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FEBRUARY 18-20, 2022
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Jerome Robbins
2 & 3 Part Inventions
Oklahoma Premiere

Bryan Pitts
Variations for Six

Jessica Lang
To Familiar Spaces in Dream
Oklahoma Premiere

Nicolo Fonte
Of Dreams and Dice
World Premiere

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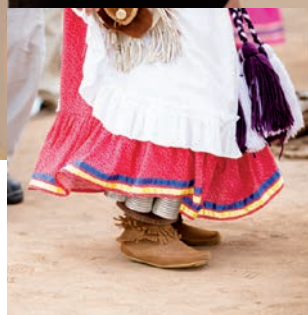
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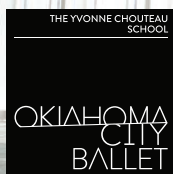
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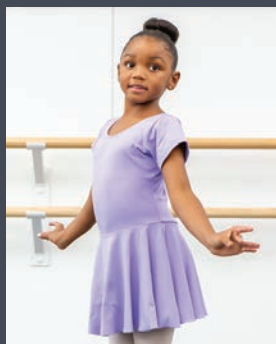
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ACTING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY



RYAN JOLICOEUR-NYE

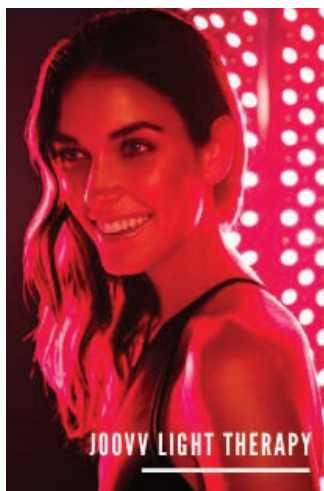
Originally from central Maine, Ryan Jolicoeur-Nye began his ballet training at the age of 16, working with renowned Kirov Ballet Dancer, Andrei Bossov as well as The Royal Winnipeg Ballet School Professional Division. Upon graduating from Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Jolicoeur-Nye attended the Banff Summer Arts Festival where he performed the principal role in Fernand Nault's *Carmina Burana*. Jolicoeur-Nye went on to dance for Festival Ballet of Providence, Eugene Ballet, and Ballet Idaho where he was promoted to principal dancer in 2011.

In 2012, Jolicoeur-Nye joined Kansas City Ballet where he danced many principal roles, including Jerome Robbins' *Fancy Free*, Septime Webre's *ALICE (in wonderland)*, Michael Pink's *Dracula*, as well as Devon Carney's *Swan Lake*, *Giselle*, and *The Nutcracker*. Jolicoeur-Nye retired from Kansas City Ballet in 2016 and eventually became the second company manager. In 2018, Jolicoeur-Nye was named Artistic Director of Northwest Arkansas Ballet Theatre based in Bentonville. Under his tenure, the company experienced exponential growth, creating more than 80 performances and reaching over 28,000 area residents.

As a choreographer, he has created ballets for Northwest Arkansas Ballet Theatre, Ballet Idaho, Chicago Repertory Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, Royal Winnipeg Ballet School, Moving Arts Dance Festival, and Ballet Des Moines, among others. Jolicoeur-Nye was named "Outstanding Choreographer" at the 2017 Youth American Grand Prix as well as "Best Choreographer" at the World Ballet Art Competition (WBAC) Grand Prix 2019.

Jolicoeur-Nye joined Oklahoma City Ballet in August 2020 as a Rehearsal Director, working closely with company dancers and creating choreographer for several short works. In January 2022, he was named Acting Artistic Director after the resignation of Robert Mills.

Jolicoeur-Nye is married to Racheal Nye, School Director for the Oklahoma City Ballet Yvonne Chouteau School and together they have two children who often dance student roles in Oklahoma City Ballet productions. In his free time, Ryan enjoys playing music, painting, cooking, and family time.



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GRAND DÉFILÉ

CHOREOGRAPHY

Racheal Nye & Ryan Jolicoeur-Nye

MUSIC

Polonaise in A Flat Op. 53 "Heroic"
by Frédéric Chopin

PIANIST

Peggy Payne, Jake Johnson

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Aaron Mooney

STAGE MANAGER

Courtney DiBello

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Lauren Heimstra

ASSISTANT STAGE

MANAGERS

Geni Gallant, Rachel Reiners

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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

SOLOISTS

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

PRINCIPAL ARTISTS

Courtney Connor Jones, DaYoung Jung

...

