

Giselle



fort wayne
ballet 65

KAREN GIBBONS-BROWN | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

22 & 23 OCTOBER 2021 | ARTS UNITED CENTER



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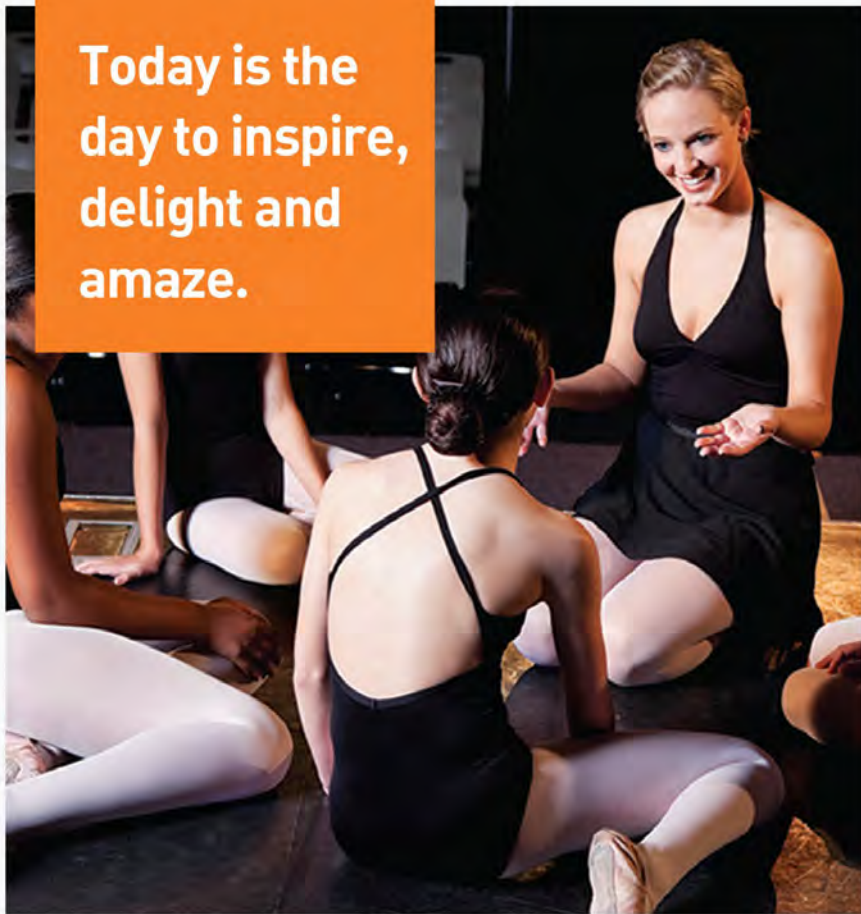


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fort wayne ballet
KAREN GIBBONS-BROWN
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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The trouble of toying with affection . . .

Love is seldom simple, but it's especially complex when both devotion and deception become entangled with intention. **Giselle** is a tragic love story, tangled in a classic triangle of unrequited love, delicately wrapped in a lie and served with a ghostly dose of retaliation from the underworld by the "Willis" (willies)! Yes, that shuddering feeling of creepiness that "gives you the willies" is derived from this story.

Giselle was first performed in June 1841, at the Salle Le Peletier in Paris, and has enjoyed a long-running popularity across the globe. The story is heartbreaking and mesmerizing as we watch the characters experience all of the core emotions: love and delight, brokenness and death, fear and frustration. It's a magical journey, one that dancers and audiences alike enjoy sharing.

As with every Fort Wayne Ballet performance, the costumes play as much of a role as the dancers and music in creating the experience. Much like *Swan Lake* and *La Sylphide*, *Giselle* is a visual delight with its ghostly illusions, clash of social classes, and fluidity. Costumes become our visual bookmarks and underscore the storyline. We are gratefully fortunate to have costumer Nan Possemato at the helm of all things stitched and starched! (*Thank you, Nan, Duncan, and volunteers!*)

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**. *Tickets available now!*

Our Spring Season will begin ahead of the calendar with a sumptuous treat for Valentine's Day with performances of **Love Notes**, our new **Celebration Series** in March, the much-anticipated **The Sleeping Beauty** in April, and **Romeo & Juliet** in May. Check out page 37 of this playbill or 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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KAREN GIBBONS-BROWN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



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2021



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STORY SYNOPSIS:

ACT I: The ballet is set in the vineyard country bordering the Rhine. Hilarion, the village huntsman and a gamekeeper to the court, returns from his early morning chores and pauses before a neighboring cottage—the home of Giselle, with whom he is in love. Villagers pass by on their way to the vineyards, where they will harvest the last of the grapes before the Wine Festival.

Count Albrecht, dressed as a peasant, arrives with his squire. Hilarion has witnessed this exchange and is puzzled that the squire should show such deference to this youth, who is known to the villager as a fellow peasant named Loys. Loys excuses himself from joining the grape pickers so that he can be alone with Giselle. He swears eternal love, and she takes the traditional test with a daisy—“he loves me, he loves me not.” When it appears the answer will be “not,” she throws the flower away; Loys retrieves it and, by surreptitiously discarding a petal, comes up with the answer “he loves me.” Hilarion interrupts, protesting that he, and not Loys, truly loves Giselle. A quarrel ensues, and Hilarion’s suspicions deepen as Loys instinctively reaches for the sword that, as a nobleman, he is accustomed to wearing.

