

TEXAS BALLET THEATER PRESENTS

Ballet *al Fresco*

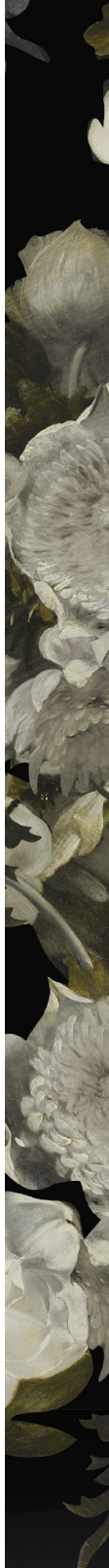
May 14 - 16, 2021



TEXAS BALLET
THEATER

Table *of* Contents

- 2 | Letter from the Artistic Director
- 3 | Letter from the Executive Director
- 4 | Board Listing
- 5 | Staff Listing
- 6 | Staff Profiles
- 8 | Dancer Listing
- 9 | Title Page
- 10 | Synopses
- 11 | Casting
- 12 | Institutional Recognition
- 14 | Donor Recognition





Letter from the *Artistic Director*

Dear Friends,

Welcome to *Ballet al Fresco*. This is such an exciting weekend, as it marks our first time back in a theater since our production of *Firebird/Crash* in February 2020. I am so glad you are here to enjoy this celebration of ballet.

In today's program, you will see selections from classic favorites such as *Swan Lake* and *The Sleeping Beauty* as well as more contemporary pieces. I am also thrilled to share a world premiere with you – *Afternoon of a Faun*, danced by Carolyn Judson and Andre Silva, as well as a new take on *The Dying Swan*, danced by Alexandra Farber. *The Dying Swan* is choreographed after the legendary Mikhail Fokine.

Ballet al Fresco celebrates the art of ballet and the spirit of our North Texas community. Our Company is delighted to be with you in the theater again, and we can't wait to have you join us for our 2021-2022 season as well. More information about the upcoming season will be available soon.

Thank you for being a part of the TBT family, and I hope you enjoy *Ballet al Fresco*.

Sincerely,



BEN STEVENSON, O.B.E.
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Letter from the *Executive Director*

Welcome back! *Ballet al Fresco* is Texas Ballet Theater's first live production in over a year.

I am thrilled you've chosen to join us at the beautiful Strauss Square on the AT&T Performing Arts Center campus. Our dancers cannot wait to perform for you, and our staff members are excited to see you across the lawn or in your seats. It's a wonderful weekend for returning to the live stage.

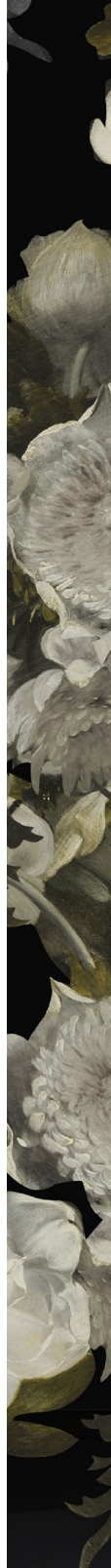
Your steadfast support has empowered us through the challenges of the last year. By attending digital performances, providing monetary support, purchasing merchandise, and offering your continued loyalty, you inspired us. I am grateful for your commitment and look forward to sharing not only today's performance with you, but also what's to come in our future.

Watch your inbox and our social media channels in the coming weeks, because we are preparing to announce our 2021-2022 season. For other information about TBT, like our school's upcoming summer programs and the latest news, please [visit our website](#). Thank you again for your attendance, and I hope you enjoy the show.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vanessa Logan". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'V' and 'L'.

VANESSA LOGAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





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ARTISTIC STAFF

Ben Stevenson, O.B.E., *Artistic Director*

Tim O'Keefe, *Associate Artistic Director* | Li Anlin, *Assistant Artistic Director*

Anna Donovan, *Principal Rehearsal Director*

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Vanessa Logan, *Executive Director*

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Gina Cieri, *Executive Assistant & Board Liaison*

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Richard DeBock, *Assistant Master Carpenter*

