

YURY YANOWSKY & KATHLEEN BREEN COMBES'

# Swan Lake

*True Love Liberates*

BALLET RI

KATHLEEN BREEN COMBES, DIRECTOR

WHERE BEAUTY, ELEGANCE, AND POISE  
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# FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Patron,

Welcome to Ballet RI's new production of Swan Lake!

It is with immense pride and excitement that I welcome you to this reimagining of one of ballet's most iconic and beloved works. Swan Lake is more than just a cornerstone of the classical repertoire it is a symbol of the art form's beauty, depth, and power to move us.

Taking on Swan Lake is no small task. Its legacy looms large, and rightly so. But it is precisely because of that legacy that we felt compelled to revisit it, not to rewrite it, but to breathe new life into it. This production honors the tradition while opening new doors, inviting today's audiences into its timeless story with fresh perspective and renewed energy.

Creating this version alongside Yury Yanowsky for Ballet RI has been an extraordinary journey, one that has united our dancers, designers, and creative collaborators in a spirit of passion and purpose. It has also been a deeply communal experience, made possible by the support, enthusiasm, and belief of the broader Rhode Island arts community.

We hope this Swan Lake inspires you, surprises you, and most of all, reminds you of the enduring magic of ballet. Thank you for being here to share this moment with us.

With gratitude,

Kathleen Breen Combes



**Kathleen Breen Combes**  
Artistic Executive Director

# BALLET **RI**

Artistic Executive Director  
**KATHLEEN BREEN COMBES**

Artistic Curator and Resident Choreographer  
**YURY YANOWSKY**

Company Dancers

**JOÃO ALVES STYLES DYKES BRIAN GOMEZ**  
**ASHLEY GRIFFIN EMMA GUERTIN**  
**STEPHEN GUNTER AUDREY LUKACZ AJ MAIO**  
**TARA McCALLY GARRET McNALLY CLAY MURRAY**  
**HEATHER NICHOLS ALEXANDRIA TROIANOS**  
**KATHERINE BICKFORD VIGLY**  
**ANNA LISA WILKINS NINA YOSHIDA-WEBSTER**

Apprentices

JACKSON CALHOUN GIANNA DeMASSIO JULIA HUGHES  
ALEXA KEARNAN CORINNE MULCAHY MAYA SPRAGUE  
JAYDEN TOWERS MASSIEL VALDERRAMA HANNAH WOOD

Junior Apprentices

GRACE ARMOUR ANJALI HERN NIA LESSARD MEGHAN RICE

Trainees

JORDYN CHEPOLIS EDIE CLARKE ALEXIS DAWSON NATALIE MAY DIXON  
GINA DEROMA HAYLEY DONAHUE EMMA HALTER ELIZA JONES  
ANNEKA JONES SAMANTHA LADNER ERIN MILLER HELEN RAWLS  
CAMERON SEDLACK SOPHIA SPARROW ADELE WALDEN ANNABELLE THIBODEAU

Artistic Coaches

**CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON LETICIA GUERRERO**

Administrative Staff

**JOELLE BELLMUND** Marketing Manager  
**LISA McGUIRK** School Registrar  
**REBECCA ROSENBERG** Box Office  
**KYRIANA SMITH** Executive Assistant  
**ANNABELLE THIBODEAU** School Administrator  
**NICOLE LALIBERTE DOUGLAS** Community  
Engagement Manager  
**ANNA LISA WILKINS** Grant Manager  
**AUDREY LUKACZ** Social Media Manager

**CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON** School of Ballet RI  
Principal of the Core Division  
**KATHLEEN NASTI** School of Ballet RI Head of  
Open & Childrens Division  
**AILEY CONSTANTINO** Administrative Intern  
**VITALO GAGNON, LTD** Office Management  
**JENNIFER DAVIS** Physical Therapist  
**RMO PUBLIC RELATIONS** Public Relations

# Swan Lake

**Kathleen Breen Combes, Artistic Executive Director**

Veterans Memorial Auditorium  
Providence, RI

May 3-4, 2025

Music: **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**

Staging: **Kathleen Breen Combes, Yury Yanowsky, Anaïs Chalendar**

Costumes: **Arlinda Performance**

Costume Design: **Hailey Corrigan**

Lighting Design: **Conor Mulligan**

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Production Manager & Technical Director: **Adam Ramsey**

Stage Manager: **Chris Redihan**

Assistant Stage Managers: **Madison Perez, Maddie Laxo**

# Synopsis

Long before our story begins, Odette, a beautiful princess of a faraway land, falls under the spell of von Rothbart, a wicked sorcerer. Von Rothbart, eager for power, disguises himself and gains the favor of the Queen Mother. He becomes the trusted Tutor for the young Prince. However, the Prince stands in the way of his ultimate power, and thus a plot is hatched.

## Act I - The Prince's Birthday Party:

It is Prince Siegfried's twenty-first birthday, and he is celebrating with friends. The Queen Mother arrives to give him his present, a crossbow, and reminds him that, as he is to become King, he must choose a bride at the ball the next evening. She leaves, bidding him to enjoy himself, but reminding him again to think about his royal obligation to be wed. Siegfried, realizing that his carefree days are at an end, leaves the party at the height of the festivities to seek the solace of the woods. Von Rothbart disguised as Siegfried's confidant leads him to the lake.