The villagers return, and Giselle invites them to join in a dance to celebrate the harvest. Her mother, Berthe, interrupts and warns her that her life may be endangered if she overexerts herself by dancing. She is struck by a momentary hallucination of her daughter in death. She sees her as a wili, a restless spirit who has died with her love unrequited.

A horn sounds in the distance, and Loys recognizes it as coming from the hunting party of the prince of Courland. Refreshments are served to the hunters, and the prince’s daughter, Bathilde, gives Giselle a gold necklace when she learns they are both engaged to be married. After the royal party has returned to the hunt, Hilarion emerges from Loys’ cottage with a hunting horn and a sword, further evidence that the supposed peasant is, in fact, a nobleman.

The villagers return and proclaim Giselle the queen of the Wine Festival. Hilarion interrupts to denounce Loys as an impostor. When Loys denies the charges and threatens the gamekeeper with his sword, Hilarion blows the hunting horn, a signal for the prince to return. Loys is exposed as an impostor when Bathilde reveals that he is her fiancé, Count Albrecht. The shock of learning of Albrecht’s duplicity is too great for Giselle’s frail constitution. Her mind becomes unhinged, and she dies of a broken heart—her love unrequited.

ACT II: The scene is laid in a clearing in the forest near Giselle’s grave. The wilis are summoned by their queen, Myrta, to attend the ceremonies that will initiate Giselle into their sisterhood. Their love unrequited, they can find no rest. Their spirits are forever destined to roam the earth from midnight to dawn, vengefully trapping any male who enters their domain and forcing him to dance to his death. Hilarion, in search of Giselle, meets his death at their hands. Albrecht arrives to leave flowers on Giselle’s grave. He too is trapped and commanded to dance until death. Giselle resolves to protect him. She dances with him until the clock strikes four, at which hour the wilis lose their power. Albrecht is rescued from death. Giselle’s spirit finds a final resting place in Albrecht’s heart, never to visit the earthly world again.

• • •

FORT WAYNE BALLET'S ORIGINAL

Giselle

22 & 23 OCTOBER 2021 | ARTS UNITED CENTER

Music by Adolphe Adam, Leon Minkus
Choreographed after Jules Perrot, Jean Coralli, Marius Petipa
Staged by Karen Gibbons-Brown
Costume Design & Execution Nan Possemato
Duncan Smith
Lighting Director Miriam Morgan
Production Managers Christina Brinker
Luke Holliger

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FORT WAYNE BALLET'S ORIGINAL

Giselle

ACT I

A village in the vineyard country bordering the Rhine

Hilarion	Zion Harris
Berthe, <i>Giselle's mother</i>	Rachel Aron
Count Albrecht / Loys	David Claypoole* Thomas Caleb Roberts^
Wilfried	Talbot Rue
Giselle	Amanda Eve Carrick^ Saki Morimoto*
Bathilda, <i>fiance of Count Albrecht</i>	Grace Sauls
Lady of the Court	Olivia Ley
Duke of Courland, <i>Bathilda's father</i>	David Claypoole^ Thomas Caleb Roberts*
Giselle's friends	Samantha Berry, Avalou Burns, Tatum Farlow, Maddie Opacinch, Ashleigh Sewell, Payton Wilson, Leah Wolfe, Abby Zinsser
Villagers	Tekhylon Armour, Alexis Andrews, Alan Barragán Campos^, Yu-Chieh Chao*, Rudolph Davis, Stella Falconer, Grace Gephart, Katherine Grable, Sadie Jones, Olivia Myers, Abigayle Reiber, Allen Sizemore, Fiona Tippman
Peasant Pas de Deux	Jessica Humphrey*, Lindsay Navarre^ Alan Barragán Campos*, Yu-Chieh Chao^

FORT WAYNE BALLET'S ORIGINAL

Giselle

ACT II

A forest clearing, the grave of Giselle

Myrtha, <i>Queen of the Wilis</i>	Carmie Schiano Nelson
Zulma	Jessica Humphrey
Moyna	Amber Bailey
Wilis	Rachel Aron, Katie Brown, Avalou Burns, Katherine Cackovic, Clara Delaney, Tatum Farlow, Brittany Focht, Babette Hunter, Sandra Imbriaco, Sadie Jones, Cailin Kluttz, Lindsay Navarre, Maddie Opacinch, Abigayle Reiber, Victoria Stocker, Payton Wilson, Leah Wolfe, Abby Zinsser

— *fin* —

Performance key: ^ Friday, October 22 performance
 * Saturday, October 23 performance

Giselle

Production Credits

Production Managers	Christina Brinker, Luke Holliger
Master Technician	Luke Holliger
Stage Manager	Luke Holliger
Lighting Design	Miriam Morgan
Fly Master	Lorenzo Kleine, Benjamin Roney
Costume Designer	Nan Possemato
Costume Shop Supervisor	Nan Possemato
Costume Shop Assistant	Duncan Smith
Costume Shop Volunteers	Anna Hess, Pam Laux
Set Designer	Adam Fletcher
Tombstone Designer	Chris Whitman
Backstage Crew	Jeffrey Faulstich, Andy Kurzen, Gretchen Lawson, Ryan Myers
Special Thanks	Adam Fletcher, IATSE Local 146, Corey Lee, Fort Wayne Civic Theatre
ArtsTix Community Box Office	Reuben Albaugh, Director De'Andre Martin, Assistant Director

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KAREN GIBBONS-BROWN
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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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 through level 7.

