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fort wayne  
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KAREN GIBBONS-BROWN  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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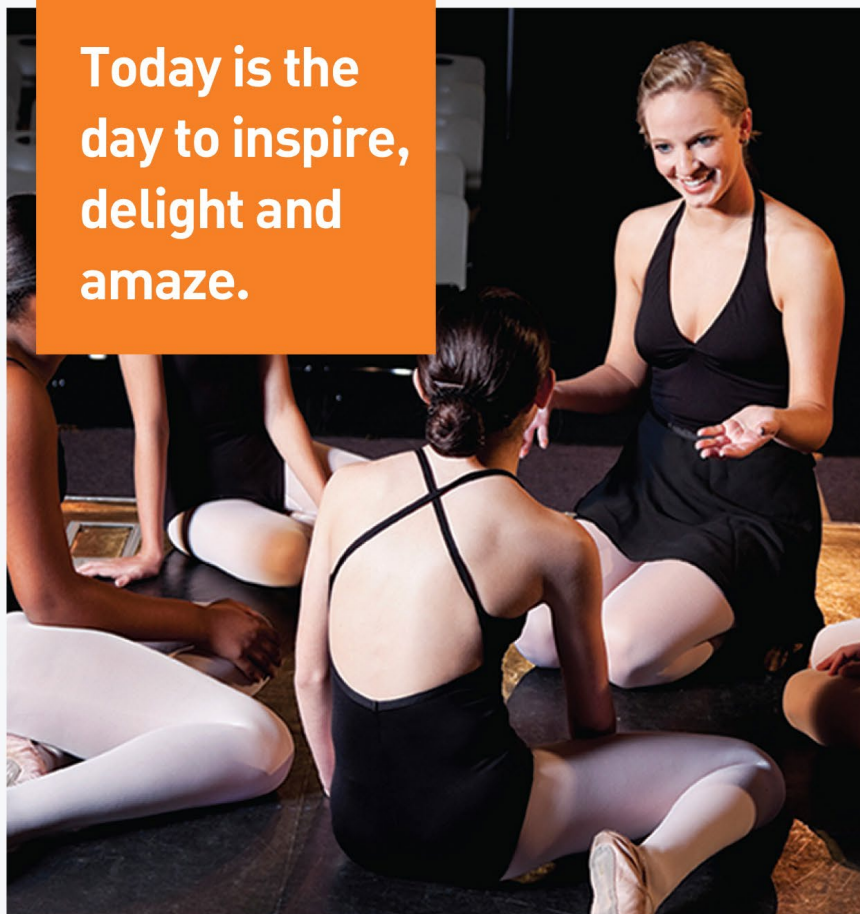
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day to inspire,  
delight and  
amaze.



Thank you, Fort Wayne Ballet, for all you do  
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**Contact Amanda Kinneman**

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FORT WAYNE BALLET'S ORIGINAL

# The Nutcracker



DEC. 4, 5, 11, 12 7:30 PM

DEC. 5, 6, 12, 13 2:00 PM

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KAREN GIBBONS-BROWN  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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The story of a young girl, her Nutcracker prince, and the evil Mouse King that brings together the whole family for an experience of holiday magic and a fantastic journey to the Kingdom of Sweets! It's more than a family tradition – it's a feast for the eyes and ears!

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# The darker side of ballet . . .

While most audiences think of the remarkable beauty of ballet — poetic dancers, gorgeous hand-made costumes, lush musical scores — many traditional ballets are based on dark stories filled with evil characters doing evil things. Time-honored classics of Good vs. Evil have traditionally served as the backdrop for many dance interpretations. A few familiar examples include:

- *Swan Lake* — perhaps the quintessential ballet about evil spells and dangerous desires that culminate in a leap to the death
- *Giselle* — a tragic, ghostly tale of a beautiful young peasant woman who falls for a careless, deceitful nobleman and dies of a broken heart, haunting him forever
- *Coppélia* and *The Nutcracker* — both stories by E.T.A. Hoffman, a German author of fantasy and Gothic horror stories filled with villains and wicked spells

And then there's tonight's feature — *and a Fort Wayne Ballet World Premiere — Dracula*, Bram Stoker's bewitching (and bloody) timeless classic! What a perfectly timed piece for Halloween. We hope you enjoy our telling of this dark tale. Our thanks to **Tracy Tritz**, Fort Wayne Ballet's ballet master, for her tireless commitment in preparing this notable work.

