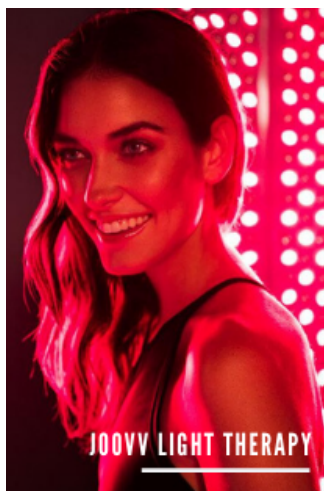
Throughout Mills' tenure with Oklahoma City Ballet, patrons have enjoyed seeing the extraordinary advancements made in the scope and quality of the company's work on stage. Keeping a focus on education and community engagement, the organization can boast dramatically increased enrollment in its Yvonne Chouteau School under Mills' guidance plus the addition of numerous community engagement programs geared towards broadening OKC Ballet's reach in the community.

A prolific choreographer, Robert has created 12 new works during his time at Oklahoma City Ballet. His work has been seen across the United States, and in 2017 he was selected to take part in the National Choreographers Initiative in Southern California, an honor bestowed to only four American choreographers per year.

Reporting on Robert's time with OKC Ballet, *The Oklahoman* newspaper wrote; "During Mills' ten years of artistic leadership of OKC Ballet, dance lovers in Oklahoma have had the pleasure of seeing an all-but-failed ballet company grow into a vibrant, passionate, powerful group of performers." In 2018, Robert was presented with a Governor's Arts Award from the state of Oklahoma for community service.

Prior to joining Oklahoma City Ballet as Artistic Director, Robert spent three years as Artistic Director of Ballet Nouveau Colorado in Denver. Of his time in Colorado, *The Denver Post* wrote, "Mills was instrumental in putting it on the map...Mills is now an artistic director responsible for one of Colorado's biggest dance success stories." Ballet Nouveau Colorado has since divided into two organizations. The performing company is now known as Wonderbound and the school became Colorado Conservatory of Dance.

Mr. Mills is also a sought-after dance educator, drawing from over 25 years of teaching experience. He teaches classical ballet in the Yvonne Chouteau School and oversees the School Director and faculty. He has taught at numerous companies, schools and summer programs across the world.



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THE NUTCRACKER

PRESENTED BY DEVON ENERGY

CHOREOGRAPHY AND DIRECTION

Robert Mills

ADAPTED FROM E.T.A. HOFFMANN'S STORY

The Nutcracker and the Mouse King

SET DESIGN

Gregory Crane

COSTUME DESIGN

Susanne Hubbs

LIGHTING DESIGN

Aaron Mooney

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Lauren Heimstra

MUSIC

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

REHEARSAL DIRECTORS

Ryan Jolicoeur-Nye
Miki Kawamura Khalfan

STUDENT REHEARSAL ASSISTANTS

Racheal Nye
Macaira Pinto
Amanda Popejoy

STAGE MANAGER

Courtney DiBello

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS

Kris Gooding
Kristina Lenkowsky

COSTUME MANAGER

Claire Kroeger

COSTUME ASSISTANTS

Elizabeth Rescinito
Ashlee McCarroll

WITH THE OKLAHOMA CITY PHILHARMONIC

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Alexander Mickelthwate

CONDUCTOR

Jayce Ogren

This performance is made possible by Devon Energy
and the Collaborative Orchestra Services Endowment Fund.

ACT I

SCENE 1 - THE PARTY

It is Christmas Eve in a small, snow-covered German village where the Stahlbaum family is having a grand holiday party. Herr Drosselmeyer, an eccentric old toymaker and Stahlbaum family friend, is in his workshop making last minute touch-ups on his gift to young Clara Stahlbaum, a beautiful, handcrafted Nutcracker. Hans, Drosselmeyer's young apprentice, watches and assists his mentor. Meanwhile, back at the Stahlbaum home, Clara and her brother Fritz are very excited about the festivities. Clara receives a new dress for the party from her mother, as it also serves as her coming of age. Fritz is very jealous of all the attention his sister receives.

Fritz and Clara have a wonderful time dancing and playing with friends. Herr Drosselmeyer and Hans arrive at the party. They bring wonderful gifts for

everyone, including magical life-size toy dolls that dance and amaze all of the guests. Drosselmeyer saves the best surprise for last – the wonderful Nutcracker that he presents to Clara. Clara is enthralled by her gift and dances with the wooden toy. In a jealous rage, Fritz breaks the Nutcracker, but Drosselmeyer magically fixes him. Clara takes a special liking to young Hans.

CLARA STAHLBAUM

Mayu Odaka (Dec. 11 at 2, 19 at 7)

Alison Ramoran (Dec. 11 at 7, 12 at 2 & 7, 17 at 7, 18 at 7, 19 at 2)

DaYoung Jung (Dec. 18 at 2)

DROSSELMYER

James Keating (Dec. 11 at 2, 17 at 7, 19 at 7)

Benjamin Tucker (Dec. 11 at 7, 18 at 7)

Ryan Jolicoeur-Nye (Dec. 12 at 2, 18 at 2, 19 at 2)

HANS (DROSSELMYER'S APPRENTICE)

Randolph Fernandez (Dec. 11 at 2, 19 at 7)

Zane Winders (Dec. 11 at 7, 12 at 2, 17 at 7, 18 at 7, 19 at 2)

Alejandro González (Dec. 18 at 2)

MOTHER STAHLBAUM

Kara Troester Blythe (Dec. 11 at 2, 12 at 2, 18 at 2, 19 at 2)

