



DEVON CARNEY  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



# THE NUTCRACKER

Presented by:  
**BANK OF AMERICA** 

**DECEMBER 6-24, 2024**  
Muriel Kauffman Theatre at the  
Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts  
CHOREOGRAPHY **DEVON CARNEY**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## *The Nutcracker*

*December 6-24, 2024*

7	LETTER FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
I	KANSAS CITY BALLET LEADERSHIP
II	KANSAS CITY BALLET BOARD & AUXILIARIES
III	EMERGENCY EXIT PROCEDURES
IV	THEATRE INFORMATION & PATRON SERVICES
26	KANSAS CITY BALLET
27	MOVING INTO THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN
28	COMPANY BIOS
37	SECOND COMPANY
38	CASTING
46	SYNOPSIS
	NOTEWORTHY
47	ARTIST BIOS
49	PRODUCTION STAFF
50	NUTCRACKER DESIGN & BUILD TEAM
52	BALLET BUSINESS COUNCIL
53	THE TATIANA DOKOUDOVSKA LEGACY SOCIETY
54	KANSAS CITY BALLET CONTRIBUTORS
V	THE KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY
84	KANSAS CITY BALLET SCHOOL
85	KANSAS CITY BALLET STAFF



DEVON CARNEY  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

*Kansas City Ballet is an American Guild of Musical Artists company.*

*Dancer Gabriel Lorena. Cover Artwork | Dancer Sidney Haefs. Photography by Kenny Johnson.*



# WELCOME TO KANSAS CITY BALLET

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Dear Nutcracker guests,

As we prepare to share another enchanting season of *The Nutcracker* with you, we're thrilled to celebrate the ninth consecutive year of this magical tradition. For many, attending *The Nutcracker* each year has become a treasured holiday ritual and we're honored to continue being a part of your seasonal celebrations.

Since we began this journey, *The Nutcracker* has grown into a production recognized nationally as world-class, including the privilege of performing at the Kennedy Center in 2017 and 2022. Representing Kansas City on such a prestigious stage was a tremendous honor, and it's our hope that we'll bring this cherished ballet back there in the future. As we welcome you to experience it with us once again, we are reminded that, though images and videos can capture glimpses of its beauty, nothing compares to witnessing the magic unfold live on stage alongside others in our audience.

Every year, our dancers return to roles that allow them to develop both artistically and technically, while the newest generations of young performers bring fresh energy and excitement to the stage. From the young students in sweets roles to the newly joined company dancers performing as Snowflakes and Flowers, each brings a unique layer to this story. As they mature, our dancers reflect not only their growth but also the values and traditions that make *The Nutcracker* a vital part of our community's holiday season.

We're also pleased to offer our annual sensory-friendly performance, designed to make *The Nutcracker* accessible and enjoyable for everyone. This tradition of inclusivity began with *The Nutcracker* and was continued with *ALICE (in wonderland)*. We look forward to each opportunity to create a welcoming environment for our audience to experience the ballet!

As we gather for this timeless tale, we invite you to see the holidays through a childlike lens, setting aside the distractions of today's world to connect with the simple wonder of the season. This story reminds us of the beauty in one heartfelt gift, family gatherings, and a shared sense of joy—a perspective that feels more valuable now than ever.

Thank you for being a part of the magic that unfolds each year at *The Nutcracker*. Your presence is what completes each performance, creating a cherished experience that we all share. We hope to continue being a part of your family's holiday traditions for years to come.

With heartfelt appreciation,



Devon Carney, *Artistic Director*



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## SUPPORT KANSAS CITY BALLET

Kansas City Ballet is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Your contribution is important to our mission. Contribute today at [kcballet.org](http://kcballet.org), 816.931.2232, or make checks payable to Kansas City Ballet, Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity, 500 W. Pershing Rd., Kansas City, MO 64108-2430.



## STAY CONNECTED WITH KANSAS CITY BALLET

For exclusive up-to-date information and presale notices on upcoming performances and special events, join our email list at [kcballet.org](http://kcballet.org). You can also visit our blog ([kcballet.org/blog](http://kcballet.org/blog)) and follow us on Facebook ([facebook.com/kcballet](https://facebook.com/kcballet), [facebook.com/kcbschool](https://facebook.com/kcbschool)), X/Twitter (@kcballet), Instagram (@kc.ballet, @kc.balletschool), TikTok (@kansascityballet), YouTube (@kansascityballet), and LinkedIn (Kansas City Ballet).

# KANSAS CITY BALLET

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*Artistic Director*

**Kristi Capps**  
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*Technical Director*

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*Company Pianist*

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**Christopher Ruud**  
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& Rehearsal Director*

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*Costume Director*

**Ramona Pansegrau**  
*Music Director &  
Conductor*

**Amy Taylor**  
*Director of Production*

**Betti Jo Diem**  
*Costume Shop Manager*

## ARTISTS

**Gavin Abercrombie**

**Georgia Fuller**

**Keaton Linzau \***

**Cameron Thomas**

**Isaac Allen**

**Sidney Haefs**

**Gabriel Lorena**

**Andrew Vecseri ◊**

**Alladson Barreto**

**Chase Hanson**

**Amelia Meissner**

**Marisa DeEtte Whiteman**

**Joseph Boswell \***

**Kelsey Ivana Hellebuyck ∞**

**Emily Mistretta**

**Kevin Wilson**

**Kaleena Burks**

**Amira Hogan \***

**Taryn Pachciarz**

**Gillian Yoder \***

**Angelin Carrant**

**Whitney Huell**

**Amaya Rodriguez**

**Paul Zusi**

**Amanda DeVenuta**

**Olivia Jacobus**

**Elliott Rogers ‡**

**Aidan Duffy**

**Joshua Kiesel**

**Naomi Tanioka**

## KCB II

**Audrey Lynn**

**McKibben Needham**

**Owen Watson**

**Mei McArtor**

**Brooke Noska**

**Ben Workman**

## TRAINEES

**Ava Bernardo**

**Hiroaki Ikeda**

**Ena Nomoto**

**Zoey Uhlman**

**Emma Blake**

**Gracie Jean Joiner**

**Miles Orvetti**

**James Wray**

**Alessia Braggiato**

**Corabelle Kennedy**

**Olivia Pearsall**

**Sage Guillot**

**Laila Madison**

**Reagan Pender**

**Jack Hindocha-Daniels**

**Blair Mendes**

**Brendan Turner**

◊ Sally and Thomas J. Wood Senior Dancer

∞ John Hunkeler Senior Dancer

‡ Greg and Barbara Storm Emerging Dancer

\* Company Apprentice, supported in part by the Estelle S. and Robert A. Long Ellis Foundation



# MOVING INTO THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN

Because of dedicated supporters like you, **Kansas City Ballet has successfully concluded the \$20 million Moving into the Future Campaign.** This effort is transformational for the Ballet as these endowment funds and legacy gifts will provide financial stability for decades to come.

We gratefully recognize **Kansas City Ballet Chairman Julia Irene Dennie-Kauffman** and the **Muriel McBrien Kauffman Family Foundation** for providing a \$5 million matching grant, which was instrumental in the success of this campaign.

The Ballet acknowledges the following supporters for their generous gifts and pledges totaling \$5,000 or more across these funds (as of November 4, 2024).

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We would gladly assist you with ways to make a gift that is meaningful to you and has a lasting impact for Kansas City Ballet. Please contact Jennifer Wampler at 816.216.5585 or [jwampler@kcballet.org](mailto:jwampler@kcballet.org).



## GAVIN ABERCROMBIE | JOINED KCB IN 2018, +2 YEARS SECOND COMPANY

Gavin Abercrombie is from Acton, California, and began his ballet training at the age of 8 with the Antelope Valley Ballet. He continued his training at The Pittsburgh Ballet Theater School and the San Francisco Ballet School where and was taught by individuals such as Marjorie Grundvig, Andre Reyes, Patrick Armand, and Parrish Maynard. After joining the Kansas City Ballet in 2016, Mr. Abercrombie has had the opportunity to perform leading roles such as Albrecht in Devon Carney's *Giselle*, Jekyll in the North American Premiere of Val Caniparoli's *Jekyll & Hyde*, Jonathan Harker in Michael Pink's *Dracula*, Principal in George Balanchine's *Rubies*, and Cavalier in Devon Carney's *The Nutcracker*. Mr. Abercrombie has also had the opportunity to perform in ballets by choreographers such as Jiří Kylián, Alexander Ekman, Anabelle Lopez Ochoa, Septime Webre, Twyla Tharp, George Balanchine, and Devon Carney.



## ISAAC ALLEN | JOINED KCB IN 2022

Isaac Allen began his ballet training at the age of 8 at Stillpointe Dance Studio in southern Oregon. He spent many of his summers attending intensive training programs across the country including San Francisco Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet and Oregon Ballet Theatre. In 2015, Mr. Allen joined Oregon Ballet Theatre's pre-professional program. The next year he was accepted into the HARID Conservatory in Florida where he trained for two years under Meelis Pakri before joining Milwaukee Ballet's Second Company, performing in ballets such as Michael Pink's *Dracula*, Val Caniparoli's *Lambarena*, Bruce Wells' *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and many more. Mr. Allen spent three years in the Second Company before being promoted to Milwaukee Ballet as an apprentice where he danced for two years. This is his third season with Kansas City Ballet.



## ALLADSON BARRETO | JOINED KCB IN 2022

Alladson Barreto was born in Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil. In 2015, he began his career in classical ballet at the Alberto Maranhão Theater Dance School (EDTAM) in Natal. While on full merit scholarship at The Rock School in Philadelphia between 2018 and 2019, he was instructed by Bo Spassoff, Stephanie Spassoff, Justin Allen, Telmo Moreira, Natalya Ziegler, and Jody Anderson. Mr. Barreto was a Só Dança Ambassador from 2018 to 2020 and was a Finalist for Youth America Grand Prix in 2018. From 2019 to 2022 he was a member of Ballet West II dancing *The Nutcracker*, *Giselle*, *Chant du Rossignol*, *Dracula*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Diamonds*, *Glass Pieces*, *Raymonda*, *Don Quixote*, *Divertimento* and *Sleeping Beauty*. In October 2021 he began working with ballerina Kathryn Morgan, performing lead roles in *The Nutcracker*.



## KALEENA BURKS | JOINED KCB IN 2010

Kaleena Burks is from Coral Springs, Florida, where she trained with Magda Auñon and Magaly Suarez. In 2005, she won first place in the pre-professional division of the American Ballet Competition. Ms. Burks has danced with Cincinnati Ballet, Columbia Classical Ballet, and Cuban Classical Ballet of Miami. In Kansas City, she has been featured as the title role in *Giselle*, Odette/Odile in *Swan Lake*, Juliet in *Romeo & Juliet*, Marguerite in *Lady of the Camellias*, Chosen One in *Rite of Spring*, Sugar Plum in *The Nutcracker*, along with principal roles in *Diamonds*, *Dracula*, *In the Upper Room*, *Interplay*, *Petal*, and *Serenade*. In addition to her performing career Ms. Burks has recently been appointed Artistic Director of Moving Arts, a local summer dance company.



## ANGELIN CARRANT | JOINED KCB IN 2018, +1 YEAR SECOND COMPANY

Angelin Carrant, originally from Paris, France, began his training at the age of 6. As a child he was chosen to perform in *Le Songe de Médée* by Angelin Preljocaj, with the Paris Opera Ballet. In 2013, Mr. Carrant was offered a full scholarship with the San Francisco Ballet School, under the leadership of Patrick Armand. He trained there for four years where he danced in productions such as Helgi Tomasson's *The Nutcracker*, Christopher Wheeldon's *Cinderella* and John Neumeier's *Yondering*. He joined the Kansas City Ballet Second Company in 2017 and was promoted to the main company the following year. As a dancer with KCB, Mr. Carrant has performed leading roles in William Forsythe's *In the Middle*, *Somewhat Elevated*, George Balanchine's *Serenade*, Alexander Ekman's *Cacti* and Val Caniparoli's *Jekyll & Hyde*. He has also danced in productions such as Jiří Kylián's *Petite Mort*, Edwaard Liang's *Wunderland*, Michael Pink's *Dracula* and George Balanchine's *Jewels* among many others.