We round out our Fall Season with everyone's favorite holiday classic and Fort Wayne Ballet's original performance 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 4-13**. *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 March, *Peter Rabbit* in April and 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*

Karen Gibbons-Brown  
Artistic Director  
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FORT WAYNE BALLET'S **ORIGINAL** and **WORLD PREMIERE**

# Dracula

*Staging & Choreography*

Tracy Tritz

*Rehearsers*

Karen Gibbons-Brown  
Tracy Tritz

*Costume Design & Execution*

Nan Possemato

*Stage Manager*

Luke Holliger

*Lighting Director*

Miriam Morgan

*Production Managers*

Christina Brinker  
Benjamin Roney

*Set Design*

Benjamin Roney

*Weapon Design & Construction*

Chris Whitman

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## CHAPTER I: MEETING COUNT DRACULA

**Jonathan Harker**, a young English lawyer, travels to Castle Dracula in Transylvania to conclude a real estate transaction with nobleman, **Count Dracula**. Upon his travels through the countryside, Harker is warned by the local peasants, who give him protective charms and utter words he translates as “Vampire.” Frightened but determined, Harker meets Dracula in the village, finding the Count to be a well-educated and hospitable gentleman. Together, they embark on the harrowing journey to the Castle. On the way, they are attacked by wolves but Dracula seems to magically control the beasts.

Harker’s suspicions and uneasiness grow when Dracula invites him to roam freely within the castle but forbids him to enter rooms behind locked doors. Dismissing the warning about locked doors, Harker enters a room where he is seduced and attacked by the **Weird Sisters**, three beautiful female vampires. He is rescued at the last moment by an enraged Dracula. Harker reawakens in Dracula’s chambers and unsuccessfully attempts to kill Dracula in his coffin. To that, Dracula bids Harker goodbye and leaves him in the clutches of the Weird Sisters. Fearing for his life and his soul, Harker narrowly escapes and returns to England . . .

## CHAPTER II: DRACULA IN ENGLAND

After weeks, Harker’s wife **Mina** is concerned that she hasn’t heard from Jonathan but turns her attention to visiting her friend **Lucy Westenra**, a vivacious young socialite contemplating marriage proposals from three eligible suitors: **Dr. Jack Seward** ... **Quincy Morris**, an American ... and the distinguished **Arthur Holmwood**. Distraught that she must reject two, Lucy happily accepts Holmwood’s proposal. Meanwhile, Dracula has arrived in England.

That evening, Mina finds Lucy sleepwalking in the cemetery with the dark shadow of a man bending over her. Mina runs to Lucy, awakening her from a trance and brings her home. Later that night, Dracula is at Lucy’s window, bewitching her to allow his entrance and prey upon her again. The next morning Mina finds Lucy pale and ill. She calls Dr. Seward who brings **Professor Van Helsing**. He discovers two bite marks on Lucy’s neck and performs a blood transfusion from her fiancé Holmwood, gives her a necklace of garlic, and offers a sleeping potion to help her rest. But the evil Count Dracula strikes again, leaving Lucy near death but with sharpened teeth and erratic behavior. Knowing that nothing can be done and horrified with what she has become, Lucy begs Van Helsing to save her from her fate by killing her, which he regrettably obliges. When the gruesome task is finished, Van Helsing vows to find and kill Dracula.

## CHAPTER III: REVENGE

After reuniting, Jonathan entrusts Mina with the journal of his stay at Castle Dracula, and she soon realizes this is the same vampire that attacked Lucy. She calls for Van Helsing and they formulate a plan to avenge Lucy’s death. Jonathan enters during their discussion, upset with Mina for sharing his journal, but they explain what has happened and ask Jonathan to help. He refuses at first, still angry and traumatized from his experience at Castle Dracula, but eventually agrees to help. Van Helsing and Jonathan join forces with Dr. Seward, Morris, and Holmwood to delve into journals and maps as they plan and prepare for their hunt of Dracula.