2 & 3 PART INVENTIONS

OKLAHOMA PREMIERE

CHOREOGRAPHY

Jerome Robbins

MUSIC

J.S. Bach with selections from *Inventions & Sinfonias* for Harpsichord:
2-Part BWV 772-786 & 3-Part 787-801

RÉPÉTITEUR

Jennifer Ringer Fayette

PIANIST

Peggy Payne

LIGHTING RECREATION

Les Dickert

REHEARSAL ASSISTANTS

Ryan Jolicoeur-Nye
Miki Kawamura Khalfan

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Jennifer Tipton

LIGHTING SUPERVISOR

Aaron Mooney

COSTUME DESIGN

Holly Hynes

COSTUME MANAGER

Claire Kroeger

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Lauren Heimstra

COSTUME MANAGER

Claire Kroeger

COSTUME ASSISTANT

Elizabeth Rescinto

ASSISTANT STAGE

MANAGERS

Geni Gallant
Rachel Reiners

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION PREMIERE

The School of American Ballet's annual Workshop Performance in 1994.

CAST

Autumn Klein, Alison Ramoran, Mayu Odaka, Gabrielle Mengden

Alejandro González (Feb. 18 & 20), Joseph Hetzer (Feb. 19),
Randolph Fernandez, Daniel Cooke, Mayim Stiller

...

15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

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PHOTO BY KATE LUBER

VARIATIONS FOR SIX

CHOREOGRAPHY

Bryan Pitts

MUSIC

Duo Concertant by Igor Stravinsky

RÉPÉTITEUR

Jacob Sparso

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Aaron Mooney

STAGE MANAGER

Courtney DiBello

REHEARSAL ASSISTANT

Miki Kawamura Khalfan

COSTUME MANAGER

Claire Kroeger

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Lauren Heimstra

PIANIST

Amy I-Lin Cheng

COSTUME ASSISTANT

Elizabeth Rescinto

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS

Geni Gallant

Rachel Reiners

VIOLINIST

Gregory Lee

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION PREMIERE

Dallas Ballet in 1983

CAST

Autumn Klein, Mayu Odaka,
Mayim Stiller, Nicholas Keeperman

...

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All six of our Community Engagement programs, like the Chance to Dance adaptive dance program for children with a range of physical and mental abilities, are offered at no cost to our participants **thanks to donors like you!**

OKLAHOMA
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PHOTO BY KATE LUBER

TO FAMILIAR SPACES IN DREAM

OKLAHOMA PREMIERE

CHOREOGRAPHY

Jessica Lang

MUSIC

Music by Philip Glass, John Cage, Craig Armstrong

John Cage - *Perilous Night*

Licensed by arrangement with C. F. Peters Corporation, New York

Craig Armstrong - *Childhood 2*

Words and Music by Craig Mackenzie Armstrong

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Craig Armstrong - *Delay*

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Craig Armstrong - *Fugue*

Words and Music by Craig Mackenzie Armstrong

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REHEARSAL ASSISTANTS

Ryan Jolicoeur-Nye
Miki Kawamura Khalfan

LIGHTING DESIGNER

MK Stewart

LIGHTING SUPERVISOR

Aaron Mooney

COSTUME DESIGN

Tamara Cobus

COSTUME MANAGER

Claire Kroeger

COSTUME ASSISTANT

Elizabeth Rescinto

STAGE MANAGER

Courtney DiBello

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Lauren Heimstra

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS

Geni Gallant
Rachel Reiners

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION PREMIERE

Richmond Ballet in 2005

CAST

FEB. 18 & 20

Courtney Connor Jones, Paige Russell,
Autumn Klein, Mayu Odaka, Benjamin Tucker,
Alejandro González, Joseph Hetzer, Randolph Fernandez

FEB. 19

Gabrielle Mengden, Alison Ramoran, Alexandra Schooling,
Kara Troester Blythe, Jameson Keating, Ryland Acree,
Oslaniel Castillo, Nicholas Keeperman

...

15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

OF DREAMS AND DICE

WORLD PREMIERE

CHOREOGRAPHY

Nicolo Fonte

MUSIC

Heather Christian and the Arbornauts

From the Album "Cabinet" by Heather Christian and the Arbornauts.

Track 5 - "Harvey", Track 6 - "Cabinet", Track 8 - "Mama Said",

Track 10 - "Centuries, Centuries. 2012 Heather Christian and the Arbornauts.

