

TBT



# CIRQUE DU BALLET

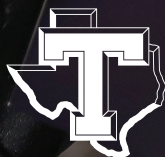


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# TBT

## TEXAS BALLET THEATER

### Contents

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2	Welcome from the Artistic Director
4	Message from the Executive Director
5	Board of Governors
7	The Company
20	Title Page
21	Synopsis
22	Casting
26	Donor Acknowledgments

#### COVER PHOTO

Artists: Alexandra Farber and Jiyun Dai

Photo by: Steven Visneau

[texasballettheater.org](http://texasballettheater.org)

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# Welcome

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to Winspear Opera House for the first production of our 22-23 season, *Cirque du Ballet*. This brand new ballet is from the creative genius of our Artistic Director Laureate, Ben Stevenson, O.B.E. You'll recognize characters and choreography from some of his most iconic ballets, including *Cinderella* and *Dracula*, set against the backdrop of a nostalgic circus.

This production also marks the beginning of my 20<sup>th</sup> season at Texas Ballet Theater and first as Acting Artistic Director. It has been an incredible two decades with the company and I am thrilled to kick off the third in a new role. I look forward to seeing what's in store for our wonderful company throughout the season.

*Cirque du Ballet* is fun for all ages, and I welcome all our young patrons in the audience today. A trip to the ballet is a special experience; I hope you soak in every minute and enjoy the dancing onstage, the spectacle of the theater, and the time spent with loved ones.

If you enjoy the show today, please come see us again for another production this season. We'll be back in November with our annual production of *The Nutcracker* and will present two ballets in the spring, *Modern Masterpieces* and *Alice in Wonderland*. For more information, visit us online at [texasballettheater.org](http://texasballettheater.org).

Thank you for your support of Texas Ballet Theater, and I hope to see you again soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim O'Keefe', with a stylized, flowing script.

Tim O'Keefe  
Acting Artistic Director





TEXAS BALLET THEATER  
PRESENTS

# Splendor *on* the Stage

2022-2023 SEASON

## CIRQUE DU BALLET

Winspear Opera House, Sep. 16-18, 2022

Bass Performance Hall, Sep. 30-Oct. 2, 2022

## THE NUTCRACKER

Winspear Opera House, Nov. 25-Dec. 4, 2022

Bass Performance Hall, Dec. 9-24, 2022

## THE NUTTY NUTCRACKER

Bass Performance Hall, Dec. 16, 2022

## MODERN MASTERPIECES

Wyly Theatre, Feb. 24-26, 2023

Bass Performance Hall, Mar. 17-19, 2023

## ALICE IN WONDERLAND

Winspear Opera House, May 19-21, 2023

Bass Performance Hall, May 26-28, 2023



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# Welcome

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Dear Friends,

We are thrilled to once again stage a fall performance at Winspear Opera House as we welcome you under the big top for Artistic Director Laureate Ben Stevenson, O.B.E.'s world premiere of *Cirque du Ballet*, an amazing array of fabulous characters and choreography. We are excited to present our first ballet since announcing Tim O'Keefe as Acting Artistic Director.

We hope to surprise you with the versatility of classical ballet in a setting reminiscent of those bygone days when the circus came to town. Our jolly ring master will direct the action, and invite you to witness a curated selection of your favorite characters. *Cirque du Ballet* promises to entertain, amuse, and delight audiences of all ages.

Come One! Come All! The big top also speaks to TBT's commitment to bring our art form to a wide array of audiences within our community. We are always eager to invite new friends to join the TBT family. This happens most especially through your voice and your steadfast support. Please visit our Welcome Center to learn more about how TBT extends its reach into the greater DFW Metroplex.

Where are the ferocious lions and tigers and feats astounding? Now that would be you, our audience. Your continued support and fierce loyalty for the art is the reason we are able to dance season after season. Thank you, Dallas, for being our main act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vanessa Logan". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Vanessa Logan  
Executive Director





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# Company Profiles

## ARTISTIC STAFF

Tim O'Keefe, *Acting Artistic Director* | Ben Stevenson, O.B.E., *Artistic Director Laureate*  
Li Anlin, *Assistant Artistic Director* | Anna Donovan, *Principal Rehearsal Director*

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Nicole Von Enck, Kathy Warakomsky-Li,  
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# Company Profiles



## **Tim O'Keefe, *Acting 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*, *Ragtime Dance*, and *Violin Concerto in D* for Texas Ballet Theater. Tim joined Texas Ballet Theater in 2002 and was named Acting Artistic Director in 2022.



## **Vanessa Logan, *Executive Director***

Vanessa Logan has over 20 years of experience in arts administration. For the past five years, she has served as Texas Ballet Theater's Executive Director, overseeing the administrative functions of the organization.

She is a lifelong advocate for community and education arts programs, and is especially committed to building youth engagement in the arts. As a former resident teaching artist for the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, Vanessa authored and implemented several dance and academic syllabi. She has served as the Executive Director of American Repertory Ballet, NJ; Chief of Staff of Boston Ballet, MA; Director of

Education and Community of The Palace Theater, CT; and Administrative Director of CT Dance Theatre, CT.

Vanessa has presented arts administration workshops and guest lectures at the University of Connecticut, Simmons College, Southern Methodist University, and The Juilliard School. She is a member of Dance/USA Constituency Committee and 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 Bachelor of Arts in Dance Movement Therapy from Goucher College, Maryland.