**AMANDA DEVENUTA | JOINED KCB IN 2014**

Amanda DeVenuta is from New York. At the age of 13 she trained with Fabrice Herrault in New York City. She made the move to Boston Ballet's pre-professional program until becoming a trainee in 2012. There, she performed in *The Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Symphony In C*, *Fanfare*, and *Coppelia*. Ms. DeVenuta apprenticed with Minnesota Dance Theatre where she performed in *Nutcracker Fantasy* and other works. With Kansas City Ballet, she has performed in *Cacti*, *Petite Mort*, *Rite of Spring*, *Diving Into The Lilacs*, *The Three Musketeers*, *ALICE (in wonderland)*, *Giselle*, *Wunderland*, *The Four Temperaments*, *Interplay*, *Theme and Variations*, *Diamonds*, *The Uneven*, *Play* and *Romeo & Juliet* along with featured roles in *Cinderella*, *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker*, *The Lottery*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Peter Pan*, *Emeralds*, *Jekyll & Hyde* and as Dorothy in Septime Webre's world premiere of *The Wizard of Oz*. In 2017, she was named one of *Dance Magazine's* Top 25 Dancers to Watch.

**AIDAN DUFFY | JOINED KCB IN 2023**

Originally from Philadelphia, Aidan Duffy began his training with the School of Pennsylvania Ballet and the Rock School for Dance Education. He then joined Boston Ballet School's Professional Division as a Pao Scholarship recipient, before being invited into Boston Ballet's Graduate Program. His training was supplemented by coaching with Chérie Noble and summers at the School of American Ballet, San Francisco Ballet School, Miami City Ballet School, and Ellison Ballet. His repertoire with Kansas City Ballet includes Val Caniparoli's *Jekyll & Hyde*, Devon Carney's *Peter Pan* and *The Nutcracker*, and George Balanchine's *Jewels (Emeralds pas de trois)*. He has also had the privilege of performing alongside the Philadelphia and Cleveland Orchestras.

**GEORGIA FULLER | JOINED KCB IN 2020, +3 YEARS SECOND COMPANY**

Georgia Fuller was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and trained at Cincinnati Ballet Academy since the age of 7. Starting at the age of 15, she performed corps de ballet roles in many productions including *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *Raymonda*, and *Coppélia*. Ms. Fuller was a 2017 National YoungArts Winner, and performed in both Miami and New York City. Ms. Fuller joined Kansas City Ballet's Second Company in 2017 where she performed in works such as *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Nutcracker*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Lady of the Camellias*. She was featured in works by Price Suddarth, Edward Liang, and Marika Brussel as an apprentice. Ms. Fuller was promoted to the Kansas City Ballet Company and has since performed in Alexander Ekman's *Cacti*, Jiří Kylián's *Petite Mort*, and George Balanchine's *Emeralds* as the Walking Pas. She is also a teacher for the Kansas City Ballet School. In addition, she is currently pursuing a degree in English Studies and is a National Merit Scholar.

**SIDNEY HAEFS | JOINED KCB IN 2019, +1 YEAR SECOND COMPANY**

Sidney Haefs was born in Los Angeles, California. She began her training at the Santa Clarita Ballet Academy under the direction of Corinne Glover. Participating in Royal Academy of Dance Exams, she holds her Advanced 2 certificate with distinction. Ms. Haefs continued her education at the University of Utah where she graduated magna cum laude with a BFA in Ballet and a Minor in Human Development and Family Studies. From there, she was offered a traineeship with Kansas City Ballet where she spent a year before joining the company as an apprentice in 2019. During her time with the company, she has had the opportunity to perform many roles including the *Diamond* Principal in George Balanchine's *Jewels*, Snow Queen in Devon Carney's *The Nutcracker*, Big Swans in Devon Carney's *Swan Lake*, Peasant Pas de deux in Devon Carney's *Giselle*, as well as the Emerald Ballerina in Septime Webre's *The Wizard of Oz*. She has also performed roles in *Lady of the Camellias*, *Serenade*, *Wunderland*, *Petite Mort*, *Sandpaper Ballet*, and *Cacti*.

**CHASE HANSON | JOINED KCB IN 2023**

Chase Hanson began his dance training at the Connecticut Ballet Center and Greenwich Ballet Academy. In 2019, he received a full scholarship to attend the ABT JKO School, where he trained for three years. After competing in the 2022 Prix de Lausanne in his final year at the JKO School, Mr. Hanson then joined the San Francisco Ballet Trainee program under the direction of Patrick Armand, where he performed with the Corps de Ballet in *The Nutcracker*, *Giselle*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and Christopher Wheeldon's *Cinderella*, in addition to several original works created on the Trainees. Now in his second season with Kansas City Ballet, Chase has performed in Val Caniparoli's *Jekyll & Hyde*, Devon Carney's *The Nutcracker* and *Peter Pan*, George Balanchine's *Jewels*, and New Moves.

**KELSEY IVANA HELLEBUYCK** | JOINED KCB IN 2016 • John Hunkeler Senior Dancer

Kelsey Ivana Hellebuyck trained at San Francisco Ballet School for 11 years before joining Boston Ballet at 16, where she performed globally on tour with the company. She later joined Philadelphia Ballet, dancing in works by Forsythe, Kylián, Ratmansky, Robbins, Balanchine and Corella. In 2016, she joined KCB, with favorite roles including Dark Angel in Balanchine's *Serenade*, Solo Woman in Balanchine's *Rubies*, and Yoomi in Helen Pickett's *Petal*. Other favorites include *Petite Mort* by Jiří Kylián, Brown Couple in York's *Celts*, and Arabian and Snow Queen in Devon Carney's *The Nutcracker*. Ms. Hellebuyck has been featured in *Pointe Magazine* and The Ballerina Project. Follow her on Instagram (@IvanaDance) for a behind-the-scenes look at her life.

**WHITNEY HUELL** | JOINED KCB IN 2014

Whitney Huell trained at the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities under Stanislav Issaev and Robert Barnett. She earned a B.S. in Ballet and Psychology from Indiana University before joining Ballet West. With Ballet West, Ms. Huell was featured in *Paquita*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Cinderella*, *Petite Mort*, and *Jewels*. In 2011 she was one of *Dance Magazine's* Top 25 to Watch and in 2012 was featured in *Pointe Magazine*. With Kansas City Ballet, she has performed works by Amy Seiwert, Adam Hougland, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Monique Meunier, Stanton Welch, Edwaard Liang, Val Caniparoli, Helen Pickett, Septime Webre, Mark Morris, Jiří Kylián and Jerome Robbins. She has performed as The Lead Woman in *The Man in Black*, Jeté Woman in *In the Middle*, *Somewhat Elevated*, Dark Angel in *Serenade*, Myrtha in *Giselle*, Tiger Lily in *Peter Pan* and Solo Woman in *Rubies*. In 2018 she was featured as the Sugar Plum Fairy in Devon Carney's *The Nutcracker* becoming the first African American in KCB history to perform the role. In 2024 Ms. Huell participated in *Pathways to Performance: Exercises in Reframing the Narrative*, performing at The Kennedy Center and Jacob's Pillow.

**OLIVIA JACOBUS** | JOINED KCB IN 2022

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Olivia Jacobus discovered her love for ballet at age 9. She trained with Romy and Zippora Karz of New York City Ballet, and continues to work with them today, professionally. At age 15, Ms. Jacobus was accepted into Colburn Dance Academy's pre-professional program where she performed works from George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins. In 2020, she joined Pacific Northwest Ballet's Professional Division, and soon after joined Kansas City Ballet. Some of her favorite moments from past seasons with KCB are *Emeralds* Pas de Trios from *Jewels*, and Tea in *The Nutcracker*. Ms. Jacobus is working towards a degree in business, and in her spare time, enjoys creating ballet-themed social media content that resonates.

**JOSHUA KIESEL** | JOINED KCB IN 2021, +2 YEARS SECOND COMPANYY

Joshua Kiesel began his professional training in Hanover Park, Illinois at the Faubourg School of Ballet. In 2017 he competed in YAGP and received a full scholarship to train at the Washington School of Ballet. He spent two years there as a student and a trainee before joining Kansas City Ballet as a KCB II dancer in 2019. Mr. Kiesel spent two years in the Second Company before being promoted to Apprentice. While at KCB, Mr. Kiesel performed featured roles such as Green Man in *Celts*, Peasant Pas in *Giselle*, and Cavalier in *The Nutcracker*. In 2022 Mr. Kiesel won third prize among senior males at the Helsinki International Ballet Competition in Finland. This season will be Mr. Kiesel's fourth with the company.

**GABRIEL LORENA** | JOINED KCB IN 2022

Born in São Paulo, Brazil, dancer, choreographer and photographer Gabriel Lorena started his ballet training at the Municipal Theater of São Paulo at age 13. In 2016, he received a full scholarship to train as a pre-professional student at Miami City Ballet School under the direction of Arantxa Ochoa. In 2019, he joined Sarasota Ballet as an apprentice and in 2020 he joined Boston Ballet II. Mr. Lorena has created works for Kansas City Ballet's New Moves, Boston Ballet II, Moving Arts featuring dancers from Cincinnati Ballet and Kansas City Ballet, BostonBallet@yourhome: The Gift, Miami City Ballet School, Boston Ballet School and for companies in Brazil. Mr. Lorena's repertoire includes Alexander Ekman's *Cacti*, Jiří Kylián's *Petite Mort*, Jorma Elo's *Ruth's Dance*, Andonis Foniadakis's *Someone Else*, Mikko Nissinen's *Swan Lake*, Lia Cirio's *Lenore*, Sir Frederick Ashton's *Les Rendezvous*, George Balanchine's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Theme and Variations*, and *Western Symphony*, and Paul Taylor's *Brandenburgs*.





## AMELIA MEISSNER | JOINED KCB IN 2023

Amelia Meissner was born in San Antonio, Texas, and began her ballet training with the Ballet Conservatory of South Texas. She attended multiple summer intensives at Houston Ballet Academy and was invited to join the professional training division in 2017 at 15. She progressed through the academy levels and joined Houston Ballet II in 2020 under the direction of Claudio Muñoz. During her time in the second company, Ms. Meissner performed featured roles with the academy, including Kitri in Ben Stevenson's *Don Quixote* and Raymonda in Claudio Muñoz's *Raymonda* and corps roles with the company. Ms. Meissner was promoted to apprentice with Houston Ballet in 2022 and performed in Stanton Welch's *The Nutcracker* and *Romeo and Juliet*, Trey McIntyre's *Peter Pan*, and more. In 2022, she traveled with the company to Tokyo to tour Stanton Welch's *Swan Lake*. This will be her second season with Kansas City Ballet. When she is not dancing, Ms. Meissner is an avid reader, enjoys travel, the outdoors, and following the PGA Tour. She is pursuing her bachelor's degree.



