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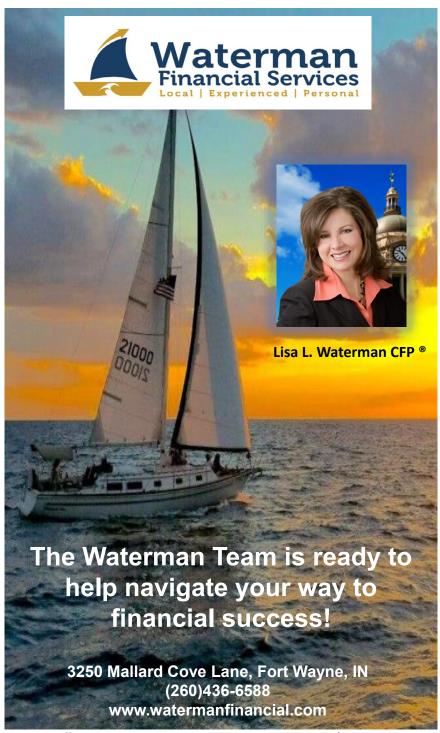


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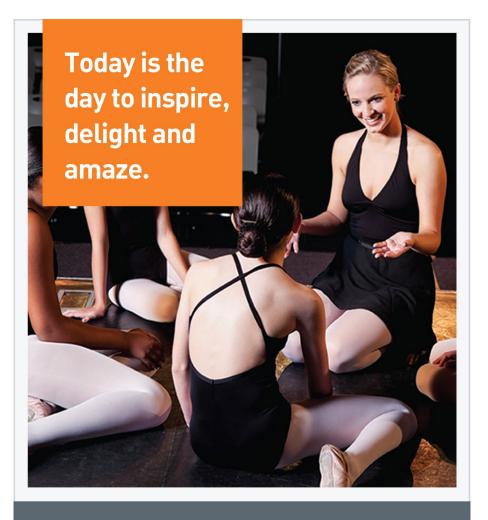
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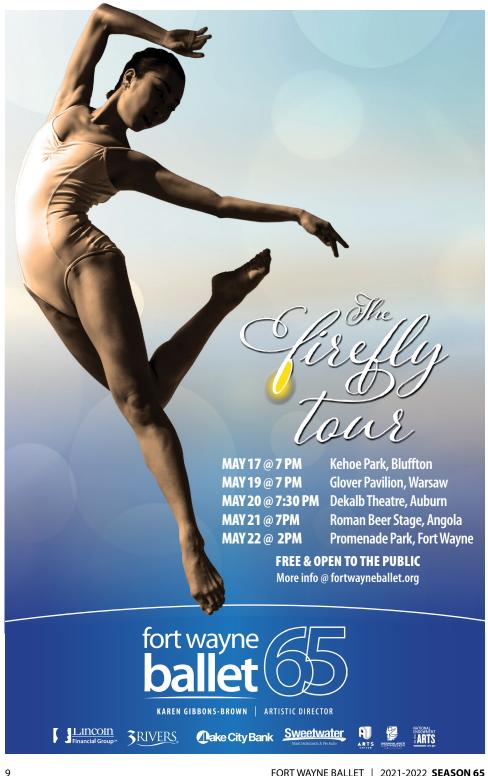




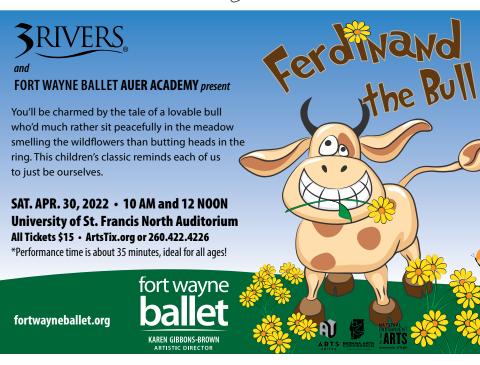
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Contact Amanda Kinneman AVP Relationship Manager 260-461-6229 amanda.kinneman@pnc.com pnc.com









Some say Spring is the season of love.

