

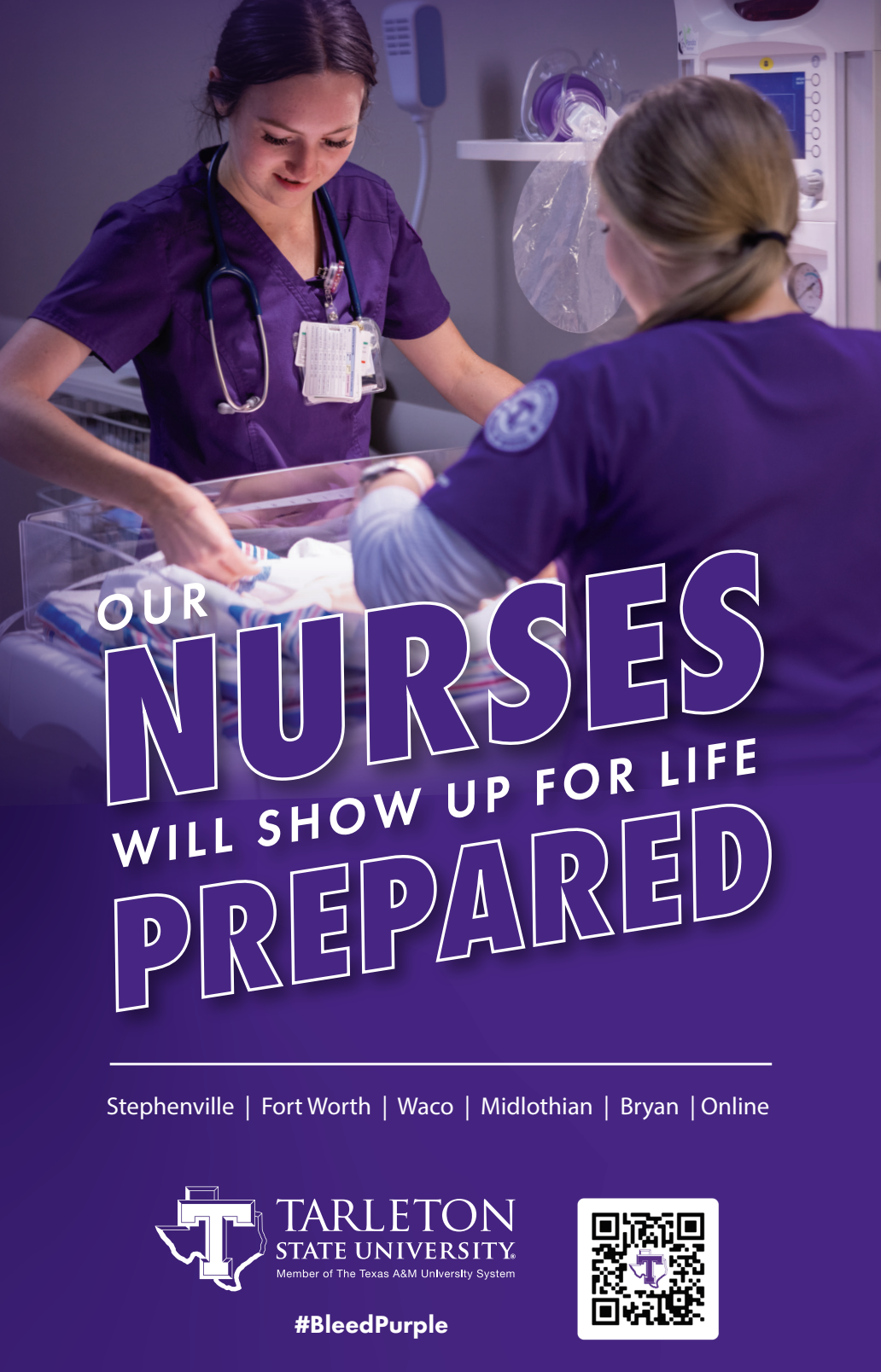
TBT

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March 17-19, 2023

Bass Performance Hall



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# TBT

## TEXAS BALLET THEATER

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#### COVER PHOTO

Artists: Paige Nyman and Alexander Kotelenets  
Photo by: Steven Visneau

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# Welcome

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to *Modern Masterpieces*! I am grateful for the opportunity to share these three distinct ballets with you. First is *Bartok*, a celebration of dance choreographed by our own Ben Stevenson, O.B.E. This ballet premiered in Barcelona in 1970 with Harkness Ballet, and it's a joy to see what today's company of dancers brings to this work.