Cristian Jimenez, *Character Dancer*

Peggy Kirk, *Assistant Master Electrician*

Christopher Mount, *Lighting Designer*

Weldon T. Newman, *Master Electrician*

Allen Olson, *Master of Properties*

Masako Parshall, *Wardrobe Manager*

Dale Pilcher, *Assistant Master of Properties*

Erin Williamson, *Wardrobe Assistant*

TEXAS BALLET THEATER SCHOOL

Ben Stevenson, O.B.E., *Artistic Director*

Kathryn Warakomsky-Li, *Associate Director/Studio Training Company*

Yvonne Leffel, *School Administrative Manager*

Joshua Barr, *Educational Programs Coordinator*

DALLAS CAMPUS

Lyndette Galen, *Principal*

Jane Vorburger, *Advanced Program/ Professional Training Division*

Patty Eddins, Alexis Leffel, *School Assistants*

FORT WORTH CAMPUS

Leticia Oliveira, *Principal*

Amy Martin, Lori Vasquez, Erin Williamson, *School Assistants*

INSTRUCTORS

Debra Bale, Kevyn Butler,

Katharine Doescher, Anna Donovan, Lailah Duke,

Lyndette Galen, Shaye Galen, Lauren Hibbard,

Alexis Leffel, Laura Pearson, Rebecca Sigmund,

Jane Vorburger, Jasmine White-Killins,

Audra Wilson, Terry Wolter

INSTRUCTORS

Mariana Blessing, Patricia Bochnak,

Reida Dobi, Kristin Klade, Amanda Moyano,

Tim O'Keefe, Leticia Oliveira,

Martha Parshall-Richards, Isabella Rodriguez,

Andre Silva, Philip Slocki,

Kyle Torres-Hiyoshi, Merideth Tullous,

Nicole Von Enck, Kathy Warakomsky-Li,

Audra Wilson, Seth York

CITYDANCE INSTRUCTORS

Patricia Bochnak, Caradee Cline, Reida Dobi,

J. Alexander Langley, Adam Rech, Ginny Wheeler

Ben Stevenson, O.B.E., *Artistic Director*



Ben Stevenson, a native of Portsmouth, England, received his dance training at the Arts and Educational School in London. He appeared with the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet and English National Ballet where, as a principal dancer, he performed lead roles in all the classics. He has received numerous awards for his choreography, including three gold

medals at the International Ballet Competitions. For his contributions to international dance, Mr. Stevenson was named an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.) by Queen Elizabeth II in December 1999. In April 2000, he was presented with the Dance Magazine Award. Mr. Stevenson assumed the artistic directorship of Texas Ballet Theater in July 2003. Previously he served as artistic director of Houston Ballet (1976-2003), elevating the company from a regional troupe to an internationally acclaimed ensemble.

Vanessa Logan, *Executive Director*



Executive Director Vanessa Logan brings over 20 years of experience in arts administration to Texas Ballet Theater. Before joining TBT, she was the Executive Director of American Repertory Ballet and the Chief of Staff at Boston Ballet, where she supported operations, budgeting, staff management, and event planning.

She is a lifelong advocate for community and education arts programs, and is especially committed to building youth engagement in the arts. Vanessa has presented arts administration workshops at the University of Connecticut and Simmons College. She is a proud member of DanceUSA Constituency Committee. Vanessa is an executive volunteer for the Prison Entrepreneurship Program based out of Dallas. She is also a volunteer for EDGE – Empowering Dignity in Girls Everywhere. Vanessa attended The Juilliard School and holds a Bachelors of Arts in Dance Movement Therapy from Goucher College, Maryland.

Tim O'Keefe, *Associate Artistic Director*



A native Houstonian, Tim O'Keefe was awarded a scholarship to Houston Ballet Academy in 1981, joined the company one year later, was promoted to Soloist in 1985, and was named Principal Dancer in 1995. In 1997, Houston Ballet Artistic Director Ben Stevenson created the title role of Dracula for Tim. He has choreographed works for Houston Ballet's Cullen Contemporary Series and for Houston Ballet

Academy, as well as *Love Thing* and *Ragtime Dance* for Texas Ballet Theater. This is Tim's eighteenth season with Texas Ballet Theater.

Li Anlin, *Assistant Artistic Director*



Mr. Li was born in Nanjing, China. At age 13, he began training with the Beijing Dance Academy and graduated to the Young Dancers Company where Mr. Li first met and worked with Mr. Stevenson. In 1982, he joined the National Ballet of China as a soloist. In 1985, Mr. Li was invited by Ivan Nagy to join Ballet de Santiago in Chile as a Principal dancer. In 1989, Mr. Stevenson invited Mr. Li to join Houston

Ballet as a soloist. During his 21-year career, Mr. Li performed classical and contemporary pieces all around the world working with many notable figures of the dance world. Mr. Li retired from the stage in 2000 and became Ballet Master at Houston Ballet before coming to Texas Ballet Theater in 2003. Mr. Li has been Assistant Artistic Director of Texas Ballet Theater since 2005.