Alexandra Schooling (Dec. 11 at 7, 17 at 7, 18 at 7, 19 at 7)

FATHER STAHLBAUM

Daniel Cooke (Dec. 11 at 2, 12 at 2, 18 at 2, 19 at 2)

Mayim Stiller (Dec. 11 at 7, 17 at 7, 18 at 7, 19 at 7)

FRITZ STAHLBAUM

William Poole (Dec. 11 at 2, 12 at 2, 18 at 7, 19 at 7)

Julien DeJear (Dec. 11 at 7, 17 at 7, 18 at 2, 19 at 2)

MAID

Amelia Aroneo (Dec. 11 at 2, 17 at 7, 18 at 7, 19 at 7)

Kaileah Long (Dec. 11 at 7, 12 at 2, 18 at 2, 19 at 2)

GRANDMOTHER

Morgan Dunham

PARTY GIRLS

Jaiden Baker, Grace Beasley, Raven Bighorn,

Emery Green, Sloane Henry, Suri McKinney,

Kailyn Richter, Annabelle Terada,

Maya Bryant (Dec. 11 at 7, 17 at 7, 18 at 2, 19 at 2),

Olivia Nguyen (Dec. 11 at 2, 12 at 2, 18 at 7, 19 at 7)

PARTY BOYS

Henry Byrne, Addilyn Gilbert, Nurah Hurrey,

Adelyn Kobyluk, Eloise McCoy, Olivia McCoy,

Lillie Shaw, Heloha Tate

PARTY SCENE PARENTS

Mickayla Carr,

Gabrielle Mengden, Carlie Preskitt,

Alexandra Schooling (Dec. 11 at 2, 12 at 2, 18 at 2, 19 at 2),

Kara Troester Blythe (Dec. 11 at 7, 17 at 7, 18 at 7, 19 at 7)

James Klump, Oslaniel Castillo,

Joseph Hetzer (Dec. 11 at 2, 17 at 7, 18 at 7, 19 at 7),

Jameson Keating (Dec. 11 at 7, 12 at 2, 18 at 2, 19 at 2),

Daniel Cooke (Dec. 11 at 7, 17 at 7, 18 at 7, 19 at 7),

Mayim Stiller (Dec. 11 at 2, 12 at 2, 18 at 2, 19 at 2)

KISSY DOLL

Autumn Klein (Dec. 11 at 2, 17 at 7)

DaYoung Jung (Dec. 11 at 7, 19 at 7)

Courtney Connor Jones (Dec. 18 at 7)

Mayu Odaka (Dec. 12 at 2, 18 at 2, 19 at 2)

SOLDIER DOLL

Erik Thordal-Christensen (Dec. 11 at 2, 17 at 7, 18 at 7)

Alejandro González (Dec. 11 at 7, 19 at 7)

Nikolas Gaifullin (Dec. 12 at 2, 18 at 2, 19 at 2)

SCENE 2 -THE BATTLE

Later that night, after all the guests have gone home and the Stahlbaum family has gone to bed, Clara sneaks back downstairs to check on her Nutcracker and finds him resting on the settee. In the dark there are noises everywhere! Suddenly, giant mice fill the room and Clara is chased about.

The living room is magically transformed into a battleground between giant mice and toy soldiers. Clara finds that her toy Nutcracker has come to life and is fighting to save her from the evil Mouse King. As the battle between mice and soldiers rages, Clara sees that the Mouse King is winning! Clara hits the Mouse King on the head with a shoe. This distracts the Mouse King, and the Nutcracker heralds the final blow.

Clara is distraught as it seems the Nutcracker has been mortally wounded in battle but before her eyes he magically transforms into a handsome Prince. It is Hans, the young boy whom she met at the party!

CLARA STAHLBAUM

Mayu Odaka (Dec. 11 at 2, 19 at 7)

Alison Ramoran (Dec. 11 at 7, 12 at 2 & 7, 17 at 7, 18 at 7, 19 at 2)

DaYoung Jung (Dec. 18 at 2)

NUTCRACKER PRINCE

Randolph Fernandez (Dec. 11 at 2, 19 at 7)

Zane Winders (Dec. 11 at 7, 12 at 2, 17 at 7, 18 at 7, 19 at 2)

Alejandro González (Dec. 18 at 2)

MOUSE KING

Daniel Cooke (Dec. 11 at 2, 12 at 2, 18 at 2, 19 at 2)

Mayim Stiller (Dec. 11 at 7, 17 at 7, 18 at 7, 19 at 7)

MICE

James Klump, Oslaniel Castillo,

Joseph Hetzer (Dec. 11 at 2, 17 at 7, 18 at 7, 19 at 7),

Jameson Keating (Dec. 11 at 7, 12 at 2, 18 at 2, 19 at 2),

Daniel Cooke (Dec. 11 at 7, 17 at 7, 18 at 7, 19 at 7),

Mayim Stiller (Dec. 11 at 2, 12 at 2, 18 at 2, 19 at 2)

LITTLE MOUSE

Harper Wackenheim (Dec. 11 at 2, 12 at 2, 18 at 7, 19 at 7)

Amélie Nye (Dec. 11 at 7, 17 at 7, 18 at 2, 19 at 2)

LITTLE SOLDIER

Maya Bryant (Dec. 11 at 2, 12 at 2, 18 at 7, 19 at 7)

Olivia Nguyen (Dec. 11 at 7, 17 at 7, 18 at 2, 19 at 2)

SOLDIERS

Maya Cabelli, Ainsley Clynych,
Madison Dominick, Helen Jardon,
Elizabeth Killian-Keup, Skylar Moreira,
Tabitha Tabor, Rhys Williams
(Dec. 11 at 2, 12 at 2, 18 at 7, 19 at 7)

Isabella Assante, Carson Berry,
Adelyn Booher, Avery Chandler,
Abigail Forbes, Briar Vold,
Moirá Kate Werner, Briana Werne
(Dec. 11 at 7, 17 at 7, 18 at 2, 19 at 2)

THE LAND OF SNOW

Clara and Hans travel through a winter
wonderland, where they are greeted by danc-
ing snowflakes. They then continue on a magical
journey beyond her wildest dreams.

