



fort wayne ballet

Dracula

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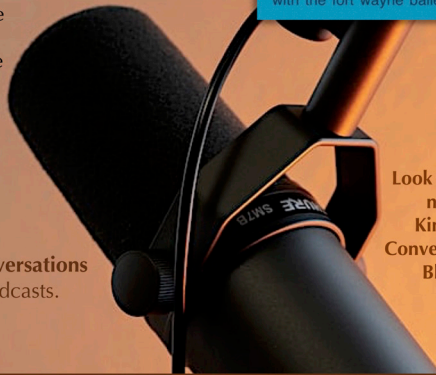
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Our podcast not only showcases the stories and history of our favorite performances, but gives voice to the dancers, choreographers and répétiteurs that make Fort Wayne Ballet a growing bright light in American dance.

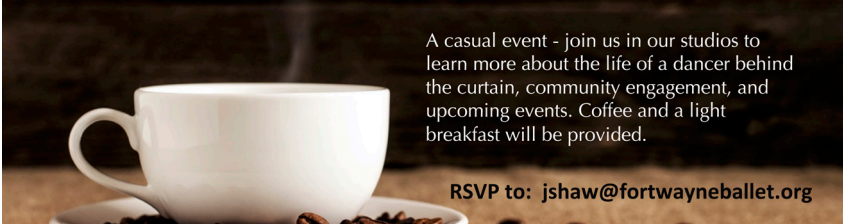
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TRICKS AND TREATS FOR THE SEASON

With Fall upon us and the leaves and temperatures turning, we start our 66th Season at Fort Wayne Ballet mixed with a variety of classics, new stories and outstanding expressions of how telling a story through movement can surprise and delight. We open the season with Dracula, leaning into a story that embraces October and the wonder in telling a story that tricks and treats. Many ballet companies have created a version of this story for their repertoire over the past decade or so and we are excited to bring back Tracy Tritz' original ballet created and enthusiastically premiered in 2020 for Fort Wayne Ballet.

The Season continues with the beloved treat, The Nutcracker, telling a timeless story of seasonal magic in a land of sweets. Rehearsals are already underway and we love that so many of you allow us to be a part of your family tradition through this annual classic. Tickets are available now- don't miss this tradition!

In February we bring back Love Notes, a mix of traditional and contemporary repertoire that is the perfect celebration of the Valentine's Day spirit in the chill of winter. Come share the evening with us and warm your heart and your senses. Continuing the season of tricks and treats we bring you Swan Lake, with the musical accompaniment of the Philharmonic, to tell a story of trickery, spells and the power of love through a timeless classic.

We end the season with a very special performance, A Night of Stierle, celebrating the three works of Eddie Stierle, seen for the first time together in one evening. Eddie's promising life was tragically cut short due to AIDS, but these three pieces show the promise and genius that would have led to great things. This performance is being taped by PBS for national distribution providing a treat honoring the talent and legacy of a life too short.

Season 66 promises to be a celebration of the magic of telling story through movement. We are excited to have you here and hope to see you throughout the season. Thank you for being a part of tonight and please come back to another of these wonderful performances!



Karen Gibbons-Brown
Artistic Director
Fort Wayne Ballet

MEETING COUNT DRACULA

ACT I Scene 1 - Village of Transylvania | Scene 2 - Forest | Scene 3 - Dracula's Castle

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 . . .

CAST

Dracula - David Claypoole
Jonathan Harker - Talbot Rue
Van Helsing - Thomas Caleb Roberts
Arthur Holmwood - Alan B. Campos
Dr. John Seward - Zion Harris
Quincy Morris - Allen Sizemore
Mina Harker - Abby Zinsser
Lucy - Amber Bailey

Weird Sisters

Lead - Maddie Opacinch, Babette Hunter, Tatum Farlow, Gwendolyn Bennett

Wolves

Lead - Maia Cullbreath

Corps - Brittany Focht, Erin Jenkins, Payton Wilson, Katie Brown, Carrington Martin, Christyna Schuppe

Peasants

Amy Whittemore, Avalou Burns, Abby Zinsser, Sadie Jones, Abby Storer, Carmie Schiano Nelson, Jessica Humphrey, Leah Wolfe, Anna Hess, Katherine Cackovic, Rachel Aron, Sandra Imbriaco, Thomas Caleb Roberts, Zion Harris, Rudolph Davis, Seth Mostofsky

Gypsies

Rudolph Davis, Seth Mostofsky, Tekhylon Armour, Leah Wolfe, Rachel Aron

DRACULA IN ENGLAND

ACT II Scene 4 - The House of Lucy Westenra | Scene 5 - Lucy's Bedroom: Sleepwalking
Scene 6 - Graveyard | Scene 7 - Lucy's Bedroom: Arrival of Van Helsing | Scene 8 - Lucy's Burial Vault

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.