From the Album "The Craft: Legacy" (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack) by Heather Christian. Track 6, "Gone Forever" 2020 Columbia Pictures Industries, Inc, under exclusive license to Madison Gate Records, Inc.

From the Album "House / Hymn II". Track 1, "Backwards".

2017 Heather Christian and the Arbornauts.

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Miki Kawamura Khalfan

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Aaron Mooney

COSTUME DESIGN

Christine Darch

COSTUME MANAGER

Claire Kroeger

COSTUME ASSISTANT

Elizabeth Rescinto

STAGE MANAGER

Courtney DiBello

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Lauren Heimstra

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS

Geni Gallant
Rachel Reiners

CAST

Gabrielle Mengden, Mayu Odaka, Alexandra Schooling,
Mickayla Carr, Paige Russell, Alison Ramoran

Benjamin Tucker, Alejandro González, Daniel Cooke,
Jameson Keating, Joseph Hetzer, Nicholas Keeperman

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A CHOREOGRAPHIC SHOWCASE

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MARCH 17-20

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CHOREOGRAPHER BIOGRAPHIES

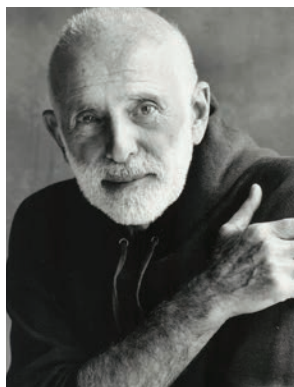


Photo courtesy of Jerome Robbins Foundation

JEROME ROBBINS

2 & 3 Part Inventions

Jerome Robbins is world renowned for his work as a choreographer of ballets as well as his work as a director and choreographer in theater, movies, and television. His Broadway shows include *On the Town*, *Billion Dollar Baby*, *High Button Shoes*, *West Side Story*, *The King and I*, *Gypsy*, *Peter Pan*, *Miss Liberty*, *Call Me Madam*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. His last Broadway production in 1989, *Jerome Robbins' Broadway*, won six Tony Awards including best musical and best director.

Among the more than 60 ballets he created are *Fancy Free*, *Afternoon of a Faun*, *The Concert*, *Dances at a Gathering*, *In the Night*, *In G Major*, *Other Dances*, *Glass Pieces*, and *Ives, Songs*, which are in the repertoires of New York City Ballet and other major dance companies throughout the world. He served as New York City Ballet's Associate Artistic Director. His last ballets include *A Suite of Dances* created for Mikhail Baryshnikov (1994), *2 & 3 Part Inventions* (1994), *West Side Story Suite* (1995), and *Brandenburg* (1996).

In addition to two Academy Awards for the film *West Side Story*, Robbins received four Tony Awards, five Donaldson Awards, an Emmy Award, the Screen Directors' Guild Award, and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award. Robbins was a 1981 Kennedy Center Honors Recipient and was awarded the French Chevalier dans l'Ordre National de la Legion d'Honneur. Mr. Robbins died in 1998.



CHOREOGRAPHER BIOGRAPHIES



BRYAN PITTS

Variations for Six

Born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Bryan Pitts began his professional training at the age of fourteen at the North Carolina School of the Arts. Majoring in classical guitar, Pitts was required to take ballet as a replacement for the physical education program which the school didn't have. After three short months he fell in love with ballet and returned to the school the following year as a dance major. Within six months, Pitts found himself on scholarship to the School of American Ballet, the official school of the New York City Ballet. At the age of seventeen, he joined the New York City Ballet and spent eight years with the company before dancing with Zurich Opera Ballet, Los Angeles Ballet, and Dallas Ballet.

Pitts became Artistic Director of Oklahoma City Ballet (then Ballet Oklahoma) in 1986 and led the company for a total of 22 years with his wife Laura Flagg-Pitts. Bryan conceived and implemented numerous programs and created a prolific amount of ballets including *Prey*, his collaboration with Stewart Copeland, Grammy award-winning composer and founder/drummer of the rock group The Police. He created 36 ballets for Ballet Oklahoma including full-length works like *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Dracula*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Svengali*.

Pitts also initiated Oklahoma City Ballet's longest running community engagement program, ArtsReach, which has brought in excess of 120,000 students from around the state of Oklahoma to the Civic Center Music Hall to witness the beauty and art of ballet. ArtsReach has been in place for over 30 years and received the Governor's Arts Award from the state of Oklahoma in 1997.