CLARA STAHLBAUM

Mayu Odaka (Dec. 11 at 2, 19 at 7)

Alison Ramoran (Dec. 11 at 7, 12 at 2 & 7, 17 at 7, 18 at 7, 19 at 2)

DaYoung Jung (Dec. 18 at 2)

NUTCRACKER PRINCE

Randolph Fernandez (Dec. 11 at 2, 19 at 7)

Zane Winders (Dec. 11 at 7, 12 at 2, 17 at 7, 18 at 7, 19 at 2)

Alejandro González (Dec. 18 at 2)

SNOWFLAKES

Mickayla Carr, Samantha Efaw,
Katie Kelley, Savannah Lee, Grace Manuel,
Annie Medich, Gabrielle Mengden,
Maura Moody, Savannah Payne,
Charlie Preskitt, Leah Reiter,
Alexandra Schooling, Kara Troester Blythe,
Sara Beth Wriston

INTERMISSION

ACT II

SCENE 1 – THE KINGDOM OF SWEETS

Clara and Hans arrive in the Kingdom of Sweets
and Toys, where angels have blessed the path be-
fore them. The Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier
greet the couple and introduce

them to delectable treats and toys from many
countries. Clara and Hans tell the story of their
battle with the Mouse King. As a reward for her
bravery, the Sugar Plum Fairy gives Clara her
magic wand.

In celebration, everyone dances as entertainment
for Clara and Hans. The exquisite Sugar Plum Fairy
and her Cavalier dance last and capture Clara's
heart with their dazzling performance. They all
dance one last grand finale until at last it is time for
Clara to return home.

LITTLE ANGELS

Addison Churchwell, Perrin Jones, Olivia Mc-
Coy, Elliot Novey, Amélie Nye, Ava Old Crow,
Willow Rivera, Sophia Sorocco, Frances Tipton,
Harper Wackenheim, Lillian Wall, Alice Zhang
(Dec. 11 at 2, 12 at 2, 18 at 7, 19 at 7)

Eloise Bethel, Piper Hubbard, Perrin Jones,
Evelyn Koessler, Olivia McCoy, Amélie Nye,
Mila Pranin, Davee Rhodes, Brittyn Roberdes,
Harper Wackenheim, Cherryse Wilson,
Alice Zhang
(Dec. 11 at 7, 17 at 7, 18 at 2, 19 at 2)

LEAD ANGEL

Flannery Werner

ANGELS

Isabella Assante, Caterina Brown, Maya Cabelli,
Megan Elliot, Stephanie Frase, Helen Jardon,
Katie Kelley, Elizabeth Killian-Keup,
Cassidy Minihan, Savannah O'Neal,
Bailey Portell, Cheyenne Rowland,
Briana Werne, Sarah Beth Wriston
(Dec. 11 at 2, 12 at 2, 18 at 7, 19 at 7)

Nicole Bak, Talitha Barrington, Carson Berry,
Avery Chandler, Eva Chronert, Abigail Forbes,
Joelle Kimbrough, Dain Lim, Anya Matejczyk,
Skylar Moreira, Abigail Quinton, Briar Vold,
Tallulah Wallace, Moira Kate Werner
(Dec. 11 at 7, 17 at 7, 18 at 2, 19 at 2)

SUGAR PLUM FAIRY

Autumn Klein (Dec. 11 at 2, 17 at 7)

DaYoung Jung (Dec. 11 at 7, 19 at 7)

Courtney Connor Jones (Dec. 18 at 7)

Mayu Odaka (Dec. 12 at 2, 18 at 2, 19 at 2)

CAVALIER

Erik Thordal-Christensen (Dec. 11 at 2, 17 at 7, 18 at 7)

Alejandro González (Dec. 11 at 7, 19 at 7)

Nikolas Gaifullin (Dec. 12 at 2, 18 at 2, 19 at 2)

PAGES

Jaiden Baker, Addilyn Gilbert,

Nico Goodwin, Lillie Shaw

(Dec. 11 at 2, 12 at 2, 18 at 7, 19 at 7)

Savannah Kazenske, Adelyn Kobyluk,

Eloise McCoy, Bella Unruh-Clubb

(Dec. 11 at 7, 17 at 7, 18 at 2, 19 at 2)

CLOWNS

Julien DeJear, William Poole,

Michael O'Neill (Dec. 11 at 2, 17 at 7, 19 at 2),

Dietrich Klawonn (Dec. 11 at 7, 18 at 2, 19 at 7),

Tristan Thompson (Dec. 12 at 2, 18 at 7)

SPANISH CHOCOLATE

Nikolas Gaifullin with Gabrielle Mengden &

Kara Troester Blythe (Dec. 11 at 2)

Nikolas Gaifullin with Gabrielle Mengden &

Alexandra Schooling (Dec. 11 at 7)

Randolph Fernandez with Gabrielle Mengden &

Alexandra Schooling (Dec. 12 at 2)

Nikolas Gaifullin with Mickayla Carr &

Paige Russell (Dec. 17 at 7, 18 at 7, 19 at 7)