FORT WAYNE BALLET STAFF & FACULTY

Click an individual's image to learn more at fortwayneballet.org/staff



JIM SPARROW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



CHRISTINA BRINKER
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER



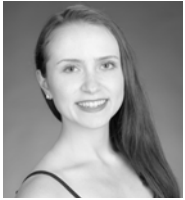
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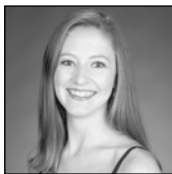
AMBER BAILEY • AVALOU BURNS • DAVID CLAYPOOLE • LINDSAY NAVARRE • MADDIE OPACINCH

FORT WAYNE BALLET

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COMPANY



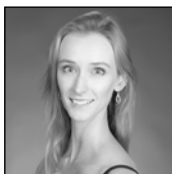
AMBER BAILEY

Amber began dancing in Traverse City, Michigan and continued her training at the University of Oklahoma. She graduated in 2018 with a BFA in Dance and BA in Mathematics. Amber is entering her fourth season with Fort Wayne Ballet where she has had the opportunity to perform as Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*, Helena in *A Midsummer's Night's Dream*, Lucy in Tracy Tritz's *Dracula* and Christine in Darren McIntyre's *The Phantom of the Opera*. Amber has also been featured in works by Gerald Arpino, Robert Joffrey and Edward Stierle. She's performed abroad in Taizhou, China with Fort Wayne Ballet and in Barcelona, Spain with Centre de Dansa de Catalunya. Her choreography has been performed at both the University of Oklahoma and Fort Wayne Ballet. She's a fully certified, ABT® Affiliate Instructor and enjoys sharing her passion with growing artists. Amber looks forward to another season with Fort Wayne Ballet.



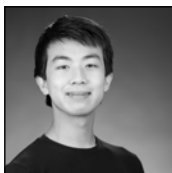
ALAN BARRAGÁN CAMPOS

Alan is from Cancun, Mexico. He began his training at Talulah Centro Integral de Danza and attended Point Park University's International Summer Dance. He since has attended Escuela Superior de Música y Danza de Monterrey and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Classical Dance. At Escuela Superior de Música y Danza de Monterrey (ESMDM) he has performed feature roles in *The Nutcracker*, *Giselle*, *La Bayadere* and *The Sleeping Beauty* as well as original works by Diego Landín and Louis Stains. He was a guest artist with Quenedit Dance Theater several times. While at ESMDM, he participated in the Monterrey International Ballet Gala and Workshop, Concurso Internacional de Ballet La Superior and Youth America Grand Prix Mexico. Alan is excited to be joining Fort Wayne Ballet for his first season.



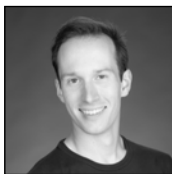
AMANDA EVE CARRICK

Amanda Eve is originally from Southfield, Michigan. She is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma – School of Dance (2016) with a Bachelors of Fine Arts and minor in Nonprofit Management. Amanda Eve danced with the Louisville Ballet for their 2016-2018 seasons, appearing in such performances as Balanchine's *Rubies* and Stephen Baynes' American premiere of *Requiem*. She first joined Fort Wayne Ballet for the 2018-2019 season as a corps member. Amanda Eve was so honored to have represented Fort Wayne Ballet on the tour to Taizhou, China with Sister Cities International (2018), and to have performed her first principal role in Fort Wayne Ballet's production of *Cinderella* (2019). She has since performed roles such as "The Sugar Plum Fairy" and "Dew Drop" in *The Nutcracker*, and "Mina" in the premiere of Tracy Tritz's *Dracula* (2020). This will be her fourth season performing with Fort Wayne Ballet.



YU-CHIEH CHAO

Yu-Chieh Chao, of Pingtung, Taiwan, joined Fort Wayne Ballet in 2020. Chao began dancing at the age of 10 in his hometown and subsequently began training with the Taipei National University of Arts at the age of 15. One year later, he started training in Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School's Pre-Professional Division and continued throughout high school. While Chao was a member of the PBT School he performed in Etudes, Graduation Ball, the Bluebird Pas de Deux and George Balanchine's *Western Symphony*. In 2018, he joined PBT as a company member and has performed in PBT productions of *The Nutcracker*, Jerome Robbins' *West Side Story Suite*, as well as *The Great Gatsby*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Giselle* and *The Sleeping Beauty*.