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REVENGE

ACT III Scene 9 - The House of Mina Murray | Scene 10 - The Asylum | Scene 11 - Forest outside Dracula's Castle | Scene 12 - The Borogo Pass | Scene 13 - Dracula's Castle (Final Battle)

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 ...

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DRACULA

Choreography by - Tracy Tritz

Staged by - Tracy Tritz

Music by - Alfred Schnittke

Costumes by - Nan Possemato

Lighting by - Jeremy Springer

Set design by - Ben Romey

Production Managers - Luke Hollinger & Christina Brinker

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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. Her other full time job is spending time with her husband, Jim, and a sundry of dogs.



TRACY TRITZ

BALLET MISTRESS & OUTREACH DIRECTOR

Tracy Tritz began her training in Stevens Point, Wisconsin under the direction of James Moore and Joan Karlen. She began studying ballet, tap, jazz and musical theatre. After beginning her performing career in ballet, she decided to pursue her love of both singing and dancing by performing with touring companies of the Broadway musicals *Guys and Dolls*, *42nd Street* and *Les Miserables*. She then switched her focus back to dancing, furthering her study of jazz, modern and contemporary movement.

She attended the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, where she completed the Dance Certificate Program. She then moved to Chicago where she studied with Gus Girdano, Frank Chaves and Lou Conte at Ruth Page Center for the Arts. From Chicago she moved to Los Angeles where she danced as a company member with L.A. Danceforce and Jazz Dance L.A. There, she also danced on the *Tonight Show* with Jay Leno, *The Howie Mandel Show* and with various musical artists in concert. While in Los Angeles, she studied with Randy Allaire, Bill Prudich, Maguerite Derricks, Claude Thompson and Luigi.

Her career brought her back to Chicago, where she continued dancing as well as choreographing for various companies and performances. She has also taught at several dance schools, including Giordano's Dance Center. Tracy relocated to Fort Wayne in 2007 and started teaching in the Auer Academy of Fort Wayne Ballet. She also danced with Mikautadze Dance Theatre. Tracy, who is an ABT® Certified Instructor, is thrilled to be back with Fort Wayne Ballet as their Ballet Mistress and Outreach Director.

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Production Manager - Christina Brinker
Light Design and Operation - Jeremy Springer
Fly Master - Ryan Meyers
Costume Design and Shop Supervision - Nan Passemato
Costume Assistant - Duncan Smith
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BEQUESTS

Fort Wayne Ballet gratefully acknowledges recent bequests from the following estates:

Richard Baker*
Maxine Durr*
Sally Frazier*
**indicates deceased*

TRIBUTES

Fort Wayne Ballet gratefully acknowledges the following friends who have recently contributed gifts in honor of loved ones. Memorials and honorariums are meaningful and deeply appreciated gifts.

In memory of Janet Brinker - Karen & Brian Hunter

In memory of Tabryn Le'Royce Armour - Trinell Armour

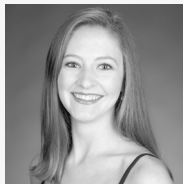
In memory of Gregory Jackson

Terry & Ethel Bosserman	Roger & Judy Moughler
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MEET THE DANCERS

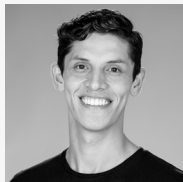
COMPANY

AMBER BAILEY



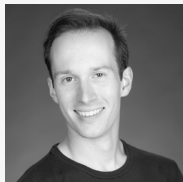
Amber began dancing in Traverse City, Michigan and continued her training at the University of Oklahoma. She graduated in 2018 with a BFA in Dance and BA in Mathematics. Amber is entering her fifth season with Fort Wayne Ballet where she has had the opportunity to perform principal roles in *The Sleeping Beauty* (Aurora), *The Nutcracker* (Sugar Plum Fairy), *A Midsummer's Night's Dream* (Helena), *Dracula* (Lucy) and *The Phantom of the Opera* (Christine). Amber has also been featured in works by Val Caniparoli, 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



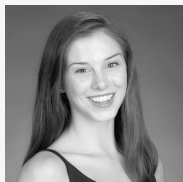
Alan is from Cancun, Mexico. He began his training at Talulah Centro Integral de Danza and attended Point Park University's International Summer Dance. He since has attended Escuela Superior de Música y Danza de Monterrey and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Classical Dance. At Escuela Superior de Música de Danza de Monterrey (ESMDM) he has performed feature roles in *The Nutcracker*, *Giselle*, *La Bayadere* and *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.

DAVID CLAYPOOLE



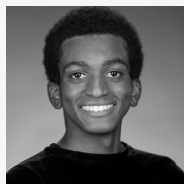
Originally from Richmond, Virginia, David Claypoole started dancing at the age of 9, training at The School of Richmond Ballet and attending summer programs with Joffrey Ballet New York, Gelsey Kirkland Academy of Classical Ballet, and Richmond Ballet. David earned his college degree in Dance and Performance 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 Val 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.