## Act II - Some hours later. By the Lake:

Prince Siegfried enters a moonlit clearing in the forest and sees a magnificent swan in flight. He carefully takes aim, but, to his astonishment, the bird transforms into a breathtakingly beautiful girl, and he withdraws into the trees to observe her. Unable to resist his curiosity, he steps out, only to startle and frighten her. He assures her he will do her no harm and asks her to explain the marvel he has just seen. Impressed by his gentleness, Odette unburdens the story of her plight. She tells him she is a Princess of high birth who fell under the spell of an evil sorcerer, and now her fate is to be a swan; only in the hours of darkness may she assume her human form. She tells him she is condemned for eternity, and only if her true love swears eternal fidelity to her and marries her can she find release. Only then can the spell be broken. But if he should forswear her, then she must remain a swan forever. At that moment, von Rothbart now as his true form, a sorcerer, appears. The prince, in his passion, reaches for his crossbow, but Odette immediately protects the sorcerer with her body, for she knows that if he is killed before the spell is broken, she too will die. The sorcerer disappears, and Odette slips away into the forest. Siegfried realizes his fate is now entwined with hers. Dawn approaches and Odette is compelled by the spell to return to her guise as a swan. Siegfried is left awestruck.

## Act III - The Great Hall:

Trumpets announce the start of the ball. Eligible young princesses from all over the world arrive to be introduced to Prince Siegfried so that he may choose a bride. They present their national dances for the entertainment of the Prince and the Queen Mother. The prospective brides dance for them, and the Queen Mother reminds Siegfried that he must choose one for his wife. As Siegfried struggles with his responsibility to marry, his mind remains with Odette, and he cannot choose. Trumpets announce a surprise guest. It is von Rothbart again disguised as his Tutor, with his daughter Odile. Siegfried is seduced by her, as von Rothbart holds the court in thrall. Siegfried announces his intention to marry Odile. Von Rothbart asks Siegfried to swear fidelity. He realizes too late that he has been the victim of a terrible plot. Grief-stricken, Siegfried rushes to the lakeside.

## Act IV - By the Lake:

Siegfried, bursting into the glade, discovers Odette and begs for her forgiveness. Odette tells Siegfried she must kill herself, or she will be a swan forevermore. Siegfried, knowing that his destiny is forever changed, declares he will not allow that to happen and pleads with the swans to use all their strength to help him break the curse. Seeing the true love within Prince Siegfried the bevy of swans band together and their strength and combined love for Odette break the spell. Von Rothbart is vanquished, and his power ended. Emerging from the lake Odette is wrapped in Prince Siegfried's arms saved by the sisterhood of woman who gave their souls for her redemption.



BALLET <sup>RI</sup>  
*Swan Lake*

Casting  
May 3, 2025 1:30pm

**PROLOGUE**

ODETTE/ODILE Alexandria Troianos  
PRINCE SIEGFRIED Brian Gomez  
BARON VON ROTHBART Styles Dykes

**ACT I**

PAS DE TRIOS Ashley Griffin, Emma Guertin, Garret McNally

QUEEN Emma LeBlanc

WALTZ João Alves, Jackson Calhoun,  
Gianna DeMassio, Stephen Gunter,  
Anjali Hern, Julia Hughes, Eliza Jones,  
Alexa Kearnan, Nia Lessard,  
Audrey Lukacz, AJ Maio,  
Corinne Mulcahy, Clay Murray,  
Kian Reagan-Caer, Jayden Towers,  
Massiel Valderrama, Katherine Vigly,  
Hannah Wood

**ACT II**

TALL SWANS Tara McCally, Anna Lisa Wilkins

CYGNETS Julia Hughes, Corinne Mulcahy,  
Heather Nichols, Nina Yoshida-Webster

SWAN CORPS Gianna DeMassio, Ashley Griffin,  
Anjali Hern, Nia Lessard, Audrey Lukacz,  
Meghan Rice, Maya Sprague,  
Jayden Towers, Katherine Vigly,  
Hannah Wood

**INTERMISSION**

continued on the next page

# BALLET <sup>RI</sup> *Swan Lake*

Casting  
May 3, 2025 1:30pm

## ACT III

PRINCESSES Ashley Griffin, Emma Guertin,  
Anjali Hern, Anna Lisa Wilkins

SPANISH Jackson Calhoun, Stephen Gunter,  
Tara McCally, Katherine Vigly

NEOPOLITAN Clay Murray, Nina Yoshida-Webster

HUNGARIAN AJ Maio, Audrey Lukacz  
Gianna DeMassio, Nia Lessard,  
Jayden Towers, Katherine Vigly

ACT III COURT Grace Armour, Alexis Dawson,  
Hayley Donahue, Emma Halter,  
Alexa Kearnan, Eliza Jones,  
Cameron Sedlack, Adele Walden

## ACT IV

ENTIRE ENSEMBLE

• • •

This performance made possible with support from Providence Tourism Council.