There's little reason to doubt such wisdom — after all, the romance of spring buds and the budding romance of spring lovers make a convincing conspiracy. So perhaps, we are notably in fashion with this presentation of the ever-popular fairy tale *The Sleeping Beauty*. The origin of this story goes back centuries and is steeped in myths and traditions; but the tale remains steadfastly unchanged about a beautiful maiden cursed to sleep for 100 years, only to be wakened by her true love. Regardless of season or history, *The Sleeping Beauty* is a timeless tale of love lost, found, and sealed with a kiss.

The beloved ballet version of *The Sleeping Beauty* dates to 1890, when it premiered at the Imperial Mariinsky Theatre in Saint Petersburg. Its debut also marked the first pairing of original choreography by Marius Petipa with the musical genius of composer Peter Tchaikovsky. In the same spirit, we are once again pleased to partner with the **Fort Wayne Philharmonic** to share this ancient and enchanting love story. *Enjoy!*

Fort Wayne Ballet's 65th Season is proving to be a wonderful celebration of dance, the performing arts, and community collaboration! It's been a whirlwind season filled with delightful performances, supportive audiences, and an enthusiasm for the return of live, relatable artistic expression. And we're not done yet . . .

For our young and young-at-heart dance patrons, we have one remaining Family Series performance: *Ferdinand the Bull* (April 30) on stage at the University of Saint Francis North Auditorium. We started the Family Series of short works 10 years ago, and we remain as charmed by the audiences as they are with the performances! We hope to see you there.

Rounding out this season of celebration, we're partnering again with Fort Wayne Philharmonic for selections of *Romeo & Juliet* (May 14), mere days before launching *The Firefly Tour* (May 17-22), a series of *free public performances* in surrounding northeast Indiana communities! Check our website (or page 9 of this playbill) for details.

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!

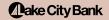
Karen Gibbons-Brown Artistic Director

fortwayneballet.org

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Directed by John O'Connell

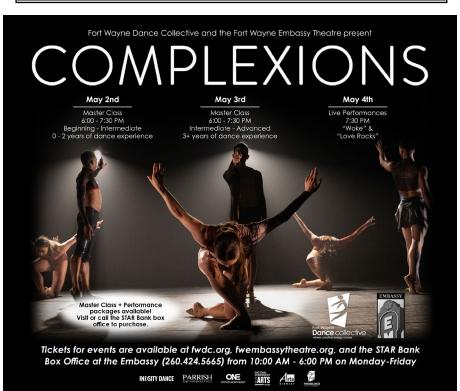
OUR CAST

Dotty Otley/Mrs. Clacket	Brooke O'MaraEmily Arata GrilloCarissa BrownAaron MannBrock GrahamBroel Grillo
Selsdon Mowbray/Burglar Timothy Aligood	

"The funniest farce ever written!"
- The New York Post

We are pleased to be able to feature most of the actors who were cast for our planned 2020 production of *Noises Off*!







 Lake City Bank is proud to support the inspiring work of the Fort Wayne Ballet.



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More than 130 years since it was first staged, *The Sleeping Beauty* has become one of the world's most popular ballets. Its exact origins are unknown, as it was verbally passed down through many centuries and not published until the 17th century. Tchaikovsky's score is adored — even being used in Disney's version of the fairy tale — and the challenging choreography is as demanding as it is beautiful. In fact, the Rose Adagio that the princess performs in Act I is considered one of the most difficult adagios in any ballet.