DAVID CLAYPOOLE

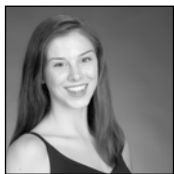
Originally from Richmond, Virginia, David Claypoole started dancing at the age of 9, training at The School of Richmond Ballet and attending summer programs with Joffrey Ballet New York, Gelsey Kirkland Academy of Classical Ballet, and Richmond Ballet. David earned his college degree in Dance and Performance through Virginia Commonwealth University dual program with The Richmond Ballet trainee program. He spent two years performing in Richmond Ballet's second company dancing ballets such as Malcom Burn's *Romeo and Juliet* and *Swipe* by Bal Canaperoli. David has danced numerous roles with Fort Wayne Ballet including *Dracula* in Fort Wayne Ballet's original *Dracula*, Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and leading roles in *Pas de Deesses*, *Light Rain*, Edward Stierle's *Empyrean Dances*, and *Cinderella*. He has worked with guest choreographers including Cameron Basden, Jeremy Blanton, Kim Sagami, and Adam Sklute. David is excited to be performing in his sixth season.

FORT WAYNE BALLET

MEET THE DANCERS

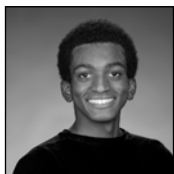
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COMPANY



TATUM FARLOW

Originally from Memphis, Tennessee, Tatum trained at the Ballet Memphis School under Janet Parke. Tatum continued her training at Butler University, receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Performance, and graduating cum laude with departmental honors. While at Butler, Tatum performed notable roles in *The Nutcracker*, *Paquita*, *La Vivandiere*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and Paul Taylor's *Piazzolla Caldera*. Tatum joined Fort Wayne Ballet in 2019, and since has enjoyed the opportunity to perform in Gerald Arpino's *Italian Suite*, Edward Stierle's *Empyrean Dances*, Tracy Tritz's *Finding Meaning*, Weird Sister in *Dracula*, and the "Pas de Trois" from *Swan Lake*. Tatum is eager to be dancing with Fort Wayne Ballet for a third Season.



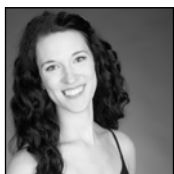
ZION HARRIS

Zion is from Boston, Massachusetts, and began his dance training at the age of 4 at the Walnut Hill Dance Academy. He continued training at the Boston Ballet School when he turned 11 and the next year from was accepted into their Pre-Professional program where he spent seven years, including two as a trainee. In 2018 Zion joined Richmond Ballet's second company under the direction of Stoner Winslett and Igor Antonov. While there he performed in *Cinderella*, Salvatore Aiello's *Senza Fretta*, and Ron Cunningham's *Summerset*, among others. In 2019 Zion joined First State Ballet Theatre in Wilmington, Delaware. During his time there he danced in Plotnikov's *Dracula*, *Carnival in Venice*, and others. The next year he joined Fort Wayne Ballet and danced in Tracy Tritz's *Dracula*, "Russian" in *The Nutcracker*, and *Swan Lake*'s "Pas de Trois". Zion is looking forward to his second season with Fort Wayne Ballet.



JESSICA HUMPHREY

Jessica began her ballet training in her hometown of Birmingham, Michigan. She then studied as a trainee at The Joffrey Ballet in Chicago and performed in *Coppélia*, *Paquita*, *Swan Lake*, and Gerald Arpino's *Viva Vivaldi*. She performed with the company in Jerome Robbins' *Glass Pieces* and Balanchine's *The Four Temperaments*. Since joining Fort Wayne Ballet, Jessica has performed in a variety of works including Gerald Arpino's *Italian Suite*, Tracy Tritz's *Adagio for Strings*, *Tarantella*, Little Swans, as Snow Queen in *The Nutcracker*, and as Little Red in *The Sleeping Beauty*. Jessica is excited and grateful to start another season with Fort Wayne Ballet.



BABETTE HUNTER

Originally from Springville, Iowa, Babette started dancing at age 3. After high school she joined BalletMet as a trainee, studying under Edwaard Liang and Timothy Lynch. She then joined Oklahoma City Ballet as a trainee, performing in Robert Mills' *Sleeping Beauty*. In 2017, Babette joined Fort Wayne Ballet and has performed roles such as the Stepmother in *Cinderella*, works from Gerald Arpino including *Light Rain* and *Italian Suites*, Dew Drop from *The Nutcracker*, Little Swans from *Swan Lake*, and several pieces from Tracy Tritz including *Bolero* and the Weird Sisters in *Dracula*. Babette is looking forward to her fifth season with Fort Wayne Ballet.



IZUMI MASAKI

Izumi was born in Yamanashi, Japan, and started ballet at Miwa's Ballet school. She later studied on full scholarship at ABS (Austrian Ballet School). Izumi received First Place Award at the 41st Saitama Prefecture Dance Association National Contest in 2008. Concurrent with her graduation from the Austrian Ballet School, Izumi was promoted to ABC Tokyo Ballet Company as a Soloist Dancer in 2013. Izumi also danced with Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida before joining Fort Wayne Ballet.