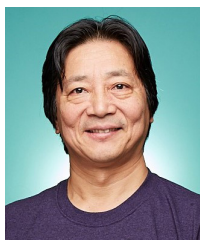
## **Ben Stevenson, *O.B.E., Artistic Director Laureate***

Ben Stevenson, a native of Portsmouth, England, received his dance training at the Arts and Educational School in London. He appeared with the 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. In 2018, Mr. Stevenson was acknowledged by the

Chinese government as one of the most influential Foreign Experts in the past 40 years since China initiated its policy on Reform and Opening Up. 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.



# Company Profiles



## **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.



## **Lyndsey Goode, Company Manager**

Lyndsey Goode joined Texas Ballet Theater in 2021 after 16 years working in New York as a Broadway Production Manager, Stage Manager and General Manager. Credits include: *Jersey Boys*, *Matilda*, *A Bronx Tale*, *Summer: The Donna Summer Musical*, *I Love You Because*, *Soul Samurai*, and numerous other Off-Broadway and Regional highlights; TV Credits: the upcoming streaming production of *Jersey Boys* with Nick Jonas, *One Night Only: Best of Broadway*, and *Nurse Jackie*. She is a graduate of Abilene Christian University and UC-Irvine where she earned a Masters in Fine Arts. A Farmers Branch native, she and her husband Trey have two daughters, Clara and Alice, both

of whom are thrilled that their own ballets are included in this season!

# Company Members

## PRINCIPAL DANCERS



### Carl Coomer

Coomer began his ballet training in Liverpool at the age of 13 years old. In 1998, he received a scholarship to the Royal Ballet School in London, under the direction of Dame Merle Park and later, Gailene Stock. His professional career started in Houston Ballet in 2001, where he performed for six seasons. In 2007, he joined Texas Ballet Theater. His repertoire includes leading roles in ballets by Ben Stevenson, O.B.E., Christopher Bruce, George Balanchine, Sir Frederick Ashton, Sir Kenneth MacMillan, John Cranko, Jiri Kylian, William Forsythe, Christopher Wheeldon, Hans van Manen, Glen Tetley, Jerome Robbins, Stanton Welch, James Kudelka, Val Caniparoli and many more. He has choreographed several works for TBT: *Evolving* (2012), *Clann* (2014) *Henry VIII* (2018) and *The Story of You* (2021).



### Alexandra Farber

Alexandra Farber, originally from Washington, D.C., began her training at Maryland Youth Ballet and Houston Ballet II. Alexandra has also attended various summer programs, including those offered by the School of American Ballet, San Francisco Ballet School, and Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy. She has performed as Aurora in Ben Stevenson's *The Sleeping Beauty*, Odette/Odile in Ben Stevenson's *Swan Lake*, Svetlana in Ben Stevenson's *Dracula*, Sugar Plum, Snow Queen, and Clara in Ben Stevenson's *The Nutcracker*, Winter Fairy and Cinderella in Ben Stevenson's *Cinderella*, in William Forsythe's *In The Middle*, *Somewhat Elevated*, Ben Stevenson's *Twilight Pas de Deux*, Ben Stevenson's *Star Crossed*, and Ben Stevenson's *Four Last Songs*. She has also performed leading roles in George Balanchine's *Allegro Brillante* and *Serenade*, Jerome Robbins' *The Concert*, Glen Tetley's *Voluntaries*, Carlos Acosta's *Carmen*, Christopher Wheeldon's *DGV©: Danse à Grande Vitesse*, Ben Stevenson's *Alice in Wonderland*, Ma Cong's *Firebird*, Jonathan Watkins' *Crash*, Lew Christensen's *Beauty and the Beast*, and Tim O'Keefe's *Violin Concerto in D*.



### Alexander Kotelenets

A native of Kiev, Ukraine, Alexander Kotelenets began his training at the Kiev State Ballet School. After coming to the United States, he continued his training at Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy and was a company member with Houston Ballet before joining Texas Ballet Theater in 2003. Mr. Kotelenets has performed in a number of Ben Stevenson ballets, with favorite roles as Romeo and Tybalt in *Romeo and Juliet*, Dracula and Frederick in *Dracula*, Peer in *Peer Gynt*, the prince in *Swan Lake*, the prince in *The Sleeping Beauty*, and partnering his wife, Heather Kotelenets who danced with the company for 13 years, in the *Ave Maria pas de deux*. He also has performed in Texas Ballet Theater's premiere of Glen Tetley's *Voluntaries* and George Balanchine's *Theme and Variations*. He and his wife Heather have two daughters, Mila and Emma, and are expecting another little one in December.

# Company Members



## Paige Nyman

Paige Nyman began dancing at the age of three in Kansas City, Kansas. At sixteen, she was offered a scholarship to the Harid Conservatory and studied there for two years under Svetlana Osiyeva, Oliver Pardina, and Victoria Schneider. Since joining Texas Ballet Theater in 2009, favorite roles have included the title role in Ben Stevenson's *The Sleeping Beauty* and *Cinderella*, the Pas de Trois from *Dracula*, the Pas de Trois from *Four Last Songs*, and Laila from *Laila and the Swan*, as well as Waltz Girl in George Balanchine's *Serenade*, The Wife in Jerome Robbins' *The Concert*, and featured roles in Christopher Bruce's *Rooster* and *Ghost Dances*. She has also loved performing in Ben Stevenson's *Romeo and Juliet*, *Peer Gynt*, and *Giselle*, as well as William Forsythe's *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated*, George Balanchine's *Allegro Brillante*, Glen Tetley's *Voluntaries*, Jiri Kylian's *Petite Mort*, Harald Lander's *Études*, Tim O'Keefe's *Violin Concerto in D*, and as the title role in Carlos Acosta's *Carmen*.