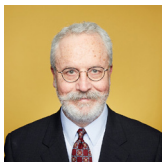
Anna Donovan, *Principal Rehearsal Director*



A native of Ireland, Anna Donovan won a scholarship to train at the Royal Ballet School in England when she was ten years old. From there she joined the Elmhurst Ballet School. After performing in Kaiserslautern, Germany she joined the Irish National Ballet in 1973 and was rapidly promoted to Principal Dancer. After 17 years with INB, she joined the staff of Ballet Dallas in 1991, serving as Principal Ballet Mistress/

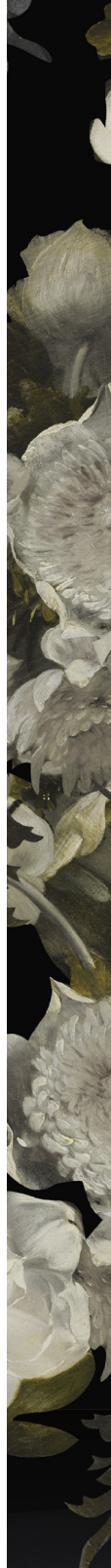
Repetiteur and instructor for the Dallas Conservatory of Ballet. She is included in *The Who's Who of Teachers in America* 2000, 2001, and 2005. Anna joined the artistic staff at TBT as Principal Rehearsal Director in 2000.

Thomas Boyd, *Director of Production*



A native of Kansas, Boyd began his theatrical career as a performer in Chicago. He joined Houston Ballet in 1976, becoming its Production Director in 1986. He comes to Texas Ballet Theater with experience producing and directing productions for Houston Ballet and Queensland Ballet. Boyd's scenic designs have been presented by companies around the world, including Boston Ballet, San Francisco

Ballet, National Ballet of China, Estonia National Ballet and National Ballet of Santiago. Boyd joined Texas Ballet Theater in 2019.





COMPANY DANCERS

Valentin Batista
Katelyn Clenaghan
Carl Coomer
Jiyan Dai
Alex Danna
Amanda Fairweather
Alexandra Farber
Celeste Gaiera
Dustin Geradine
Laura Gruener
Rieko Hatato
Cristian Jimenez
Carolyn Judson
Alexander Kotelenets
Adeline Melcher
Beñat Andueza Molina

Riley Moyano
Paige Nyman
Dara Oda
Samantha Pille
Katelyn Rhodes
David Schrenk
Cara Shipman
Andre Silva
Philip Slocki
Trevor Stalcup
Kyle Torres-Hiyoshi
Joamaneel Velazquez
Rayleigh Vendt
Nicole Von Enck
Hannah Wood
Brett Young

Apprentices

Nineh Irving
Rie Matsuura

Adam Phillips
Henry Winn

Trainees

Jackson Bayhi
Elizabeth Donner

Daniel Kubr
Lauren Leb

For dancer bios, please visit the [Dancer](#) page on our website.

PRESENTS

Ballet al Fresco

ANNETTE STRAUSS SQUARE | MAY 14-16, 2021

Featuring Selections From

The Sleeping Beauty

Choreography by: Marius Petipa
Music by: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Prelude

Choreography by: Ben Stevenson, O.B.E.
Music by: Sergei Rachmaninoff

Swan Lake

Choreography by: Ben Stevenson, O.B.E.
Music by: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Afternoon of a Faun

WORLD PREMIERE

Choreography by: Ben Stevenson, O.B.E.
Music by: Claude Debussy

The Dying Swan

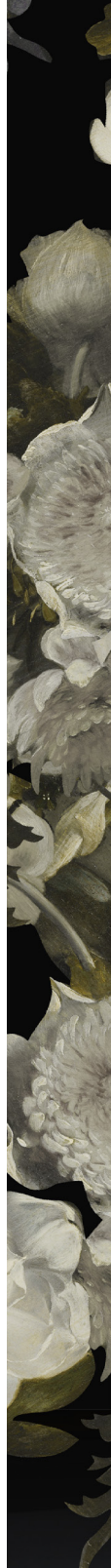
Choreography by: Ben Stevenson, O.B.E.
Music by: Camille Saint-Saëns

Sylvia

Choreography by: Ben Stevenson, O.B.E.
Music by: Léo Delibes

Stage labor is represented by the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Local 127 in Dallas, and Local 126 in Fort Worth and wardrobe labor by the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Theatrical Wardrobe Union, Local 803.

The use of cameras or recording equipment is strictly prohibited.





Synopses

The Sleeping Beauty

At her christening ceremony, the newborn Princess Aurora receives gifts of virtue from six fairies – the Lilac Fairy, Fairy Beauty, Fairy Generosity, Fairy Charm, Fairy Song, and Fairy Temperament.

Prelude

A romantic pas de deux at the ballet barre.