While Mina is sleeping in a room down the hall, Dracula secretly enters and takes his revenge on Harker and the other men through Mina. Hearing odd noises, the men rush to find Dracula with Mina. He has not only bitten her neck but forced her to bite him as well. Dracula flees, knowing he must escape and return to his castle. Jonathan realizes the terrible truth: Dracula must be killed or else, upon her death, Mina will join him for an evil eternity. Unable to stop Dracula from leaving England, the group travels to Transylvania for one last attempt to destroy him. The Weird Sisters are eagerly awaiting to welcome Mina, who is quickly becoming one of them . . .



FORT WAYNE BALLET'S **ORIGINAL** *and* **WORLD PREMIERE**

# Dracula

Dracula	David Claypoole
Jonathan Harker	Talbot Rue
Mina Harker	Amanda Eve Carrick
Van Helsing	Thomas Caleb Roberts
Lucy Westenra	Amber Bailly
Arthur Holmwood	Brandon Penn
Dr. Jack Seward	Zion Harris
Quincy Morris	Chad Young
Weird Sisters	Jordan Stevens with Tatum Farlow and Babette Hunter
Child	Matias Parra
Maids	Avalou Burns, Hannah Knorr
Wolves	Alexis Arria, Samantha Berry, Katie Brown, Cailin Kluttz, Lindsay Navarre, Grace Sauls
Peasants	Rachel Aron, Avalou Burns, Alexandra Chumney, Jessica Humphrey, Hannah Knorr, Saki Morimoto, Maddie Opacinch, Brandon Penn, Madison Riemen, Thomas Caleb Roberts, Carmie Schiano Nelson, Ashleigh Sewell, Graeham Toomey, Leah Wolfe, Chad Young, Abby Zinsser
Gypsies	TK Armour, Cailin Kluttz, Maddie Opacinch, Allen Sizemore, Graehm Toomey

# Dracula

## Production Credits

Stage Manager	Luke Holliger
Production Managers	Christina Brinker Benjamin Rooney
Master Technician	Luke Holliger
Lighting Design	Miriam Morgan
Light Board Operator	Miriam Morgan
Costume Designer	Nan Possemato
Costume Shop Supervisor	Nan Possemato
Costume Shop Volunteers	Rachel Aron, Martine Bartley, Cailin Kluttz
Backstage Volunteers	Rachel Aron, Nancy Button, Jessica Humphrey, Erin Kozak, Jordan Kurzen, Ryan Myers, Ashley Sewell, Jim Sizemore, Julie Sizemore, Maria Victoria, Leah Wolfe, Abby Zinsser
Materials & Storage	The Recovery Room <i>and</i> The Build Guild
ArtsTix Community Box Office	Reuben Albaugh, <i>Box Office Manager</i>

*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

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 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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YOUTH COMPANY DIRECTOR



**RALEIGH SPARROW**  
ACADEMY REGISTRAR



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**COMPANY**



**AMBER BAILEY**



**AMANDA EVE  
CARRICK**



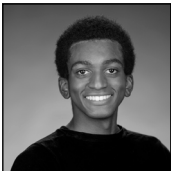
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CHUMNEY**



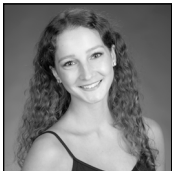
**DAVID CLAYPOOLE**



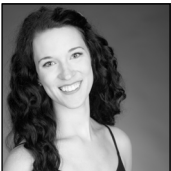
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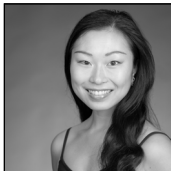
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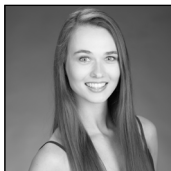
**JESSICA  
HUMPHREY**



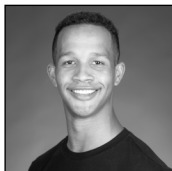
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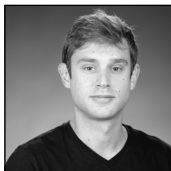
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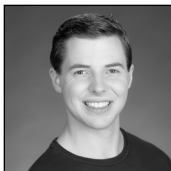
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NAVARRE**



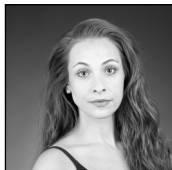
**BRANDON PENN**



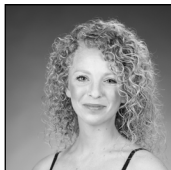
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ROBERTS**