**Music:** Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
**Staging:** Kathleen Breen Combes, Anaïs Chalendar, Yury Yanowsky  
**Rehearsal Directors:** Christopher Anderson, Leticia Guerrero  
**Costumes:** Arlinda Performance  
**Costume Design:** Hailey Corrigan  
**Costume Manager:** Maxine Wheelock  
**Production Manager:** Adam Ramsey  
**Projections:** Olivia Lancellotta  
**Stage Manager:** Chris Redihan  
**Assistant Stage Managers:** Maddie Laxo, Madison Perez



FirstWorks Summer Beats Series  
Starts June 2025



Gallery Night  
3rd Thursdays March - November

## Investing In Our Community and Celebrating Our Creative Capital

The Providence Tourism Council increases the economic impact of tourism, commerce, and visitor engagement within the City of Providence, working collaboratively with businesses and organizations to build awareness of Providence as a thriving, year-round arts and multicultural destination.

We invite you to take advantage of all the upcoming festivals, performances and events taking place in the Creative Capital this Spring and Summer.



Al Fresco on the Hill  
Summer Saturdays



RI Pride Fest & Illuminated Night Parade  
June 20-21, 2025



Juneteenth RI Festival  
June 22, 2025



Dominican Festival of RI  
August 10, 2025



# Creative Collaborators

## KATHLEEN BREEN COMBES



After an illustrious career as Principal Dancer with Boston Ballet, Kathleen Breen Combes brings her extensive artistic and administrative experience to Ballet RI. With an expert eye for world-class art and a commitment to developing young talent, she is leading a superbly trained company and creating an innovative, accessible and inclusive organization that will bring ballet to the forefront of the cultural landscape of Rhode Island and beyond.

When with Boston Ballet, The New York Times hailed Breen Combes as a "ballerina of colossal scale and boldness." She was awarded the Lefkowitz Award for Special Achievement at the New York International Ballet Competition at Lincoln Center in 2003 and was featured on the cover of Dance Magazine in 2007. Breen Combes was nominated for the prestigious Benois de la Danse award for her portrayal of Juliet in Cranko's Romeo and Juliet and Titania in Balanchine's A Midsummer Night's Dream in 2012 and was invited

to perform at the world-renowned Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, Russia. Her versatile repertoire includes principal roles in the classical repertoire along with works by Wheeldon, Forsythe, McGregor, Ekman, Yanowsky, Pickett, Robbins, Kylián, and Balanchine. She originated the title role in Jorma Elo's Carmen, as well as Close to Chuck and Break the Eyes, and has worked exclusively with William Forsythe, originating roles in Playlist and Pas/Parts among many others.

Breen Combes, originally from NY, received her early training from the Fort Lauderdale Ballet Classique, the HARID Conservatory, and The Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet before joining the Washington Ballet in 2000. She joined Boston Ballet in 2003 and rose to the rank of principal dancer in 2009, originating numerous roles by prominent choreographers, as well as performing title roles in a large variety of classical and neo-classical works.

Alongside her performing career, Breen Combes holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications and Management and a Graduate Certificate in Non-profit Management from Northeastern University. She worked within the Development and Artistic Administrative Departments while at Boston Ballet as well as serving as theAGMA Union representative for the company from 2012-2016. She has been featured in and contributed to numerous print articles in Dance Spirit, Pointe Magazine, and Dance Magazine among others. In 2014, Breen Combes created a TedEd video entitled "Rethinking Ballet" and has been a guest speaker at The University of Massachusetts, University of Tokyo, Northeastern University and Harvard University.

## ANAÏS CHALENDARD



Originally from Roanne, France, Anaïs Chalendar trained with Carole Bentolila, a student of Paris Opera School's Max Bozzoni, and at the National School of Dance in Marseille under the direction of Roland Petit and Dominique Khalfouni.

At the age of 17, after graduating with a baccalaureate in Economics and Political Science, she received her first professional contract with the Deutsch Oper am Rhein under the direction of Youri Vamos. Shortly after, she was offered a contract with the Berlin State Opera under the direction of Vladimir Malakov.

In 2003, Chalendar joined the Badische Staatstheater Karlsruhe under the direction of Birgit Keil, where she became a principal dancer. There, among other leading parts, Chalendar premiered the leading role in Terence Kohler's Anna Karenina and Gamzatti in his La Bayadère. In 2008, she joined English National Ballet under the direction of Wayne Eagling, where she was promoted to first soloist following performances in Manon and The Dying Swan. She also appeared in performances organized by Carlos Acosta, dancing a pas de deux created by Adam Houghland especially for her and Junor de Oliveira Souza.

In 2009, she received the Emerging Dancer Award after dancing "Nikiya's Death" from La Bayadère. In 2012, Chalendar appeared at the Nureyev Festival in Russia as Giselle with Principal dancer Jozef Varga from Het National Ballet, and as Odette/Odile in Derek Dean's Swan Lake with English National Ballet. Shortly after, she was listed among the 100 Best Dancers in the World by Dance Europe Magazine. In June 2013, she was invited to dance Erik Brühn's La Sylphide with Friedemann Vogel, principal with the Stuttgart Ballet, and Rolando Sarabia, international guest artist, at the Teatro dell'Opera di Roma.