FORT WAYNE BALLET

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COMPANY



SAKI MORIMOTO

Saki grew up in Osaka, Japan, where she studied ballet at Yamamoto Sanae Ballet School. At 15, she moved to the United States, where she trained at the Academy of Ballet NJ under the direction of David Gallagher. She continued her training at UNCSA under the direction of Susan Jaffe and graduated with a BFA in Dance. Since joining Fort Wayne Ballet, Saki's danced featured roles including *Confetti* by Gerald Arpino, *Empyrean Dances* by Edward Stierle and *Pas de Deesses* by Robert Joffrey. Her classical repertoire includes *Coppelia* (Swanhilda), *Cinderella* (Cinderella), and *Swan Lake* (Black Swan). She had the opportunity to tour to Taizhou, China (2018), and to Erie, Pennsylvania as Sugar Plum (2019). As a choreographer, she's created original works for Fort Wayne Ballet, including Main Stage production, *Diversions 2020*. Saki has been recognized by the American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA) as an Artist of Extraordinary Ability.



KEISUKE NISHIKAWA

Keisuke was born in Hyogo, Japan. He began his training at the Seiko Kuramoto Ballet School. In 2013, Keisuke received First Place Award at the Osaka Prix Competition and a scholarship from the Vaganova Ballet Academy. Keisuke studied at Vaganova Ballet Academy for two years. In 2015, he was awarded with a First Place at the Japan Grand Prix. Keisuke danced with the Gelsey Kirkland Ballet Company and Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida before joining Fort Wayne Ballet.



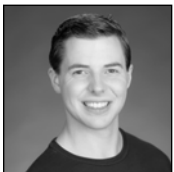
LINDSAY NAVARRE

Lindsay grew up in Monroe, Michigan, where she progressed through the Cecchetti method. Under the direction of Timothy Lynch, she danced as a trainee at BalletMet and performed works alongside the professional company for the 2013-2014 season. After joining Louisville Ballet in 2014, she performed in many productions including Balanchine's *Western Symphony*, *Concerto Barocco*, Val Caniparoli's *The Nutcracker* and Adam Houghland's *Petrouchka*. In her three seasons with Fort Wayne Ballet, Lindsay's repertoire includes Gerald Arpino's *Light Rain* and *Italian Suite*, Edward Stierle's *Empyrean Dances* and *Swan Lake's* "Pas de Trois". She was also featured as Christine in Darren McIntyre's *Phantom of the Opera* and Winter Fairy in Fort Wayne Ballet's *Cinderella*. She is an ABT® Certified Instructor and holds the Cecchetti Grade I teaching certification. Lindsay is excited to be joining Fort Wayne Ballet for a fourth season.



THOMAS CALEB ROBERTS

Thomas began his pre-professional dance training at the Center for Dance Education under the direction of Mimi Worrell. He graduated from the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts under the tutelage of Stanislav Issaev and attended North Carolina School for the Arts, studying with Ethan Stiefel. Thomas has attended summer programs with ABT, Boston Ballet, South Carolina Summer Dance Conservatory, and North Carolina School of the Arts, to name a few. His professional career began with Boston Ballet as a trainee, continued with Cincinnati Ballet as a corps de ballet member and later with Columbia City Ballet as a demi-soloist. He's been a frequent guest artist with various regional companies including Carolina Ballet. Thomas joined Fort Wayne Ballet last season and has enjoyed performing in pas de deux's of Black Swan, *Don Quixote*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and *Spartacus*. Thomas looks forward to his second season with the company.



TALBOT RUE

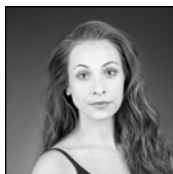
From Fort Wayne, Indiana, Talbot started dancing at the age of nine with a local dance school. He then studied in the Auer Academy of Fort Wayne Ballet for seven years. His training at summer intensives includes Fort Wayne Ballet, Next Generation Ballet, Chautauqua Ballet Program, Richmond Ballet, and Nashville Ballet. After serving as a trainee at Richmond Ballet, he was a company dancer at First State Ballet Theater in Delaware. He then moved to Nashville Ballet to dance with their Second Company. He is excited to be back for his third season at Fort Wayne Ballet.

FORT WAYNE BALLET

MEET THE DANCERS

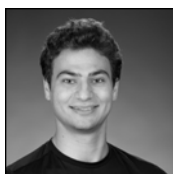
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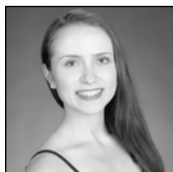
**CARMIE SCHIANO
NELSON**

Carmie began her early dance training in New York City. At age 12, she was accepted to Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington, D.C. and attended the year-round boarding school. After graduating high school early, Carmie continued her training with Boston Ballet and has attended summer programs at ABT, Ballet Austin, Boston Ballet, Nashville Ballet, among others, all on scholarship. Carmie has danced professionally with Festival Ballet Providence, Richmond Ballet, American Contemporary Ballet as a soloist, and with Columbia City Ballet for 10 seasons. During her tenure with Columbia City Ballet, Carmie performed numerous notable roles in both classical and contemporary works, receiving a promotion to demi-soloist just prior to leaving. After joining Fort Wayne Ballet this past season, her most memorable performance opportunity has been performing the *Spartacus* "Pas de Deux". Carmie looks forward to her second season at Fort Wayne Ballet and continuing to explore the city.



