

DIVER SIONs 21



fort wayne
ballet 65

KAREN GIBBONS-BROWN | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

30 SEPTEMBER - 2 OCTOBER 2021 | **PARKVIEW PHYSICIANS GROUP ARTSLAB**



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A woman with long dark hair, wearing a black sleeveless dress, stands in front of a large, ornate blue door. She is holding a large, flowing red fabric that extends across the frame. The background shows the architectural details of the door and some stone steps.

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to make our community a beautiful place.

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Giselle

A ghostly tale of unrequited love between social classes and revenge from beyond the grave — will the spirits of the underworld succeed in dancing Duke Albrecht to death?

Will Giselle be able to save her true love?

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fortwayneballet.org

fort wayne
ballet 65

KAREN GIBBONS-BROWN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



A diversion for the times . . .

A diversion: a detour, a redirect, a distraction — or an amusement, a delight, a relief. Given these past, (very) long months of upheaval and unrest, we believe a little diversion is good for the spirit. To that, we bring you a chance to relax, redirect your thoughts, and delight in this opening performance of **Fort Wayne Ballet's 65th Season!**

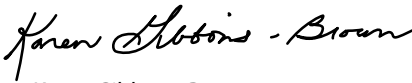
Like most arts organizations, we are rebounding from the past 18 months, and this evening our **Diversions 21** performance is the perfect introduction to a fresh, bright, new season of delightful dances. We offer you a mingling of dances both classical and contemporary. Relax and enjoy this *real-time* performance!

Approaching Halloween, we hope you'll be back sooner than usual as our professional company will present **Giselle** — a dark and moody tale of unrequited love and the revenge of the underworld! Don't miss this ghostly tale on the Auer Center's Main Stage, October 22 and 23 at 7 PM each evening. For those who prefer something a bit lighter, we're featuring **The Wizard of Oz** on Saturday, October 16.

We round out our Fall Season with everyone's favorite holiday classic and Fort Wayne Ballet's original performances of **The Nutcracker**. Production has already begun, and we're excited to share this beautiful story with you and be part of your family's traditions. Performances run **December 3-12**. *Watch for details!*

Our Spring Season will begin ahead of the calendar with a sumptuous treat for Valentine's Day with performances of **Love Notes**, the much-anticipated **The Sleeping Beauty** in April, and so much more. Check out our website and social media for details to come.

Finally, a note of gratitude to every one of our patrons, parents, dancers, and instructors. We're in challenging times, but together, we are making a notably positive difference through dance. Collectively, we will continue to engage and empower others to know the importance of the arts. **Thank you** for joining us on this journey!



Karen Gibbons-Brown
Artistic Director
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DECEMBER 3, 4, 10, 11 from 4 PM - 10 PM • DECEMBER 5 and 12 from Noon - 5 PM
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FORT WAYNE BALLET'S ORIGINAL

DIVERSIONS 21

30 SEPTEMBER - 2 OCTOBER 2021 | PARKVIEW PHYSICIANS GROUP ARTSLAB

Staging & Choreography Karen Gibbons-Brown
Cynthia Pratt
Tracy Tritz

Costume Design & Execution Nan Possemato
Duncan Smith

Lighting Director Jeremy Springer

Production Managers Christina Brinker
Luke Holliger

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FORT WAYNE BALLET'S ORIGINAL

DIVERSIONs21

30 SEPTEMBER - 2 OCTOBER 2021 | PARKVIEW PHYSICIANS GROUP ARTSLAB

Moonlight Sonata

Choreography Tracy Tritz
Music Ludwig van Beethoven
Costumes Nan Possemato

Evening

Saki Mormoto
Talbot Rue
Thomas Caleb Roberts

Midnight

Amber Bailey
David Claypoole

Just Before Dawn

Rachel Aron, Samantha Berry, Avalou Burns, Amanda Eve Carrick,
Tatum Farlow, Brittany Focht, Jessica Humphrey, Babette Hunter,
Saki Morimoto, Lindsay Navarre, Maddie Opacinch, Thomas Caleb Roberts,
Talbot Rue, Ashleigh Sewell, Graeham Toomey, Abby Zinsser

* * *

Grand Pas Classique

Choreography after Viktor Gsorsky
Staged by Karen Gibbons-Brown
Music Daniel-Francois Auber
Costumes Nan Possemato

Amber Bailey, David Claypoole

FORT WAYNE BALLET'S ORIGINAL

DIVERSIONS 21

30 SEPTEMBER - 2 OCTOBER 2021 | PARKVIEW PHYSICIANS GROUP ARTSLAB

La Esmeralda Pas de Deux

Choreography after Perrot
Staged by Karen Gibbons-Brown
Music Cesare Pugni
Costumes Nan Possemato

Carmie Schiano Nelson, Thomas Caleb Roberts

* * *

Departure from Fifth Position

Choreography Cynthia Pratt
Music S. Prokofiev
Costumes Katherine Egan

Amanda Eve Carrick, Yu-Chieh Chao, Tatum Farlow,
Zion Harris, Jessica Humphrey, Babette Hunter,
Saki Morimoto, Lindsay Navarre, Talbot Rue,
Carmie Schiano Nelson, Graeham Toomey,
Leah Wolfe, Abby Zinsser