# ANAÏS CHALENDARD

Chalendard joined Boston Ballet in 2013 as a second soloist, was promoted to soloist in 2014, and principal in 2016. During this time, she performed in works such as Florence Clerc's *La Bayadère*, George Balanchine's *Violin Concerto*, Miko Nissinen's *Swan Lake*, Val Caniparoli's *The Lady of the Camélias*, John Cranko's *Romeo and Juliet*, and more.

Chalendard has been invited to dance at the World Ballet Competition Star's Gala in Orlando, FL, has served as a jury member at the World Ballet Competition, and has taught summer intensives with Dance Theater International, Allen Conservatory, and Boston Ballet School.

In 2019, Anaïs was invited to dance with Kammer Tänzer and Flavio Salamanka during the Mozart Foundation's Salzburg Festival and performed as a guest artist with the Joburg Ballet in the role of Princess Aurora in Maina Gielgud's production of *The Sleeping Beauty*. She officially retired from the stage in October 2019 after performing the title role of *Giselle* in a special and last guest appearance with Joburg Ballet.

# YURY YANOWSKY



Internationally renowned dancer and award-winning choreographer Yury Yanowsky was a Principal Dancer with the Boston Ballet for over two decades and an international guest artist most notably with The Royal Ballet, National Ballet of Prague, National Ballet of China, and Pennsylvania Ballet. Known for his bravura technique and stage presence he was hailed for his versatility in both classical and contemporary works.

Yanowsky won First Prize at the Prix de Lausanne and the Silver medal at the Varna and U.S. International Ballet Competitions. He trained with Carmen Delgado de Robles, Anatol Yanowsky, and the Ballet Nacional de Cuba.

Yury's passion for choreography began early in his dancing career and over the past decade he has had the opportunity to showcase his work around the world. He has been commissioned to create new works for Boston Ballet, Boston Ballet 2, Bundes Jugend Ballet, Jacobs Pillow Gala, Atlanta Ballet, Tulsa Ballet, Richmond Ballet, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Kansas City Ballet, Portland Ballet, and Festival Ballet Providence. In 2015, he was awarded the Choreographic Prize at the prestigious Erik Bruhn Competition and his ballet *Smoke and Mirrors* for Boston Ballet was named "Best in Dance for 2016" by The Arts Fuse and hailed as a "visual and choreographic masterpiece". In 2018 he founded Dance YaNOWsky, a small touring company that was dedicated to his vision. Yanowsky is focused on creating new works that are relevant and reflective of today's society, oftentimes using unique collaborations to enhance his works. In 2021, His new full-length version of *The Nutcracker* with Ballet Rhode Island was hailed by the Boston Globe as "Awe Inspiring" and met with both box office and critical acclaim.

Yanowsky has served as Movement Consultant for American Repertory Theatre and as Movement Director for The Boston Lyric Opera. A dedicated and experienced teacher and coach, he has taught at Boston Ballet, Boston Arts Academy, and Centro Coreografico Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, and Harvard University. In 2020 Yanowsky was named the Artistic Curator of Ballet Rhode Island where he is resident choreographer and responsible for overseeing all the artistic productions of the organization.



# Rehearsal Directors

## CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON



Christopher Anderson trained as a student under the tutelage of Marika Besabrasova at the Academie de Danse de Princess Grace. He also trained at North Carolina School of the Arts and finished his training at San Francisco Ballet School, under the guidance of Richard Cammack and Anatole Vitzak. He joined San Francisco Ballet where he had an illustrious 16-year career as a Soloist, working with and performing works by William Forsythe, David Bintley, Jiri Kylian, George Balanchine, and Mark Morris to name a few. Christopher went on to dance as an International Guest Artist before finishing his dance career as a Principal Dancer with Alberta Ballet. After retiring, he continued his lifelong journey with ballet as a full-time faculty member of Boston Ballet School for 16 years, honing and developing his pedagogical skills before joining the Ballet RI team. At Ballet RI Christopher continues to share his passion for Ballet as an Artistic Coach, Director of SDI and as Principal of the Core Division of the School of Ballet RI.

## LETICIA GUERRERO

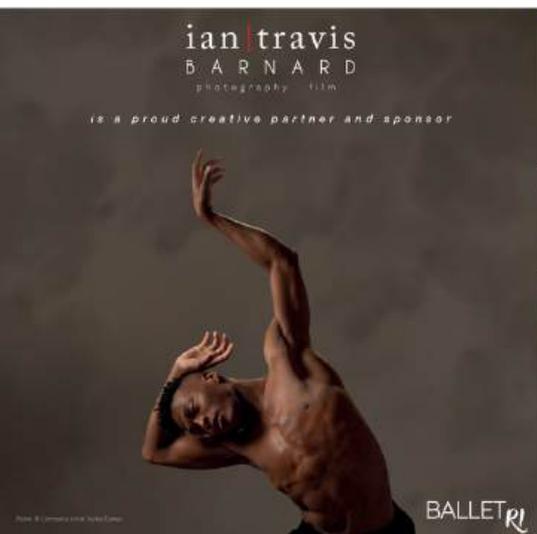


A native of Venezuela, Ms. Guerrero received her early training at the Keyla Ermecheo Ballet School in Caracas. She has performed with numerous companies including Ballet Nuevo Mundo de Caracas, Metropolitan Ballet of Caracas, Minnesota Dance Theatre, Michigan Ballet, Charleston Ballet Theatre, Jose Mateo's Ballet Theatre and Cadence Dance Project.