## EMILY MISTRETTA | JOINED KCB IN 2016

Emily Mistretta began her training at Inland Pacific Ballet Academy in Montclair, California. In 2005, Ms. Mistretta joined Boston Ballet School on scholarship and in 2006, joined Boston Ballet II. She was promoted to Corps de Ballet in 2008. After 10 years with Boston Ballet, Ms. Mistretta joined Kansas City Ballet. Throughout her career with both companies, she has danced leading roles in works by Jiří Kylián, George Balanchine, Val Caniparoli, Alexander Ekman, Ohad Naharin, Jorma Elo, Jerome Robbins, and William Forsythe. Some recent leading roles include Giselle in *Giselle*, Marguerite in *Lady of the Camellias*, Nellie in *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Emeralds* Principal in *Jewels*, Waltz Girl in *Serenade*, Mina in *Dracula*, and Isabel in *In the Middle*, *Somewhat Elevated*. Other works she has been featured in include *Bella Figura*, *Wings of Wax*, *Tar and Feathers*, *Symphony of Psalms*, *Petite Mort*, *La Bayadère*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *The Concert*, *Symphony in C*, *Coppélia*, *Episodes*, *Divertimento No. 15*, *Symphony in Three Movements*, *Les Sylphides*, *Antique Epigraphs*, *Wunderland*, *The Lottery*, *Cacti*, *Petal*, and *In the Upper Room*.



## TARYN PACHCIARZ | JOINED KCB IN 2012

Taryn Pachciarz was born in Kansas City, Missouri and received her training on full scholarship at the Kansas City Ballet School and the School of American Ballet. Ms. Pachciarz was given her Corps de Ballet contract with the New York City Ballet and performed numerous Balanchine and Robbins ballets including, *Jewels*, *Symphony in Three Movements*, *West Side Story Suite*, and *The Cage*. Ms. Pachciarz is in her 13th season with the company and has been featured in numerous roles including Wendy in *Peter Pan*, Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Sylvie Pas in William Forsythe's *In the Middle*, *Somewhat Elevated*, Myrtha in *Giselle*, Russian Girl in *Serenade* and the Principal Girl in Balanchine's *Theme and Variations*, *Rubies and Diamonds*, as well as roles in *The Nutcracker*, *The Four Temperaments*, *Petite Mort*, *In the Upper Room*, and *The Man in Black*.



## AMAYA RODRIGUEZ | JOINED KCB IN 2016

Amaya Rodriguez is from Havana City, Cuba and began her training under the direction of Laura Alonso along with complementary ballet training at the National Ballet of Cuba. In 2003, she entered the National School of Ballet of Cuba. She won the Silver Medal in the 8<sup>th</sup> International Ballet Academics Encounter in 2004. In 2005, she performed in the International Festival of Dance in Ecuador, and in 2007 at the 1<sup>st</sup> International Ballet Festival of Colombia. In 2006, she graduated from the academy and joined National Ballet of Cuba and was promoted to principal dancer in 2013. There, she performed lead roles in *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, *Nutcracker*, *Don Quixote*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Coppelia*, *Cinderella*, *Le Corsaire* and more. Mrs. Rodriguez danced with Ballet Monterey before joining Kansas City Ballet. With KCB, she has performed featured roles in *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Giselle*, *The Lottery*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Jewels*, *Theme and Variations* and *Petite Mort* along with works by Irene Rodriguez, Matthew Neenan and Mark Morris.



## ELLIOTT ROGERS | JOINED KCB IN 2023 • Greg and Barbara Storm Emerging Dancer

Elliott Rogers is a native of Chicago where he began dancing at the age of 2. He started training with Chicago Ballet Arts for two years and then moved on to more focused training with Ruth Page Center for the Arts under the leadership of Victor Alexander and Dolores Long. At age 14, Mr. Rogers was accepted into Houston Ballet Academy's Professional Division. After progressing through the academy for four years, he was promoted to Houston Ballet's second company, HB II, under the direction of Claudio Muñoz and Kelly Myernick for the next two seasons. In 2023, Mr. Rogers joined Kansas City Ballet as an apprentice. During his apprenticeship, he received the opportunity to perform the title role in Devon Carney's *Peter Pan*. Mr. Rogers is eager to continue his professional career with Kansas City Ballet.

**NAOMI TANIOKA** | JOINED KCB IN 2019

Naomi Tanioka, originally from Sapporo, Japan, started her training with Chida Toshiko Ballet Studio. Ms. Tanioka was accepted to the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School in Canada, where she concluded her six years of professional ballet training, and one year of the Aspirant Program. In 2014, Ms. Tanioka joined Ballet Arizona, where she performed many Balanchine and Bournonville ballets. She then joined Cincinnati Ballet in 2016, where she was pushed out of her box with a variety of repertoire performed there. Since joining Kansas City Ballet in 2019, she has been featured as Cinderella in Devon Carney's *Cinderella*, Wendy in Devon Carney's *Peter Pan*, Nellie in Val Caniparoli's *Jekyll & Hyde*, Lucy in Michael Pink's *Dracula*, the pas couple in George Balanchine's *Rubies*, Sugar Plum and Snow Queen in *The Nutcracker*, and performed works by Adam Hougland, Alexander Ekman, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Edwaard Liang, Helen Pickett, Jiří Kylián, Lila York, Mark Morris, and Septime Webre.

**CAMERON THOMAS** | JOINED KCB IN 2017, +1 YEAR SECOND COMPANY

Cameron Thomas began his dance training in his hometown of Rochester, New York. In 2013, he began performing regularly with the Rochester City Ballet. In 2015, Mr. Thomas received a scholarship to attend the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School at American Ballet Theatre. He then joined Kansas City Ballet II for the 2016-2017 season and was promoted to the company the following season. Now in his ninth season with Kansas City Ballet, Mr. Thomas has performed featured roles in Jiří Kylián's *Petite Mort*, Alexander Ekman's *Cacti*, Mark Morris' *Sandpaper Ballet*, William Forsythe's *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated*, Septime Webre's *The Wizard of Oz*, Michael Pink's *Dracula*, Lila York's *Celts*, Val Caniparoli's *Lady of the Camellias*, and *Jekyll & Hyde*, and Devon Carney's *Cinderella*, *Giselle*, *Swan Lake* and *The Nutcracker*.

**ANDREW VECSERI** | JOINED KCB IN 2022 • Sally & Thomas J. Wood Senior Dancer

Andrew Vecseri was born and raised in Houston, Texas and began his training in 2010 at Houston Repertoire Ballet under the direction of Victoria Vittum before joining the Houston Ballet Academy in 2013. In 2015 he was promoted to Houston Ballet's second company performing ballets such as *Yondering*, *Flower Festival*, and *Sleeping Beauty*. In 2017 he was chosen to compete in the Prix De Lausanne, where he was offered a contract with the Houston Ballet. While there, he was promoted to Demi Soloist and performed roles in *La Bayadere*, *Swan Lake*, *Marie*, *Sleeping Beauty*, and Stanton Welch's *The Nutcracker* before joining Kansas City Ballet in 2022, and has performed roles in *Giselle*, *Cinderella*, and *Jekyll & Hyde*, among other ballets.

**MARISA DEETTE WHITEMAN** | JOINED KCB IN 2018, +4 YEARS SECOND COMPANY

Originally from St. James, New York, Marisa DeEtté Whiteman began classical training at Seiskaya Ballet, until joining Next Generation Ballet in 2010, and Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre Pre-Professional Program in 2012. Ms. Whiteman spent a year training privately before joining Kansas City Ballet in 2014. She has moved through the ranks of Trainee, KCB II, and Apprentice to Main Company. Some of her favorite roles have included Twyla Tharp's *In the Upper Room*, George Balanchine's *Emeralds*, William Forsythe's *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated*, and Alexander Ekman's *Cacti*. She has spent summers performing at the Hermitage Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia, and was featured in the Gala Performance at Jacob's Pillow. She is thrilled to be celebrating her 11th season with Kansas City Ballet.

**KEVIN WILSON** | JOINED KCB IN 2016

Kevin Wilson studied at The Harid Conservatory where he was awarded the dance achievement award for two consecutive years. Upon graduating he joined the Colorado Ballet for nine seasons. This is Kevin Wilson's ninth season with Kansas City Ballet where he has had the opportunity to be featured in several roles such as the Jester in Devon Carney's *Cinderella*, Renfield in Michael Pink's *Dracula*, Robert Louis Stevenson in Val Caniparoli's *Jekyll & Hyde*, Blue Bird in Devon Carney's *Sleeping Beauty*, Dr. Drosselmeier in Devon Carney's *The Nutcracker* and various other roles over the course of his KCB career.



## PAUL ZUSI | JOINED KCB IN 2021

Paul Zusi began his training at Southold Dance Theater at the age of 6, inspired by his mother's lifelong love of dance. Mr. Zusi attended summer programs at The School of American Ballet in 2018 and Boston Ballet School in 2019. Following the summer of 2019, he joined Boston Ballet as a member of their second company, working closely with renowned choreographers and teachers such as Jorma Elo, Peter Stark, Kathleen Mitchell, Larissa Ponomarenko, and Mikko Nissinen. Mr. Zusi's professional repertoire includes Jorma Elo's *Carmen*, Jerome Robbins' *Glass Pieces*, Mikko Nissinen's *The Nutcracker*, and other classics including *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, *Serenade*, *The Little Humpbacked Horse*, and *Don Quixote*. Mr. Zusi would like to thank his family and friends for their continued love and support.



## JOSEPH BOSWELL | APPRENTICE, JOINED KCB IN 2024

Joseph Boswell was born in Spokane, Washington. He started his ballet training at the age of 7 and after five years of training he moved to Houston, Texas to study at the Houston Ballet Academy. He continued his dance training at Boston Ballet School for another three years before being offered a contract for Boston Ballet's second company. Throughout his career, performed numerous principal roles such as Franz from *Coppelia*, Conrad from *Le Corsaire*, *La Vivandiere*, the Harlequinade pas de deux, and Jorma Elo's *Slice to Sharp*. Mr. Boswell also danced alongside Boston Ballet's main company in works such as Mikko Nissinen's *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty*, and *Nutcracker* as well as Rudolph Nureyev's *Don Quixote*.



## AMIRA HOGAN | APPRENTICE, JOINED KCB IN 2023

Texas native Amira Hogan began her ballet journey at age 6 at the YMCA. She continued training at Robert Underwood's School for Dance, TKB Center for Ballet & Dance and graduated from Vitacca Vocational School for Dance in 2023. Ms. Hogan received awards from Youth America Grand Prix including the Hope Award, The World Ballet Competition's Promise Award, ADC/IBC awards, Emerging Artists and multiple scholarships and offers worldwide. In 2023-2024, Ms. Hogan danced in Gina Patterson's *While The World was Laughing*, the North American premiere of Val Caniparoli's *Jekyll & Hyde*, *The Nutcracker* and *Peter Pan* by Devon Carney, Natasha Adorlee's *Komorebi*, Caroline Dahm and Haley Kostas' *Circle Back* and George Balanchine's *Jewels*. Ms. Hogan is honored and excited for her second year with KCB.



## KEATON LINZAU | APPRENTICE, JOINED KCB IN 2024

Keaton Linzau is from Washington, D.C. and began his ballet training in 2012 at Maryland Youth Ballet. He joined Houston Ballet Academy in 2021, and was invited to join Houston Ballet II in 2023 where he performed corps de ballet roles with Houston Ballet as well as principal roles with the Academy in excerpts from *Raymonda*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Don Quixote*, *The Nutcracker*, *Le Corsaire*, and Lucien d'Hervilly in Stanton Welch's *Paquita*. He also performed contemporary principal roles in Stanton Welch's *Clear*, *Bruiser*, *Play*, and many more. During his time in Houston Ballet II, Mr. Linzau established the first Student Council for a ballet academy in North America. Mr. Linzau begins his professional career joining Kansas City Ballet as an apprentice.



