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OKLAHOMA CITY BALLET

ACTING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Ryan Jolicoeur-Nye

Principal Artists

Courtney Connor Jones DaYoung Jung

Soloists

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,
Maura Moody, Savannah Payne, Leah Reiter, Anna Tateda, Flannery Werner

Trainees

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

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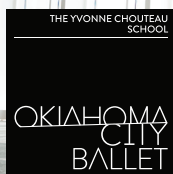
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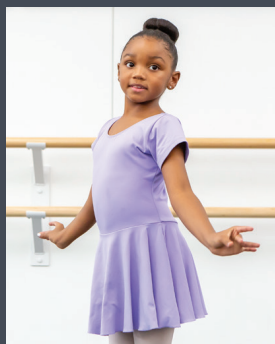
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PHOTO BY KATE LUBER

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 choreography 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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A woman with dark hair, wearing a white, long-sleeved, ruffled dress, is smiling and posing next to a large, stylized nutcracker figure. The nutcracker is dressed in a white military-style uniform with gold buttons and a blue and gold hat. The background is a solid light blue, with a white diagonal line separating it from a darker blue area in the top left corner.

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The inspiring story of an extraordinary little girl who, gifted with a vivid imagination and a sharp wit, dares to prove that you can change your destiny despite all odds. Packed with high-energy dance and songs, this Tony Award-winning musical revels in the anarchy of childhood and the story of a girl who dreams of a better life while becoming the greatest little hero. Great fun for the family!



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July 5-10

Music by Richard Rodgers • Book and Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II
Based on Ferenc Molnár's play *Liliom* as adapted by Benjamin F. Glazer
Original Choreography by Agnes de Mille • Directed by Michael Baron

A stunning tale of hope, redemption and the power of love! In a Maine coastal village, the swaggering, carefree carnival barker, Billy Bigelow, captivates and marries gentle millworker Julie Jordan. After losing his job and learning she's pregnant, Billy is caught in the act of robbery and takes his own life. Fifteen years later, he returns to earth for one day where he encounters the daughter he never knew.



KINKY BOOTS

July 19-24

Book by Harvey Fierstein • Music and Lyrics by Cyndi Lauper
Based on the Miramax motion picture *Kinky Boots*
Written by Geoff Deane and Tim Firth • Directed by Ashley Wells

This exhilarating Tony Award-winner tells the true story of a struggling shoe factory that will lift your spirits to high-heeled heights! Charlie Price inherits his father's shoe factory, which is on the verge of bankruptcy. While trying to save the business, he finds inspiration from a local drag entertainer. This unlikely pair find they have more in common than ever dreamed possible, and discover when you change your mind, you can change your world.

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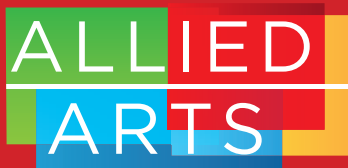


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THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

Choreography after Marius Petipa

Additional Choreography and Staging by Ryan Jolicoeur-Nye

Music by Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky

Rehearsal Assistants: Racheal Nye, Victoria Bearden,
Michele Gifford

Costume & Scenic Design: Peter Cazalet

Lighting Design: Aaron Mooney

Stage Manager: Courtney DiBello

Technical Assistant: Lauren Hiemstra

Costume Manager: Claire Kroeger

Assistant Lighting Designer: Hal Piper

Assistant Stage Managers: Grace Neal, Amelia McKey

Costume Assistants: Elizabeth Rescinito, Alix Phelan

Wig Master: Brawna Brinkley Gfeller

With the Oklahoma City Philharmonic

Alexander Mickelthwate, Music Director Beatrice Affron, Conductor

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

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PROLOGUE

Princess Aurora's Christening in the Court of King Florestan

King Florestan: Jacob Sparso

Queen Florestan: Macaira Pinto

Catalabutte: James Williams

Nurse: Elena Damiani

Ladies of the Court: (May 6&8)

Isabella Assante, Abby Forbes, Eva Chronert,
Briar Vold, Helen Jardon, Avery Chandler,
Talitha Barrington, Joelle Kimbrough

(May 7)

Isabella Assante, Abby Forbes, Caterina Brown,
Briar Vold, Helen Jardon, Avery Chandler,
Cassidy Minihan, Maya Cabelli

Gentleman of the Court: Henrique Neumann, Dietrich Klawonn,
James Klump, Michael O'Neill, Ryland Acree,
Tristan Thompson