## David Schrenk

David Schrenk is originally from Jacksonville, Florida and began his training at the Florida Ballet Training Center under Laurie Byrd. At 10 years old, he started ballet to aid his gymnastics training, but after working with Byrd, he quickly realized dancing was his true passion. He began his professional career by joining Houston Ballet's second company at 17. After spending a year in Houston with teachers from the Ben Stevenson Academy, Schrenk decided to work with Mr. Stevenson at Texas Ballet Theater and joined the company in 2015. Since working with Stevenson, Schrenk has performed many great roles including Siegfried from Stevenson's *Swan Lake*, Prince Florimund from Stevenson's *The Sleeping Beauty*, and the improv solo from Ohad Naharin's *Minus 16*. Texas Ballet Theater also sent Schrenk to the 2018 International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Mississippi, where he won a bronze medal thanks to the coaching of Li Anlin, Tim O'Keefe, Anna Donovan, and Stevenson.



## Andre Silva

Andre Silva is originally from Brasilia, Brazil, and began training at Royal Academy of Dance at age four. He continued training at The HARID Conservatory and the Ben Stevenson Academy. From 2003-2009, Mr. Silva performed several leading roles as a Texas Ballet Theater principal. He was the first recipient of the Booz Allen Hamilton International "Rising Star Award" and was a Silver Medalist at the International Ballet Competition in Shanghai. From 2009-2014, Mr. Silva joined Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal and then Germany's Ballet Augsburg. He has choreographed works for Les Grands Ballets de Montréal and Texas Ballet Theater. He is currently a Resident Choreographer for Uptown Dance Company in Houston. Mr. Silva joined Texas Ballet Theater in 2003. @\_andresilva\_\_



# Company Members



## Nicole Von Enck

Nicole Von Enck is in her 13<sup>th</sup> season with Texas Ballet Theater. Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, she began her professional training with Joanne Hughes Morscher at the Royal School of Ballet. In 2008, she joined North Carolina Dance Theatre for two years as an apprentice, and in 2010 joined the TBT Company. Some of Nicole's favorite roles include Odette/Odile from Ben Stevenson's *Swan Lake*, Cinderella in Ben Stevenson's *Cinderella*, Russian Girl from George Balanchine's *Serenade*, *Esmeralda Pas de Deux* by Ben Stevenson, the Prima Ballerina in *Études* by Harald Lander, Third Pas de Deux in Christopher Wheeldon's *DGV©: Danse à Grande Vitesse*, *Britten Pas* by Ben Stevenson, *Petite Mort* by Jiri Kylian, Flora from Ben Stevenson's *Dracula*, Pas de Trois from Glen Tetley's *Voluntaries*, Pas de Quatre from Sir Kenneth MacMillan's *Gloria*, and My One and Only variation from George's Balanchine's *Who Cares*. Ms. Von Enck is married to fellow Texas Ballet Theater company member Joamanuel Velazquez and they have a two year old daughter.

## SOLOISTS



## Amanda Fairweather

Amanda Fairweather is in her 12<sup>th</sup> season with Texas Ballet Theater. She is married to fellow company member Riley Moyano. Originally from Orange, California, she began training at the Academy of Dance under Merle Sepel and Rebecca Tsivkin. Where she studied RAD, completing her solo seal. Amanda attended SUNY Purchase College, graduating cum laude. In 2011 after attending Texas Ballet Theater Summer Intensive she was asked to join as a trainee. Amanda has enjoyed performing Ben Stevenson's *Romeo and Juliet* balcony scene, *Dracula*, Jiri Kylian's *Petite Mort*, Christopher Wheeldon's *DGV©: Danse à Grande Vitesse*, William Forsythe's *In The Middle*, *Somewhat Elevated*, Harald Lander's *Études*, Ohad Noharn's *Minus 16* and Val Caniparoli's *Without Borders*. @dancersoftexasballettheater

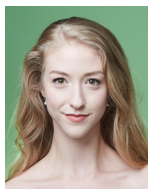


## Rieko Hatato

Rieko Hatato began dance training at age five in Japan. She was trained by Yoko Tsukamoto at Yoko Tsukamoto Theater de Ballet Academy in Nagoya. From 2013 to 2015, she performed main roles in *Firebird*, *The Nutcracker*, and *Coppelia* with Artistic Director Hideo Fukagawa. She has won many medals in competitions in Japan, a bronze medal in the Moscow International Ballet Competition in 2013, and was a finalist in the USA International Ballet Competition in 2018. Before coming to the US, she performed as a guest dancer with Russian Ballet Theater in Cyprus in 2017. She then joined Arts Ballet Theater of Florida for the 2017/18 season and Texas Ballet Theater for the 2018/19 season. She has enjoyed performing the Bluebird pas de deux in Ben Stevenson's *The Sleeping Beauty*, Clara in Ben Stevenson's *The Nutcracker*, and Third Pas de Deux in Tim O'Keefe's *Violin Concerto in D*. @7rieok\_hatato7