Costumes are courtesy of Butler Ballet. A heartfelt *Thank You!*

– *fin* –

FORT WAYNE BALLET'S ORIGINAL

DIVERSIONS 21

Production Credits

Production Managers	Christina Brinker Luke Holliger
Master Technician	Luke Holliger
Lighting Design	Jeremy Springer
Light Board Operator	Jeremy Springer
Costume Designers	Nan Possemato and Butler Ballet
Costume Shop Supervisor	Nan Possemato

ArtsTix Community Box Office	Reuben Albaugh, Director De'Andre Martin, Assistant Director
-------------------------------------	---

Fort Wayne Ballet gratefully acknowledges the invaluable contributions of every volunteer who has given so freely of his or her time to make this production possible.

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KAREN GIBBONS-BROWN
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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SOCIETY

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is an exclusive opportunity to be a catalyst for creativity, in the spirit of Sergei Diaghilev, a Russian-born promoter for innovation in the arts. **DIAGHILEV SOCIETY MEMBERS** enjoy a higher Fort Wayne Ballet experience through a host of rewards and privileges reserved for this leadership community in support of Fort Wayne Ballet.

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FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION, contact Jim Sparrow or Clarissa Reis for a confidential conversation: 260.484.9646 or visit us online at fortwayneballet.org/support/diaghilev-society

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KAREN GIBBONS-BROWN | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



CYNTHIA PRATT
GUEST CHOREOGRAPHER
PROFESSOR OF DANCE, BUTLER UNIVERSITY

Cynthia Pratt, Professor of Dance, has been a member of the dance faculty at Butler University since 1994. She received her B.A. degree in Ballet from Virginia Intermont College in 1979 and her M.F.A. degree from Temple University in 1989. In between undergraduate and graduate school, Cynthia lived in New York City where she trained extensively in jazz dance with world-renowned teacher Lynn Simonson, who became her mentor. While in New York, she began teaching Simonson Technique and choreographing on a commission basis for repertory dance companies. Cynthia has a wide range of performing experiences both in the United States and Europe in ballet, modern, and jazz companies as well as on television and in musical reviews with Jon de Mal Productions in Amsterdam. Cynthia has taught jazz dance and choreographed extensively at such institutions as the North Carolina School of the Arts, New York University, Steps, Philadanco, the National Balletacademie Theatre School in Amsterdam, the Goteborg Balletakademien in Goteborg, Sweden, the National Taiwan University of the Arts and Dance Space Center in New York. She has worked as an auditioner for the Jacob's Pillow Summer Dance Festival Jazz Project and has served as artistic director for several choreographic showcases established to exhibit the work of new choreographers at Evolving Arts in New York. In addition, Cynthia is a Certified Movement Analyst and holds a degree from the Laban Institute for Movement Studies. Since relocating to Indianapolis, Cynthia has choreographed many works for the Butler Ballet and has frequently worked as Guest Choreographer for Dance Kaleidoscope, Indiana's premier modern dance company. She continues to teach and choreograph on companies and in universities throughout the U.S and abroad. Cynthia is the recipient of numerous research and choreographic grants including being twice awarded the prestigious Indianapolis Arts Council Creative Renewal Grant, given to established and noteworthy artists in Indiana. Since 2004, Cynthia has been Artistic Director for Butler Chamber Dance, an innovative performing wing of the Butler Ballet Company. Under Cynthia's direction, Butler Chamber Dance has performed at the Indianapolis Spirit and Place Festival, Penrod Arts Festival, Hope College, Wabash College and with Dance Kaleidoscope.

Since 2009, Cynthia has been experimenting with large-scale, site-specific dances (between 100-500 participants) and from 2012 through 2016 was the choreographer for Streamlines, a project funded by the National Science Foundation which explored the use of the arts to raise awareness of concerns of local waterways. Her experiences in choreographing these large-scale works, and the impact they have had on community building, was published in 2017 in *The Oxford Handbook of Dance and Well-Being*.



KAREN GIBBONS-BROWN

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Karen Gibbons-Brown's resume contains an impressive list of credentials. She began her early training in Columbia, South Carolina under Ann Brodie, Naomi Calvert and Adolphina Suarez-More. Her early training and performing included ballet as well as modern, jazz, tap and theater dance. She continued her studies at American Ballet Theatre with Maria Swoboda, Michael Lland, Patricia Wilde and Leon Danelian and studied on scholarship at David Howard School of Ballet.

Her professional experiences also include South Carolina Chamber Dance Ensemble, Ballet Celeste, Bristol Ballet and the Theatre Ballet of San Francisco where she recreated Anna Pavlova's roles *The California Poppy* and *The Dragonfly*. Other performing highlights include performances at the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, the title role in *Cinderella*, *The Sugar Plum Fairy* in *The Nutcracker*, *Swanhilda* in *Coppelia*, *Aurora* in *The Sleeping Beauty* and "Spring Waters" pas de deux, an exciting display of partnering created by the great Russian choreographer Asaf Messerer. Ms. Gibbons-Brown considers herself fortunate to have had works created especially for her including solos, *Pentimento* by Jill Eathorne Barr and the role of Anna in Richard Monroe's work, *The Hussar*. Throughout her career, she has made numerous guest appearances throughout the United States.