The Lilac Fairy: Courtney Connor Jones (May 6&8)
Autumn Klein (May 7)

The Lilac Cavalier: Benjamin Tucker

Attendants to the Lilac Fairy: (May 6&8)
Caterina Brown, Morgan Dunham, Isabella Saclolo,
Sara-Beth Wriston, Katie Kelley, Abigail Quinton
(May 7)
Eva Chronert, Samantah Dunham, Jacy Fletcher,
Nicole Bak, Talitha Barrington, Joelle Kimbrough

The Fairy of the Enchanted Garden: Mickayla Carr

The Fairy of the Woodland Glades: Kara Troester Blythe

The Fairy of the Song Birds: Mayu Odaka (May 6&8), Alison Ramoran (May 7)

The Fairy of the Golden Vine: Gabrielle Mengden (May 6),
Alexandra Schooling (May 7&8)

Enchanted Garden Cavalier: Joseph Hetzer (May 6&8),
Nicholas Keeperman (May 7)

Woodland Glades Cavalier: Erik Thordal-Christensen (May 6&8),
Jameson Keating (May 7)

Song Birds Cavalier: Daniel Cooke

Golden Vine Cavalier: Mayim Stiller

Pages: Harper Wackenheim, Amélie Nye, Alice Zhang,
Perrin Jones, Brittyn Roberdes, Noah Rindler

Carabosse: Autumn Klein (May 6&8)
Gabrielle Mengden (May 7)

Carabosse Minions: Julian DeJear, William Poole, Freestone Dopp,
Cheyanne Rowland, Stephanie Frase

ACT I

The Spell: Sixteen years later in the Castle Garden

Princess Aurora: DaYoung Jung (May 6&8)
Courtney Connor Jones (May 7)

King Florestan: Jacob Sparso

Queen Florestan: Macaira Pinto

Catalabutte: James Williams

Ladies of the Court: (May 6&8)

Isabella Assante, Abby Forbes, Eva Chronert,
Briar Vold, Helen Jardon, Avery Chandler,
Talitha Barrington, Joelle Kimbrough
(May 7)

Isabella Asante, Abby Forbes, Caterina Brown,
Briar Vold, Helen Gardon, Avery Chandler,
Cassidy Minihan, Maya Cabelli

Gentleman of the Court: Dietrich Klawonn, Oslaniel Castillo,
Michael O'Neill, Tristan Thompson

Aurora friends: (May 6&8)

Alex Schooling, Mickayla Carr,
Kara Troester Blythe, Gabrielle Mengden,
Carlie Preskitt, Paige Russell, Alison Ramoran,
Kaileah Long

(May 7)

Savannah Payne, Maura Moody, Leah Reiter,
Grace Manuel, Savannah Lee, Paige Russell,
Alison Ramoran, Kaileah Long

Ladies Garland Waltz: (May 6&8)

Flannery Werner, Morgan Dunham,
Maura Moody, Grace Manuel, Samantha Efaw,
Leah Reiter, Anna Tateda, Amelia Aroneo
(May 7)

Flannery Werner, Morgan Dunham, Katie Kelley,
Eva Chronert, Samantha Efaw, Caterina Brown,
Anna Tateda, Amelia Aroneo

Gentleman Garland Waltz: James Klump, Joseph Hetzer,
Randolph Fernandez, Ryland Acree,
Julian DeJear, William Poole

Suitors: Benjamin Tucker, Nicholas Keeperman,
Mayim Stiller, Erik Thordal-Christensen

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ACT II

Prince Désiré's Journey - More than a century later An afternoon in the countryside

Prince Désiré: Jonathan Batista (May 6&8)

Erik Thordal-Christensen (May 7)

Music Tutor: Michael O'Neill

Royal Party: Freestone Dopp, Tristan Thompson, Ryland Acree,
James Klump, Henrique Neumann, Nicole Bak,
Cheyanne Rowland, Eva Chronert (May 6&8),
Stephanie Frase (May 7)

Peasants: William Poole, Julien Dejean
 Dog: Extra
 Dog Handler: Destiny Soles Thomasson
 Aurora Vision: Dain Lim (May 6&8), Caterina Brown (May 7)
 Nymphs: (May 6&8)
 Caterina Brown, Sarah-Beth Wriston,
 Isabella Saclolo, Kaileah Long, Katie Kelley,
 Grace Manuel, Carlie Preskitt, Savannah Lee,
 Samantha Efaw, Anna Tateda, Amelia Aroneo,
 Maura Moody, Savannah Payne, Leah Reiter,
 Flannery Werner, Morgan Dunham
 (May 7)
 Eva Chronert, Abigail Forbes, Jacy Fletcher,
 Kaileah Long, Katie Kelley, Grace Manuel,
 Carlie Preskitt, Savannah Lee, Samantha Efaw,
 Anna Tateda, Amelia Aroneo, Maura Moody,
 Savannah Payne, Leah Reiter, Flannery Werner,
 Samantha Dunham