## GILLIAN YODER | APPRENTICE, JOINED KCB IN 2024, +3 YEARS SECOND COMPANY

Gillian Yoder was born in San Diego, California, and raised in Jupiter, Florida. Ms. Yoder completed her pre-professional training at Next Generation Ballet under Philip Neal, The Colburn School under Jenifer Ringer and James Fayette, and five summers at Pacific Northwest Ballet School. In 2021, Ms. Yoder joined Kansas City Ballet as a Trainee and was promoted to KCB II the following year. During her time with KCB II, she performed in various corps de ballet roles, including George Balanchine's *Serenade*, Lila York's *Celts*, Devon Carney's *The Nutcracker* and *Giselle*, Alexander Ekman's *Cacti*, Val Caniparoli's *Jekyll & Hyde*, Devon Carney's *Peter Pan*, and George Balanchine's *Jewels*. After three years with the Second Company, Ms. Yoder is thrilled to join the company this season.

*Kansas City Ballet Company Apprentices are supported in part by the Estelle S. and Robert A. Long Ellis Foundation.*

# KANSAS CITY BALLET SECOND COMPANY



**AUDREY LYNN**  
JOINED KCB II IN 2024



**MEI MCARTOR**  
JOINED KCB II IN 2024



**MCKIBBEN NEEDHAM**  
JOINED KCB II IN 2023



**BROOKE NOSKA**  
JOINED KCB II IN 2024



**OWEN WATSON**  
JOINED KCB II IN 2024



**BEN WORKMAN**  
JOINED KCB II IN 2024



## TRAINEES

Emma Blake

Hiroaki Ikeda

Laila Madison

Corabelle Kennedy

Brendan Turner

Blair Mendes

Alessia Braggiato

Zoey Uhlman

Jack Hindocha-  
Daniels

Sage Guillot

Ena Nomoto

Reagan Pender

Miles Orvetti

Gracie Jean Joiner

Olivia Pearsall

James Wray

Ava Bernardo

KCB's Second Company includes KCB II and the Trainee Program, both products of Kansas City Ballet School. These programs are for emerging professionals to give extraordinarily talented young dancers a professional company experience as prelude to their joining a professional company. The Second Company performs throughout the region at public performances, lecture demonstrations, residencies and workshops, enabling the community to experience live dance in a public setting. Those interested in learning more and/or booking them for a performance, email [KCBII@kcballet.org](mailto:KCBII@kcballet.org).

# THE NUTCRACKER

Presented by:  
**BANK OF AMERICA** 

Choreography by DEVON CARNEY

Music by PETER I. TCHAIKOVSKY

Scenery and Properties Design by ALAIN VAËS

Costume Design by HOLLY HYNES

Lighting Design by TRAD A BURNS

Conducted by RAMONA PANSEGRAU

Guest Conductor PETER STAFFORD WILSON

Music performed by KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY

Repetiteurs KRISTI CAPPS, PARRISH MAYNARD, CHRISTOPHER RUUD

Children's Ballet Coaches KIMBERLY COWEN & LAUREN FADELEY VEYETTE

Flying Illusions provided by FLYING BY FOY

All children appearing are students of Kansas City Ballet School



*Scan the QR code for performance dates.*

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The City of Kansas City, Missouri's Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund (NTDF) program, established in 1989, helps promote Kansas City's distinct and diverse neighborhoods. Through cultural, social, ethnic, historic, educational, and recreational activities, NTDF promotes the city as a premier convention, visitor and tourist center. Kansas City Ballet is grateful for NTDF's support of *The Nutcracker*.

## ACT I

### Drosselmeier's Workshop

**Dr. Drosselmeier** Gavin Abercrombie  
Andrew Vecseri  
Kevin Wilson  
Angelin Carrant

### The Party

**Frau Silberhaus** Kaleena Burks  
Amaya Rodriguez  
Kelsey Ivana Hellebuyck  
Whitney Huell  
Emily Mistretta

**Herr Silberhaus** Angelin Carrant  
Chase Hanson  
Paul Zusi  
Alladson Barreto  
Andrew Vecseri

**Clara** Samantha Stortzum (1)  
Delila Gardner (2)  
Lillian Torres (3)

**Fritz** Geo Malter (A)  
Maxwell Sady (B)

**Grandmother** Georgia Fuller  
Amelia Meissner  
Marisa DeEtte Whiteman  
Emily Mistretta  
Audrey Lynn  
Kelsey Ivana Hellebuyck

**Grandfather** Gabriel Lorena  
Angelin Carrant  
Gavin Abercrombie  
Elliott Rogers

**Maid** Amelia Meissner  
Naomi Tanioka  
Amanda DeVenuta  
Georgia Fuller  
Marisa DeEtte Whiteman  
Olivia Jacobus

**Butler** Elliott Rogers  
Kevin Wilson  
McKibben Needham  
Isaac Allen  
Owen Watson

# CASTING

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<b>Harlequinade</b>	Marisa DeEtte Whiteman Gillian Yoder Olivia Jacobus Sidney Haefs Amelia Meissner
<b>Harlequin</b>	Isaac Allen Joshua Kiesel Elliott Rogers Keaton Linzau Aidan Duffy
<b>Dancing Bear</b>	Jack Hindocha-Daniels Hiroaki Ikeda James Wray McKibben Needham Ben Workman Owen Watson
<b>The Parents</b>	Ava Bernardo, Emma Blake, Alessia Braggiato, Georgia Fuller, Sage Guillot, Sidney Haefs, Amira Hogan, Olivia Jacobus, Corabelle Kennedy, Audrey Lynn, Laila Madison, Mei McArtor, Amelia Meissner, Blair Mendes, Brooke Noska, Olivia Pearsall, Reagan Pender, Zoey Uhlman, Gillian Yoder  Isaac Allen, Alladson Barreto, Joseph Boswell, Aidan Duffy, Chase Hanson, Jack Hindocha-Daniels, Hiroaki Ikeda, Keaton Linzau, Gabriel Lorena, McKibben Needham, Miles Orvetti, Brendan Turner, Owen Watson, Ben Workman, James Wray, Paul Zusi
<b>The Children</b>	Cast A: Lilli Curtin, Mary Eppler, Liliana Gencarelli, MacKenzie Mejia, Amelia Stallbaumer, Cohen Stallbaumer, Samuel Stein, Emerson Williams  Cast B: Ethan Calabro, Kellan Collado, Illiana Dyer-Beale, Zoe Katz, Beatrice Patterson, Greta Pilgreen, Araceli Shaw, Agnes Tunkunas
<b>The Battle</b>	
<b>The Nutcracker Prince</b>	Aidan Duffy Elliott Rogers Isaac Allen Kevin Wilson Joshua Kiesel Chase Hanson
<b>The Mouse King</b>	Andrew Vecseri Aidan Duffy Alladson Barreto Paul Zusi Gabriel Lorena Angelin Carrant

<b>Mice</b>	Isaac Allen, Alladson Barreto, Joseph Boswell, Collin Brooks, Henry Bryan, Aidan Duffy, Lorenzo Guezuraga, Chase Hanson, Jack Hindocha-Daniels, Hiroaki Ikeda, Dahir Klawonn, Keaton Linzau, Gabriel Lorena, McKibben Needham, Miles Orvetti, Jonathan Raymond, Arlen Sapien, Brendan Turner, Owen Watson, James Wray, Ben Workman
<b>Baby Mice</b>	<p>Cast A: Everly Eye, Cora Foy, Lilly Hoover, Caroline Kimbrough, Genevieve Lassiter, Adele Osbern, Willa Scheidegger, Iris Straight</p> <p>Cast B: Evelyn Elazegui, Taelynn Ferguson, Daphne Funk, Bibi King, Hattie Kruse, Anniston Reed, Ahleah Smith, Elizabeth McCain</p>
<b>Bunny</b>	Amelie Rivillo (A) Rose Fox (B)
<b>Soldiers</b>	<p>Cast A: Brynn Battleson, Grace Brooks, Elizabeth Cameron, Karsyn Hutchinson-Ramirez, Elanora Jordan, Evangeline Juraschek, Julissa Kennedy, Ellen Koch, Sofya Kuleshova Ledbetter, Montserrat Llauger, Charlotte Miller, Soana Pahulu, Clara Pierzchalski, Mary Clare Stanislav, Ingrid Stevens, Amelia Wagner</p> <p>Cast B: Reagan Cheshier, Evan Daggett, Cecilia Guezuraga, Aubrey Hershberger, Eva Hudgens, Vivian Hudgens, Evelyn Jackson, Mildred Jackson, Aidan Katz, Evelyn Kelly, Kitty King, Laurel Niang-Trost, Olivia Rogers, Anna Sawafuji, Ellie Sturgeon, Edith Wenzel</p>
<b>Dolls</b>	<p>Cast A: Lance DeMoss-Black, Mabel Phillips, Elizabeth Romine, Clara Trum, Elizabeth Valenti</p> <p>Cast B: Raegan Bell, Jai'lee Dunlap-Murray, Levi Middleton, Owen Rogers, Eden Stetson</p>

## Kingdom of the Snow

<b>Snow Queen and Snow King</b>	Sidney Haefs & Paul Zusi Emily Mistretta & Gabriel Lorena Georgia Fuller & Andrew Vecseri Marisa DeEtte Whiteman & Gavin Abercrombie Kelsey Ivana Hellebuyck & Alladson Barreto Amelia Meissner & Aidan Duffy
<b>Ice Crystals</b>	Amaya Rodriguez & Taryn Pachciarz Marisa DeEtte Whiteman & Whitney Huell Emily Mistretta & Kaleena Burks Kelsey Ivana Hellebuyck & Amanda DeVenuta Naomi Tanioka & Olivia Jacobus
<b>Snowflakes</b>	Ava Bernardo, Emma Blake, Alessia Braggiato, Georgia Fuller, Sage Guillot, Sidney Haefs,



Amira Hogan, Olivia Jacobus, Gracie Jean Joiner, Corabelle Kennedy, Audrey Lynn, Laila Madison, Mei McArtor, Amelia Meissner, Blair Mendes, Ena Nomoto, Brooke Noska, Olivia Pearsall, Reagan Pender, Zoey Uhlman, Gillian Yoder

**Female Reindeer** Amelia Dowell, Charlotte Kelley, Simone Parigo, Ellie Steinlage (1) Seeley Grace Card, Adley Couch, Abigail Lawatsch, Simone Parigo (2) Cecelia Binaggio, Devon McFadden, Charlotte Munce, Annabelle Pontier (3)

**Male Reindeer** Collin Brooks, Henry Bryan, Lorenzo Guezuraga, Dahir Klawonn, Jonathan Raymond, Arlen Sapien

## **20 MIN. INTERMISSION**

### **ACT II**

#### **Land of the Sweets**

**The Sugar Plum Fairy and Her Cavalier** Naomi Tanioka & Joshua Kiesel  
Amanda DeVenuta & Gavin Abercrombie  
Whitney Huell & Angelin Carrant  
Amaya Rodriguez & Andrew Vecseri  
Taryn Pachciarz & Paul Zusi  
Kaleena Burks & Alladson Barreto

**Angels\*** Cast A: Reagan Kinney, Juliana Lane, Makenna Miller, Analucia Oyler, Maely Weaver, Elsie Williams

Cast B: Kaelyn Bell, Sophia Beran, Tess Gottschall, Lily Han, Addison Jankauskas, Faith Mueller

**Cherubs** Cast A: Clara Dennis, Everly Eye, Lilly Hoover, Elizabeth Kimbrough, Adele Osbern, Willa Scheidegger, Olivia Vaglio, Zelda Vowles

Cast B: Harper Dickey, Taelynn Ferguson, Adelyn Gummig, Esmé Guthrie, Hattie Kruse, Hazel Newman, Ahleah Smith, Jubilee Wiens