Here are five more interesting facts about the ballet that you may not know:

- The Sleeping Beauty ballet was adapted from the 1697 Charles Perrault fairy tale,
 "The Sleeping Beauty in the Wood." Tchaikovsky wrote the music, and his long-time
 collaborator, Marius Petipa, choreographed the dances. It was first presented at the
 Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg Russia on January 15, 1890.
- The premiere of *The Sleeping Beauty* was met with favorable critiques, especially
 compared to *Swan Lake*, Tchaikovsky's first ballet. However, it was still not a
 resounding success at first. After Tchaikovsky's death in 1893, the ballet grew in
 popularity and would be performed 200 times over the next 10 years.
- The Sleeping Beauty was Tchaikovsky's longest ballet. Including intermissions, it
 clocked in at nearly four hours! Today, ballet companies around the world typically
 edit the score.
- As you listen to Tchaikovsky's score, you'll notice two musical themes that represent good (Lilac Fairy) and evil (Carabosse). They repeat whenever the respective character is on stage. Musically, this device is called a "leitmotif," and it helps to serve as an important thread to underline the plot.
- The Sleeping Beauty made its debut in the United States on February 12, 1937, nearly 50 years after the premiere in Russia. The performance was designed by Catherine Littlefield and presented by the Philadelphia Ballet. Fort Wayne Ballet first performed The Sleeping Beauty in April 1966.





22, 23, 24 APRIL 2022 ARTS UNITED CENTER

Choreography by Marius Petipa

Staged by Karen Gibbons-Brown

Music by Peter Tchaikovsky

Costumes by Nan Possemato

Lighting by Miriam Morgan

Set design by Adam Fletcher

Production Managers Christina Brinker

Luke Hollinger

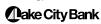
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Prologue ~ The Christening

Our story begins on the Christening Day of the baby Princess Aurora in the kingdom of King Florestan and Queen Eliselaine. The special guests gather in the throne room to pay homage to the royal infant. Aurora's Fairy Godmothers, led by the Lilac Fairy, arrive bearing golden gifts representative of the qualities they bestow on the Princess. The joyous celebration is interrupted by the entrance of the evil Fairy, Carabosse, who is infuriated at not having been invited to the special day. Enraged, Carabosse pronounces a death curse on the tiny infant: on the day of Princess Aurora's sixteenth birthday she will prick her finger and die. Horrified, the court asks for mercy, but to no avail. The Lilac Fairy, bearing her gift of Love, has saved her gift for last. She promises the gift of a broken spell upon true love's kiss.

King Florestan Graeham Toomey

Queen Eliselaine Brittany Focht*, Grace Sauls Cattalabutte Yu-Chieh Chao, Talbot Rue*

Nurse Aglovale Anna Hess Baby Aurora Lenora Allyn

Gentlemen of the Court

Ladies of the Court Kathering Cackovic, Olivia Myers,
Savannah Norwood, Victoria Stocker*

Tekhylon Armour, Rudolph Davis,

Allen Sizemore

Pages Evan Naish, Matias Parra

Carabosse Rachel Aron*, Babette Hunter
Underlings Victoria Angle, Isabel Carrillo,
Joanna Evanich, Olivia Ley,

Caraline Schuppe, Christyna Schuppe

Lilac Fairy Izumi Masaki*, Maddie Opacinch

Fairy of Crystal Fountain (Tenderness)

Amber Bailey*, Saki Morimoto

Tatum Farlow*, Carmie Schiano Nelson

Fairy of Woodland Glades (Beauty)

Izumi Masaki, Maddie Opacinch*

Fairy of Songbirds (Song)

Amanda Eve Carrick, Abby Zinsser*

Fairy of Golden Vine (Wit) Carmie Schiano Nelson*, Leah Wolfe



Act I ~ Aurora's Sixteenth Birthday

It is the sixteenth birthday of Princess Aurora and the whole kingdom has prepared for this momentous day. The palace has been decorated, special dances have been created and King Florestan has invited suitors from four foreign lands to come and court his daughter. The Princess arrives and is greeted by the suitors who honor her with gifts of roses. During the celebration, a disguised Carabosse arrives with a gift of flowers for the young princess. As Aurora accepts the gift, she pricks her finger on a spindle that has been hidden inside the bouquet and faints. Carabosse reveals herself and celebrates her triumph. Just then the Lilac Fairy arrives and banishes Carabosse from this land forever. In order to protect Aurora, she casts a spell that places the entire kingdom asleep until Aurora can be awakened by true love's kiss.