Randolph Fernandez with Gabrielle Mengden &

Kara Troester Blythe (Dec. 18 at 2)

Daniel Cooke with Gabrielle Mengden &

Alexandra Schooling (Dec. 19 at 2)

ARABIAN COFFEE

Courtney Connor Jones & Benjamin Tucker

(Dec. 11 at 2, 17 at 7, 19 at 7)

Kara Troester Blythe & Mayim Stiller

(Dec. 11 at 7, 18 at 2, 19 at 2)

Alexandra Schooling & Jameson Keating

(Dec. 12 at 2)

Autumn Klein & Benjamin Tucker (Dec. 18 at 7)

CHINESE TEA SOLOISTS

Zane Winders & Kaileah Long (Dec. 11 at 2)

Joseph Hetzer & Grace Manuel (Dec. 11 at 7, 18 at 7)

Nick Keeperman & Paige Russell (Dec. 12 at 2, 19 at 2)

Ryland Acree & Kaileah Long (Dec. 17 at 7, 19 at 7)

Zane Winders & Alison Ramoran (Dec. 18 at 2)

DRAGON

Evelyn DeGreve, Chaeli Herd,

Haylee Hutchcraft, Zella Martin,

Rylee Ramsey, Rhys Williams

(Dec. 11 at 2, 2 at 2, 18 at 7, 19 at 7)

Haylee Hutchcraft, Kelley King, Audrey Nolen,

Olivia Parker, Ava Spradling, Rhys Williams

(Dec. 11 at 7, 17 at 7, 18 at 2, 19 at 2)

RUSSIAN BABKA

Ryland Acree, Oslaniel Castillo, James Klump

(Dec. 11 at 2, 19 at 2)

Nick Keeperman, Oslaniel Castillo,

James Klump (Dec. 11 at 7)

Ryland Acree, Daniel Cooke, James Klump

(Dec. 11 at 2)

Nick Keeperman, Daniel Cooke,

Mayim Stiller (Dec. 17 at 7, 18 at 7)

Henrique Neumann, Oslaniel Castillo,

James Klump (Dec. 18 at 2, 19 at 7)

FRENCH MARZIPAN

Alison Ramoran with Leah Reiter &

Grace Manuel (Dec. 11 at 2)

Mickayla Carr with Anna Tateda &

Kaileah Long (Dec. 11 at 7)

Mickayla Carr with Leah Reiter &

Grace Manuel (Dec. 12 at 2, 18 at 2, 19 at 2)

Gabrielle Mengden with Anna Tateda &

Kaileah Long (Dec. 17 at 7, 18 at 7)

Alison Ramoran with Leah Reiter &

Grace Manuel (Dec. 19 at 7)

FLOWERS

Amelia Aroneo, Kira Robinson,

Morgan Dunham, Darcey Lynn

MOTHER GINGER

Freestone Dopp,

Tristan Thompson (Dec. 11 at 2, 17 at 7, 19 at 2),

Michael O'Neill (Dec. 11 at 7, 18 at 2, 19 at 7),

Dietrich Klawonn (Dec. 12 at 2, 18 at 7)

BAKERS

Ainsley Clynych, Madison Dominick,

Hillary Haag, Tallulah Wallace

(Dec. 11 at 2, 12 at 2, 18 at 7, 19 at 7)

Adelyn Booher, Savannah O'Neal,

Bailey Portell, Tabitha Tabor

(Dec. 11 at 7, 17 at 7, 18 at 2, 19 at 2)

GINGERBREAD COOKIES

Grace Beasley, Raven Bighorn, Ines Elliot,
Nurah Hurrey, Savannah Kazenske,
Suri McKinney, Olivia Nguyen,
Annabelle Terada
(Dec. 11 at 2, 12 at 2, 18 at 7, 19 at 7)

Grace Beasley, Raven Bighorn, Maya Bryant,
Suri McKinney, Sloane Henry, Kailyn Richter,
London Roberdes, Annabelle Terada
(Dec. 11 at 7, 17 at 7, 18 at 2, 19 at 2)

WALTZ OF THE FLOWERS

CLARA & NUTCRACKER PRINCE

Mayu Odaka & Randolph Fernandez
(Dec. 11 at 2, 19 at 7)

Alison Ramoran & Zane Winders
(Dec. 11 at 7, 12 at 2 & 7, 17 at 7, 18 at 7, 19 at 2)

DaYoung Jung & Alejandro González
(Dec. 18 at 2)

With

DEMI SOLOISTS

Alison Ramoran & Paige Russell
(Dec. 11 at 2, 18 at 2, 19 at 7)

Gabrielle Mengden & Mickayla Carr
(Dec. 11 at 7, 17 at 7, 19 at 2)

Alexandra Schooling &
Kara Troester Blythe (Dec. 12 at 2, 18 at 7)

CORPS

Amelia Aroneo, Nicole Bak, Eva Chronert,
Morgan Dunham, Samantha Dunham,
Kaileah Long, Darcey Lynn, Abby Quinton
Kira Robinson, Anna Tateda, Ana Vega
Flannery Werner
(Dec. 11 at 2, 12 at 2, 18 at 7, 19 at 7)

Amelia Aroneo, Caterina Brown,
Morgan Dunham, Samantha Dunham,
Samantha Efaw, Stephanie Frase,
Kaileah Long, Darcey Lynn,
Kira Robinson, Cheyanne Rowland,
Anna Tateda, Flannery Werner
(Dec. 11 at 7, 17 at 7, 18 at 2, 19 at 2)

GRAND PAS DE DEUX

SUGAR PLUM FAIRY AND HER CAVALIER

Autumn Klein & Erik Thordal-Christensen
(Dec. 11 at 2, 17 at 7)

DaYoung Jung & Alejandro González
(Dec. 11 at 7, 19 at 7)

Mayu Odaka & Nikolas Gaifullin
(Dec. 12 at 2, 18 at 2, 19 at 2)

Courtney Connor Jones &
Erik Thordal-Christensen (Dec. 18 at 7)

SCENE 2- APOTHEOSIS

Clara awakens and finds herself back in her own home. Before she goes to bed, she runs to get her beloved Nutcracker. As she does, she finds on the floor the glittering magic wand that was given to her by the Sugar Plum Fairy and she wonders, “Was it all a dream?”