She has created leading roles in ballets in Gianni Dimarco's El Amor Brujo, Schéhérazade and Azucar, Plotnikov's Carmen, The Widow's Broom, Loof and Let Dime and Coma, De Bouteiller's Romeo and Juliet and FBP's 2006 premiere of Don Quixote. Other leading roles include Balanchine's Allegro Brillante, Rubies, Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux, Tarantella, Who Cares?, Pelzig's The Princess and the Pea, Swan Lake and Eldar Aliev's A Thousand and One Nights. Ms. Guerrero also participated in the 2004 Venezuela Del Mundo Gala and was recognized for representing Venezuela internationally with high standards and "projection, dignity and beauty." In addition Providence Mayor David Cicilline awarded a Citizens Citation for her "exceptional and

wholehearted devotion for the art of dance."

After her retirement from the stage in May 2012, she transitioned into her new role as Ballet Mistress with the Company, and as a faculty member with School of Ballet RI where she continues to pass on her knowledge to a new generation of dancers.



# COMPANY DANCERS



## JOÃO ALVES

**Joined: 2022, Hometown: São Paulo, Brazil**

@joao.savan

Training & Education: Professional Division at Balleto Dance Studio and The Rock School for Dance Education. Former dancer at AMA Dance Theatre.

Accomplishment I'm most proud of: *La Esmeralda, Coppelia, Esmeralda, Le Corsaire, Giselle.*

Fun Fact: I'm very connected with social media.



## STYLES DYKES

**Joined: 2024, Hometown: Rochester, NY**

@styles\_davine1

Training & Education: Odasz Dance Theatre 2018-2021, Tulsa Ballet Center for Dance Education 2021-2022

Accomplishment I'm most proud of: Being on NBC's World of Dance Season 4!

Fun Fact: I can hold a handstand for over a minute!



## BRIAN GOMEZ

**Joined: 2023, Hometown: Havana, Cuba**

@briangomez\_24

Training & Education: National Ballet School of Cuba "ENA"

Accomplishment I'm most proud of: To have been promoted to the position of Principal Dancer at the age of 18.

Fun Fact: If I hadn't been a dancer, I would have liked to be a soccer player.



## ASHLEY GRIFFIN

**Joined: 2023, Hometown: Florence, SC**

@\_ashleygriffin\_

Training & Education: Boston Ballet School's Pre-Professional Program, Orlando Ballet Trainee, and Orlando Ballet Second Company. Joined Dayton Ballet as a Company dancer in 2020.

Accomplishment I'm most proud of: Dancing professionally at three professional companies while earning two college degrees.

Fun Fact: My dream role is Juliet from Romeo and Juliet, my favorite role is the Sugar Plum Fairy from The Nutcracker, and one of my favorite hobbies is photographing new places and experiences around the world.



## EMMA GUERTIN

**Joined: 2022, Hometown: Oakville, Ontario, Canada**

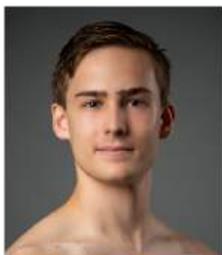
@emmaguertin

Training & Education: Oakville school of ballet, Orlando Ballet, Atlanta Ballet

Accomplishment I'm most proud of: Got over my fear of choreographing/improv & choreographed my first piece for Up Close on Hope last season

Fun Fact: I speak French Canadian, ride horses, play golf, model, sing, and take heel classes!

## COMPANY DANCERS (cont.)



### **STEPHEN GUNTER**

**Joined: 2023, Hometown: Winston-Salem NC**

@sgunter\_dance

Training & Education: Undergraduate and High School training at UNCSA from 2016-2022, received BFA in ballet performance and pedagogy. Summer intensives at The Bolshoi Ballet Academy, Ellison Ballet and Pittsburgh Ballet Theater

Accomplishment I'm proud of: Performing in YAGP's 20th Anniversary International Dance School Festival, in the cast of Ilya Kozadayeve's Dream(s)pace.

Fun Fact: Stephen has worked with the Board of the Angels Race, a nonprofit dedicated to empowering educators and students alike. They offer grants to elementary school teachers, scholarships for high school seniors, and support various youth programs within North Carolina and Virginia.



### **AUDREY LUKACZ**

**Joined: 2020 Hometown: Portsmouth, NH**

@audreylukacz

Training & Education: Portsmouth School of Ballet, B.A in Dance Pedagogy from Butler University.

Accomplishment I'm proud of: Graduating from Butler University with my Dance Pedagogy degree in 3.5 years and getting my first professional contract with Ballet RI.

Fun Fact: I do wheel thrown pottery and thrift avidly. I also am the Social Media Manager and Marketing Assistant for Ballet RI!



### **AJ MAIO**

**Joined: 2022, Hometown: Barrington, RI**

@a.m\_j08

Training & Education: School of Ballet RI, University of Utah BFA.

Accomplishment I'm most proud of: Graduating from the University of Utah with my Ballet BFA degree.

Fun Fact: I love Ukrainian folk dancing and teach character dance at the School of Ballet RI.