Garland Waltz Soloist Ashleigh Sewell

Garland Waltz Alexis Andrews, Teagan Bentley,

Gracie Carpenter, Erin Ekin, Stella Falconer,

Grace Gephart, May Kawashima, Gigi McDowell, Olivia Myers, Savannah Norwood, Abby Storer,

Fiona Tippmann

Garland Waltz Children Isabel Hoffer, Jillian Knowles,

Biana Parra, Katherine Potter

Courtiers Alan Barragan Campos, Yu-Chieh Chao*,

David Claypoole*, Zion Harris,

Keisuke Nishikawa*, Thomas Caleb Roberts,

Talbot Rue

Princess Aurora Amber Bailey, Saki Morimoto*

Attendants/Friends Rachel Aron, Samantha Berry,

Katie Brown, Avalou Burns, Brittany Focht, Babette Hunter*, Sandra Imbriaco, Cailin Kluttz, Grace Sauls*, Payton Wilson

~ Intermission ~



Act II ~ The Vision

One hundred years later, Prince Desiré is hunting in a nearby forest with subjects of his court. As they stop to rest, the Lilac Fairy appears before the prince and shows him a vision of the sleeping Aurora. Leading the prince deeper into the forest, the Lilac Fairy summons the wood nymphs to dance with the Prince and the vision of Aurora. The Prince pleads with the Lilac Fairy to take him to the sleeping Aurora. Upon seeing her, Prince Desiré cannot restrain himself from just one kiss of the sleeping beauty. With that kiss, the evil spell is broken and the princess and the entire kingdom awaken. The Prince and Princess are united in love and peace and happiness is restored to the kingdom.

Duke Alan Barragan Campos
Duchess Brittany Focht, Grace Sauls*

Prince Desire David Claypoole, Thomas Caleb Roberts*

Countess Ermintrude Jessica Humphrey

Peasants Katie Carr, Isabel Carrillo, Joanna Evanich,

Olivia Ley, Ashleigh Sewell, Sophia Tarlo

Hunt Lady Avalou Burns

Huntsmen Tekhylon Armour, Rudolph Davis,

Allen Sizemore

Woodland Nymphs Alexis Andrews, Teagan Bentley,

Katherine Cackovic, Stella Falconer, Brittany Focht, Grace Gephart, Anna Hess, Sadie Jones, Gigi McDowell, Olivia Myers,

Abigayle Reiber, Hitomi Shiraishi, Victoria Stocker, Abby Storer, Fiona Tippmann, Payton Wilson



Act III ~ The Wedding

A joyous Catalabutte and Nurse Aglovale launch the festivities on the wedding day of Princess Aurora and Prince Desiré. Among the invited guests are the sparkling Jewels, Pussn-Boots and the Little White Cat, the bluebirds Prince Florimund and Princess Florimunda, and Little Red Riding Hood with the Big Bad Wolf. The festivities end with the union of the Royal couple and of course, they lived happily ever after.

Jewels Avalou Burns*, Amanda Eve Carrick,

Tatum Farlow, Jessica Humphrey,

Carmie Schiano Nelson*, Victoria Stocker,

Leah Wolfe*, Abby Zinsser*

Puss-n-Boots Zion Harris*, Keisuke Nishikawa

White Cat Izumi Masaki, Maddie Opacinch*

Prince Florimund Yu-Chieh Chao*, Talbot Rue

Princess Florimund Amanda Eve Carrick*, Abby Zinsser

Little Red Riding Hood Avalou Burns, Jessica Humphrey*

Wolf Tekhylon Armour, Alan Barragan Campos*

Grand Pas de Deux Amber Bailey, Saki Morimoto*

David Claypoole, Thomas Caleb Roberts*

Finale Ensemble

Performance Key:

^{*} Friday, April 22 at 10 AM | Saturday, April 23 at 7:00 PM | Sunday April 24 at 2:30 PM