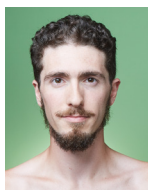
# Company Members

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## Adeline Melcher

Melcher began training in New Orleans, Louisiana, under the guidance of Myra Mier. She attended several summer intensive programs including American Ballet Theater NYC, School of American Ballet, Houston Ballet, and Texas Ballet Theater. At 16, she became a student of Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy. Melcher joined TBT in 2015. She has performed in ballets such as Ben Stevenson's *End of Time* and *Swan Lake*, Ma Cong's *Firebird*, Harald Lander's *Études*, William Forsythe's *In the Middle*, *Somewhat Elevated*, Christopher Bruce's *Rooster*, and Alexei Ratmanský's *Seven Sonatas*.



## Riley Moyano

Riley Moyano began his training in his hometown of Naperville, Illinois at the school of DanceWest Ballet with his parents Regina and Ricardo Moyano. He continued his training at Point Park University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, performing Trey McIntyre's *Blue Until June*. Since joining Texas Ballet Theater in 2011, Moyano has been delighted to perform in Glen Tetley's *Voluntaries*, Sir Kenneth MacMillan's *Gloria*, Ronald Hynd's *The Merry Widow*, Jiri Kylian's *Petite Mort*, Val Caniparoli's *Without Borders*, Ohad Naharin's *Minus 16*, William Forsythe's *In The Middle*, *Somewhat Elevated*, Christopher Bruce's *Ghost Dances*, and as Caesar in Ben Stevenson's *Cleopatra*. Moyano is married to fellow Company member Amanda Fairweather. @rymochoreo



## Dara Oda

Dara Oda, originally from Naperville, Illinois, began her training at the School of DanceWest Ballet under Ricardo and Regina Moyano. She was awarded cash and program scholarships at the Regional Dance America festival and received further training from summer programs at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Joffrey Ballet, and Texas Ballet Theater. In 2014, Ms. Oda graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Belhaven University. Since joining Texas Ballet Theater in 2014, she has enjoyed performing in Ben Stevenson's *Swan Lake* and *Four Last Songs*, Christopher Bruce's *Ghost Dances*, Glen Tetley's *Voluntaries*, and Ohad Naharin's *Mabul* duet.



## Samantha Pille

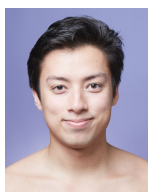
Samantha began training with Patty Pille's School of Dance at age two. By eight, she was accepted into The School for Creative and Performing Arts and performed many leading roles. Ms. Pille also trained with San Francisco Ballet, Boston Ballet, and the English National Ballet. At 14, she joined Cincinnati Ballet. After joining TBT, she performed principal roles in DGV©: *Danse a Grande Vitesse*, Tiger Lily in *Alice in Wonderland* and Odette/Odile in *Swan Lake*. She also performed *Esmeralda pas de deux*, *Don Quixote*, and *End of Time* in Germany at the Theater Münster, and was a guest artist with Queensland Ballet in Australia as the Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*. She joined Texas Ballet Theater in 2016.

# Company Members



## Katelyn Rhodes

Originally from Fort Worth, Katelyn Rhodes began her training at North Central School of Ballet and Trinity Valley School of Ballet. She continued training at Texas Ballet Theater School and Texas Christian University, where she was a Nordan Fine Arts scholar. Since joining Texas Ballet Theater in 2013, Rhodes has enjoyed performing roles such as the Snow Queen and the Lead Flower in Ben Stevenson's *The Nutcracker*, the Lilac Fairy in Ben Stevenson's *The Sleeping Beauty*, and the Rooster Girl in Christopher Bruce's *Rooster*. She has also enjoyed performing in Ben Stevenson's *Swan Lake* and *Dracula*, George Balanchine's *Serenade* and *Rubies*, Jiri Kylian's *Petite Mort*, William Forsythe's *In The Middle*, *Somewhat Elevated*, Harald Lander's *Études*, Glen Tetley's *Voluntaries*, Ohad Naharin's *Minus 16*, and Christopher Wheeldon's *DGV©: Danse à Grande Vitesse*.



## Kyle Torres-Hiyoshi

Kyle Torres-Hiyoshi is originally from Buffalo, New York, and began his training at the American Academy of Ballet. At age 15, he continued his dance education at The School of American Ballet at Lincoln Center after being offered a full scholarship. He danced with ABT's Studio Company as well as Boston Ballet II. Mr. Torres-Hiyoshi then joined Sarasota Ballet from 2014-2017, where he danced titled roles in George Balanchine's *Rubies* and *Diamonds*, Sir Frederick Ashton's *Sinfonietta*, *Valse Nobles et Sentimentales*, *Scene de Ballet*, and Anthony Tudor's *Continuo*. His favorite ballets include Balanchine's *Stars and Stripes*, Jiri Kylian's *Wings of Wax*, and Alexander Ekman's *Cacti*. He joined Texas Ballet Theater in 2017.