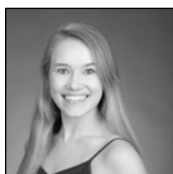
**GRAEHAM
TOOMEY**

Graeham is from Elmhurst, Illinois, where he began training at a small studio in his home town. He attended Butler University, receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Performance. At Butler, Graeham performed in various soloist or feature roles of *The Nutcracker*, *Cinderella*, *La Vivandere*, *La Bayadere*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and Rothbart in *Swan Lake*. As a guest artist with USA Ballet, Graeham performed the Nutcracker Prince in *The Nutcracker*. Along with his work in Ballet he has been part of original pieces by Susan McGuire and Derek Reid, as well as working with Patrick de Baña on his work *Falling Sky*. Graeham is excited to return to Fort Wayne Ballet for his second season with the company.



LEAH WOLFE

Born in Florham Park, New Jersey, Leah began her dance training at the New Jersey School of Ballet before going on to study at the Gelsey Kirkland Academy and the French Academie of Ballet. In 2019, she graduated from Butler University with honors with a BFA in dance performance and a secondary major in economics. Leah is an ABT® Certified Teacher and has completed the ABT® Teacher Training Intensive in Pre-Primary through Level 3. This year, she is very excited for her third season with Fort Wayne Ballet, as well as her second season teaching for Fort Wayne Ballet's Auer Academy and serving as Co-Director of the Auer Academy's Youth Company!



ABBY ZINSSER

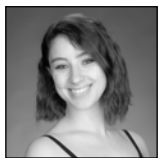
Abby began training at the School of Richmond Ballet in 2006, working with Stoner Winslett, Judy Jacob, and Malcolm Burn. After graduating from high school in 2016 she was accepted into Nashville Ballet's Trainee program. There she had the opportunity to work with Paul Vasterling, Nick Mullikin, and Kathryn Crews Linsley, and performed in such works as *La Bayadere*, *Swan Lake*, *Paquita*, and *The Nutcracker*, along with original contemporary works. Abby joined Fort Wayne Ballet in 2019 as a corps de ballet member. She's performed in Eddie Stierle's *Empyrean Dances*, the Bluebird Pas de Deux from *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Spring Waters*, and Clara in Fort Wayne Ballet's *The Nutcracker*. Abby is very excited to start her third season with Fort Wayne Ballet – first as a company member!

FORT WAYNE BALLET

MEET THE DANCERS

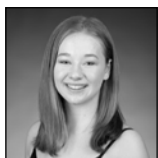
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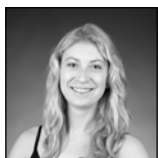
RACHEL ARON

Rachel trained at Dancer's Studio/Backstage in Atlanta, Georgia under Jonnie Kelley and Victoria Leigh. She then attended Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre's full time high school and Graduate program, and joined Nashville Ballet as a trainee. Rachel has danced professionally with Columbia Classical Ballet and Lexington Ballet, where she performed principal and soloist roles like Sugar Plum Fairy and Bread Crumb Fairy. During her three seasons with Fort Wayne Ballet, she's enjoyed performing Marzipan in *The Nutcracker*, and working with her fellow company members in pieces from the *Progressions* series. She looks forward to performing in and celebrating Fort Wayne Ballet's 65th season!



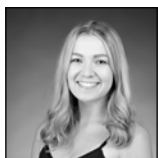
SAMANTHA BERRY

Samantha is from Rochester Hills, Michigan and began dancing at age three. She trained with Cornelia Sampson and Samantha Shelton at Rochester School of Dance. Samantha then joined A&A Ballet in Chicago under the direction of Alexei Kremnev and Anna Reznik. She later danced as a trainee with Charlotte Ballet. She has attended summer programs at School of American Ballet, Miami City Ballet, and Joffrey Ballet. After joining corps de ballet last season, she performed as a Wolf in *Dracula* as well as Spanish and Marzipan in the televised *Nutcracker Sweets*. She is so excited to start her second season!



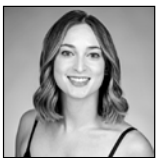
KATIE BROWN

Katie trained at School of Grand Rapids Ballet in the Professional Trainee program and performed with the company in many productions. She has danced professionally with Grand Rapids Ballet and Deos Contemporary Ballet. She has attended numerous summer intensives at Grand Rapids Ballet, Milwaukee Ballet, BalletMet, and Cincinnati Ballet. With Fort Wayne Ballet she has performed Carlotta in *Phantom Of The Opera*, Stepsister in *Cinderella*, in Gerald Arpino's *Light Rain* and *Italian Suite*, and Marzipan, Demi Flower, and Snow Crystal in *The Nutcracker*.



AVALOU BURNS

Raised in Dayton, Ohio, Avalou trained at Pontecorvo Ballet Studios dancing with the attached pre-professional company, Gem City Ballet. In December 2019, Ava graduated with her BFA summa cum laude majoring in Ballet from the University of Cincinnati's College - Conservatory of Music, under Qi Jiang and Deirdre Carberry. During her final two years at CCM, Ava was accepted into BalletMet's trainee program, where she worked under the direction of Edward Liang and Maria Torija. She has enjoyed performing in Liang's *Don Quixote*, Balanchine's *Serenade*, and Tracy Tritz's *Dracula*. She is excited for her second season with Fort Wayne Ballet.