Stevenson also choreographed *Image*, a look at the troubled life of Marilyn Monroe. He originally created it for Janie Parker, the first American woman to win the Gold Medal at the International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Mississippi. *Image* not only requires excellent technique, but also top-notch acting to capture the full character and subtleties of this American icon.

The performance concludes with Garrett Smith's *Imbue*, which made its world premiere at TBT in 2017. With plastic tutus, sharp lines and the music of Philip Glass, it is sure to captivate audiences today as it did when it first took the stage.

I hope you will join us for the conclusion of our season in May, *Alice in Wonderland*. This beloved story will be on stage May 19-21 in Dallas and May 26-28 in Fort Worth, and I'm looking forward to sharing it with our community.

Thank you for supporting TBT, and enjoy the show!

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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subscription, visit  
our website.



# Welcome

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the beautiful Bass Performance Hall for this season's mixed repertoire, *Modern Masterpieces*. We are proud to present *Bartok*, *Image*, and *Imbue* in fulfillment of our mission to promote the appreciation of ballet from cutting edge to classical forms.

We encourage you to compare and contrast the different styles of choreography and watch with an open mind. As TBT Marketing and Communications Specialist Mary Ashley Ray explains in her blog entitled *The Importance of Mixed Repertory*, "Some choreographers start with ideas first, while others may be inspired by specific pieces of music and use those feelings to guide the choreography."

TBT faculty member Kathy Warakomsky-Li points out that, "at times, the name of the piece will give you a clue as to what the choreographer has in mind, but many times, one just needs to watch and let your own creative feelings take over."

Our hearts are warmed by offering you this opportunity to deepen your appreciation for ballet and to participate in the interpretation of the artistry. Thank you for coming and thank you for your continued support of Texas Ballet Theater's mission.

Sincerely,



Vanessa Logan  
Executive Director



Scan this code to read  
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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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# 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.

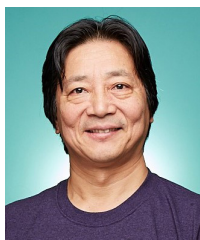


## **Ben Stevenson, *O.B.E., Artistic Director Laureate***

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).



### 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.



### Alexandra F. Light

Alexandra F. Light, 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*.

# 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. @\_andreesilva\_\_

# 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 Jomanuel 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 Landers' *Études*, Ohad Noharn's *Minus 16* and Val Caniparoli's *Without Borders*. @dancersoftexasballettheater

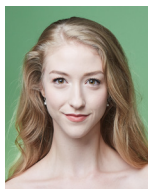


## Rieko Hatato

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*. @7rieko\_hatato7

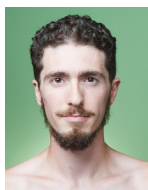
# Company Members

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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*.



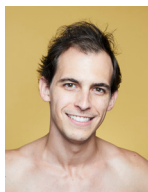
## Kyle Torres-Hiyoshi

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.

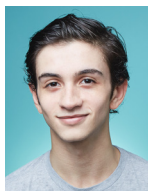


## Brett Young

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.

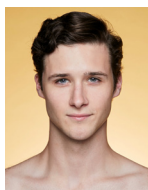
# Company Members

## 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.

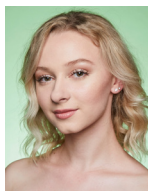


### Adam Phillips

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

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## 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.

# Company Members

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**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.