## Joamanuel Velazquez

This is Joamanuel Velazquez's 16<sup>th</sup> season with Texas Ballet Theater. A native of Bayamon, Puerto Rico, he began his training with Ballet Concierto de Puerto Rico. He later attended the Virginia School of the Arts on full scholarship, then joined Texas Ballet Theater in 2007. He has since enjoyed performing in Ben Stevenson's *Don Quixote*, *Dracula*, and *Swan Lake*. He also enjoyed dancing Pinocchio in Will Tuckett's *Pinocchio*. Mr. Velazquez is married to company member Nicole Von Enck and has a two year old daughter.



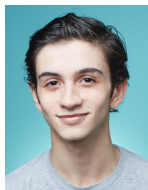
## Brett Young

Brett Young is from Houston, Texas, where he began his dance training, studying at Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy and the High School for Performing and Visual Art. Upon graduating high school, he attended the University of Oklahoma where he continued his training in OU's School of Dance under the tutelage of Director Mary Margaret Holt, Steve Brule, and Clara Cravey-Stanely. Upon graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, Young joined the ranks of Texas Ballet Theater where he has performed works by Kenneth MacMillan, Glenn Tetley, Ohad Naharin, George Balanchine, Garrett Smith, Val Caniparoli, and Jerome Robbins. During his time with Texas Ballet Theater, he has most enjoyed dancing in Ben Stevenson's story ballets performing the pas de trois in his *Swan Lake* and the role of Pothinus in *Cleopatra*, Jiri Kilyan's *Petite Mort*, as well as Rooster from Christopher Bruce's *Rooster* and one of the Ghosts in Mr. Bruce's *Ghost Dances*. Young joined Texas Ballet Theater in 2013.



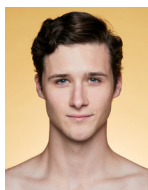
# Company Members

## CORPS DE BALLET



### Valentin Batista

Valentin Batista started ballet at the age of five at a small studio in Buenos Aires with his first teacher Sara Rzeszotko. At age twelve, he began furthering his training at the school of Teatro Colon of Buenos Aires. In 2012, Valentin joined Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy. Three years later, he became a second company member with Orlando Ballet. He has attended summer intensives at Houston Ballet, Ellison Ballet in New York City, Orlando Ballet, and Jacob's Pillow. Valentin has competed in American Dance Competition, and with coaching from Olivier Muñoz, he won first place in the senior classical category. Valentin joined Texas Ballet Theater in 2017.



### Jackson Bayhi

Originally from Houston, Texas, Jackson Bayhi started competitive ballroom dancing at age 8. He began his ballet training at age 16 at Uptown Dance Centre in Houston. In 2019, after attending summer intensives at Houston Ballet and Ellison Ballet in New York City, he joined TBT's Studio Training Company. Bayhi joined TBT's professional company in 2022.



### Lauren Leb

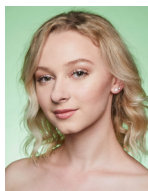
A native of Colleyville, Texas, Lauren Leb began her training at the Marina Almayeva School of Classical Ballet. After receiving top honors in several competitions, she continued her training at the HARID Conservatory. Leb attended Texas Ballet Theater's Summer Intensive on a full scholarship that she received during the 2019 ADC/IBC competition. She then joined TBT's Studio Training Company for the 2019-2020 season. Leb joined the company as a Trainee in 2020 and is now a Corps de Ballet member.



### Adam Phillips

Adam Phillips started dancing at age 11 in Dallas, Texas. He trained at the Ballet Academy of Texas under the direction of Lisa Slagle and Allan Kinzie. From 2016-2018, Phillips trained on a full tuition scholarship with the Pacific Northwest Ballet Professional Division, under the direction of Peter Boal. While there, he worked with world-renowned choreographers and performed with the company. In 2016, Phillips won second in the Youth American Grand Prix Senior Classical Male Division at the Dallas, Texas, semifinals. He has attended many summer intensives including The School of American Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, and Ballet Austin. He joined Texas Ballet Theater in 2018.

# Company Members



## Anastasia Tillman

Anastasia Tillman is an alumna of Ballet Conservatory and LakeCities Ballet Theatre. Since the age of nine she has been a laureate of Youth America Grand Prix for several consecutive years. At the age of 14 she went to study at Bolshoi Ballet Academy in Moscow, Russia, where she graduated with a diploma in Performing Arts. Tillman also competed in several international competitions such as World Ballet Competition, Helsinki International Ballet Competition, and Valentina Kozlova International Ballet Competition where she was awarded 2nd place. She danced with Texas Ballet Theater's Studio Training Company for three years, where she enjoyed performing Ben Stevenson, O.B.E.'s ballets including *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Alice in Wonderland*, the role of Clara in *The Nutcracker*, and the Bird in Tim O'Keefe's *Peter and the Wolf*. Tillman joined TBT's professional company as a trainee in 2021. During that season she had the pleasure of performing in two world premieres, *Violin Concerto in D* by Tim O'Keefe and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by Ben Stevenson.



## Rayleigh Vendt

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, and raised in Dallas, Texas, Rayleigh Vendt began her pre-professional training at the Ballet Academy of Texas under Lisa Slagle. After graduating early, she spent one season as a Trainee at Cincinnati Ballet and two seasons as an Apprentice at Ballet Austin. Vendt then joined Oklahoma City Ballet's Corps de Ballet and danced with the company for five seasons. She has most enjoyed performing Russian Girl in George Balanchine's *Serenade*. Vendt joined Texas Ballet Theater in 2020.