**Land of the Sweets Attendants** Collin Brooks, Henry Bryan, Lorenzo Guezuraga, Dahir Klawonn, Jonathan Raymond, Arlen Sapien

**Spanish (Chocolate)** Kelsey Ivana Hellebuyck, Amaya Rodriguez  
Alladson Barreto, Chase Hanson

Kaleena Burks, Amelia Meissner  
Keaton Linzau, Paul Zusi

Sidney Haefs, Naomi Tanioka  
Alladson Barreto, Andrew Vecseri

Georgia Fuller, Olivia Jacobus  
Joseph Boswell, Aidan Duffy

Amanda DeVenuta, Amira Hogan  
Gabriel Lorena, Kevin Wilson

Kelsey Ivana Hellebuyck, Olivia Jacobus  
Aidan Duffy, Kevin Wilson

**Arabian  
(Coffee)** Whitney Huell *with*  
Angelin Carrant, Andrew Vecseri  
Jack Hindocha-Daniels, McKibben Needham

Kelsey Ivana Hellebuyck *with*  
Alladson Barreto, Angelin Carrant  
Miles Orvetti, Owen Watson

Emily Mistretta *with*  
Chase Hanson, Gabriel Lorena  
Hiroaki Ikeda, Brenden Turner

Taryn Pachciarz *with*  
Gavin Abercrombie, Paul Zusi  
James Wray, Ben Workman

Amaya Rodriguez *with*  
Alladson Barreto, Keaton Linzau  
James Wray, Ben Workman

Sidney Haefs *with*  
Isaac Allen, Elliott Rogers  
Jack Hindocha-Daniels, Owen Watson

**Chinese  
(Tea)** Marisa DeEte Whiteman & Paul Zusi *with*  
Fu Lion: Jack Hindocha-Daniels, Dahir Klawonn *or*  
Miles Orvetti, Arlen Sapien

Taryn Pachciarz & Joshua Kiesel *with*  
Fu Lion: Lorenzo Guezuraga, Brendan Turner

Olivia Jacobus & Joseph Boswell *with*  
Fu Lion: James Wray, Collin Brooks

Gillian Yoder & Elliott Rogers *with*  
Fu Lion: Henry Bryan, Brendan Turner

Amelia Meissner & Gavin Abercrombie *with*  
Fu Lion: Jonathan Raymond, Owen Watson

Gillian Yoder & Elliott Rogers *with*  
Fu Lion: Henry Bryan, Brendan Turner

# CASTING

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**Umbrella Tea Children\*** Cast A: Kinley Buxton, Anna Schilling, Scarlett Spaulding, Cecilia Stanislav, Lilly Walker, Victoria Zaborny  
Cast B: Aliyah Becerra, Hannah Carr, Eden Dessert, Avalee Flores, Rylie Keefe, Samantha Lopez-Duarte

**French Shepherds (Marzipan)** Emily Mistretta & Gabriel Lorena  
Marisa DeEtte Whiteman & Kevin Wilson  
Amanda DeVenuta & Gavin Abercrombie  
Sidney Haefs & Chase Hanson  
Georgia Fuller & Andrew Vecseri  
Naomi Tanioka & Angelin Carrant

**Shepherdesses** Ava Bernardo, Emma Blake, Alessia Braggiato, Sage Guillot, Amira Hogan, Olivia Jacobus, Gracie Jean Joiner, Corabelle Kennedy, Audrey Lynn, Laila Madison, Mei McArtor, Amelia Meissner, Blair Mendes, Ena Nomoto, Brooke Noska, Olivia Pearsall, Reagan Pender, Zoey Uhlman, Gillian Yoder

**Lambs** Cast A: Logan Barnard MacVarish, Natalia Powers, Cecily Stroh, Lily Trum

Cast B: Paige Gurley, Greta Griffard, Annabelle Parker, Claire Thomas

**Russian (Trepak)** Elliott Rogers  
Isaac Allen  
Paul Zusi  
Keaton Linzau  
Joshua Kiesel

*with*

Joseph Boswell, Jack Hindocha-Daniels, Hiroaki Ikeda, Gabriel Lorena, McKibben Needham, Miles Orvetti, Owen Watson, Ben Workman, James Wray

**Matryoshka Children\*** Cast A: Naomi Bier, Julia DeMarco, Sophia Harris, Sarah Grace McKinney, Uma Meyers, Eden Whalen

Cast B: Payton Ann Casey, Sophia Centurioni, Ella Gampper, Caroline Kruse, Isabella Puckett, Payton Vickey

**Mother Ginger** Miles Orvetti  
Jack Hindocha-Daniels  
Owen Watson  
McKibben Needham  
Brendan Turner  
Hiroaki Ikeda

**Polichinelles** Cast A: Molly Houck, Elaine Giroux, Tinsley Guzman, Inés Nin, Audrey Pfeiffer, Henley Spaulding, Catherine Streb, Anna Vande Krol

**Cast B:** Sofia Castagno, Genevieve Clymer, Becca Fields, Katherine Jacobson, Natalie Jin, Avery Messner, Estella Newth, Georgia Spears

**The Rose** Kaleena Burks  
Amaya Rodriguez  
Taryn Pachciarz  
Whitney Huell  
Sidney Haefs  
Amanda DeVenuta

**Flowers** Ava Bernardo, Emma Blake, Alessia Braggiato, Georgia Fuller, Sage Guillot, Sidney Haefs, Amira Hogan, Olivia Jacobus, Gracie Jean Joiner, Corabelle Kennedy, Audrey Lynn, Laila Madison, Mei McArtor, Amelia Meissner, Blair Mendes, Ena Nomoto, Brooke Noska, Olivia Pearsall, Reagan Pender, Zoey Uhlman, Gillian Yoder

*\* Members of the Snow Choir*

# SYNOPSIS

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## ACT I

Dr. Drosselmeier, a mysterious magician and creator of mechanical toys and clocks, puts the finishing touches on some magical dolls and a very special Nutcracker in his workshop on Christmas Eve. He has made them as gifts to entertain his relatives and friends at the Silberhaus home later that night.

In the parlor, the Silberhaus family, their children Clara and Fritz and their staff are anxiously finishing preparations for their annual Christmas Eve party. Friends and relatives arrive from near and far. The tree is trimmed, the children receive special gifts from the Silberhauses and there is much celebratory dancing. Suddenly, almost from nowhere, Dr. Drosselmeier makes his appearance with his arms full of gift boxes. He is full of surprises to entertain everyone, like his presentation of a miniature toy theatre. He presents Clara with the special Nutcracker he has made just for her, and she immediately becomes enchanted. Then he brings out his mechanical dolls who, to the amazement of all, come to life at his command and dance. Dinner is served and all depart except Clara, who dances a special dance with her Nutcracker, imagining someday he could be her Prince. She is rudely interrupted by her brother Fritz who, in a jealous fit, steals her Nutcracker and breaks him. The commotion draws the guests back to the parlor to see Dr. Drosselmeier repairing Clara's Nutcracker. The girls join together to soothe the Nutcracker by dancing a lullaby with their dolls, but they are suddenly interrupted by the mischievous Fritz and the boys who create a cacophony with their noise makers. Then Clara's Grandfather invites all the parents to one last dance led by him and her Grandmother before it gets late and the party guests depart. Clara and Fritz are sent to bed to dream of all their presents under the tree.

As the lights dim, Clara returns to search for her Nutcracker until she becomes tired and falls asleep on the couch. Dr. Drosselmeier appears in the parlor to cast his magical spell. Maniacal mice begin to emerge

as midnight falls and Clara is awakened. She is terrified but then sees her Nutcracker has been transformed to human size by Dr. Drosselmeier. The mice scatter and Dr. Drosselmeier alters the room, making everything larger than life. A battle ensues between the mice, led by the Mouse King, and the Nutcracker, with his regiments of tiny soldiers, culminating in a sword fight between the two leaders. Just when hope seems lost, Clara throws her slipper at the Mouse King, distracting him long enough for the Nutcracker to vanquish him. Clara receives a crown for her efforts and the Nutcracker is transformed into a handsome prince. The two are magically transported to the Kingdom of the Snow where the Snow King and Queen greet them and send them on a beautiful sleigh ride. A whirlwind of snowflakes dance at their command. At the culmination of this dreamlike scene, Clara and her Nutcracker Prince board a magical vessel to journey to the Land of the Sweets, guided by Dr. Drosselmeier.

## ACT II

As the scene opens, we find ourselves in the clouds with dancing angels who watch over the Land of the Sweets. Clara and her Nutcracker Prince arrive in the enchanted Candy Palace. They are welcomed by the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier who are preparing a spectacular confection-filled festival in their honor. Those who have gathered begin to dance representing various lands and treats including chocolate, a Spanish Dance; coffee, an Arabian Dance; and tea, a Chinese Dance. French Shepherds, a band of Russian dancers, and the always gregarious, larger-than-life Mother Ginger also have a few surprises for Clara. Following that, Clara enjoys a lush Waltz of the Flowers led by the most beautiful Rose in the entire Land of the Sweets. Then the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier dance a grand pas de deux in honor of their guests. A magnificent grand finale brings the festival to its thrilling conclusion as Clara and her Nutcracker Prince begin their journey home. Was it all a dream or did it really happen?

## NOTEWORTHY

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### RAMONA PANSEGRAU MUSIC DIRECTOR/CONDUCTOR

Peter I. Tchaikovsky's wonderful score for *The Nutcracker* was written in 1892. Even today, it is an indispensable part of the holidays - the music of the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Trepak covering the airwaves even as we speak. We are so fortunate to have the music performed live as audiences would have first heard it 132 years ago. Utilizing the full breadth of the Kansas City Symphony in our performances, nearly every section of the orchestra has a solo somewhere in the score. Of special note is the music written for the celesta - an instrument Tchaikovsky first heard at the Paris Exposition in 1890, and was determined to have Russian audiences first hear in his composition. This season we are fortunate to also have a live choir, as Tchaikovsky wanted, within the Snow

Scene at the end of Act I. The angelic sound of sopranos singing in thirds adds extra magic as the snow falls on stage. We are using students from Kansas City Ballet School as our chorus, who are doing double duty during the performances! The ladies dance in Angels, Tea and Matryoshka Children in Act II and join us as a choir in Act I. Our student dancers gain a deeper understanding of rhythm, tempo and harmony by singing, and experience the joy of performing with a live orchestra as well. It's a win-win for all of us! Please enjoy the complete score of Tchaikovsky's iconic *Nutcracker* ballet as well as a stage full of artists dancing to ring in the season. The holidays would be incomplete without it.

*The position of music director is generously supported by a gift from Bill and Ginny Shackelford.*



**ALAIN VAËS**  
**SCENIC & PROPERTIES DESIGNER**

Born in the South of France, Alain Vaës studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Montpellier and the Ecole des Arts Decoratifs in Nice while playing volleyball for the French national team. Since moving to the United States in 1981, he

has worked as an artist, a set and costume designer, and as an author and illustrator of children's books. He has designed sets and costumes for 25 productions, including *Romeo and Juliet*, *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker*, *La Sonnambula*, *Songs of the Auvergne*, *Don Quixote* and *Cinderella*, principally for New York City Ballet, but also for Boston Ballet, Fort Worth Ballet, the National Ballet of Flanders, North Carolina Dance Theater, Cincinnati Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, Sacramento Ballet, and the Royal Danish Theater. His children's books, published by Little Brown, are *The Porcelain Pepper Pot*, *The Wild Hamster*, *The Steadfast Tin Soldier*, *The Princess and the Pea*, and *Puss in Boots*, a collaboration with Lincoln Kirstein, plus *Reynard the Fox* and *29 Bump Street*, published by Turner. His paintings have been exhibited in galleries in Paris and Honfleur, and most recently at the George Adams gallery in NYC. His work is in the collection of the French government. He has had exhibitions at the Pierpont Morgan Library, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Norman Rockwell Museum, the Fort Worth Art Museum, the Hudson River Museum, the DeCordova Museum and the McNay Art Museum.