Ms. Gibbons-Brown is known for her work in the classroom and enjoys teaching a variety of dance related subjects including ballet, pointe, repertoire, terminology, dance history, pedagogy and makeup and hair for stage as well as restaging major classical works. She has often been invited to teach guest classes and workshops including in Sicily, Italy, Fontenay le Fleury, France and the prestigious Joffrey San Antonio Workshop under the directorship of her mentor Jeremy Blanton. She received her certification in Labanotation while serving on the faculty of Virginia Intermont College under the direction of Constance Hardinge and served as Ballet Mistress for John McFall as he created his production of *The Nutcracker* for Atlanta Ballet. In 1985, Ms. Gibbons-Brown founded the Kingsport Guild of Ballet and became Artistic Director of the State of Franklin Dance Alliance at its inception in 1988. Other dance administrative duties include serving on the Tennessee Association Board of Directors in many capacities including as president and serving on the Performing Arts Panel for the Tennessee Arts Commission. She assumed directorship of Fort Wayne Ballet in August of 1998. Other career highlights include Outstanding Dance Artist Award in 1997, serving as a juror for Concours International de Danse Classique in Paris, France in 2000, a 2002 graduate of Leadership Fort Wayne and being listed in *Who's Who in the 21st Century*. In 2010, a new book authored by renowned choreographer Dean Speer, entitled *On Technique*, identifies Ms. Gibbons-Brown as among the world's 18 most respected ballet masters, pedagogues and artistic directors. Karen is currently involved with the ABT training curriculum and has been certified though level 5.

Her other full time job is spending time with her husband, Jim, and children Watson, Madison, Hannah, Zachary, Raleigh and a sundry of dogs.

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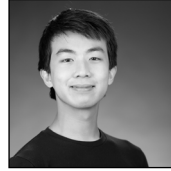
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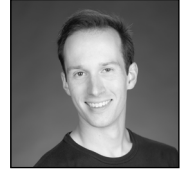
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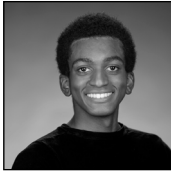
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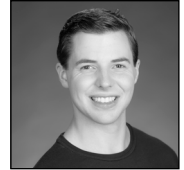
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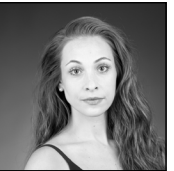
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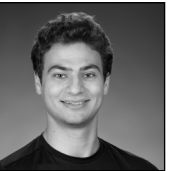
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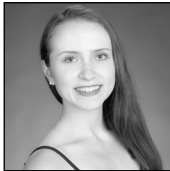
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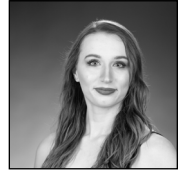
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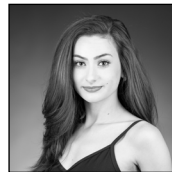
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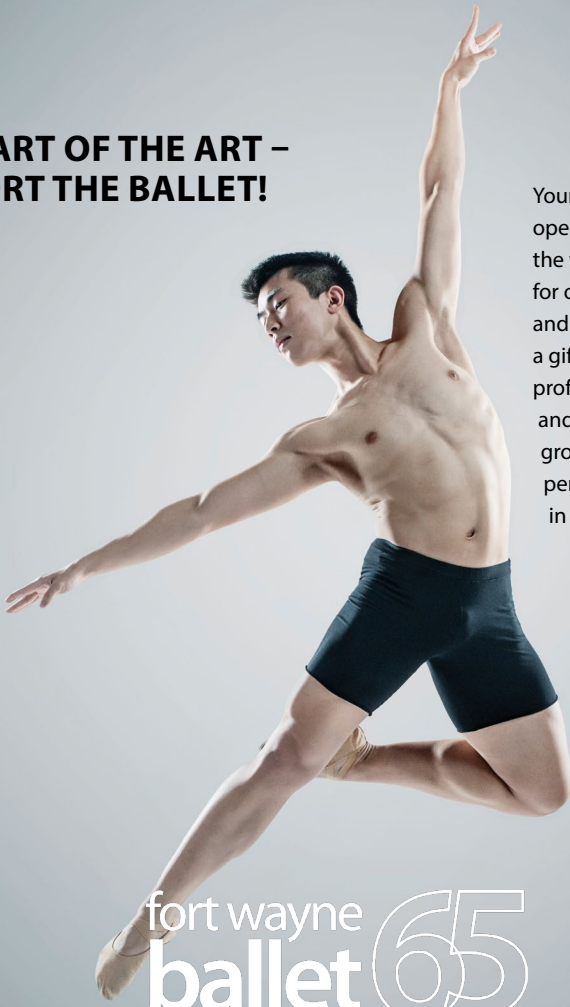
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