## Sophie Williams

Sophie Williams, a California native, began training at Ballet Arte Academy of Classical Ballet in San Diego, before spending one year in Miami City Ballet's Pre Professional Division. Highlights of her professional career include performing as the First and Second Violins in *Concerto Barocco*, Dark Angel in George Balanchine's *Serenade*, and Gamzatti in *La Bayadère*; in the corps de ballet of Balanchine's *Theme and Variations*, with the Richmond Ballet; and in various full length productions, including Alicia Alonso's *Giselle* with Ballet San Jose, and Edwaard Liang's *Don Quixote* and *Cinderella* with BalletMet. In 2020, Williams joined the Corps de Ballet of the Royal New Zealand Ballet, where she had the opportunities to perform in Liam Scarlett's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Ethan Stiefel's *Giselle*. She joined Texas Ballet Theater as a Company Dancer in 2022.



## Henry Winn

Henry started dancing at age seven in Salt Lake City, Utah, with Ballet West Academy under the direction of Peter Christie, Jan Fugit and Jeff Rogers. While at Ballet West, he performed many roles with the company including *Don Quixote*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, *Cinderella* and *The Rite of Spring*. While at Ballet West, Winn was invited to perform *The Nutcracker* with Ballet West at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Winn attended many summer intensives including The School of American Ballet in New York City, Houston Ballet, and Boston Ballet. From 2017 to 2019, Winn trained with Boston Ballet under the direction of Peter Stark, where he performed with Boston Ballet and Boston Ballet II. Winn joined Texas Ballet Theater in 2019.

# Company Members

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## Hannah Wood

Hannah Wood began her ballet training at North Atlanta Dance Academy in Alpharetta, Georgia. She spent eleven years training and performing in North Atlanta Dance Theater productions. At age fourteen, she began her studies at The HARID Conservatory of the Arts. Three years later, she joined Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy, and in 2014 was selected to become a member of Houston Ballet's second company. She joined Texas Ballet

Theater in 2015. During her time at Texas Ballet Theater, Ms. Wood has enjoyed performing in many ballets, including Ben Stevenson's *Dracula*, Christopher Bruce's *Ghost Dances*, Christopher Wheeldon's *DGV©: Danse à Grande Vitesse* and William Forsythe's *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated*.

## CHARACTER DANCER



## Cristian Jimenez

Jimenez began training at Ballet School of Santiago in Municipal Theater and became a part of Santiago Chamber Ballet. After graduating, he joined the Ballet of Santiago for four seasons. In 1992, he received a scholarship from Houston Ballet Academy and performed in *The Nutcracker* and the world premiere of Ben Stevenson's *Alice in Wonderland*. In Paraguay, Jimenez performed principal roles at Classical and Modern Municipal Ballet of Asunción,

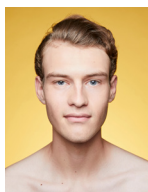
National Ballet of Paraguay and Ballet Uninorte. In Venezuela, he performed as a principal with Ballet Contemporáneo de Caracas directed by Maria Eugenia Barrios. In 2009, Jimenez joined the Classical Ballet of Venezuela led by Nina Novak. Jimenez is originally from Chile.

# Apprentices



## Harrison Pickering

Harrison Pickering was born and raised in England until he started his professional training at Canada's National Ballet School at age 12. While at the school he performed in three seasons of *The Nutcracker* with National Ballet of Canada and in the opening of the Pan Am Games in Toronto. Pickering then attended Master Ballet Academy in Arizona from age 15-17, performing annually in *The Nutcracker* with Phoenix Ballet. He also competed in YAGP, placing 1<sup>st</sup> in the Classical and Contemporary category (Dallas, 2018) and 1<sup>st</sup> in both Senior Men's Classical and Pas de Deux categories (Phoenix, 2019) before attending the Finals in New York. Pickering attended and received full scholarships for summer intensives at both American Ballet Theatre and San Francisco Ballet. He also trained privately with David King and Raul Salamanca in 2019 before being awarded a full scholarship to SFB's year round program, where he trained for 2 years and performed with SFB in *The Nutcracker*. While in Ballet Arizona's Studio Company, he performed in works such as George Balanchine's *Violin Concerto*, *Slaughter on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue*, and *Serenade*, Sir Frederick Ashton's *Les Patineurs*, and Ib Andersen's *The Nutcracker*, *Romeo & Juliet*, and *Juan Gabriel*. Pickering is very excited to be joining Texas Ballet Theater this season as an Apprentice.



## Troy Santulli

Troy Santulli is a native of Boston, Massachusetts. He began his training at the age of 4 with Boston Ballet School. He completed the Trainee Program to conclude his 15 years at the school before joining Kansas City Ballet II in 2020. At Boston Ballet, Troy was directed by Peter Stark and Margaret Tracey. He performed in Mikko Nissinen's *The Nutcracker* for 11 seasons including the role of Fritz for 3 years. Troy also performed in Mikko Nissinen's *Swan Lake* and *Giselle* and has taken part in Boston Ballet School's end of year performances of Next Generation where he was cast in original choreography including Igor Burlak's *Double Concerto* and Jaime Sierra's *Legion*. As a member of KCB II Santulli performed a wide range of works with both the main and second company; some of his favorites included roles in Lila York's *Celts*, Michael Pink's *Dracula*, and Tomm Ruud's *Mobile*. Throughout the years, Santulli attended Finnish National Ballet, American Ballet Theater, Pacific Northwest Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Boston Ballet, and The School of American Ballet for their summer intensive programs, receiving numerous scholarships. Troy couldn't be more excited to be joining Texas Ballet Theater for the 2022-2023 season in his first season as an Apprentice!