• • • • •

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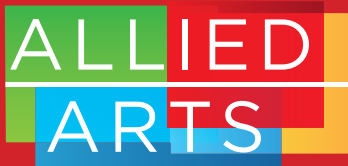


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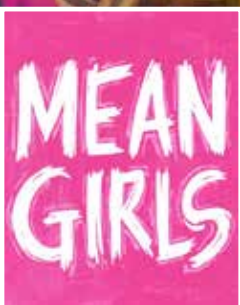
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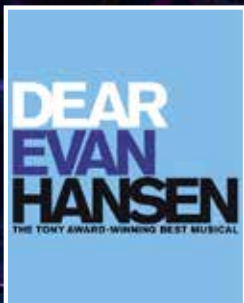
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ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

GREGORY CRANE *Set Designer*

Having studied theater performance and design at Wichita State University, Greg Crane's designs have been featured in over 500 productions and attractions across the globe, including work in theme parks and attractions, entertainment, trade shows and industrials, theater and live events, television, and parades.

Most recently, Greg was the Corporate Director of Planning and Design for Cedar Fair. His work has been recognized with several awards, including an Emmy (Best Scenic Design) and a Golden Ticket for Mystic Timbers at Kings Island (Best New Ride).

His resume includes designing for such companies as SeaWorld, Busch Gardens, Ripley Entertainment, Herschend Family Entertainment, and Six Flags Theme Parks. His extensive experience designing high-energy live events includes such clients as the Dallas Cowboys, Feld Entertainment, Tournament of Roses Parade, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, and Mazda. His work in the performing arts includes Toni Pimble's *The Jungle Book* for Eugene Ballet, and Robert Mills' *The Nutcracker* for Oklahoma City Ballet.

SUSANNE HUBBS *Costume Designer*

Susanne Hubbs, The Costume Lady, has been designing and sewing costumes for dancers, figure skaters, and synchronized swimmers for 40 years. Her costumes have been worn by hundreds of Youth America Grand Prix competitors, as well as many elite international figure skaters. Tutus designed and created by Hubbs have been featured in *Pointe Magazine*. Other ballet designs have been created for and worn by Oklahoma City Ballet, Brandywine Ballet, St. Lucie Ballet, Imagine Ballet Theatre, and Ballet Nouveau Colorado. She has collaborated for many years with the choreographers and dancers of Ormao, creating hundreds of innovative contemporary dance costumes.

Hubbs started ballet training at the age of five, continuing on to perform with the Olympia Festival Ballet, the American Jazz Dance Company, Dayton Ballet and Dayton Ballet II, Alaska Dance Theatre, and Ballet Alaska. She received the "Young Choreographers" award from Regional Dance America. She taught ballet for 37 years, with students going on to prestigious college dance programs and professional careers in dance.

Today, her design studio is a bustling creative space, located in beautiful Colorado Springs, Colorado.

AARON MOONEY *Lighting Designer*

Aaron Mooney is the Resident Lighting Designer and Professor of Lighting Design at Oklahoma City University, where he joined the faculty in 2012. He holds an MFA in Theatre Design from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and a BA in Theatre Education from The University of Tulsa. Mooney has lit events in spaces as large as Radio City Music Hall (NYC), the Western Heritage Museum (OKC), and The Joint at the Hard Rock Casino (Tulsa), as well as spaces so small that they barely deserve to be called theatres.

Recent design credits include *The Little Mermaid*, *The Firebird*, *Swan Lake*, *Giselle*, *La Sylphide*, *Our Private Rooms*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Nutcracker*, *Exurgency* (Oklahoma City Ballet); *An American in Paris* (Music Theatre Wichita); *Noises Off*, *Death of a Salesman* (Montana Shakespeare in the Parks); *Pageant* (Lyric OK); and *King Lear* (Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park). Previous Lighting Designs for OCU include *Spamalot*, *The Music Man*, *Crazy for You*, *Susannah*, *Side Show*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Sister Act*, *Three Sisters*, *Hairspray*, *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play*, *As You Like It*, *RENT*, *Brigadoon*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *South Pacific*, *Street Scene*, *9 to 5: The Musical*, *Bernstein's MASS*, and *The Dialogues of the Carmelites*.

In addition to all of his theatrical design work, Mooney has worked on exhibition lighting at the S.R. Guggenheim Museum, the National Academy of Design, the Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum, the National Museum of the Native American (NYC), and the Morgan Museum & Library. Fashion lighting in New York City includes Barneys New York, Prada, Armani, and Dolce + Gabbana. Mooney lives in OKC with his wife, Lisa, and his son, Eli.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES



JAYCE OGREN *Conductor*

Jayce Ogren has established himself as one of the most innovative and versatile conductors of his generation. From symphonic concerts to revolutionary community service programs to operatic world premieres, Mr. Ogren is a leader in breaking down barriers between audiences and great music.