**HOLLY HYNES**  
**COSTUME DESIGNER**

Holly Hynes is an accomplished costume designer with over 200 ballets to her credit, including more than 70 at the New York City Ballet. A graduate of Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, she headed to New York City with a suitcase and fifty

dollars after college and has been there ever since. Her designs have been acclaimed worldwide by the audiences of American Ballet Theatre, National Ballet of Canada, San Francisco Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, Kirov Ballet in Saint Petersburg, Russia, Bolshoi in Moscow, Royal Ballet in London, Royal Danish Ballet in Copenhagen, Houston Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Joffrey Ballet in Chicago, and La Scala in Milan. Hynes has collaborated with such famous choreographers as Alexei Ratmanský, Christopher Wheeldon, Helgi Tomasson, Jorma Elo, Benjamin Millepied and Stanton Welch. Her artistry has been seen on Broadway and at the Metropolitan Opera but ballet is where her heart is. She has been the resident designer for The Susanne Farrell Ballet based at The Kennedy Center for over 15 years. For 21 years, she was director of costumes for The New York City Ballet. She is also the leading costume consultant for the George Balanchine Trust and the Jerome Robbins Estate. She is thrilled to have worked with Devon, Alain and Trad on Kansas City Ballet's *The Nutcracker*, joining her other designs in the rep for Lynne Taylor-Corbett's *Mercury* and William Whitener's full-length *Tom Sawyer (A Ballet in 3 Acts)*.



**TRAD A BURNS**  
**LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Trad A Burns has been designing scenery and lighting professionally since 1989 for theatre, dance, and amusement parks. Recent dance credits include the

world premiere of *What's Going On*, choreographed by Val Caniparoli for Richmond Ballet, *Soar!*, choreographed by Jennifer Archibald, *Hearts*, choreographed by Julia Feldman for Sacramento Ballet, *Romeo & Juliet*, choreographed by Malcom Burn for Richmond Ballet, Tulsa Ballet's world premiere *Nutcracker*, choreographed by Val Caniparoli and Ma Cong, and the world premiere of Sacramento Ballet's new *Nutcracker*, choreographed by Colby Damon, Julia Feldman, and Nicole Haskins. Recent theatre designs include *Gloria*, directed by Jess Fiene at Texas State University, *Assasins*, directed by Dr. Martin Friedman at Lakeland Theatre, and *The Ballad of Georgia McBride*, directed by Eric Schmiedl at the Beck Center for the Arts. Burns has had the privilege of designing world premiere ballets for such notable choreographers as Trey McIntyre, Val Caniparoli, James Kudelka, Edwaard Liang, Matthew Neenan, Adam Houghland, Garrett Smith, Jessica Lang, Alejandro Cerrudo, Kirk Peterson, Donald Byrd, Jodie Gates, Gina Patterson, Amy Seiwert, Ma Cong, Andrea Schermoly, Jennifer Archibald, Penny Saunders, Septime Webre, Devon Carney, Victoria Morgan, Robert Curran, and Sarah Slipper. Over the years his dance lighting has been seen at American Ballet Theatre, National Ballet of Canada, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, The Joffrey Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, Colorado Ballet, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Alberta Ballet, Ballet X, BalletMet, Louisville Ballet, Tulsa Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Grand Rapids Ballet, Sacramento Ballet, Hubbard Street, and 21 seasons with Cincinnati Ballet. As a theatre designer, Burns' designs have been seen at New York Theatre Workshop (NYC), The Public Theatre (NYC), La Mama ETC (NYC), HERE (NYC), Classic Stage Company (NYC), North Shore Music Theatre, Cleveland Play House, Cleveland Public Theatre, Great Lakes Theatre Festival, Cain Park, Beck Center for the Arts, Dobama, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Cedar Point, Valleyfair, Knott's Berry Farm, Kings Island, Walt Disney World, Disneyland, Disneyland Japan, Disney Sea, Disney Cruise Lines, Carnival Cruise Lines, Universal Studios Florida and Japan, Woodstock Ice Productions and The Family of Charles M. Schulz.



**KRISTI CAPPS**  
**REHEARSAL DIRECTOR**

Kristi Capps accepted the position of rehearsal director for the 2014-2015 season after serving as a rehearsal director in residence for the 2013-2014 season during the company's production of *Dracula* as well as a repetiteur for its

spring production of *Cinderella*. Capps began her professional career with the Atlanta Ballet and then joined Cincinnati Ballet. Rising quickly through the ranks to principal, Capps delighted audiences in leading roles in many major classical and contemporary ballets both within the company and abroad as a guest artist. With Kansas City Ballet, Capps has been given the opportunity to be the répétiteur for many of the company's productions, including Devon Carney's *Sleeping Beauty* for Ballet Hawaii, Cincinnati Ballet and Grand Rapids Ballet, Victoria Morgan's *Cinderella*, Edwaard Liang's *Wunderland* and Helen Pickett's *Petal*. Additionally, she has staged Septime Webre's *The Wizard of Oz* for Kansas City Ballet, Colorado Ballet, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Nevada Ballet, and most recently Hong Kong Ballet.

## MEET THE ARTISTS



### **PARRISH MAYNARD** REHEARSAL DIRECTOR

Parrish Maynard danced with American Ballet Theatre, where he was invited to join by Mikhail Baryshnikov, and as a principal dancer at The Joffrey Ballet and San Francisco Ballet. In addition to being a recipient of the Princess Grace Award

and the Presidential Scholar Award, he was a silver medalist in the International Ballet Competition. Maynard has performed in Dance in America's American Ballet Theatre Now, danced Nacho Duato's *Romanso*, and danced in Lar Lubovitch's *Othello* at San Francisco Ballet in the role of Iago which was created on him. In 2005 Maynard joined the faculty of San Francisco Ballet School. In his 10 years at San Francisco Ballet, Maynard choreographed more than 20 ballets for the San Francisco Ballet School, some of which have been danced by companies around the world including Royal Ballet School, Royal New Zealand Ballet and National Ballet of Canada.



### **CHRISTOPHER RUUD** SECOND COMPANY MANAGER & REHEARSAL DIRECTOR

Christopher Ruud has been a part of the performing arts since birth. Growing up backstage at San Francisco Ballet he was immersed in the art of professional dance, performance and stagecraft.

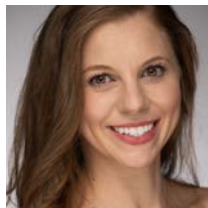
Receiving the majority of his dance training at San Francisco Ballet School he began his performing career on the War Memorial Opera House stage at the age of 9. Ruud was hired into Ballet West in 1998. Quickly moving through the ranks, he was named Principal Dancer in 2004. He spent 21 years as a leading artist for Ballet West performing a huge range of classical and contemporary repertoire. Ruud is grateful to have seen sold out houses in Utah, all over the United States, and internationally most notably in China, Cuba, New York and at the Kennedy Center receiving glowing reviews. In his time with the company, he danced major roles in the great works of Balanchine, Kylián, Tharp, Forsythe, Ashton, Tudor and Cranko to name a few. He has been personally coached by some of the great names in the ballet world such as Sir Anthony Dowell, Cynthia Gregory, Hans Van Mannen, and Bruce Marks, and Anna-Marie Holmes. Ruud has seen success as a choreographer having his ballets performed in the Ballet West Innovations program and at their annual gala performance garnering such awards as a New York Choreographic Institute Fellowship as well as several NEA grants. Ruud directed his own small company RUDDANCES, which was a regular attraction at the annual Utah Arts Festival, and has toured to Jacobs Pillow. Retiring from being a professional dancer in 2019, Ruud joined the artistic team at Kansas City Ballet that same year. Since taking the position of KCB Second Company Manager and Rehearsal Director for the company he has created and ballet-mastered many new and existing works such as George Balanchine's *Rubies*, Lila York's *Celts*, and Alexander Ekman's *Cacti*, while also spending time in the Kansas City community educating children and adults about ballet and live performance.



### **KIMBERLY COWEN** PRINCIPAL & KCYB DIRECTOR

Kimberly Cowen, a native of St. Louis, Missouri, received most of her ballet training from Nathalie LeVine. She also has studied at St. Louis Ballet under Ludmila Dokoudovsky and Antoni Zalewski, at Pacific Northwest Ballet

with Fleming Halby and Nina Danilova and at The Joffrey Ballet with Francesca Corkle and Winthrop Corey. She studied at the Kansas City Ballet School with Todd Bolender, Una Kai, and Lisa Dillinger before joining the Kansas City Ballet in 1991, where she danced for 20 years. Cowen has danced as Swanilda in *Coppélia*, Odette in *Swan Lake*, Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Aurora in *The Sleeping Beauty*, the title role in *Giselle*, *Carmen* and *Romeo & Juliet*. She has had the pleasure of dancing a wide variety of styles by famous choreographers such as George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, Anthony Tudor, Todd Bolender, David Parsons, Paul Taylor, Merce Cunningham, Twyla Tharp, Vincente Nebrada, Nacho Duato, Margo Sappington, Trey McIntyre, Jessica Lang, Val Caniparoli, Mary Wigman and William Whitener. Cowen began teaching at the Somerset Ballet in 1998 and joined the Kansas City Ballet School staff in 2002. Cowen is responsible for the students of the Upper School and is the director of the Kansas City Youth Ballet. She is dedicated to teaching the next generation of dancers and passing on all she has learned in her time as a student and a professional.



### **LAUREN FADELEY VEYETTE** PRINCIPAL & COMPETITION COORDINATOR

Lauren Fadeley Veyette trained at the Orlando Ballet School and the School of Performing Arts in Florida before moving to New York City to study full time at the School of American Ballet.

She began her professional career at 16 with New York City Ballet at the invitation of Peter Martins, performing works by George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, Christopher Wheeldon, and Martins. After two years with NYCB, she chose to further her academic and dance education by attending Indiana University. In 2007, she graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Ballet Performance and an Outside Field in Kinesiology. Veyette joined the corps de ballet of the Pennsylvania Ballet in 2007. She was promoted to Soloist for the 2011 season and Principal Dancer in 2012. Veyette joined Miami City Ballet as a Soloist in 2016 and was promoted to Principal Soloist in 2017. Over the past 10 years, Veyette has taught summer intensives and master classes at the Cincinnati Ballet School, Indiana University Ballet Theater, The Colburn Academy, Nantucket Dance Festival, Westside School of Ballet, Swarthmore Ballet, Pennsylvania Regional Ballet, Juneau Dance Theater, Ballet Elite and Virginia Regional Ballet. In 2018, together with her husband Francis, they founded Veyette Virtual Ballet School, which specializes in private instruction, coaching and mentoring for dancers of all ages. She retired from Miami City Ballet and dancing professionally in 2021 after accepting the position of Principal of the Kansas City Ballet School.

## MEET THE ARTISTS



### **JORDAN VOTH** COMPANY PIANIST/PRINCIPAL ACADEMY PIANIST

Kansas native Jordan Voth joined the accompanist staff of the Kansas City Ballet in the summer of 2015. Before arriving in Kansas City for graduate studies at the University of Missouri-

Kansas City in 2013, Voth won the piano division of the 2010 Yamaha Young Performing Artists Competition and studied at the International Keyboard Institute and Festival at Mannes College in New York City. As a class accompanist, Voth has played for masterclasses taught by Wendy Whelan, Victoria Simon, Robert Garland, Peter Stark, and Daniel Ulbricht. After graduating from UMKC with a Doctorate of Musical Arts in 2020, Voth joined the full-time staff of Kansas City Ballet in 2022, where he accompanies classes, rehearsals, and performances as Company Pianist / Principal Academy Pianist.