Pitts passed away in Oklahoma City on September 2, 2019.



CHOREOGRAPHER BIOGRAPHIES



JESSICA LANG

To Familiar Spaces in Dream

Since 1999, Lang has created more than 100 original works on companies worldwide including American Ballet Theatre, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet, the National Ballet of Japan, The Joffrey Ballet, and her eponymous company Jessica Lang Dance, among many others.

For more than two decades, Lang has worked extensively for American Ballet Theatre. Her original creations on the main company include *Her Notes*, *Garden Blue*, and *ZigZag* with the legendary Tony Bennett, as well as *Let Me Sing Forevermore* which was performed on the ABT Across America nationwide

tour and featured regularly on Celebrity Cruise entertainment programs. Lang has created seven ballets on ABT Studio Company including *Children's Songs Dance* in collaboration with music icon Chick Corea. Additionally for ABT, Lang was part of the founding faculty of the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School, a teaching artist for the summer intensives and the *Make-a-Ballet* program, and served as a mentor and panelist for the *Incubator* program.

For opera, Lang directed and choreographed Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* at the 2013 Glimmerglass Opera Festival that was presented at Lincoln Center's *White Light Festival* in 2017 performed by Jessica Lang Dance. In 2016, she choreographed San Francisco Opera's production of *Aida*, directed by Francesca Zambello, presented at Washington National Opera, Seattle Opera and, in 2022, LA Opera. Additional commissions include new works for the Kennedy Center with the National Symphony Orchestra, The Harris Theater and the Chicago Architecture Biennial in collaboration with architect Steven Holl, the Dallas Museum of Art, and the Guggenheim Museum for its *Works and Process* series. For fashion, Lang was the movement advisor for Carolina Herrera's Pre-Fall 2022 collection.

Lang was Artistic Director of Jessica Lang Dance from 2011-2019. Founded in 2011, the company toured and performed in over 85 cities presented by major venues including Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Los Angeles Music Center, The Kennedy Center, The Harris Theater, New York City Center, Northrop Auditorium, Winspear Opera House, Tel Aviv Opera House, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, BAM Fisher, and Helikon Opera, among many others.

She is the recipient of a 2018 Martha Hill Mid-Career Award, the 2017 Arison Award, and a 2014 Bessie Award. She has been a fellow of New York City Center and NYU's Center for Ballet and the Arts, and in 2019 named a Caroline Hearst Choreographer-in-Residence at Princeton University. Lang's work has also been performed by numerous educational institutions including The Juilliard School, SUNY Purchase, NYU Tisch School of the Arts, and University of Arizona, among many others.

Jessica Lang is originally from Bucks County, PA and a graduate of The Juilliard School under the direction of Benjamin Harkavy. Lang is a former member of Twyla Tharp's company, *THARP!* where she toured and performed all over the world.

CHOREOGRAPHER BIOGRAPHIES



Photo by Jana Cruder

NICOLO FONTE

Of Dreams and Dice

Choreographer Nicolo Fonte is known for his unique movement language as well as the highly developed fusion of ideas, dance, and design that is a hallmark of his work. A first generation American, Fonte, whose parents immigrated to the US from Argentina, started dancing at the age of 14. He studied at the Joffrey Ballet School in New York, San Francisco Ballet, and School of American Ballet while also completing a Bachelor's Degree of Fine Arts at SUNY Purchase. His dance career took him from Peridance in NYC, to Les Grands Ballets Canadiens in Montreal, and ultimately to Nacho Duato's Compañía Nacional de Danza in Madrid.

Fonte's choreography has been performed by companies large and small all over the globe – from the Dutch National and Royal Danish Ballet companies to the National Dance Company of El Salvador. Original full-length ballets, re-invigorated versions of classic scores, and extraordinary collaborations with artists across many disciplines are all well represented in Mr. Fonte's work over the past twenty years. From 2002 to 2006, Fonte enjoyed an ongoing creative partnership with The Gothenburg Ballet in Sweden, and has been an important contributor to the repertoires of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet and BalletX in Philadelphia. From 2016-2021, Fonte was Resident Choreographer at Oregon Ballet Theatre, where his work included a hugely successful collaboration with Portland-based band Pink Martini and the 2018 spectacular *Rhapsody in Blue*. Fonte was appointed Resident Choreographer for Ballet West (Salt Lake City) in 2015, and has contributed many outstanding works to the repertory of the acclaimed ensemble, including his widely-praised *Rite of Spring*, and in collaboration with Cincinnati Ballet, *Carmina Burana*.