# Trainees

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## AvaRose Dillon

AvaRose Dillon began dancing at age 9 at the Studio School of Classical Ballet in her hometown of Santa Cruz, California, under Diane Cypher and Robert Kelley. At age 14 she moved to Texas to train at Texas Ballet Theater School, where she spent two seasons as a member of the Studio Training Company. During her time in the Studio Training Company, AvaRose enjoyed performing in many TBT productions including Ben Stevenson's *The Nutcracker* and A

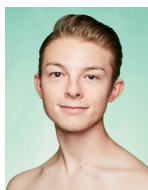
*Midsummer Night's Dream*, George Balanchine's *Serenade*, and Tim O'Keefe's *Violin Concerto in D*. She has also attended summer intensives at San Francisco Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, and School of American Ballet, as well as at TBT. AvaRose is honored and excited to join TBT as a Trainee this season.



## Kayla Fessler

A third-generation dancer from San Antonio, Texas, Kayla Fessler started ballet at age 6. At age 14 she moved to Houston Ballet Academy, where she trained on scholarship for four years. While at Houston Ballet Academy, Kayla trained under many instructors including Sally Rojas, Claudio Munoz, and Susan Bryant, and had the opportunity to perform world-renowned choreography. In 2020 she moved north to continue her training at Texas Ballet Theater School. Kayla

joins the professional company this season as a Trainee.



## Jason McClung

A native of Pearland, Texas, Jason McClung began dancing when he was 8 years old. His training and performance experience have taken him across the country and around the world, including countries such as England, Estonia, and Latvia. Favorite roles include the Butterfly Pas de Deux in Atlanta Ballet 2's *Snow White* and a Joyful Spirit in Otis Sallid's *In Came Bach*. Jason joins the professional company this season as a Trainee.

# Medical Team



Athletico Physical Therapy is proud to be the Official Provider of Physical Therapy for Texas Ballet Theater. Athletico provides the highest quality orthopedic rehabilitation services to communities, employers and athletes in more than 900 locations throughout 25 states and the District of Columbia, including

over 30 convenient locations throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Athletico's performing arts rehabilitation program provides specialized services to dancers and performing artists with the goal of evaluating, treating, and educating artists in the prevention of performance-related injuries. Their staff is well-trained to address the physical and psychological needs of the artist and stress the importance of balancing athletic abilities with artistic expression through generalized conditioning and technical training. This proactive approach, in collaboration with Dr. Surve, UNT Health Science Center, and the Texas Center for Performing Arts Health, promotes wellness with safe and efficient injury management to facilitate prompt return to practice, rehearsal, and performance.



## Dr. Sajid Surve, DO, FAOCPMR

University of North Texas Health Science Center  
Medical Director

Dr. Sajid Surve is the Medical Director of Metroplex Performing Arts Medicine and has been the Co-Director of the Texas Center for Performing Arts Health at the University of North Texas since 2014. He originally apprenticed under Richard M. Bachrach, DO, FAOASM, the renowned PAM physician in Manhattan,

New York, and has worked with performing artists in New York, New Jersey, and now Texas for more than 10 years as a clinician. Dr. Surve is the preeminent performing arts medicine provider for the DFW Metroplex, treating performers of all disciplines and skill levels. He is also the Program Director for the world's first physician fellowship in Performing Arts Medicine. His primary interests are musculoskeletal injury management and prevention in the performing arts population.



Presents

## ***Cirque du Ballet***

**Winspear Opera House**

**September 16-18, 2022**

World Premiere September 16, 2022

Choreography by: Ben Stevenson, O.B.E.

Costume Design by: Masako

Additional Costumes by: Cristian Jimenez

Lighting Design by: Chad R. Jung

Set Design by: Thomas Boyd

Score Arranged by: Andrew George Cripps

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.

Hearing amplification systems are available in the lobby.  
The use of cameras or recording equipment is strictly prohibited.

# Synopsis

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Artistic Director Laureate Ben Stevenson, O.B.E., has put together an evening in two acts – bringing you the fun of the circus combined with the beauty of the ballet. At this performance, you will see memorable excerpts from the Texas Ballet Theater repertoire. Sit back and enjoy the show!