### **TARA MCCALLY**

**Joined: 2021, Hometown: Houston, TX**

@Tara.mccally

Training & Education: Feijoo Ballet School under Nelson Madrigal, Lorna and Lorena Feijoo

Accomplishment I'm most proud of: Though I am so proud of all of my achievements in ballet, I am most proud of the family I've made on the east coast!

Fun Fact: I'm related to Alexander Hamilton and John Wilkes booth

## COMPANY DANCERS (cont.)



### **GARRET MCNALLY**

**Joined: 2022, Hometown: New Orleans, LA**

 @gsmcnally

Training & Education: University of North Carolina School of the Arts

Accomplishment I'm most proud of: Graduating with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in History from the University of New Orleans.

Fun Fact: I was a background dancer in the Netflix original "Tall Girl 2" as well as TNT's "Claws"



### **CLAY MURRAY**

**Joined: 2022, Hometown: Hattiesburg, MS**

 @claymurray

Training & Education: South Mississippi Ballet Theatre, Houston Ballet Academy, Pacific Northwest Ballet

Accomplishment I'm most proud of: Overcoming a major knee surgery and coming back to ballet.

Fun Fact about yourself: I love going to concerts and the gym.



### **HEATHER NICHOLS**

**Joined: 2022, Hometown: Richmond, VA**

 @heathercnichols @h.nichols.choreography

Training & Education: West End Academy of Dance, School of Richmond Ballet, Richmond Ballet Trainee, B.S in Dance Pedagogy from Butler University

Accomplishment I'm most proud of: Once I began dancing with professional companies in 2009, I have had four ankle surgeries. I am most proud of my perseverance in returning to the studio and the stage each time, stronger, more vibrant, and with a renewed understanding, not only for my love of dance, but also the incredible things that my body can overcome.

Fun Fact: As an emerging choreographer, I have created works including "Meraki" for Kansas City Ballet (2022), "Eau D'Effervescence" (2023) and "Genesis" (2024) for BalletRI, and "Versipellis" (2024) for Moving Arts Co. My work "Meraki" was restaged for Pointe Works' inaugural season in San Diego, CA in the summer of 2024, and will be performed again in New York, NY in March of 2025!



### **ALEXANDRIA TROIANOS**

**Joined: 2023, Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA**

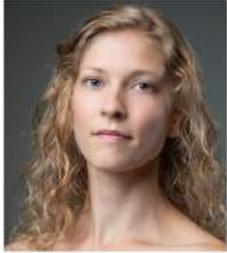
 @lexi\_troianos

Training & Education: Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School for 7 years and Elite Dance by Damian also for 7 years.

Accomplishment I'm most proud of: Performing the role of Cinderella in Yury Yanowsky's world premiere of Cinderella.

Fun Fact: I started dancing in commercial dance competitions when I was 6 and at age 14 I decided to focus on ballet.

## COMPANY DANCERS (cont.)



### **KATHERINE BICKFORD VIGLY**

**Joined: 2015, Hometown: Miami, FL / Fryeburg, ME**

 @kjjbickford

**Training & Education:** Dance Empire, Portland School of Ballet, Canada's National Ballet School, B.S. in Ecology and Environmental Science from the University of Maine.

**Accomplishment I'm most proud of:** Making a career as a professional dancer.

**Fun Fact:** I like learning about insects and how they shape our world. *Bombus perplexus* is my favorite.



### **ANNA LISA WILKINS**

**Joined: 2020, Hometown: East Longmeadow, MA**

 @annalisa.wilx

**Training & Education:** Massachusetts Academy of Ballet, Irina Vakhromeeva, Hartt School Community Division, Indiana University Jacobs School of Music

**Accomplishment I'm most proud of:** Having the opportunity to work for an organization as both a dancer and an administrative manager. I'm living my dream while also gaining experience that will help me develop and impact live performance art from both sides of the stage.

**Fun Fact:** Everyone in my family was born on the 13th or the 31st – by chance!



### **NINA YOSHIDA-WEBSTER**

**Joined: 2020, Hometown: Madison, NJ**

 @ninaballerina98

**Training & Education:** Gelsey Kirkland Academy, B.A. in Dance Performance, St. Mary's College of California's LEAP program

**Accomplishment I'm most proud of:** Choreographing for the first time for Ballet RI's 2025 *Made on Hope* production!

**Fun Fact:** I walked every single block in Manhattan with my husband, Kincade. I also love to garden and take on more crafting projects than I can keep up with, including knitting and sewing my own clothes, needlepointing, and making Nantucket Baskets!

# APPRENTICES



## **JACKSON CALHOUN**

**Joined: 2024, Hometown: Winston-Salem, NC**

@@jacksonbleu

Training & Education: University of North Carolina School of the Arts  
Accomplishment I'm most proud of: In 2023 I became a professional choreographer, it is always something I have done and deeply enjoyed.  
Fun Fact: I love art, visual, musical and performance, it is the expression of the human soul that gets me right!



## **GIANNA DEMASSIO**

**Joined: 2023, Hometown: Highland NY**

@@gigi.825

Training & Education: New Paltz Ballet and Pittsburgh Ballet Theater School. Traineeships with Charlotte Ballet and Richmond Ballet.  
Accomplishment I'm most proud of: I am most proud of all the works I have choreographed and put on stage.  
Fun Fact: I love rock concerts and baking!