Fonte received a Choo San Goh award for *Almost Tango*, his 2002 collaboration with Pacific Northwest Ballet. *Almost Tango* was also voted as one of Dance Europe's "Best Premieres" when it was re-staged for The Australian Ballet in 2004. His very first full-length work, *Re: Tchaikovsky*, created for The Gothenburg Ballet in 2005, appeared on the "Best of 2005" lists of both Ballett-Tanz and Dance Europe. Since that time, Fonte has created two more full-evening works, both for Philadelphia's BalletX and both in collaboration with noted set designer Mimi Lien: *Beautiful Decay* (2013) and *Beasts* (2015).

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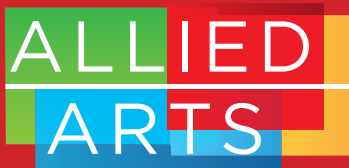


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MUSICIAN BIOGRAPHIES

AMY I-LIN CHENG *Pianist - “Variations for Six”*

Born in Taiwan, pianist Amy I-Lin Cheng has appeared on concert stages in the United States, Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, Taiwan, Brazil, Canada, France, and Israel. She has been described by the *New York Concert Review* as a pianist whose “control of the keyboard is complete, technique easy and relaxed, with a wide range of touch.” Late pianist Claude Frank described her as “a brilliant, sensitive, imaginative, and most beguiling pianist.”

Amy’s live performances have been heard on WGBH, KCSC, WHYY, La Radio Suisse Romande-Espace 2, and NPR. Amy has presented recitals at venues such as the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Merkin Concert Hall in New York City, Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall, and National Concert Hall in Taipei, as well as on concert series across the United States.

Amy made her Boston concerto debut at the age of 17 at Jordan Hall under the direction of Benjamin Zander. Since then, she has appeared as a concerto soloist with the ‘Musica Viva’ Moscow Chamber Orchestra, Taichung Philharmonic, Orchestra of the Pines in Texas, University Symphony Orchestra (University of Michigan), and the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, among others. In 2015, she gave the North American premiere of the Kaprálová Piano Concerto at the Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor as part of the week long Kaprálová Festival, hosted by the University of Michigan’s School of Music, Theatre & Dance. In summer 2017, she gave the US premiere of *Improvisation on Misirlou*, a single movement piano concerto by Israeli-American composer Daniel Rein, with the Sewanee Symphony Orchestra during the Sewanee Summer Music Festival. In 2019, she gave the world premiere of the Double Concerto for Yang Qin and Piano by Taiwanese composer Chun-Da Huang, collaborating with the National Chinese Orchestra Taiwan (NCO), at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Her recording of the Kaprálová piano concert was released in Summer 2021 on the Naxos label, with outstanding reviews.

JAKE JOHNSON *Pianist - “Grand DéFilé”*

Jake Johnson is an Associate Professor of Musicology at Oklahoma City University. A consummate musician, Johnson brings his expertise as collaborative pianist, conductor, and musical director to his investigations of the lived experience of music-making in America. He is the author of *Mormons, Musical Theater, and Belonging in America* (2019), *Lying in the Middle: Musical Theater and Belief at the Heart of America* (2021), and a forthcoming volume of essays on music and myth in Las Vegas.

PEGGY PAYNE *Pianist - “Grand DéFilé,” “2 & 3 Part Inventions”*

Peggy Payne has molded a style of performing that brings enjoyment to audiences. Her warm congenial personality has touched the hearts of audiences across Oklahoma as harpsichordist and manager for the Go for Baroque ensemble, and across the United States, Mexico, and Canada as pianist with the New American Ragtime Ensemble under the Herbert Barrett Management in New York.

She was Principal Keyboard with the Oklahoma Symphony and now holds that position with the OKC Philharmonic. Payne has been recognized as a leader in developing and implementing pilot education programs for various arts organizations, garnering her a Governor’s Arts and Education Award. As Arts Facilitator for Penn Square Mall, she helped create numerous opportunities for nonprofit arts groups to share partnerships with the Mall, recognized by a Business in the Arts Award.