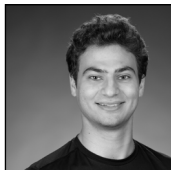
**TALBOT RUE**



**CARMIE SCHIANO  
NELSON**



**JORDAN STEVENS**



**GRAEHAM  
TOOMEY**



CORPS DE BALLET



RACHEL ARON



ALEXIS ARRIA



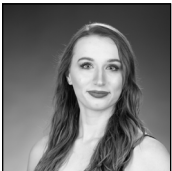
SAMANTHA  
BERRY



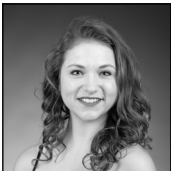
KATIE BROWN



AVALOU BURNS



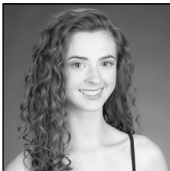
CAILIN KLUTTZ



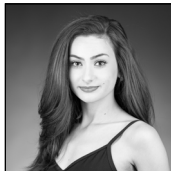
HANNAH KNORR



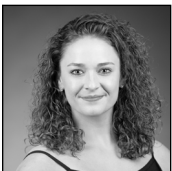
MADDIE  
OPACINCH



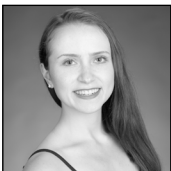
MADISON RIEMEN



GRACE SAULS



ASHLEY SEWELL



LEAH WOLFE



ABBY ZINSSER



TRAINEES

TOP, L TO R: CARALINE SCHUPPE, ANNA HESS, VICTORIA ANGLE, OLIVIA LEY, RACHEL MACK  
BOTTOM, L TO R: ARIANNA FLEISCHMAN, ROSEMARY AARONS, ABBY STORER, GRACE MCCUTCHEON



## PRE-PROFESSIONAL 2

### **Left to Right:**

Payton Wilson  
Olivia Myers  
Allison Banks  
Isabel Carrillo  
Gigi McDowell  
Allen Sizemore



## PRE-PROFESSIONAL 1

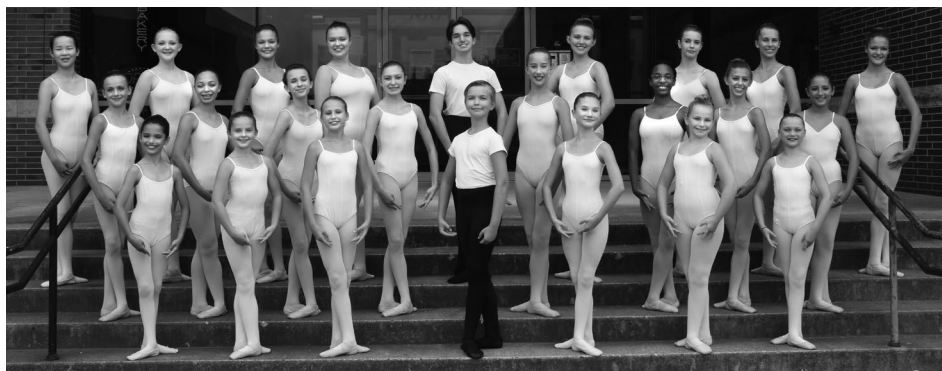
**Back:** TK Armour;

### **Front:**

Stella Falconer  
Alexis Andrews  
Isabel Hollis

### **Not pictured:**

Fiona Tippmann



## YOUTH COMPANY *(left to right)*

**Back Row:** Lily Berning, Sophie Reynolds, Tabitha Wolf, Kate Hargens, Leo Walker, Yevva Ireland, Faith Button, Sophia Francke, Ella Wolf; **Middle Row:** Harper Kurzen, Ana Pelance, Natalia Yorgova, Ella Emrick, Olivia Johnson, Trinity Kelsaw, Alexa Bremer, Ana Carrillo; **Front Row:** Bianca Parra, Katherine Potter, Leah Thomas, Danny Button, Ellis Baron, Isabel Hoffer, Hannah Kozak;

**Not pictured:** Grace Gephart, Rocco O'Reilly

SEASON **64** | 20**20**21

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KAREN GIBBONS-BROWN  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



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