**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*.

## PRINCIPAL CHARACTER DANCER



**Cristian Jimenez**

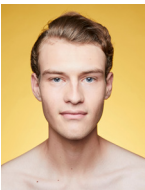
Jimenez began training at Ballet School of Santiago in Municipal Theater and became a part of Santiago Chamber Ballet. After graduating, he joined the Ballet of Santiago for four seasons. In 1992, he received a scholarship from Houston Ballet Academy and performed in *The Nutcracker* and the world premiere 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

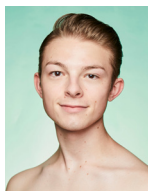
A third-generation dancer from San Antonio, Texas, Kayla Fessler started ballet at age 6. At age 14 she moved to Houston Ballet Academy, where she trained on scholarship for four years. While at Houston Ballet Academy, Kayla trained under many instructors including Sally Rojas, Claudio Munoz, and Susan 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.



## Jordan Lovelace

Jordan Lovelace began dancing in his hometown of Dallas, Texas, at age 13. He has enjoyed performing in many ballets throughout his training, including *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* by Stanton Welch. Jordan danced in Texas Ballet Theater School's Studio Training Company before joining 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, The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth, 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.



## **Sajid Surve, DO**

The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth  
Texas Ballet Theater, 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.

Dr. Sajid Surve is also a Professor of Family Medicine and Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine at the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, and a clinician in the HSC Health clinic, providing specialized care in performing arts medicine for dancers, musicians, and singers.

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.

If you're a performing artist interested in working with Dr. Surve, call 817-735-2455.

## **Providers**

Tandra Langford, PT, MPT  
Stephanie Beasley, PT, DPT  
Adrian P Cantu, PT, DPT, MEd  
James Frederickson, PT, DPT

# Guest Artists



## Garrett Smith, *Choreographer* | *Imbue*

Garrett Smith was born in Salt Lake City, Utah where he began training with the Utah Regional Ballet. Garrett was named a Presidential Scholar in the Arts, and was honored to meet George W. Bush at the White House where he was presented with an award by Mikhail Baryshnikov. He later studied at the Houston Ballet Academy and created five works for Houston Ballet II's repertoire. Garrett joined Houston Ballet and danced works by Stanton Welch, Jorma Elo, Nicolo Fonte, Christopher Bruce, Christopher Wheeldon, and Ben Stevenson. Garrett choreographed his first work on Houston Ballet as an apprentice, through an award presented by Peter Martins from the New York Choreographic Institute Workshop. Mr. Smith later joined Norwegian National Ballet where he worked personally with choreographers Jiri Kylian, Nacho Duato, Alexander Ekman, and danced other works by William Forsythe and John Cranko. Garrett was commissioned by Houston Ballet to create new works in the 2013, and 2015 seasons. Other recent commissions include the Mariinsky Ballet, Les Grands Ballets De Montreal, Bolshoi Ballet (Faces Project), Norwegian National Ballet, Ballet West, Pennsylvania Ballet, Ballet National de Bordeaux, Tulsa Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Milwaukee Ballet, Texas Ballet Theater, and Salt Contemporary Dance. Mr. Smith was a selected choreographer to make a new work for the National Choreographers Initiative 2014. His choreography "Mortal Form" took 1<sup>st</sup> place at the 2015 Genesis International Choreographic Competition. Smith's choreography "Solace" was recently seen in a new premiere in Deauville, France as part of the Festival de L'Art Russe, as well as a U.S. premiere of his work "Imitations" with Norwegian National Ballet, for the 2018 Dance Salad Festival. Garrett co-choreographed a new Swan Lake production on ice at the Dynamo Stadium in Moscow, combining figure skaters, acrobats, and ballet dancers, with Olympic Gold Medalist, Evgeni Plushenko and prima ballerina Olga Smirnova. You can see Garrett's choreography on Netflix for the original new series "Tiny Pretty Things."