## Music Selections

Excerpts from <i>Under the Big Top</i>	The Great American Main Street Band
Excerpts from <i>Barnum and Bailey's Favorite</i>	Sounds of the Circus
<i>Everybody Hurts</i>	Tangerine Dream
Excerpts from <i>Swan Lake, The Sleeping Beauty</i>	Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Excerpts from <i>Cinderella, Romeo and Juliet</i>	Sergei Prokofiev
<i>Sylvia Pas de Deux</i>	Leo Delibes
Excerpt from <i>Dracula</i>	Franz Liszt
<i>My Way</i>	Paul Anka
<i>Zing Went the Strings of My Heart</i>	James Hanley
Excerpt from <i>Three Preludes</i>	Sergei Rachmaninoff
<i>Over the Rainbow</i>	Harold Arlen
<i>Esmeralda Pas de Deux</i>	Riccardo Drigo

*This performance is approximately 2 hours,  
including one 20-minute intermission.*



# Cast

## ACT I

Clowns  
Rolo  
Bobo  
Milo  
Trojo  
Ring Master  
Everybody Hurts  
Bearded Lady  
Strong Man  
Circus Family  
Four Swans

White Swan  
Prince  
Cinderella  
Cinderella's Prince  
Sylvia Pas de Deux

Dracula's Brides  
Dracula  
Flora

## ACT II

My Way  
Romeo & Juliet Pas de Deux

Zing Went the Strings of My Heart  
Three Preludes

Over the Rainbow  
Garland Dance and the Rose  
Adagio from *The Sleeping Beauty*  
Garland Dance  
Aurora  
Four Princes

Esmeralda Pas de Deux

## Sept. 16, Sept. 17 Evening\*

Jason McClung  
Valentin Batista  
Jackson Bayhi  
Cristian Jimenez  
Tim O'Keefe  
Valentin Batista  
Adeline Melcher  
Kyle Torres-Hiyoshi  
Artists of TBT, STC, TBTS  
AvaRose Dillon  
Anastasia Tillman  
Amanda Fairweather  
Lauren Leb  
Paige Nyman  
Brett Young  
Alexandra Farber  
David Schrenk  
Nicole Von Enck  
Jomanuel Velazquez  
Artists of TBT  
Carl Coomer  
Rayleigh Vendt

David Schrenk  
Alexandra Farber  
Andre Silva  
Nicole Von Enck  
Amanda Fairweather  
Riley Moyano  
Dara Oda\*  
Carl Coomer\*  
Adeline Melcher

Artists of TBT  
Paige Nyman  
Alexander Kotelenets  
Jomanuel Velazquez  
Carl Coomer, Riley Moyano\*  
Brett Young  
Rieko Hatato  
Andre Silva

## Sept. 17 Matinee, Sept. 18\*

Harrison Pickering  
Kyle Torres-Hiyoshi  
Troy Santulli  
Cristian Jimenez  
Tim O'Keefe  
Kyle Torres-Hiyoshi  
Hannah Wood  
Valentin Batista  
Artists of TBT, STC, TBTS  
AvaRose Dillon  
Anastasia Tillman  
Dara Oda  
Rayleigh Vendt  
Adeline Melcher  
Carl Coomer  
Paige Nyman  
Brett Young  
Rieko Hatato  
Andre Silva  
Artists of TBT  
Riley Moyano  
Amanda Fairweather

Henry Winn  
Dara Oda  
Brett Young  
Rayleigh Vendt  
Katelyn Rhodes\*  
Valentin Batista\*  
Amanda Fairweather  
Riley Moyano  
Hannah Wood

Artists of TBT  
Samantha Pille  
Alexander Kotelenets  
Jomanuel Velazquez  
Carl Coomer, Riley Moyano\*  
Brett Young  
Nicole Von Enck  
David Schrenk

Studio Training Company (STC): Camille Anderson, Avery Brunner, Carolann Byer, London Ferre, Zoe Hayman, Eliza Jones, Jordan Lovelace, Natalie Lubinski, Claire McKee, Jody Palmer, Natasha Rader, Mary Spinelli  
Texas Ballet Theater School Students: Elle Brownshadel, Alixandrie Crouch, Elyse Deckert, Victoria Paige Gerenia, Harper Howl, Sophie Rose Kirkham, Sophie Moya, Elise Vautrin, Frances Wignall-Tuncer, Juliet Wignall-Tuncer, Dylan Zafar

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# Save the Date

Holiday Events at



## *Tutu Chic Fashion Show & Luncheon*

Nov. 29, 2022 | Winspear Opera House, Dallas

Chairs: Cerón & Todd Fiscus

## *Sugar Plum Fairy Tea*

Dec. 4, 2022 | Fairmont Hotel, Dallas

Chairs: Chris Kennington & Merry Munson Wyatt

## *Caren Koslow Fashion Show & Luncheon*

Dec. 8, 2022 | Bass Performance Hall, Fort Worth

Chairs: Susanna Bartolomei & Marguerite Stoner

For more information, email [specialevents@texasballet.org](mailto:specialevents@texasballet.org) or visit [texasballettheater.org](http://texasballettheater.org).



Pictured: Amanda Fairweather; photo by Sharon Ellman



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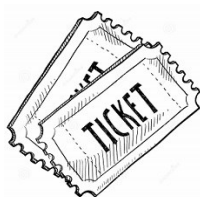
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Please silence all telephones and pagers. No food, drink, chewing gum, cameras, recording equipment or any other electronic equipment is allowed inside the theater. Smoking is expressly prohibited.



### SEATING

Late seating is not permitted. Monitors are located in the lobby for late arrivals. If you must leave your seat, you will not be re-seated until an appropriate break in the performance. Please visit the restroom before the performance begins or at intermission.



### TICKETS

Everyone in the theater must have a ticket. Ticket sales are FINAL and NONREFUNDABLE. Sales of tickets and attendance at event are subject to Texas Ballet Theater's ticket policy found at [texasballettheater.org](http://texasballettheater.org). For tickets to upcoming performances, please purchase online or call (877) 828-9200.



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