A native Oklahoman, Payne holds a Master’s degree in Piano Performance from Oklahoma City University, where she studied with Robert Laughlin. Past credits include OKC Chamber Players, OKC Chamber Orchestra, Quartz Mt. Summer Arts Institute, and soloist with the Oklahoma Symphony, Tulsa Philharmonic, Lawton Philharmonic, OKC Philharmonic, and Oklahoma City Ballet. She is a member of Psi Kappa Lambda and the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Payne is an avid exercise enthusiast and loves road trips with her Dalmatian.

MUSICIAN BIOGRAPHIES

GREGORY LEE *Violinist - “Variations for Six”*

An outstanding violinist with virtuosic brilliance, Gregory Lee is currently Associate Professor of Violin at the University of Oklahoma and Concertmaster of the Oklahoma City Philharmonic.

Lee has performed with the Oklahoma Chamber Players, Holmberg String Quartet, and is a regular member of the Brightmusic Chamber Ensemble in Oklahoma City. Before coming to Oklahoma, Lee taught at Tunghai University and National Taiwan Normal University. He has given numerous recitals around Taiwan and was frequently invited as a competition adjudicator.

The Australian-born violinist holds a degree from The Juilliard School, where he studied with Dorothy DeLay and Naoko Tanaka. Later, he received his master's and doctorate degrees at the University of Michigan studying with Paul Kantor. His success in competitions include the Special Jury Commendation Award of Michael Hill International Violin Competition and winner of the Geelong Advertiser Instrumental Competition.

Lee has worked in Los Angeles where he played in several orchestras including Pacific Symphony, Long Beach Symphony, Los Angeles Opera, and has recorded for many Hollywood motion pictures scores at 20th Century Fox, Sony/MGM, Warner Bros, Paramount, and Capital Records. He has given recitals and masterclasses at institutions including the University of Iowa, University of Wisconsin, University of North Texas, Arizona State University, University of Kansas, Wichita State University, and the University of Texas in Arlington. In Asia, he has performed, and guest taught at Renmin University in Beijing, Shanghai Conservatory, and the Queensland Conservatorium in Australia. He has appeared on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's "Sunday Live" radio show.

Many of Lee's former students have not only been accepted to major conservatories around the U.S. but have also been successful musicians, including Richard Lin, 2018 winner of the Indianapolis International Violin Competition.

During his summers, he has taught and performed at the Sewanee Summer Music Festival, OU Summer Music Academy, Vietnam Connection Music Festival, and Wyoming Seminary Performing Arts Institute.

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ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

JENNIFER TIPTON *Lighting Designer - “2 & 3 Part Inventions”*

Lighting Designer Jennifer Tipton is well known for her lighting for theater, opera, and dance. Her recent work in theater includes *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Her recent work in opera includes Ricky Ian Gordon's *Intimate Apparel* at the Lincoln Center Theater and her recent work in dance includes Twyla Tharp's *A Gathering of Ghosts* for American Ballet Theatre. Among many awards, she has received the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize in 2001, the Jerome Robbins Prize in 2003, and in 2008 she was awarded the USA “Gracie” Fellowship and a MacArthur Fellowship.

LES DICKERT *Lighting Recreation - “2 & 3 Part Inventions”*

Lighting designer Les Dickert designs for a diverse range of live performance, spanning contemporary and Shakespearean theater, modern dance, classical ballet, and international performance art. He has been a regular designer for Tulsa Ballet since 2004. Recent projects include *Breakin’ Bricks* (Tulsa Ballet), *Persuasion* (Bedlam / Off-Broadway), and *Minimalism and Me* (Twyla Tharp).

Dickert's Broadway projects have included *Wrong Mountain* and *High Society* as assistant lighting designer. He has worked with off-Broadway theaters including Bedlam, Atlantic Theater, Rattlestick Theater, P73, Theater Row, Ensemble Studio Theater, InViolet Rep, among others. Regional credits include Shakespeare and Company, Great Lakes Theater Festival, Geva Theater, Perseverance Theater, Syracuse Stage, Triad Stage, Arden Theater, among others. In dance, Dickert has worked with White Oak Dance Project, San Francisco Ballet, Boston Ballet, Miami City Ballet, Tulsa Ballet, Joffrey Ballet.

International venues in which Dickert worked include Centre Pompidou, La Scala, Staatsballet Berlin, Bayerische Staatsballet, and the National Ballets of England, Denmark, Australia, Belgium, Canada, and Russia. He has lectured at Yale, Cornell, and New York Universities, Connecticut College, and the Beijing Dance Academy. Dickert was recently featured in *Forbes Magazine* as one of Broadway's Best Lighting Designers, and is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama. His awards and nominations include the Henry Hewes Design Awards, Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards, The Ovation Awards, and the Stanley McCandless Award.