Mr. Ogren began his career as Assistant Conductor of The Cleveland Orchestra and Music Director of the Cleveland Youth Orchestra, a concurrent appointment he held from 2006-2009. In the years since, he has conducted many of the world's most prominent orchestras, including the BBC Symphony, Boston Symphony, Ensemble Intercontemporain,

Hong Kong Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, the Dallas and San Francisco Symphonies, and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, in programs ranging from Mozart to Beethoven through Sibelius and Bernstein, to presenting U.S. and world premieres of works by Steve Mackey and Nico Muhly.

Among the numerous progressive projects Mr. Ogren has conducted are the New York premieres of Leonard Bernstein's only opera, *A Quiet Place*, and puppeteer Basil Twist's *The Rite of Spring*, both at Lincoln Center; the world premiere of David Lang's *symphony for a broken orchestra*, bringing together 400 students, amateur and professional musicians in Philadelphia; and the world premiere of Jack Perla's *Shalimar the Clown* at Opera Theatre of St. Louis.

A longtime collaborator of singer/songwriter/composer Rufus Wainwright, Mr. Ogren conducted the 2012 U.S. premiere of his opera *Prima Donna* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and led its recording with the BBC Symphony on Deutsche Grammophon in 2016. Mr. Ogren and Mr. Wainwright have since appeared together throughout the world, with ensembles such as the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa, the Orchestre national d'Île-de-France in Paris and the Toronto Symphony.

A devoted educator, Mr. Ogren was invited by renowned poet Paul Muldoon to create an interdisciplinary studio class at Princeton University for the 2017-2018 academic year. He has worked with students at the Brevard Music Center, the Juilliard School, Manhattan School of Music, Music Academy of the West, and Verbier Festival. In 2016, he presented a unique workshop in orchestral rehearsal techniques for music teachers at Carnegie Hall in collaboration with the Carnegie Hall Weill Music Institute and the Juilliard School Pre-College. For his own part, Mr. Ogren earned his Masters in conducting at the New England Conservatory and studied as a Fulbright Scholar with Jorma Panula.

A native of Hoquiam, Washington, Jayce Ogren lives in Brooklyn, New York with his wife Carly, an architect, and their son, Alistair. An avid athlete, he has run the Big Sur, Boston, and New York City Marathons, the JFK 50 Miler trail run, and the Ironman Lake Placid triathlon. As an individual member of 1% for the Planet, Mr. Ogren is proud to connect his artistic work with his deep love of nature and concern for the environment.

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PRINCIPAL ARTISTS



COURTNEY CONNOR JONES

Hometown: Huntington Beach, CA

Joined the Company in 2017

Sponsored by: Mari Cook Medley

Courtney Connor Jones, from Charlotte, North Carolina, trained at the North Carolina Dance Theatre and Charlotte City Ballet before graduating from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

Connor Jones danced with Cincinnati Ballet for 11 seasons, and spent a summer in Russia where she performed in *Giselle*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and *Swan Lake*. Throughout her career, she has performed feature roles including Odette/Odile in *Swan Lake*, The Chosen One in Adam Houghland's *Rite of Spring*, The Eagle in Septime Webre's *ALICE (in wonderland)*, and Jumping Girl in George Balanchine's *Who Cares?*

Since joining Oklahoma City Ballet as a principal in 2017, Connor Jones has performed in Robert Mills' *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *The Means to Fly*, as well as Jiří Kylián's *Petite Mort*, Helen Pickett's *Petal*, and Cayetano Soto's *Adam*.

Connor Jones and her husband and former dancer Sam Jones have a young daughter, Gwyneth and a newborn son, Felix. She also creates custom jewelry and educates others on healthy eating and lifestyle habits in her spare time.



DAYOUNG JUNG

Hometown: Gyeongsang, South Korea

Joined the Company in 2012

Sponsored by: Susan E. Brackett and Gregg Wadley

DaYoung Jung, from South Korea, trained at Moscow's Bolshoi Ballet Academy. She graduated with honors with a specialist degree in Ballet Pedagogy, and was a semifinalist in the Serge Lifar International Ballet Competition held in Donetsk, Ukraine in 2006.

Jung joined Oklahoma City Ballet in 2012, was promoted to soloist in 2014, and to principal in 2017. Her repertoire with Oklahoma City Ballet includes Robert Mills' *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Firebird*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and *The Little Mermaid*. She has performed the title roles in *Giselle*, Jacob Sparso's *Cinderella*, Septime Webre's *ALICE (in wonderland)*, and August Bournonville's *La Sylphide* and performed lead roles in Toni Pimble's *Mowgli – The Jungle Book Ballet*, Paul Vasterling's *Peter Pan*, and Michael Pink's *Dracula*.

Jung has been featured in George Balanchine's *Rubies* and *Serenade*, Twyla Tharp's *Nine Sinatra Songs*, Robert Joffrey's *Pas des Déesses*, Ma Cong's *Forgotten Memories*, Sarah Tallman's *If These Walls Could Talk*, Jiří Kylián's *Petite Mort*, and Cayetano Soto's *Adam*.

SOLOISTS



NIKOLAS GAIFULLIN

Hometown: Sarasota, Florida | Joined the Company in 2021

Sponsored by: Jeanette and Rand Elliott

Nikolas Gaifullin is originally from Sarasota, Florida. He began his training at the age of 7 with his parents, Stephanie Murrish and Daniil Gaifullin.