@garrettsmithchoreography



## Travis Halsey, *Costume Design* | *Imbue*

Mr. Halsey, born in Springfield, South Dakota, received his BFA in Theatre Arts from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Travis began designing for ballet alongside Mona Schlautman at Omaha Theatre Ballet, where he learned the fine art of tutu construction. Travis owned and managed his own costume shop, Halsey Onstage. He and his team produced a multitude of costumes for various clients for shows such as: *Disney's Beauty & The Beast* (Paper Mill Playhouse), *Electric Ocean* (Sea World San Antonio), *Nutcracker on the Indian River* (Ballet Vero Beach), *Shrek the Musical* (Omaha Community Playhouse), *The Wizard of Oz* (Midwest Ballet), costumes for *Marie, Standing Still* (formerly known as *The Little Dancer*) and countless Mother Ginger costumes. His extensive experience in theatre and ballet comes from his time working for: Nebraska Shakespeare Festival, Omaha Theatre Ballet, The Black Hills Playhouse, Omaha Community Playhouse, Dominic Walsh Dance Theatre, Charleston Ballet Theatre, Houston Ballet, and Joffrey Ballet. Travis received several prestigious accolades for costume design, including two awards from the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for outstanding young designer. More recently, Travis received the TDF Kitty Leech Young Master Award presented at the 2018 TDF Irene Sharaff Awards. Travis loved teaching his skills to loyal and dedicated students globally.

# Guest Artists

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Though he left us far too soon, he lives on through his students and the art they produce because of the passion and knowledge he shared with them. And whenever his costumes grace the stage, it is then—if only for a moment—that he we can see him come alive once again.



## Michael Mazzola, *Lighting Design | Imbue*

Michael Mazzola's critically acclaimed lighting and scenery has been seen in venues all over the U.S., Europe and Asia, ranging from opera houses to amphitheaters to circus tents to hay barns. The three-time New York Dance and Performance Award winner has designed lighting and scenery for Oregon Ballet Theatre; Pacific Northwest Ballet; San Francisco Ballet, Whim W'Him of Seattle, Queensland Ballet, AU; National Ballet of Finland; Stuttgart Ballet; Grand Rapids Ballet; Ballet West; Ballet Nacional de Cuba; Ballet Hispanico; Trey McIntyre Project; The Washington Ballet; Royal Winnipeg Ballet; Houston Ballet; Rachel Tess Dance at the Wanås Foundation in Sweden, Baryshnikov Arts Center, NYC and LMCC's River to River Festival; 3<sup>rd</sup> Rail Theater; Bebe Miller Company and the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange. For the National Young Arts Foundation Michael has designed scenery and lighting for their Miami Galas since 2015. For the 2015 through 2020 Presidential Scholars | Young Arts Awards at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall he has designed lighting, scenic and video content. Since 2011 Michael Mazzola has collaborated on a wide variety of works across America with Annabelle Lopez Ochoa. Ms Lopez Ochoa has brought Michael to Havana twice for world premieres. Recently Mr Mazzola designed the world premiere of Vespers for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet by James Kudelka.

Michael has been the resident Lighting Designer at Oregon Ballet Theatre since 1994 and Resident Lighting Designer with Whim W'Him Seattle since its inception in 2011. He has as well served as Senior Scenic Designer on Comedy Central Celebrity Roasts and 2015 Lincoln Awards at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall for Uplight, Inc., based in NYC. His performance photography has been published in Liz Lerman's book "Hiking the Horizontal", as well on the websites and marketing materials for Bebe Miller Company; The Pew Center for The Arts & Heritage Online Text and Image Glossary; and Rachel Tess Dance. Upcoming projects include re-lighting "Passion" by James Kudelka for the National Ballet of Canada, a world premiere for Miami City Ballet, and a number of projects across the Western Range.

**Akin Gump**

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Our Fort Worth Office is pleased to continue its support of **Texas Ballet Theater**.

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**TBT**  
**TEXAS BALLET**  
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Presents

***Modern Masterpieces***

**Bass Performance Hall | March 17-19, 2023**

***Bartok***

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

Music by: Béla Bartók. Bartók's Piano Concerto #3, by  
Arrangement with Boosey & Hawkes, Inc.,  
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Lighting Design by: Tony Tucci

***Image***

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

Music by: Gustav Mahler, 10<sup>th</sup> Symphony, Courtesy of  
Chandos Music, Performed by the Royal  
Danish Radio Symphony

Costume and Scenic Design by: Nadine Baylis

Lighting Design by: Tony Tucci

***Imbue***

Choreography by: Garrett Smith

Music by: Philip Glass

Costume Design by: Travis Halsey

Lighting Design by: Michael Mazzola

Scenic Design by: Concept by Garrett Smith,  
Produced by Michael Mazzola

All Lighting Recreated by: Erin Earle Fleming

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.