FORT WAYNE PHILHARMONIC

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BASS

Adrian Mann

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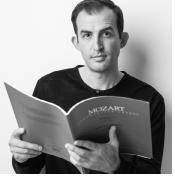
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Caleb YoungGuest Conductor for Engagement

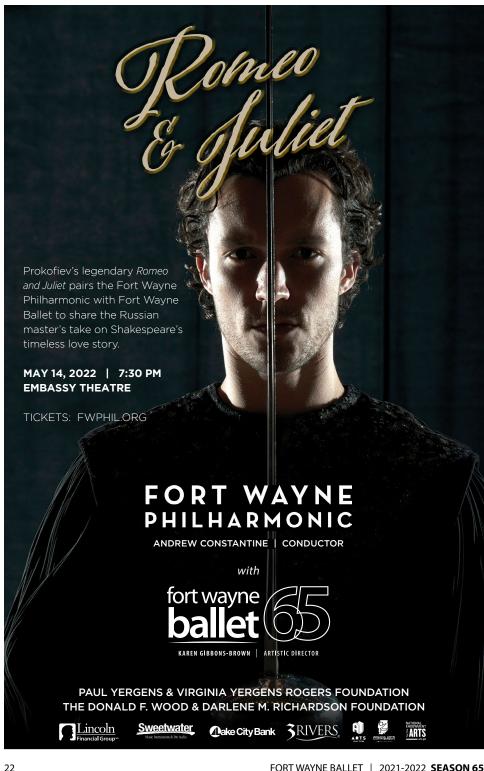
Known for his outstanding interpretations of American music, Berlin-based conductor Caleb Young has gained international renown as one of the most exciting emerging American artists of today.

Mentored by legendary Finnish conductor Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Young connects his rigorous training in the European classical tradition with a passion for the viscerality of American music, resulting in daring and fresh renditions of both. He commands a breadth of repertoire, able to tap into the full spectrum of American composers. Indeed, under Young's baton, the works of Copland, Bernstein, Jennifer Higdon, and Jessie Montgomery receive artistic treatment equal to those of Mozart, Beethoven, Haydn, Mahler, Stravinsky, and Shostakovich.

Young debuted with the Van Cliburn Competition as its Cover Conductor in 2018, beginning a relationship that continues with a scheduled 2022 return to the storied piano competition in the same role. He has directed a number of the world's premier orchestras, including the Oregon Symphony, Russian National Orchestra, Finnish Chamber Orchestra, Toledo Symphony, Columbus Symphony, and the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra. As cover conductor, he recently served John Williams and the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and has worked with the Detroit Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Atlanta Opera, and the National Music Festival.

Several of Europe's hallowed institutions have recognized Young's sensitivity, dynamism, and exemplary technique. In summer 2021, Finland's Fiskar Summer Festival named Young part of "the next generation of leaders in classical music", awarding him mentorship under legendary conductors Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Hannu Lintu, Sakari Oramo and others at the LEAD! Foundation Academy's conductors' masterclass. To close the Festival, Young was further awarded the honor of conducting the Finnish Chamber Orchestra alongside Saraste and Salonen, a performance which received glowing reviews. Previously, he was awarded the 2016 Ansbacher Fellowship for Young Conductors Prize, given by the Salzburg Festival and members of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra.

In addition to Europe, Young's engagements frequently take him to the United States, where the 2021-2022 season will see him newly appointed as Guest Conductor for Engagement for the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. The appointment enables him to build upon his recent award-winning five year tenure as the Philharmonic's Associate Conductor, a formidable legacy that includes more than 200 performances conducted as well as founding the "Music and Mixology" series which continues to engage young professionals with orchestral music. In 2018, he earned an Emerging Artist Award, an honour bestowed to the region's "arts and cultural leaders" by Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne—one of the oldest nonprofit artistic funding initiatives in the United States.