KATHERINE CACKOVIC

Raised in Wheaton, Illinois, Katherine received her formal training at Salt Creek Ballet under Sergey Kozadayev and Zhanna Dubrovskaya. She graduated from Butler University with a Bachelor of Science in Dance – Arts Administration, graduating cum laude with high departmental distinctions. While at Butler, Katherine performed soloist, demi-soloist, and corps roles in *The Nutcracker*, *Coppélia*, and *The Sleeping Beauty*, as well as soloist roles in contemporary works by Derek Reid and Susan McGuire. Katherine is excited to start her first season with Fort Wayne Ballet.



CLARA DELANEY

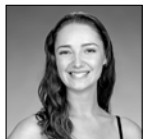
Born in Abilene, Texas, Clara began her ballet training in Fort Worth at the age of four. She joined Texas Ballet Theater School in 2009 where she was fortunate to be a part of Ben Stevenson's *The Nutcracker* for several years. She's also attended numerous summer intensive programs including, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Colorado Ballet, and American Ballet Theatre in NYC. In 2019, Clara joined Texas Ballet Theater's Studio Training Company under the direction of Kathy Warakowski-Li. Clara is excited to be joining Fort Wayne Ballet for her first season.

FORT WAYNE BALLET

MEET THE DANCERS

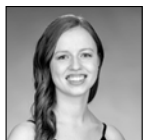
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CORPS DE BALLET



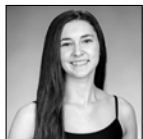
BRITTANY FOCHT

Raised in Columbus, Ohio, Brittany began her training at the Columbus City Ballet School and Conservatory. At 17, she joined the Washington School of Ballet where she trained with Xiomara Reyes and Rinat Imaev. In 2019 Brittany was promoted into the Trainee program under the direction of Julie Kent. There she performed multiple ballets with the professional company including *The Nutcracker* and *The Sleeping Beauty*. Brittany then spent one season in the trainee division of the second company with Kansas City Ballet headed by Christopher Ruud and Devon Carney. Brittany is excited for her first season with Fort Wayne Ballet.



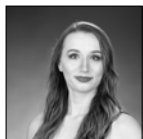
**SANDRA
IMBRACIO**

Sandra started ballet at age 10 at Destiny Dance Institute in Wake Forest, North Carolina. There she also trained in contemporary, jazz, hip hop, and tap. After graduating high school she went on to further her ballet training at The Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory, Milwaukee Ballet, and Nashville Ballet. Some of her favorite roles she has performed include 4 Little Swans with The Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory, Balanchine's *Serenade* with Milwaukee Ballet 2, and Sugar Court in Nashville Ballet's *The Nutcracker*. Sandra is so excited to be joining Fort Wayne Ballet this season.



SADIE JONES

Sadie is from Macon, Georgia, where she began dancing at age three. At age thirteen, she began training at the International City School of Ballet in Atlanta, Georgia under the instruction of Georné Aucoin and Musashi Alvarez. She completed her Bachelor's of Fine Arts at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts under instruction of faculty including Laura Martin, Angelina Sansone, Jennet Zerbe, Eva Draw, and Jared Redick. She enjoyed performing various roles in *Paquita*, *Raymonda*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, George Balanchine's *Concerto Barocco*, and Ethan Stiefel's *The Nutcracker*. Sadie's excited for her first season with Fort Wayne Ballet.



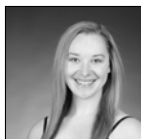
CAILIN KLUTTZ

Cailin Kluttz is originally from North Carolina, where she trained at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts under teachers such as Susan Jaffe, Jared Redick, Mikhail Tchoupakov, Jennet Zerbe, and Laura Martin, and graduated with a Bachelor's of Fine Arts with a concentration in Dance in 2018. Since joining Fort Wayne Ballet in 2018, she's been fortunate to dance roles such as Snow Crystal, Flower, and Spanish in *The Nutcracker*, as well as dancing in ballets such as *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Cinderella*, and *The Phantom of the Opera*.



OLIVIA LEY

Originally from Pittsburgh, Olivia's early training took place at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School. At fifteen she began to attend Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet. There she had the opportunity to train with Marcia Dale Weary, Darla Hoover and Nicholas Ade. Olivia spent her summers training at a number of summer intensives including Gelsey Kirkland Academy of Classical Ballet, Bolshoi Ballet Academy, Milwaukee Ballet and BalletMet. For the past two seasons Olivia has been a trainee with the Fort Wayne Ballet. Olivia's thrilled to be staying in Fort Wayne for her first season as a member of the Corps de Ballet.



**MADDIE
OPACINCH**

Born in Louisville, Kentucky, Maddie began her ballet training at age 3 after moving to Indiana. She has grown up in Fort Wayne Ballet's Auer Academy under the direction of Karen Gibbons-Brown, Eleanor Pokhionova-Hartung, and Tracy Tritz. She's attended many summer programs including American Ballet Theatre NYC, Ballet West, and Kaatsbaan Extreme Ballet. After graduating high school, Maddie joined the Studio Company at Texas Ballet Theater. Since then, Maddie's enjoyed dancing in numerous Fort Wayne Ballet productions such as *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, and Gerald Arpino's *Birthday Variations*, and is thrilled to be back for her second season with the company.