ACT III

The Wedding Celebration

Prince Désiré: Jonathan Batista (May 6&8)
 Erik Thordal-Christensen (May 7)
 Princess Aurora: DaYoung Jung (May 6&8)
 Courtney Connor Jones (May 7)
 The Lilac Fairy: Courtney Connor Jones (May 6&8)
 Autumn Klein (May 7)
 Jewel Pas de Trios: (May 6&8)
 Alejandro González, Mayu Odaka, Paige Russell
 (May 7)
 Daniel Cooke, Alex Schooling, Kara Troester Blythe
 Puss-n-Boots: Joseph Hetzer (May 6&8), Ryland Acree (May 7)
 White Cat: Mickayla Carr (May 6&8), Mayu Odaka (May 7)
 Bluebird: Zane Winders (May 6&8)
 Randolph Fernandez (May 7)
 Princess Florine: Alison Ramoran (May 6&8), Paige Russell (May 7)
 Little Red Riding Hood: Kaileah Long
 The Wolf: Jameson Keating (May 6&8), Mayim Stiller (May 7)
 Trees: Carigan Clark, Heaven Jones-Freeman,
 Jaiden Baker, Kailyn Richter
 Mazurka/Polonaise: (May 6&8)
 Sarah-Beth Wriston, Flannery Werner,
 Eva Chronert, Samantha Dunham,

Mazurka/Polonaise: Nicole Bak, Amelia Aroneo, Anna Tateda,
Stephanie Frase
Nicholas Keeperman, Henrique Neumann,
Tristan Thompson, James Klump,
Randolph Fernandez, Ryland Acree,
Daniel Cooke, Mayim Stiller
(May 7)
Katie Kelley, Kaileah Long, Abigail Quinton,
Bella Saclolo, Caterina Brown, Cheyanne Rowland,
Anna Tateda, Jacy Fletcher
Nicholas Keeperman, Henrique Neumann,
Tristan Thompson, James Klump, Zane Winders,
Joseph Hetzer, Alejandro González,
Jameson Keating

Aurora's Friends: (May 6&8)
Gabrielle Mengden, Kara Troester Blythe,
Alexandra Schooling, Carlie Preskitt
(May 7)
Grace Manuel, Leah Reiter,
Savannah Payne, Savannah Lee

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THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

PROLOGUE:

Princess Aurora's Christening in the Court of King Florestan

King Florestan and his Queen are celebrating the christening of their long awaited newborn daughter Aurora.

Catalabutte, the King's loyal minister, is checking the invitation list to make sure that no one has been forgotten. The good fairies, led by the Lilac Fairy, have been invited to be godmothers to the little Princess. Upon her they bestow magical gifts, blessing her with every imaginable virtue so that someday she can marry the perfect prince. This, in turn, will seal the security and happiness of the kingdom.

Just as the ceremony is coming to a happy conclusion, the evil fairy Carabosse arrives and, in revenge for being left off the invitation list, declares that the Princess will prick her finger with a spindle and die.

Averting this tragedy, the Lilac Fairy promises that Aurora will not die, but will instead fall into a deep sleep that will last a hundred years or more. At the end of that time, a king's son shall awaken her with a kiss.

King Florestan at once forbids all persons in the kingdom to keep a spindle, under penalty of death.

ACT I

The Spell: Sixteen years later in the Castle Garden

It is Princess Aurora's sixteenth birthday and princes from the four corners of the earth seek her hand in marriage.

At the height of the celebration, Carabosse, disguised as an old woman, presents Aurora with a spindle wrapped in a bouquet of flowers. Unaware of the danger, Aurora pricks her finger and collapses, as if dead. Carabosse reveals herself in triumph and vanishes. Just in time the Lilac Fairy appears and casts a spell of sleep over the entire kingdom. She tells the King and Queen that all will be well and the son of a King will break the spell with a kiss.