Production Credits

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Master Technician Luke Holliger
Stage Manager Luke Holliger
Lighting Designer Miriam Morgan

Lighting Board Operators Miriam Morgan, Nan Durant

Fly Master Ryan Myers

Costume Designer Nan Possemato

Costume Shop Supervisor Nan Possemato
Costume Shop Assistant Duncan Smith

Costume Shop Volunteers Teagan Bentley, Anna Hess, Pam Laux,

Christyna Schuppe

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De Andre Martin, Assistant 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, pedagogue 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 National Training Curriculum and has been certified though level 7.

FORT WAYNE BALLET **STAFF & FACULTY**

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



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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 de 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-CHIFH 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.

ballet 5

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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 Cinderlla, 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.

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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 Hougland'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.

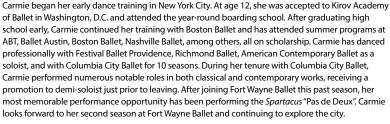
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COMPANY



CARMIE SCHIANO NELSON



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 Viviandere*, *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 was 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.



GRAEHAM TOOMEY



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 Bayadère, 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!

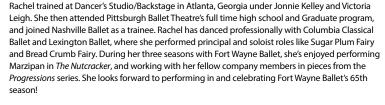
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RACHEL ARON





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 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 Edwaard 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.



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.

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CORPS DE BALLET



SANDRA **IMBRIACO**

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, Eleanora Pokhitonova-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.



Abigayle 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 Appino'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

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

CORPS DE 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.

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TRAINEES

Top Row: Bottom Row: Isabel Carrillo, Christyna Schuppe, Victoria Angle, Caraline Schuppe 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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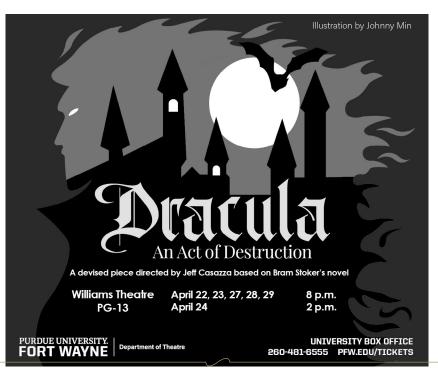
July 11 - 15 and July 18 - 22 July 11 - 15 and July 18 - 22

July 11 - 15; July 18 - 22; July 25-29 July 11 - 15; July 18 - 22; July 25 - 29

July 11 - 22 (Mon. - Fri.)

June 6 - August 10 (Mon. & Wed.)

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To honor the 100th birthday of one of the 20th century's most influential artists, The Gerald Arpino Foundation announces a multi-year Centennial Celebration of the late choreographer's life and works. Ballet companies and university dance programs around the country will perform Arpino's works during the 2022-23 and 2023-24 seasons.

Arpino was a visionary dancer and choreographer who, along with Robert Joffrey, created a ballet company and a body of work that has made a singular and enduring impact on American ballet. Throughout his 50-year career, Arpino created nearly 50 ballets for The Joffrey Ballet. From landmark works like *Trinity* and *Round of Angels* to *Suite Saint-Saëns* and *Light Rain*, Arpino was a masterful artist and entertainer whose work brought audiences to their feet time and again.

The Foundation is providing ballet companies nationwide with special licensing agreements to broaden and deepen the celebration at their home performance locations during the coming two seasons. The Foundation will offer lectures and workshops on Arpino's life and work, in conjunction with some companies and universities. *Participating dance companies include:*

- Ballet Arkansas (Arkansas)
- Ballet West (Utah)
- Brigham Young University (Utah)
- Complexions Contemporary Ballet (New York)
- Dayton Ballet (Ohio)
- Diablo Ballet (California)
- Eugene Ballet (Oregon)
- Fort Wayne Ballet (Indiana)
- Joffrey Academy of Dance (Illinois)
- The Joffrey Ballet (Illinois)
- Kenneth Walker Dance Project (California)
- Madison Ballet (Wisconsin)
- New York Dance Project (New York)
- Oklahoma City Ballet (Oklahoma)
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