FORT WAYNE BALLET

MEET THE DANCERS

View each dancer's profile online at fortwayneballet.org/dancers

CORPS DE BALLET



ABIGAYLE REIBER

Abigail began her training in Lincoln, Nebraska. After graduating high school, she began dancing at The University of Oklahoma and received her BFA in Ballet Performance in 2021. There, she performed in notable works such as, Willam Christensen's *The Nutcracker* and Gerald Arpino's *Reflections*. She also had the opportunity to perform at the International Dance Encounter in Cancún, Mexico, in works by Michael Bearden and Boyko Dossev. She is very excited to begin her first season with Fort Wayne Ballet!



GRACE SAULS

Grace received her developmental training under Lynette Mason-Gregg of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Houston. She was a soloist with Juxtapose Arts Collective where she debuted as an emerging choreographer and performed her favorite role to date, Myrtha in *Giselle*. She's shared the stage with renowned ballerina Misty Copeland in Open World Dance Foundation's *Cinderella* at Houston Hobby Center and performed in New York with Gelsey Kirkland Ballet's *The Nutcracker*. She completed her latest training through Misha Bart with The National Theatre of Belgrade in Europe. Grace is excited to be dancing with Fort Wayne Ballet for her second season.



ASHLEIGH SEWELL

Ashleigh was born in Kentucky and began dancing at Dance Arts of Bowling Green under Clifton Keefer Brown and Ashleigh Keefer. At 14, she began additional training at Western Kentucky University. As a high school senior, Ashleigh joined the Trainee Program at Nashville Ballet. After one season, she was promoted to the Second Company where she danced from 2017-2020, performing in both classical and contemporary roles. Ashleigh joined Fort Wayne Ballet for the 2020-2021 season and her most memorable experience was performing Pas de Trois from *Swan Lake*. Ashleigh is grateful to be returning for a second season.



**VICTORIA
STOCKER**

Victoria is originally from Spring Grove, Illinois, where she began her training under the direction of Alyce Keaggy-Brinkmann. In 2015, Victoria continued her professional training with Ballet Austin under the direction of Michelle Martin and Bill Piner. In 2016, Victoria joined Lexington Ballet Company under the direction of Luis Dominguez, where she enjoyed performing roles such as Lilac Fairy in *The Sleeping Beauty*, Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*, and leading soloist in Tim Harbour's *Models*, a collaboration with Louisville Ballet. Victoria is looking forward to joining Fort Wayne Ballet this season.



PAYTON WILSON

Raised in Fort Wayne, Payton started dancing at the age of four. She grew up through Fort Wayne Ballet's Auer Academy training under the direction of Karen Gibbons-Brown, Eleonora Pokhitonova-Hartung, and Tracy Tritz. She has attended Kaatsbaan Extreme Ballet summer program. Payton has loved getting to perform in ballets such as *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, and *Cinderella*. She's excited to begin her first season with the company.



TRAINEES

Top Row: Isabel Carrillo, Christyna Schuppe, Victoria Angle, Caraline Schuppe
Bottom Row: Rudolph Davis, Rosemary Aarons, May Kawashima, Teagan Bentley, Erin Ekin, Gracie Carpenter, Anna Hess
Not Pictured: Abby Storer

PRE-PROFESSIONALS

Top Row:
 Allen Sizemore, Stella Falconer,
 Gigi McDowell, Grace Gephart,
 Tekhylon Armour

Bottom Row:
 Fiona Tippmann, Olivia Myers,
 Katherine Grable, Alexis Andrews



YOUTH COMPANY

Top Row:
 Ella Emrick, Olivia Johnson,
 Tabitha Wolf, Yevva Ireland,
 Rocco O'Reilly, Zane Faulstich

Middle Row:
 Rhiana Pelance, Emori Lawson,
 Leah Thomas, Harper Kurzen,
 Alexa Bremer, Sophia Whetstone,
 Ellis Baron

Bottom Row:
 Nayomie Marret, Bianca Parra,
 Elyn Lawson, Jillian Knowles,
 Katherine Potter, Lauren Thomas
Not Pictured: Isabel Hoffer



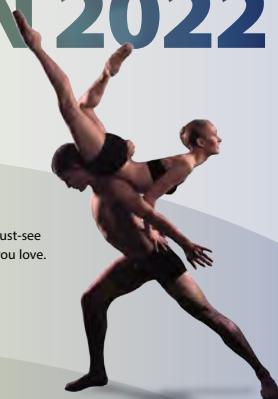
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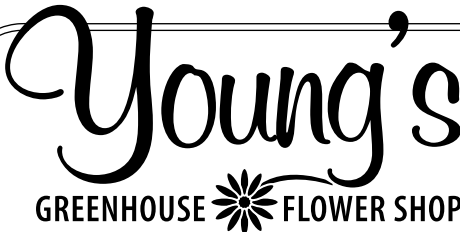
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