### **PETER STAFFORD WILSON** GUEST CONDUCTOR

Peter Stafford Wilson is now in his twenty-second season as Music Director of Ohio's Springfield Symphony Orchestra, where he recently was awarded a League of American Orchestras/ASCAP Award

for Adventuresome Programming. He also continues a multi-season commitment to the Westerville Symphony

at Otterbein University as Music Director. Wilson recently completed an eleven-season tenure as Principal Conductor of the Tulsa Ballet where aside from the classical repertoire, he collaborated with such noted choreographers as Val Caniparoli, Edwaard Liang, and Ma Cong on the creation of new work. Wilson has also served BalletMet/Columbus, where he has led over 150 performances for the Company in Columbus and at the Michigan Opera Theater. Wilson has also guest conducted for the Philadelphia Ballet, the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, the Oklahoma City Ballet and this season makes his debut with the Kansas City Ballet. He has appeared with the orchestras of Dallas, Cincinnati, Detroit, Charlotte, Indianapolis Phoenix, North Carolina, Shenzhen (China), Hong Kong, Montevideo, and the Chautauqua Institute just to name a few. He also enjoyed a long-time relationship with the Cleveland Orchestra often covering for then Music Director Christoph von Dohnanyi. Wilson enjoyed a 28-year tenure with the Columbus Symphony and lead its world renowned youth orchestra on several European and Asian tours as well as two appearances at New York's iconic Carnegie Hall. His dedication to young musicians and audiences resulted in the Greater Columbus Arts Council bestowing its Educator of the Year award in 2018. A native of North Carolina, Wilson studied at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music, where his primary mentor was Thomas Schippers. His studies also took him to the Aspen Music School, Eastern Music Festival (on whose faculty he subsequently served), Pierre Monteux School, Boris Goldovsky Summer Opera Institute and Rome's Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, where he was associated with Franco Ferrara.

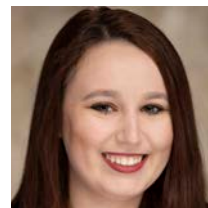
## PRODUCTION STAFF



### **AMY TAYLOR** DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION

Amy Taylor's design credits for Kansas City Ballet include *Giselle*, *Suite Kander*, *The Scarlatti Dances*, *Carmina Burana*, *Coppélia* and *On the Boulevard*. Locally, she has also worked with Wylliams/Henry Contemporary Dance Company

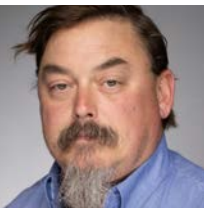
and the Kansas City Symphony. Before joining Kansas City Ballet, Taylor received her M.F.A. from the University of Missouri - Kansas City.



### **LAURA KRUS** STAGE MANAGER

Laura Krus is a graduate of Oklahoma City University's Dance Management Program. Krus worked with Adams Davy Media as a Production Intern for productions like *Batman Live* and *Arts for Autism*. She also has worked

with various professional dance companies as a Production Stage Manager for the American Dance Festival. Krus began working with Kansas City Ballet in 2021. Krus wants to thank her family and friends for always believing in her and helping get her to where she is now.



### **SCOTT PARKS** TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

A native of Northwest Arkansas, Scott Parks comes to Kansas City Ballet after many years on the road. Working with companies such as MOMIX and the Joffrey Ballet led to positions with the Broadway tours of *Miss Saigon* and the

first National tour of *Oklahoma!* the musical. From there, Parks spent several years with Cirque du Soleil working on the big top tours of *Dralion* and *Varekai* as well as the resident show *Zarkana* at Radio City Music Hall. Most recently he has worked as a Carpentry Project Manager and Logistics Coordinator for A7 Productions building some of the largest music festivals in north America such as Hangout fest, Outsidelands, and Bottlerock.



### **JENNIFER CARROLL** COSTUME DIRECTOR

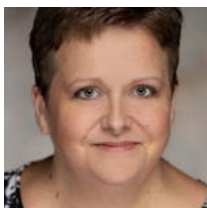
Jennifer Carroll came to Kansas City Ballet in 2008 after touring with Broadway Shows for eight years. She toured with shows such as *Victor, Victoria*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Cabaret*, *Oklahoma!*, and Twyla Tharp and Billy Joel's *Movin' Out*.

Her design credits for Kansas City Ballet include *Concerto Grosso*, *Mercy of the Elements*, *Energy Made Visible*, *Vesna*, and *Klein Perspectives*. Ms. Carroll received her M.F.A. in Costume Design and Technology from the University of Arkansas. She is a member of Kansas City's IATSE Theatrical Wardrobe Union, Local #810.



## PRODUCTION STAFF

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### **BETTI JO DIEM** COSTUME SHOP MANAGER

Betti Jo Diem came to Kansas City Ballet after touring with the Radio City Christmas Spectacular Arena Tour and the First National Tour of Rock of Ages. She is a member of the IATSE Theatrical Wardrobe Union, Local #810 here in

Kansas City. She began her theatrical wardrobe career in Branson, Missouri while working for Silver Dollar City's Opera House theater and the Radio City Rockettes at the Grand Palace Theater. She feels extremely lucky to have a career she is passionate about and that allows her to learn something new every day!



### **MADELINE BRASGALLA** ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Madeline Brasgalla was born and raised in El Paso, Texas. She has an M.F.A. in Theatre: Design and Technology from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and has a B.A. in Dance from Agnes Scott College in Atlanta, Georgia. Brasgalla

has experience stage managing concert dance, ballet, opera, and theatre. She has previously worked with EPIC Arts and the Heart of America Shakespeare Festival. Brasgalla began working with the Kansas City Ballet in 2021 and is grateful to be back for her second season with the company!

## NUTCRACKER DESIGN & BUILD TEAM

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### **SCENERY & PROPERTIES**

**Alain Vaës, Designer**  
**Jeff Ridenour, Design Assistant**

**Amy Taylor, Coordinator**  
**Brett Engle, Properties Artisan**  
**Trevor Frederiksen, Artisan Assistant**

### **COBALT STUDIOS** **WHITE LAKE, NEW YORK**

Rachel Keebler, Sarah Keller, Alison Fox, Cydny Rodgers, Sophie Horsley, Ivan Potter-Smith, Stephanie Wheaton, Lillie Wheaton, Kim Williamson, Jannetta Carney, Kristin Kifer, Misty Pelas, Alexa Busnot, Rochelle Voyles

### **RAVENSWOOD** **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

**Nate Combs, Project Manager**

### **MICHAEL HAGAN** **STUDIOS** **SOUTH GLEN FALLS,** **NEW YORK**

Michael Hagan

### **SCENIC SOLUTIONS** **DAYTON, OHIO**

Dan McLaughlin, Brian Altieri, Doug Zinn, Josh McEwen, Lydia Watson, Thomas Clinch, Britney Accrocchio, Mary Beth McLaughlin, Hannah Blosser, Charis Weible, Doug Chaney, Peter Johnson, Jon Lamm, Wally Lugo, Eric McNutt, Eli McLaughlin, Andrew Persson

### **KANSAS CITY BUILDERS**

Eli Yaffe, James Hare, Steve Cochran  
IATSE Local #31

Gen Goering, *Scenic Artist*

### **LIGHTING**

**Trad A Burns, Designer**  
**Ben Gantose, Assistant to the Designer**

**Flying by Foy**

### **COSTUMES**

**Holly Hynes, Designer**  
**Ricky Lurie, Assistant to the Designer**

### **BUILDERS BY SHOP**

Arnold S. Levine - NYC  
Caryn Wells Design - NYC  
Cygnet Studios - NYC  
Halsey Onstage - Chicago  
Jan Parron LLC - NYC  
Jennifer Chapman Studios LLC - NYC  
John Kristiansen Studios - NYC  
Joni Johns LLC - Redding, CT  
JRenee Designs - Athens, OH  
KC Ballet Costume Shop - KCMO  
Kansas City Costume - KCMO  
Lisa Waering Sacaris - Houston, TX  
Lynn Baccus - NYC  
M&S Schmalberg Inc - NYC  
Monica Guerra - Houston, TX  
Pat Sullivan - Savannah, GA  
Prima Donna - Newport Beach, CA  
Redthreaded - Denver, CO  
Satellite Costumes - NYC  
SEW Good It Hurts - Houston, TX  
Timberlake Studios - NYC  
Vogue Pleating II - NYC

### **KANSAS CITY BALLET** **COSTUME SHOP**

Jennifer Carroll, *Shop Supervisor*  
Betti Jo Diem, Johanna Gee, Mary West, Heather Allan, Jana Jessee, Nancy Robinson, Mandy McCarty, Colleen May, Joshua Bodden  
IATSE Local #810

### **MOTHER GINGER PUPPET** Halsey Onstage - Chicago, IL

### **SPECIAL THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Don Hovis, Steven Lurie, Victoria Baylor, Katina Zulakis, Aaron Keppel, Ohio University Costume and Lighting Departments, Chris Zulakis, Katherine O'Neil, Johanna Gee, Matt Pedersen



The **YMCA of Greater Kansas City** has served as a leading nonprofit committed to strengthening community since 1860. The Y empowers everyone, no matter who they are or where they're from,

by ensuring access to resources, relationships and opportunities for all to learn, grow and thrive.

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Kansas City Ballet Dancers in Devon Carney's *The Nutcracker*. Photo by Anna Walters.

The generosity of people like you bring *The Nutcracker* to life each year. Now you can help ensure this beloved holiday production stays magical with a gift to help care for its stunning costumes and enchanting scenery.

*"The Nutcracker may only be on stage for a few weeks each year but keeping it looking fabulous is a year-round job."* – Amy Taylor, Kansas City Ballet's Director of Production