# Cast

## **Bartok**

	<b>March 17, March 18 Evening</b>	<b>March 18 Matinee, March 19</b>
Principal Couple	Nicole Von Enck Carl Coomer	Alexandra F. Light Brett Young
Two Couples	Rayleigh Vendt Riley Moyano Rieko Hatato Andre Silva	Anastasia Tillman Riley Moyano AvaRose Dillon Jason McClung
Five Couples	Adeline Melcher Kyle Torres-Hiyoshi Dara Oda Jomanuel Velazquez Katelyn Rhodes Jackson Bayhi Amanda Fairweather Henry Winn Samantha Pille Valentin Batista	Katelyn Rhodes Kyle Torres-Hiyoshi Dara Oda Jomanuel Velazquez Paige Nyman David Schrenk Nicole Von Enck Adam Phillips Hannah Wood Troy Santulli

## **Image**

“If you’re nobody, to be somebody, you have to be somebody else.”  
- Marilyn Monroe

<b>March 17, March 18 Evening</b>	<b>March 18 Matinee, March 19</b>
Paige Nyman	Samantha Pille

*This performance is approximately two hours, including two  
20-minute intermissions.*

# Cast

## *Imbue*

Will we embrace our beautiful transition from innocence to knowledge? Beyond the “clear slate” of our beginning, change develops from our surroundings and destinies.

Do we willingly seize what we encounter, guiding towards our divine potential...

### **March 17, March 18 Evening**

Alexandra F. Light  
Nicole Von Enck  
Amanda Fairweather  
Hannah Wood  
Rieko Hatato  
Dara Oda  
Adeline Melcher  
Carl Coomer  
Andre Silva  
Kyle Torres-Hiyoshi  
Brett Young  
Joamanuel Velazquez  
Riley Moyano  
Valentin Batista

First Pas de Deux

Alexandra F. Light  
Carl Coomer

Pas de Trois

Amanda Fairweather  
Brett Young  
Riley Moyano

Second Pas de Deux

Hannah Wood  
Joamanuel Velazquez

Third Pas de Deux

Rieko Hatato  
Andre Silva

Pas de Quatre

Dara Oda  
Valentin Batista  
Andre Silva

Three Couples

Brett Young  
Hannah Wood  
Rieko Hatato  
Adeline Melcher  
Andre Silva  
Kyle Torres-Hiyoshi  
Valentin Batista

Finale

All

### **March 18 Matinee, March 19**

Paige Nyman  
Amanda Fairweather  
Katelyn Rhodes  
Rayleigh Vendt  
Anastasia Tillman  
Hannah Wood  
Adeline Melcher  
Brett Young  
Riley Moyano  
Joamanuel Velazquez  
Jackson Bayhi  
Henry Winn  
Adam Phillips  
David Schrenk

Paige Nyman  
Brett Young

Katelyn Rhodes  
Jackson Bayhi  
Adam Phillips

Rayleigh Vendt  
Henry Winn

Anastasia Tillman  
Riley Moyano

Hannah Wood  
David Schrenk

Riley Moyano  
Jackson Bayhi

Rayleigh Vendt  
Anastasia Tillman

Adeline Melcher  
Riley Moyano

Joamanuel Velazquez  
David Schrenk

All

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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 option 1.

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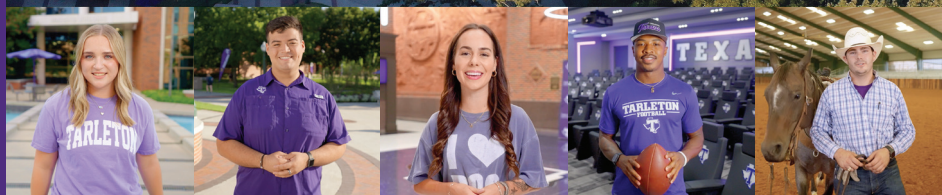
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