## **JULIA HUGHES**

**Joined: 2022, Hometown: Christchurch, New Zealand**

@@juliiahughes

Training & Education: Alberta Ballet School, currently pursuing a B.A in Politics & International relations and social anthropology  
Accomplishment I'm most proud of: Moving to the other side of the world at the age of 15 from New Zealand to Canada to pursue my passion as a dancer.  
Fun Fact: When I was 6 years old, I participated in violin busking to raise a sum of over \$1000 for the Christchurch Earthquake Mayoral Relief fund and the following year for the Red Cross Canterbury relief fund, for the 2010 & 2011 Canterbury Earthquakes.



## **ALEXA KEARNAN**

**Joined: 2021, Hometown: Uxbridge, MA**

@@alexakearnan

Training & Education: Deane Dance Studio in Mendon, MA.  
Accomplishment I'm most proud of: I am proud of my growth technically and artistically here at Ballet RI.  
Fun Fact: I love to choreograph and I was able to work on my first piece last season called "Golden Energy". I hope to continue exploring my love for choreographing in the future.



## **CORINNE MULCAHY**

**Joined: 2022, Hometown: Philadelphia, PA**

@@corinnemulcahy

Training & Education: The School of Philadelphia Ballet  
Accomplishment I'm most proud of: My ability to balance multiple areas of life while continually achieving personal growth in each one.  
Fun Fact: I am working toward my Bachelor's in Data Analytics and Psychological Sciences at UPenn.

# APPRENTICES (cont.)



## **MAYA HUI SPRAGUE**

**Joined: 2024, Hometown: San Fransisco, CA**

@mayahsprague

Training & Education: San Francisco Ballet School, Boston Ballet Graduate Program, and Kansas City Ballet Second Company.

Accomplishment I'm most proud of: Performing alongside the San Francisco Ballet in Helgi Tomasson's Nutcracker and Swan Lake, with the Boston Ballet in Petipa/Ashton's The Sleeping Beauty, and with Kansas City Ballet in Val Caniparoli's Jekyll and Hyde, Devon Carney's The Nutcracker and Peter Pan, and George Balanchine's Emeralds. Receiving my first professional contract with Ballet Rhode Island.

Fun Fact: I enjoy cooking and watching sunsets!



## **JAYDEN TOWERS**

**Joined: 2023, Hometown: Coral Springs, FL**

@jayden.towers

Training & Education: Fort Lauderdale Youth Ballet, The Harid Conservatory, Alberta Ballet School, and Ellison Ballet

Accomplishment I'm most proud of: Graduating from Ellison Ballet at 18 and receiving my first professional contract with Ballet RI straight out of high school!

Fun Fact: During the summer especially, I love going to the beach early in the morning to watch the sunrise. There is something so relaxing and beautiful about the sun rising over the horizon. It instantly makes my day better!



## **MASSIEL VALDERRAMA**

**Joined: 2023, Hometown: Lara, Venezuela**

@massiel1909

Training & Education: María Teresa Alford School

Accomplishment I'm most proud of: That despite having emigrated from my country I was able to continue exercising my passion as a professional.

Fun Fact about yourself: When I was a child I wanted to study "Petroleum Engineering" but here I am, living my life as a dancer



## **HANNAH WOOD**

**Joined: 2021, Hometown: Westminster, MD**

@hannah\_elisebeth

Training/Education: Carroll County Dance Center then BalletMet before joining Ballet RI

Accomplishment you are most proud of: receiving my first paid contract from Ballet RI

Fun Fact about yourself: I love board games

# JUNIOR APPRENTICES



## **GRACE ARMOUR**

**Joined: 2024, Hometown: Shrewsbury, MA**

@gracearmourr

Training & Education: The Classical Training Program at the Dallas Conservatory, The Hanover Theatre Conservatory

Accomplishment I'm most proud of: Beginning a professional career with Ballet RI!

Fun Fact: I crochet legwarmers and ballet warmup wear.



## **ANJALI HERN**

**Joined: 2023, Hometown: Valencia, CA**

@anjalihern

Training & Education: Marat Daukayev School of Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre Graduate Program.

Accomplishment I'm most proud of: Signing my first contract with Ballet RI!

Fun Fact: I am half Cuban and speak some Spanish!



## **NIA LESSARD**

**Joined: 2023, Hometown: Framingham, MA**

@niagracelessard

Training & Education: Pacific Northwest Ballet Professional Division

Accomplishment I'm most proud of: I am most proud of who I am as an artist, in my authenticity, curiosity and love that I bring to my dancing every day.

Fun Fact: I collect vintage media! I have cassette tapes, 8-tracks, vinyl records, and about 75 VHS tapes that I watch on my VCR TV.



## **MEGHAN RICE**

**Joined: 2024, Hometown: Coral Springs, FL**

@meghanrice\_

Training & Education: Houston Ballet Academy, Joffrey Ballet Trainee Chicago, English National Ballet Trainee

Accomplishment I'm most proud of: Starting ballet at 12 and pushing myself to make the ballet career of my dreams.