• INTERMISSION •

ACT II

Prince Désiré's Journey: More than a century later

Prince Désiré is on a walk near the river with members of his court. Distractions of music, merriment, and young ladies do nothing to alter his melancholic mood. As the court is leaving, the Prince realizes he is at a crossroads. He must choose between returning to his life in the court or stay in the mysterious forest. The Prince decides to stay. The Lilac Fairy appears and grants him a vision of Aurora's beauty. He declares his love for the Princess and is led to the castle where, guarded by Carabosse, Aurora sleeps. Together, the Prince and the Lilac Fairy's magic defeat the evil Carabosse. The Prince awakens Aurora with a kiss and the spell is broken.

ACT III

The Wedding Celebration

The whole kingdom celebrates the wedding of Prince Désiré and Princess Aurora. The guests include fairy tale characters who present their stories as gifts to the royal couple. Prince Désiré and Princess Aurora are crowned with glorious fanfare, and their reign of light begins.

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GUEST CONDUCTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

BEATRICE AFFRON



Beatrice Jona Affron joined Philadelphia Ballet, formerly Pennsylvania Ballet, in 1993 as the assistant conductor. In 1997 she became the company's music director. Beatrice has conducted numerous ballets by George Balanchine in addition to other classics, including *Giselle*, *The Firebird*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *The Sleeping Beauty*. In 2004, she led the world premiere of Christopher Wheeldon's *Swan Lake*.

A graduate of Yale University, Beatrice studied conducting with Robert Spano and with Pascal Verrot at the New England Conservatory, where she later served on the faculty. She led the national tour of Philip Glass' *Les Enfants Terribles* in 1997.

In 2002, Beatrice received international attention while conducting the world-premiere performances of Glass and Mary Zimmerman's *Galileo Galilei* at Chicago's Goodman Theater as well as on tour to London's Barbican Theatre. Prior to this, she conducted the Boston Lyric Opera and Chicago Opera Theatre productions of Glass' *Akhmaten*. In 2005, she made her debut with the Glimmerglass Opera conducting a Donizetti's *Lucie de Lammermoor*.

Beatrice's other engagements include Dominick Argento's *Miss Havisham's Fire* with Opera Theatre Saint Louis, Strauss' *Die Fledermaus* with Boston Lyric Opera, as well as *Hansel and Gretel* and *The Tender Land* at the New England Conservatory. She has conducted both dance and opera productions at the Boston Conservatory, as well as concerts with Boston's Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra and the Boston Landmarks Orchestra. With Philadelphia Ballet, Beatrice has toured to the Kennedy Center and the National Arts Center of Canada. She has appeared with Atlanta Ballet, Boston Ballet, Miami City Ballet, and Nashville Ballet. This is Beatrice's second appearance with Oklahoma City Ballet.

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ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES



JONATHAN BATISTA *Guest Principal Dancer*

Jonathan Batista is from Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. He trained on scholarship at the English National Ballet and attended summer courses at Miami City Ballet and The Royal Ballet School on scholarship. He joined the National Ballet of Canada as an apprentice in 2012 before joining Boston Ballet as a member of the corps de ballet in 2013. In 2016, he joined Cincinnati Ballet as a soloist and in 2017, Oklahoma City Ballet as a principal. Mr. Batista joined Pacific Northwest Ballet as a soloist in 2021.

While at Boston Ballet, Mr. Batista performed featured roles in George Balanchine's *Emeralds* (Pas de Trois), Harald Lander's *Études* (Mazurka), and Marius Petipa's *La Bayadère* (Golden Idol). At Oklahoma City Ballet, he danced leading and featured

roles in Balanchine's *The Four Temperaments* (Phlegmatic); August Bournonville's *La Sylphide* (James); Robert Joffrey's *Pas des Déesses*; Jiří Kylián's *Petite Mort* (3rd Pas de Deux); Robert Mills' *Romeo & Juliet* (Mercutio), *Swan Lake* (Siegfried), *The Firebird* (Prince Ivan), *The Nutcracker* (Cavalier), *The Little Mermaid*, and *The Means To Fly*; Helen Pickett's *Petals* (Jonah); Cayetano Soto's *Adam*; and Septime Webre's *ALICE (in wonderland)*.

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.

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 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*.