Gaifullin joined Oklahoma City Ballet as a soloist in 2021. His repertoire includes works by Johan Kobborg, Yuri Possokhov, Ma Cong, Max Petrov, Ross Freddie Ray, Jiří Kylián, Ricardo Amarante, Tara Lee, Dwight Rhoden, Bruce Wells, Viktor Plotnikov, Ryan Jolicoeur-Nye, Kiyon Ross, Anthony Krutzkamp, John McFall, and Norbert De La Cruz III. Favorite roles include Tybalt in *Romeo & Juliet*, James in *La Sylphide*, Drosselmier in *The Nutcracker*, Prince Siegfried in *Swan Lake*, and Basilio in *Don Quixote*.

Gaifullin has competed and won awards in Youth America Grand Prix and The World Ballet Competition. He attended Carreno Festival 2012, and has studied with Ethan Brown of American Ballet Theatre, Sergiu Stefancsi of Canada's National Ballet School, and Anna Marie Holmes at Jacobs Pillow. In the summer of 2019, he participated in the Italy tour of Ross Freddie Ray's *Fraudulent Smile* with Polunin Ink, and performed the role of Tybalt in Johan Kobborg's *Romeo & Juliet* in Arena di Verona.



ALEJANDRO GONZÁLEZ

Hometown: Caracas, Venezuela | Joined the Company in 2017

Sponsored by: Susan E. Brackett and Gregg Wadley

Alejandro González, from Caracas, Venezuela, began his training at the Gustavo Franklin School followed by Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy. While with Houston Ballet, he performed in John Neumeier's *Yondering*, and in Ben Stevenson's *The Sleeping Beauty* and *The Nutcracker*. He also danced in Stanton Welch's *Long and Winding Road*, *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*, and *Brigade*.

González began with Oklahoma City Ballet in 2017 as a Summer Intensive student, then he was asked to join the studio company for the 2017/18 season. He was offered an apprenticeship in 2018, promoted to corps de ballet in 2019, and was named soloist in 2021.

His repertoire includes works by Robert Mills, August Bournonville, Jiří Kylián, Helen Pickett, Septime Webre, Cayetano Soto, and Michael Pink. González's favorite roles include Bell Boy in Michael Pink's *Dracula*, Nutcracker Prince in Robert Mills' *The Nutcracker*, and Conrad in *Le Corsaire pas de deux*.

González was awarded Gold Medalist in 2016 at CIBC (Concurso Internacional de Ballet Clasico), Gold Medalist in 2020 at MIBC (Miami International Ballet Competition), and featured in Pointe Magazine's "2020 Stars of the Corps".

SOLOISTS



AUTUMN KLEIN

Hometown: Lincoln, NE | Joined the Company in 2012

Sponsored by: Curtis Teague and Loretta Simonet

Autumn Klein trained at Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy then became a member of Houston Ballet II before joining Texas Ballet Theatre. During this time she won several awards, including first place at the Youth America Grand Prix in Denver, Colorado.

Klein joined Oklahoma City Ballet in 2012 and was promoted to soloist in 2016. Her repertoire with the company includes featured roles in Jiří Kylián's *Petite Mort*, Helen Pickett's *Petal*, Margo Sappington's *Cobras in the Moonlight*, Amy Seiwert's *Dear Miss Cline*, Twyla Tharp's *Nine Sinatra Songs*, Nacho Duato's *Without Words*, George Balanchine's *The Four Temperaments*, and Robert Mills' *Pushing Pennies*, *Our Private Rooms*, *The Means to Fly*, and *A Little Peace*. She has also created roles in works by Yui Sato, Matthew Neenan, Brian Enos, Sarah Tallman, Carrie Ruth Trumbo, and Penny Saunders.

Additionally, Klein has performed lead roles that include the Cowgirl in Agnes de Mille's *Rodeo*, Russian Girl in George Balanchine's *Serenade*, Wendy in Paul Vasterling's *Peter Pan*, *Le Corsaire* Grand Pas, Sugar Plum Fairy in Mills' *The Nutcracker*, and Lucy in Michael Pink's *Dracula*.

Outside her dance experience, she double majored in biochemistry and genetics at Texas A&M University and received presidential and congressional medals for volunteer service. Klein was awarded by NBC's World of Dance for a dance film she created and she was featured on The Ellen Show for another. She would like to thank her husband, family, and three kitties for their continual support.



MAYU ODAKA

Hometown: Los Angeles, California

Joined the Company in 2015

Sponsored by: The Wilhelm Family

Mayu Oda, from Los Angeles, trained at the Lauridsen Ballet Center in Torrance, California, where she danced in the pre-professional company Ballet California. She was offered an apprenticeship with Oklahoma City Ballet after participating in the 2015 Summer Intensive and was promoted to corps de ballet in 2017, then later soloist in 2019.

Since joining Oklahoma City Ballet, her repertoire includes works by Helen Pickett, Septime Webre, Paul Vasterling, Agnes de Mille, Dennis Spaight, Robyn Pasternack, Ryan Jolicoeur-Nye, and Amanda Herd-Popejoy. Favorite roles include Lucy in Michael Pink's *Dracula*, Lucille Grahn in Robert Joffrey's *Pas des Déesses*, Clara and Sugarplum Fairy in Robert Mills' *The Nutcracker* and Ariel in Robert Mills' *The Little Mermaid*. She has also performed feature roles that include Firebird in Robert Mills' *The Firebird*, The White Cat in Robert Mills' *The Sleeping Beauty* and demi-soloist roles in both George Balanchine's *Serenade* and *The Four Temperaments*.