Swan Lake

One of the most popular ballets of all time, *Swan Lake* tells the tragic love story of Odette and Prince Siegfried. The Black Swan solo takes place in Act III, when Odile disguises herself as Odette and tricks Prince Siegfried into breaking his promise of love to Odette.

Afternoon of a Faun

Inspired by the poem *L'Après-midi d'un faune* by Stéphane Mallarmé, this playful pas de deux follows the flirtatious meeting of a young faun and a young woman, Vanessa.

The Dying Swan

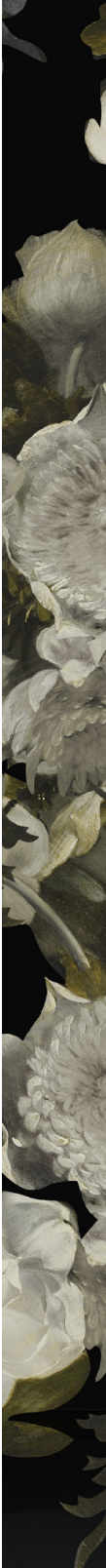
An iconic solo, *The Dying Swan* was originally choreographed by Mikhail Fokine for the great Anna Pavlova. TBT Artistic Director Ben Stevenson, O.B.E., has re-choreographed the solo for Company Dancer Alexandra Farber.

Sylvia

Aminta, a shepherd, falls in love with a nymph, Sylvia – though she does not return his advances at first. The seemingly mismatched pair perseveres through a series of trials and is united in the end.

Casting

	May 14; May 15 Matinee	May 15 Evening; May 16
Fairy Variations from <i>The Sleeping Beauty</i>		
Beauty	Dara Oda	Hannah Wood
Generosity	Laura Gruener	Cara Shipman
Charm	Adeline Melcher	Celeste Gaiera
Song	Rayleigh Vendt	Rayleigh Vendt
Temperament	Rieko Hatato	Samantha Pille
Lilac Fairy	Paige Nyman	Katelyn Rhodes
 <i>Prelude</i>		
	Amanda Fairweather Riley Moyano	Amanda Fairweather Riley Moyano
 Black Swan from <i>Swan Lake</i>		
	Samantha Pille	Rieko Hatato
 <i>Afternoon of a Faun</i>		
	Carolyn Judson Andre Silva	Carolyn Judson Andre Silva
 <i>The Dying Swan</i>		
	Alexandra Farber	Alexandra Farber
 Pas de Deux from <i>Sylvia</i>		
	Nicole Von Enck Joamanuel Velazquez	Nicole Von Enck Joamanuel Velazquez
 Finale		
	All	All



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Community Enrichment Programs



Texas Ballet Theater's (TBT) Community Enrichment Programs are designed to increase access to the arts. During the 2020-2021 season, TBT has:

- Offered free, introductory after-school ballet classes for North Texas campuses through CityDance.
- Connected 33,604 students with ballet through its TBT Student Experiences, which included a digital performance of *The Nutcracker* paired with an interactive ballet basics video and an interview with Company Dancers. This season, TBT partnered with:
 - Dallas Independent School District
 - Performing Arts Fort Worth
 - Fort Worth Independent School District
 - Imagination Fort Worth
 - Darrouzett Independent School District
 - Ira Independent School District
 - Frink-Chambers Public Schools (McAlester, Oklahoma)
- Delivered a digital presentation of *The Nutcracker* to 104 North Texas hospitals to share with healthcare workers and patients.

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Texas Ballet Theater invites you to invest in us as we continue to provide art, access, and education. To learn more about partnering with our Community Enrichment Programs, email grants@texasballet.org.



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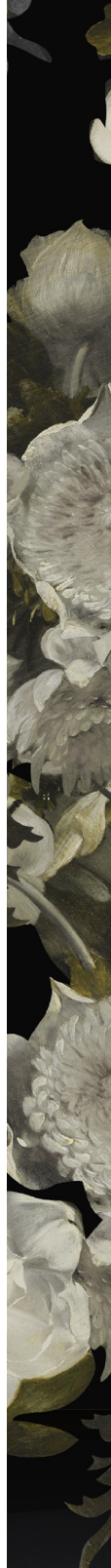
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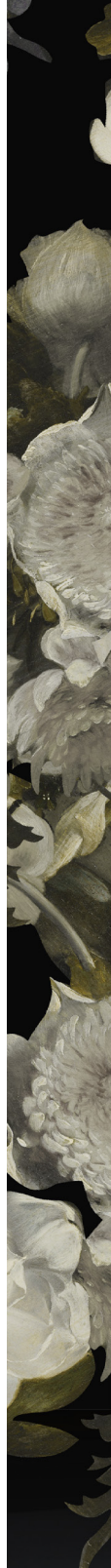
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