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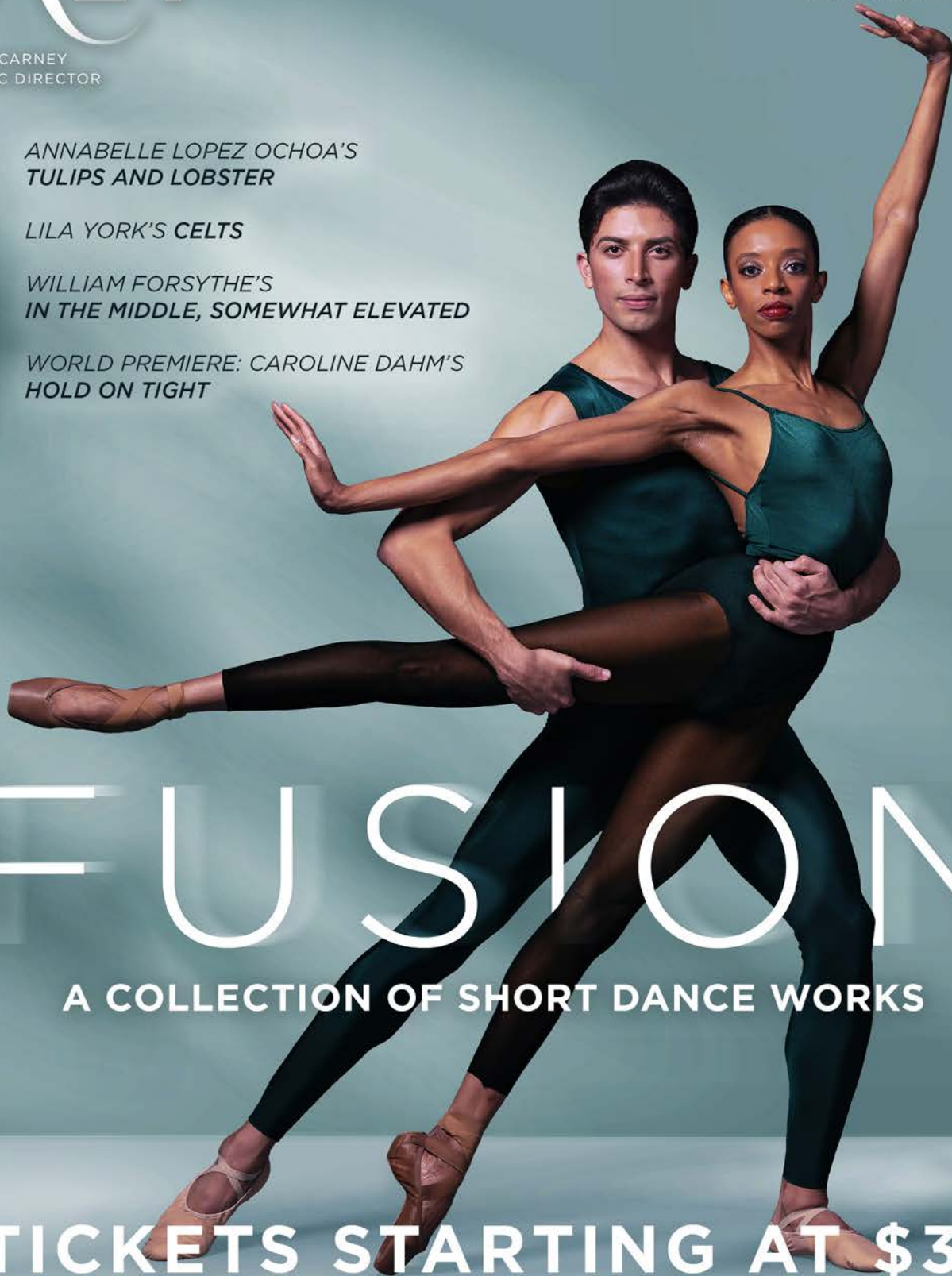
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**JAN. 30-FEB. 2, 2025**  
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**KCBALLET.ORG**

Dancers Emily Mistretta and Gabriel Lorena. Photography by Kenny Johnson.

# KANSAS CITY BALLET SCHOOL



## OLIVER TILL SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Oliver Till trained at The Royal Ballet School, and danced as a Soloist with Birmingham Royal Ballet under Sir David Bintley's directorship. Through his career, he performed diverse roles from repertoires by renowned choreographers

such as Peter Wright, David Bintley, Jessica Lang, Stanton Welch, Kenneth MacMillan, Michael Corder, Frederick Ashton, and Ninette de Valois. His performances took him on tours across the UK, Europe, USA, Japan, and China. Parallel to his ballet career, Till pursued a BA in Business with Environment and gained valuable experience interning at an investment bank in New York City. He later founded a video and distance coaching platform based in the US and gained his ABT-NTC Pre-Primary to Level 7 and Partnering certification. Till then transitioned to the role of ballet teacher at the Swedish National Ballet School, where he led the implementation of the ABT National Training Curriculum. As Mentor Team Leader for students aged 8 to 11, he focused on student wellbeing and transition to vocational training as well as supporting fellow teachers in their roles. As manager of the school's outreach programs, he developed support for young dancers and the school's teachers. Returning to the US, Oliver joined the Joffrey Ballet as Head of Children's, Adult, and Adaptive Programs. There, he focused on curriculum development, program structure, and creating performance opportunities, aiming to enhance the student experience and

support teacher development. Operationally he has driven efforts to streamline processes and effectively communicate to new and existing audiences. Till believes in making dance accessible to everyone, regardless of age or ability, ensuring high-quality support and expertise are available to all. In the pre-professional sphere, he champions a holistic approach to nurturing young students, integrating mental and physical methods to support their development. Till's commitment to innovation, inclusivity, and excellence defines his vision for the future of dance education.

## KANSAS CITY BALLET SCHOOL

Kansas City Ballet School is the Official School of Kansas City Ballet and offers two tracks of study: the Academy for the career-minded student who aspires to be a professional dancer; and the Open Division for youth and adults who wish to study for recreation. Classes are offered in ballet, pointe, men's technique, tap, flamenco, modern, jazz and more. All classes are taught by highly-qualified professionals with the experience and dedication to guide, inspire and nurture all students in their dance training. The School uniform partner is Elevé Dancewear. Kansas City Ballet School was named "Outstanding School" by Youth America Grand Prix 2017-2022. There are two convenient locations: the Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity in downtown Kansas City and the South Campus at Meadowbrook at 95th & Nall. For more information: call **816.931.2299**, email [school@kcballet.org](mailto:school@kcballet.org) or visit our website at [kcballet.org/school](http://kcballet.org/school)



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*School Operations Manager*

**Sean Duus**  
*R.O.A.D. Residency Coordinator*

**Miyesha McGriff**  
*R.O.A.D. Program Administrator*

**Rachel Grisi Dugan**  
*Summer Intensive Coordinator*

**Nora Burkitt-Davis**  
*Children's Program & Adaptive Dance Coordinator*

**Megan Robinson**  
*Bolender Center Administrator*

**PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS/RECEPTION**  
Miana Abramson  
Adrienne Anderson  
Iyonna Barris  
Allay Freeman  
Taire Monsees  
Miles Orveti  
Erin Oyler  
Sarah Wilczewski

## KANSAS CITY BALLET SCHOOL | FACULTY

Iyonna Barris  
Brigitte Benyei  
Chelsea Brown  
Villamayor  
Nora Burkitt-Davis  
Christina Burton  
Alexis Byerly  
Kristi Capps  
Devon Carney  
Pamela Carney  
Tamara Carson  
Christine Colby-Jacques  
Courtney Collado  
Kimberly Cowen

Caroline Dahm  
Rachel Grisi Dugan  
Sean Duus  
Oliva Emert  
Stephanie Eppler  
Lauren Fadeley  
Veyette  
Melissa Ford  
Georgia Fuller  
Tess Gadwood  
Sidney Haefs  
Maureen Hall  
Michele Hamlett-Weith

Jaime Hickey  
Debbie Jacobs-Huffaker  
Alyssa Jones  
Elaine Kimble  
Kramer Kreiling  
Hannah Lareau  
Susan Lewis  
Skyler Linn  
Parrish Maynard  
Miyesha McGriff  
Linda Mitchell  
Erin Muenks  
Tempe Ostergren

Taryn Ouellette  
Jennifer Owen  
Taryn Pachciarz  
Andrew Parker  
Nadine Price-Rojas  
Tina Ray  
Megan Robinson  
Christopher Ruud  
Suzanne Ryanstrati  
Jenny Schmidt  
Emily Simpson  
Lisa Sirridge  
Cameron Thomas  
Oliver Till

Dmitry Trubchanov  
Laura Vernaci  
Francis Veyette  
Lynley Von Engeln  
Paula Weber  
Marisa DeEtte  
Whiteman  
Susan Williams  
Latra Wilson

## KANSAS CITY BALLET SCHOOL | ACCOMPANISTS

**Jordan Voth**  
*Principal Academy Pianist*

**Jacob Thomas**  
*Academy and R.O.A.D. Pianist*

**Brian Bates**  
Samuel Beckett  
Nina Cherry  
Catherine Clark  
John Currey

**Inna Daniels**  
Ian Evans Guthrie  
RoseMarie O'Brien  
Noila Ortega  
Andrew Ouellette

**William Puckett**  
Angie Roustio  
Jaclyn Rylee  
RJ Schultze  
Cameron Thomas

**Yee-Sik Wong**  
Xiangyu Zhao

# KANSAS CITY BALLET STAFF

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## ARTISTIC

**Devon Carney**  
*Artistic Director*

**Kristi Capps**  
*Rehearsal Director*

**Parrish Maynard**  
*Rehearsal Director*

**Christopher Ruud**  
*Second Company Manager  
& Rehearsal Director*

**Oliver Till**  
*School Director*

**Ramona Pansegrau**  
*Music Director & Conductor*

**Jordan Voth**  
*Company Pianist*

## ADMINISTRATIVE

**David Gray**  
*Executive Director*

**Kevin Amey**  
*Chief Operations Officer*

**George Hans**  
*Chief Financial Officer*

**Gregg Markowski**  
*Finance Director*

**Mary Allen**  
*Office Manager/Executive Assistant*

**Glenn Lewis**  
*Facilities Manager*

## PHILANTHROPY

**Jennifer J.E. Wampler, MBA, CFRE**  
*Chief Philanthropy Officer*

**Rebecca Zandarski, CFRE, CSPG**  
*Director of Gift Planning*

**Chris Roady**  
*Associate Director of Individual Giving*

**Grace Ingham**  
*Manager, Events & Philanthropy*

**Kelly Leahy**  
*Manager, Philanthropic Communications*

**Natalie Sextro**  
*Manager, Philanthropic Operations*

**Maya Momon**  
*Philanthropy Assistant*

## MARKETING & PATRON SERVICES

**Karen Badgett**  
*Chief Sales & Marketing Officer*

**Savanna Daniels**  
*Design & Digital Marketing Manager*

**Beeh Moynagh**  
*Creative Content Producer*

**Nicole Dolan**  
*Social Media Specialist*

**Ellen McDonald**  
*Publicist*

**Mark Volk**  
*Patron Services Manager*

**Kim Toigo**  
*Assistant Patron Services Manager*

## PRODUCTION

**Amy Taylor**  
*Director of Production*

**Scott Parks**  
*Technical Director*

**Laura Krus**  
*Stage Manager*

**Jennifer Carroll**  
*Costume Director*

**Betti Jo Diem**  
*Costume Shop Manager*

**Becci Jo Kelbaugh**  
*Costume Shop Assistant*

**Madeline Brasgalla**  
*Assistant Stage Manager*

*Assistant Stage Management Team*

**Ja’Kora Brewer**

**Connor Maloney**

**Zoe Steenwyk**

**Lorna Stephens**

**IATSE LOCAL #31, STAGE CREW**

**Josh Beasley**  
*Head Carpenter*

**Dale Klamm**  
*Head Properties*

**Rick Knapp**  
*Programmer*

**Ryan Lewis**  
*Steward & Head Flyman*

**Phil Rebel**  
*Audio Engineer*

**Margaret Spare**  
*Head Electrician*

**Greg Brown**  
*Head Electrician Emeritus*

**IATSE LOCAL #810, WARDROBE ATTENDANTS**

**Desiree Story**  
*Head of Wardrobe*

## PARTNERSHIP

**Kim Trudell**  
*Partnership Specialist*

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## Kansas City Ballet acknowledges the following professional service providers:

**Lathrop GPM, Legal**

**Stinson Leonard Street LLP, Legal**

**Husch Blackwell LLP, Legal**

**BKD, LLP, Auditors**

**Commerce Trust Company, Investment Advisors**

**SRA Benefits, Insurance**

**KC Foot & Ankle**  
*Dr. John J. Riley, DPM*

**Kansas City Orthopedic Alliance**  
*Lead physicians - Dr. Michael Khadavi, Dr. JP Halloran and Dr. Fermin Santos*

**The Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Clinic of Kansas City**  
*Lead physician - Dr. Kirk McCullough*

**Dr. Nancy L. Murdock, PhD,**  
*Psychological Consultant*

**Performance Rehab, Kansas City Ballet's Physical Rehabilitation Provider**  
*(Lead Physical Therapist, Kendra Gage)*

**Extraordinary Machine Massage,**  
*Stephen Jacoby, LMT*

**Lois Kauffman, Kansas City Ballet Archivist**