Fun Fact: I love to choreograph, especially contemporary pieces, and have made 3 of my own works so far. I also love to write, and am currently writing a murder mystery novel!

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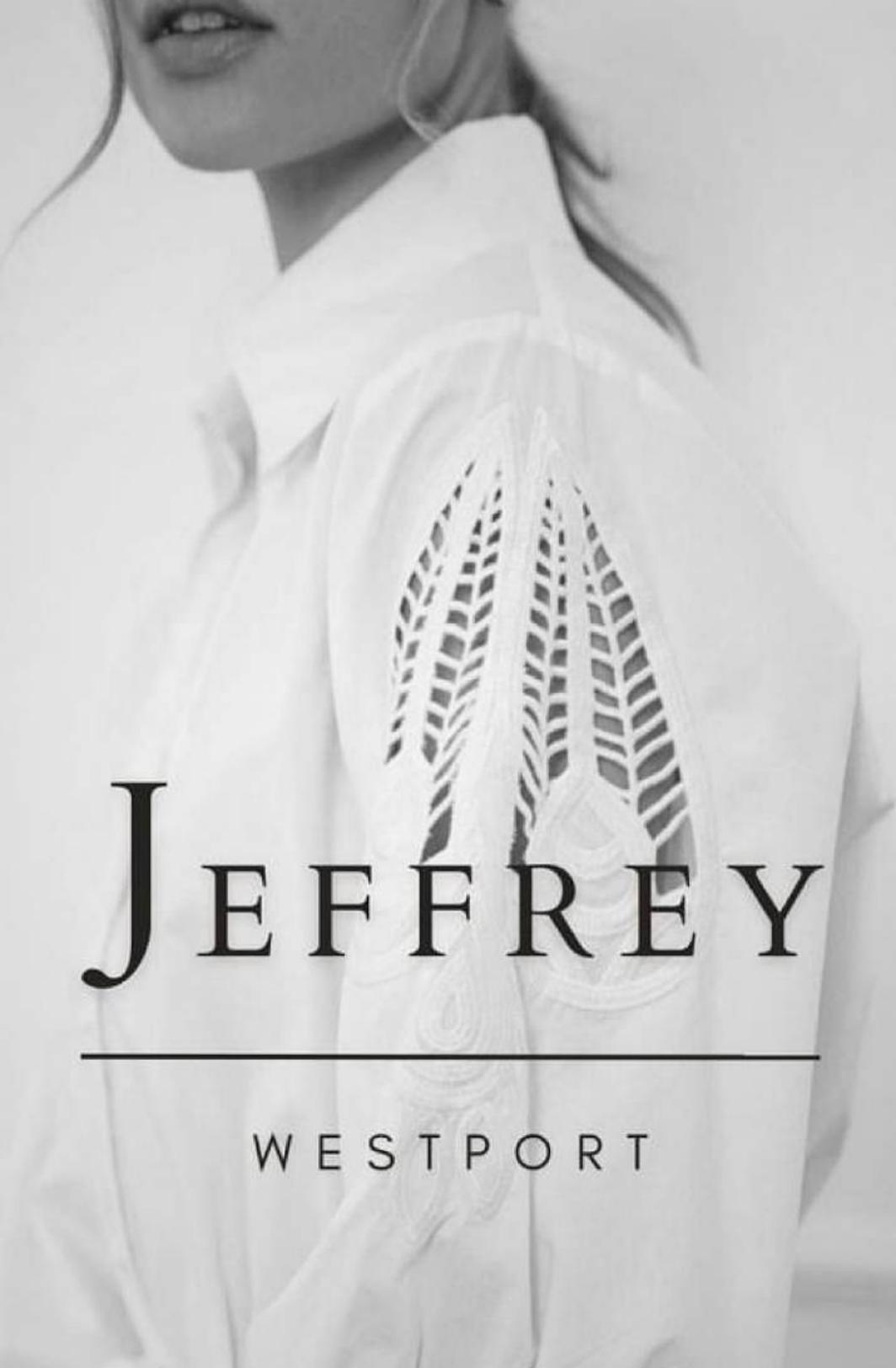
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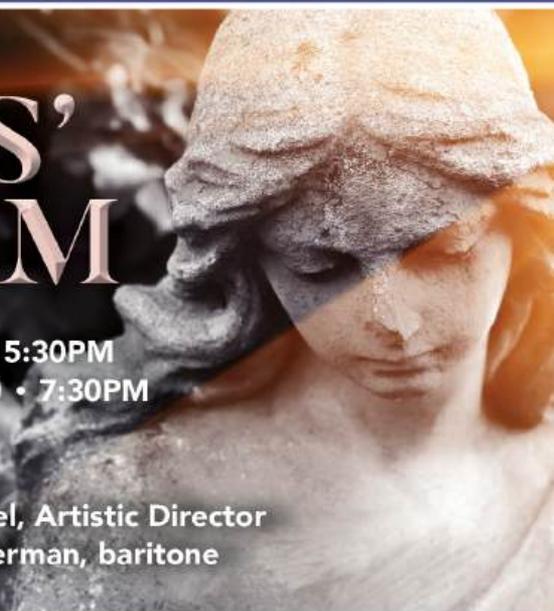
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