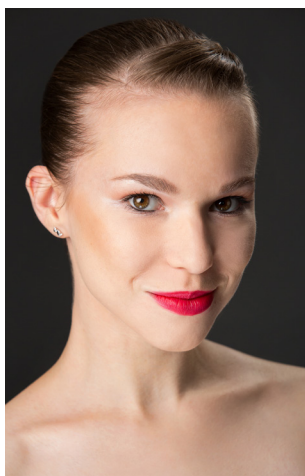
González was awarded Gold Medalist in 2016 at CIBC (Concurso Internacional de Ballet Clasico), Gold Medalist in 2020 at MIBC (Miami International Ballet Competition), and featured in Pointe Magazine's "2020 Stars of the Corps".



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SOLOISTS



AUTUMN KLEIN

Hometown: Lincoln, NE | Joined the Company in 2012

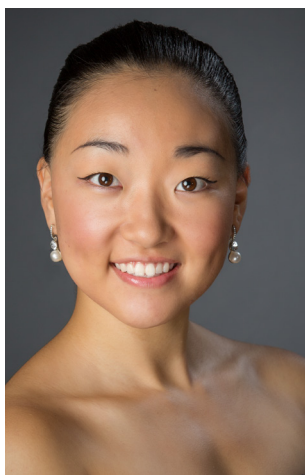
Sponsored by: Curtis Teague and Loretta Simonet

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 Odaoka, 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 Tänze*, 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*.

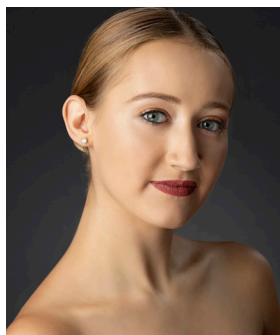
He then joined Nevada Ballet Theatre (NBT) in 2014 where he performed principal and soloist roles in ballets such as *Giselle*, James Canfield's *Romeo & Juliet*, Jorden Morris' *Peter Pan*, Paul Taylor's *Company B*, Matthew Neenan's world premiere *Until December*, Cynthia Gregory's *Swan Lake*, Septime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

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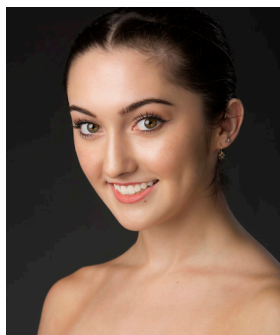
Hometown: Floyd, Virginia
Joined the Company in 2021



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



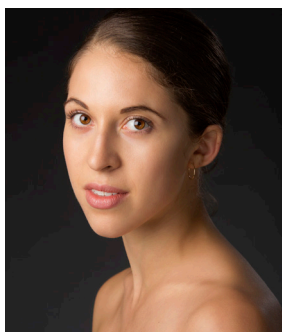
ALISON RAMORAN

Hometown: Torrance, California
Joined the Company in 2020



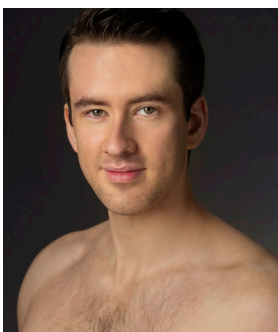
PAIGE RUSSELL

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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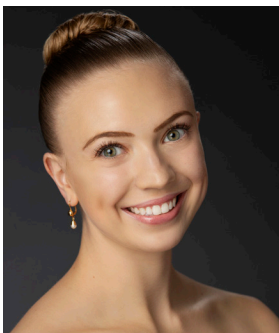
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APPRENTICES



OSLANIEL CASTILLO

Hometown: Havana, Cuba
Joined the Company in 2021



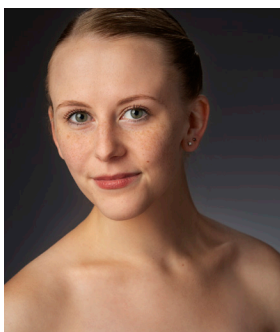
ELENA DAMIANI

Hometown: Westfield, Indiana
Joined the Company in 2021



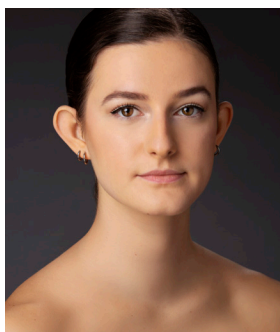
JAMES KLUMP

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

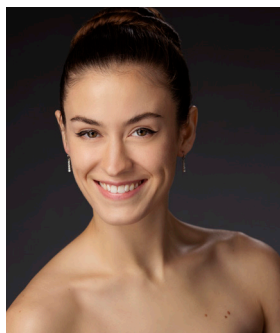


HENRIQUE NEUMANN

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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