AARON MOONEY

Lighting Designer - “Grand DéFilé,” “Variations for Six,” “Of Dreams & Dice”
Lighting Supervisor - “To Familiar Spaces in Dream,” “2 & 3 Part Inventions”

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.



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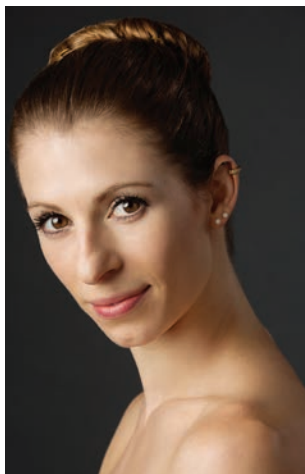
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PRINCIPAL ARTISTS



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 Eaglet 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 in 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



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*.

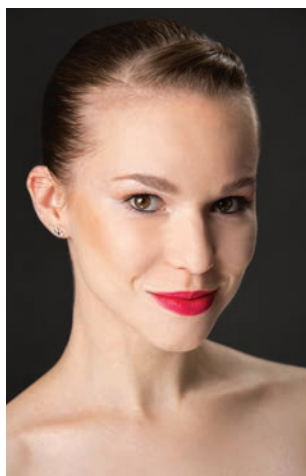
González was awarded Gold Medalist in 2016 at CIBC (Concurso Internacional de Ballet Clasico), Gold Medalist in 2020 at MIBC (Miami International Ballet Competition), and featured in *Pointe Magazine's* "2020 Stars of the Corps".



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SOLOISTS



AUTUMN KLEIN

Hometown: Lincoln, NE | Joined the Company in 2012

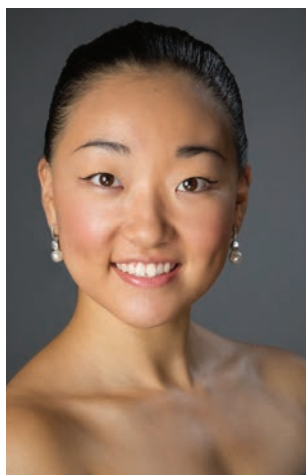
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Autumn Klein trained at Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy then became a member of Houston Ballet II before joining Texas Ballet Theatre. During this time she won several awards, including first place at the Youth America Grand Prix in Denver,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

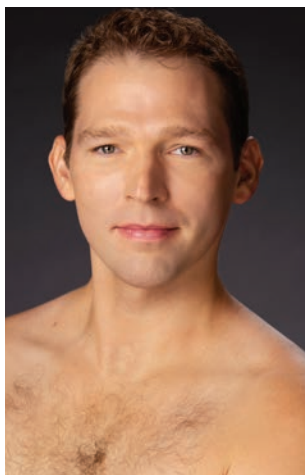
Joined the Company in 2018

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

Sponsored by: Jeanette and Rand Elliott

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*.

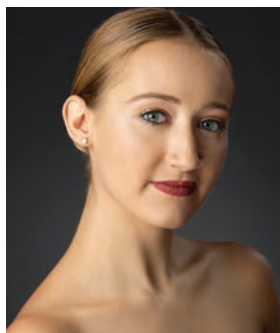
He then joined Nevada Ballet Theatre (NBT) in 2014 where he performed principal and soloist roles in ballets such as *Giselle*, James Canfield's *Romeo & Juliet*, Jorden Morris' *Peter Pan*, Paul Taylor's *Company B*, Matthew Neenan's world premiere *Until December*, Cynthia Gregory's *Swan Lake*, Septime 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

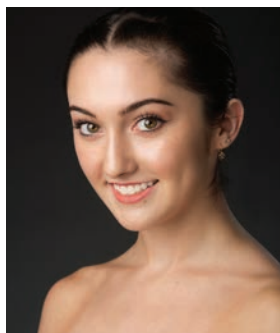
Hometown: Floyd, Virginia
Joined the Company in 2021



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

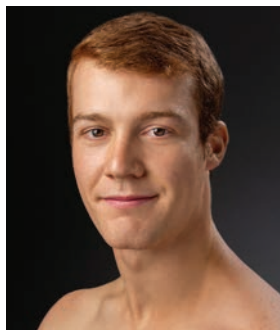
Hometown: Washington, D.C.
Joined the Company in 2020