SOLOISTS



ERIK THORDAL-CHRISTENSEN

Hometown: Copenhagen, Denmark

Joined the Company in 2018

Sponsored by: Drs. Lola and Dean Sicking

Erik Thordal-Christensen, from Denmark, moved to California at age seven and trained at the Los Angeles Ballet School with Colleen Neary and Thordal Christensen. He has danced as a member of the corps de ballet with the Los Angeles Ballet, Boston Ballet, and Sarasota Ballet, and performed feature roles such as Espada in *Don Quixote*, Ali in *Le Corsaire*, Romeo and Paris in *Romeo & Juliet*, Iago in José Limón's *The Moor's Pavane*, and Lysander in Frederick Ashton's *The Dream*.

Thordal-Christensen joined Oklahoma City Ballet in the 2018/19 season as a corps de ballet dancer, and performed principal and soloist roles such as Cavalier and Arabian in *The Nutcracker*, Sangunic in George Balanchine's *The Four Temperaments*, Arthur in Michael Pink's *Dracula*, Paris in Robert Mills' *Romeo & Juliet*, and Ali in *Le Corsaire pas de deux*.

Thordal-Christensen has also performed in George Balanchine's *Theme and Variations*, Stravinsky *Violin Concerto*, *Stars and Stripes*, *La Sonnambula*, *La Valse*, and *Serenade*. Additionally, his repertoire includes Ashton's *Illuminations*, William Forsythe's *Artifact*, Jiří Kylián's *Sechs Tanze*, Sonya Tayeh's *Beneath One's Dignity*, along with *Le Corsaire*, *Swan Lake*, and *Giselle*.



BENJAMIN TUCKER

Hometown: Evart, Michigan | Joined the Company in 2021

Benjamin Tucker, originally from Evart, Michigan, trained with Grand Valley State University and Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre. In 2009, he joined Richmond Ballet as an apprentice, where he earned the Malcolm Burn Award from the Kip Kephart Foundation.

Tucker went on to become an accomplished dancer, choreographer, and teacher. He danced with Aspen Santa Fe Ballet during their European Tour performing in several principal roles, and joined Ballet Tucson in 2011 as a principal dancer. There he performed a range of ballets including Antony Tudor's *Continuo*, Agnes de Mille's *Three Virgins and a Devil*, *Raymonda*, and *Carmen*.

He then joined Nevada Ballet Theatre (NBT) in 2014 where he performed principal and soloist roles in ballets such as *Giselle*, James Canfield's *Romeo & Juliet*, Jorden Morris' *Peter Pan*, Paul Taylor's *Company B*, Matthew Neenan's world premiere *Until December*, Cynthia Gregory's *Swan Lake*, Septime Webre's *ALICE (in wonderland)*, and NBT's production of James Canfield's *The Nutcracker*. During his time at NBT, he has also danced in George Balanchine's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Serenade*, *Who Cares?*, *Western Symphony*, and *Slaughter on Tenth Avenue*.

CORPS DE BALLET



RYLAND ACREE

Hometown: Floyd, Virginia
Joined the Company in 2021



KARA TROESTER BLYTHE

Hometown: Oklahoma City,
Oklahoma
Joined the Company in 2017

Sponsored by:
Michelle and Gary Brooks



MICKAYLA CARR

Hometown: Arlington, TX
Joined the Company in 2016



DANIEL COOKE

Hometown: Washington, D.C.
Joined the Company in 2020



RANDOLPH FERNANDEZ

Hometown: Boston, MA
Joined the Company in 2017

Sponsored by:
Susan E. Brackett and Gregg Wadley



JOSEPH HETZER

Hometown: Palos Verdes, California
Joined the Company in 2019



JAMESON KEATING

Hometown: Santa Barbara, California
Joined the Company in 2021



NICHOLAS KEEPERMAN

Hometown: Wilmington, Illinois
Joined the Company in 2019

CORPS DE BALLET



GABRIELLE MENGDEN

Hometown: Houston, Texas
Joined the Company in 2019



ALISON RAMORAN

Hometown: Torrance, California
Joined the Company in 2020



PAIGE RUSSELL

Hometown: Silver Spring, Maryland
Joined the Company in 2020



ALEXANDRA SCHOOLING

Hometown: Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Joined the Company in 2016



MAYIM STILLER

Hometown: Seattle, Washington
Joined the Company in 2020



ZANE WINDERS

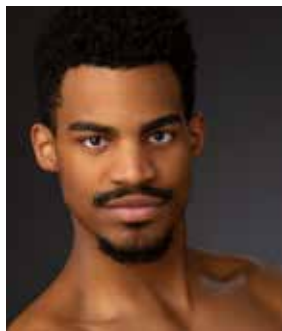
Hometown: Levelland, Texas
Joined the Company in 2020

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APPRENTICES



OSLANIEL CASTILLO

Hometown: Havana, Cuba
Joined the Company in 2021



ELENA DAMIANI

Hometown: Westfield, Indiana
Joined the Company in 2021



JAMES KLUMP

Hometown: Lake Charles, Louisiana
Joined the Company in 2021



KAILEAH LONG

Hometown: Broomfield, Colorado
Joined the Company in 2020



GRACE MANUEL

Hometown: New Orleans, Louisiana
Joined the Company in 2021

Sponsored by: Lisa Brown



HENRIQUE NEUMANN

Hometown: Santo Ângelo, Brazil
Joined the Company in 2021

Sponsored by:

James and Jennifer Weinland



CARLIE PRESKITT

Hometown: Denver, Colorado
Joined the Company in 2021

STUDIO COMPANY





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Oklahoma City Ballet's Amy Potter dancing the *The Dying Swan* at the 2016 Green Box Arts Festival in Green Mountain Falls, CO. greenboxarts.org - Photo credit: Tom Kimmell Photography



Paige Russell and Joseph Hetzer,
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