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

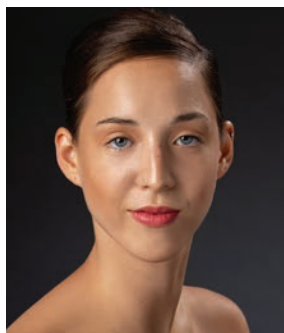
Hometown: Santa Barbara, California
Joined the Company in 2021



NICHOLAS KEEPERMAN

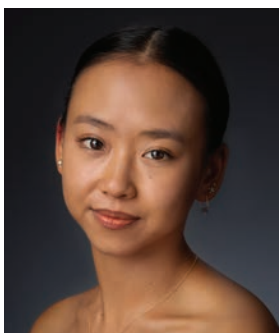
Hometown: Wilmington, Illinois
Joined the Company in 2019

CORPS DE BALLET



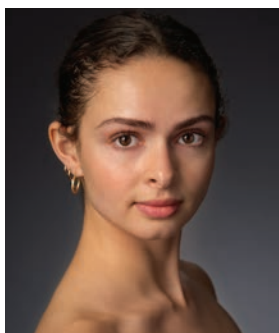
GABRIELLE MENGDEN

Hometown: Houston, Texas
Joined the Company in 2019



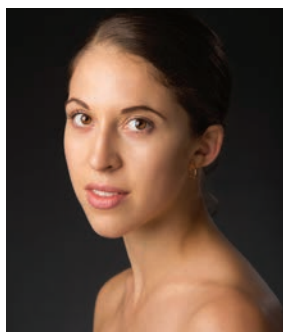
ALISON RAMORAN

Hometown: Torrance, California
Joined the Company in 2020



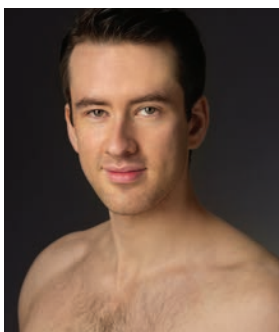
PAIGE RUSSELL

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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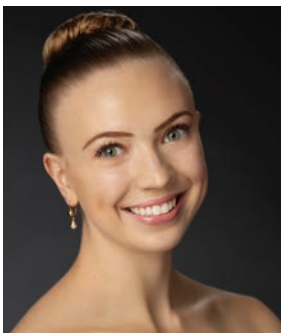
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APPRENTICES



OSLANIEL CASTILLO

Hometown: Havana, Cuba
Joined the Company in 2021



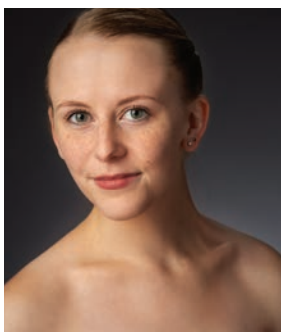
ELENA DAMIANI

Hometown: Westfield, Indiana
Joined the Company in 2021



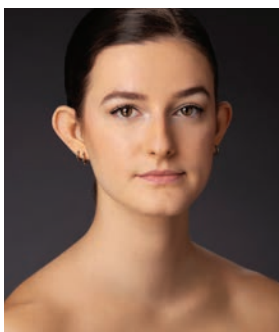
JAMES KLUMP

Hometown: Lake Charles, Louisiana
Joined the Company in 2021



KAILEAH LONG

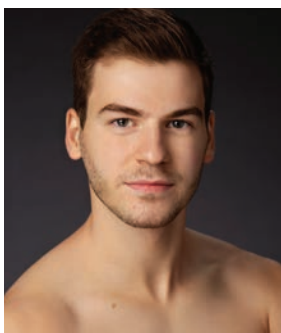
Hometown: Broomfield, Colorado
Joined the Company in 2020



GRACE MANUEL

Hometown: New Orleans, Louisiana
Joined the Company in 2021

Sponsored by: Lisa Brown

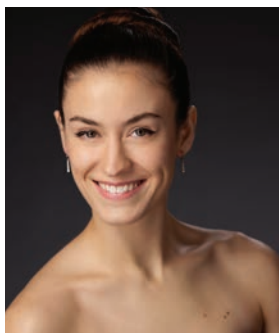


HENRIQUE NEUMANN

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,
Corps de Ballet

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