TATUM FARLOW



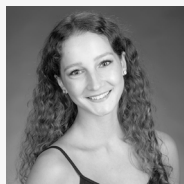
Originally from Memphis, Tennessee, Tatum trained at the Ballet Memphis School under Janet Parke. Tatum continued her training at Butler University, receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Performance, and graduating cum laude with departmental honors. While at Butler, Tatum performed notable roles in *The Nutcracker*, *Paquita*, *La Vivandiere*, *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



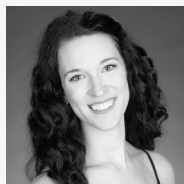
Zion is from Boston, Massachusetts, and began his dance training at the age of 4 at the Walnut Hill Dance Academy. He continued training at the Boston Ballet School when he turned 11 and the next year from was accepted into their Pre-Professional program where he spent seven years, including two as a 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 Ballet-Met 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

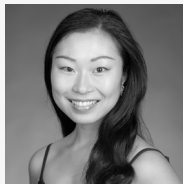


Izumi was born in Yamanashi, Japan, and started ballet at Miwa's Ballet school. She later studied on full scholarship at ABS (Austrian Ballet School). Izumi received First Place Award at the 41st Saitama Prefecture Dance Association National Contest in 2008. Concurrent with her graduation from the Austrian 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.

MEET THE DANCERS

COMPANY

SAKI MORIMOTO



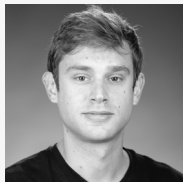
Saki grew up in Osaka, Japan, where she studied ballet at Yamamoto Sanae Ballet School. At 15, she moved to the United States, where she trained at the Academy of Ballet NJ under the direction of David Gallagher. She continued her training at UNCSA under the direction of Susan Jaffe and graduated with a BFA in Dance. Since joining Fort Wayne Ballet, Saki's danced featured roles including Confetti by Gerald Arpino, Emyrean 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



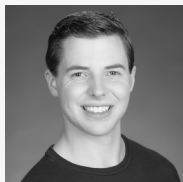
Keisuke was born in Hyogo, Japan. He began his training at the Seiko Kuramoto Ballet School. In 2013, Keisuke received First Place Award at the Osaka Prix Competition and a scholarship from the Vaganova Ballet Academy. Keisuke studied at Vaganova Ballet Academy for two years. In 2015, he was awarded 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.

THOMAS CALEB ROBERTS



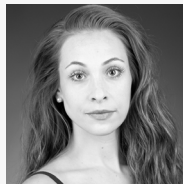
Thomas Caleb Roberts began his pre-professional dance training at the Center for Dance Education under the direction of Mimi Worrell. He graduated from the SC Governor's School for the Arts under the tutelage of Stanislav Issaev and attended North Carolina School for the Arts, studying with Ethan Stiefel. 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 has been a frequent guest artist with various regional companies including Carolina Ballet. Thomas joined Fort Wayne Ballet two season ago and has enjoyed performing in pas de deux's of Black Swan, Don Quixote, The Sleeping Beauty, Giselle romeo and Juliet and Spartacus. Thomas looks forward to his third 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.

CARMIE SCHIANO NELSON



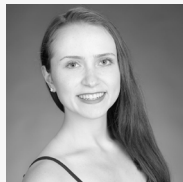
Carmie Schiano Nelson began her early dance training in New York City. At the age of 12, she was accepted to Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington, D.C. and attended the year-round boarding school. After graduating high school early, she continued her training with Boston Ballet. She has attended summer 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 time at Columbia City Ballet, she has performed numerous different notable roles in both classical and contemporary works and prior to leaving, was promoted to demi-soloist. With Fort Wayne Ballet, her most memorable performance opportunities have been performing Juliet in Romeo and Juliet's Bedroom Pas de Deux, Spartacus Pas de Deux, and Esmerelda Pas de Deux. Carmie looks forward to her third season at Fort Wayne Ballet and continuing to explore the city.

MADDIE OPACINCH



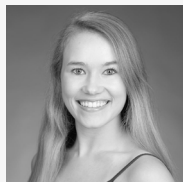
Born in Louisville, KY, Maddie moved to Indiana and began her ballet training at age 3. She grew up through the Auer Academy of Fort Wayne Ballet under the direction of Karen Gibbons-Brown, Eleanora Pokhitonova-Hartung, and Tracy Tritz. She attended summer programs including American Ballet Theatre NYC, Ballet West, and Kaatsbaan Extreme Ballet where she worked closely with former American Ballet Theatre dancers Stella Abrera and Martine Van Hamel. After graduating high school, she joined the Studio Company at Texas Ballet Theater. Maddie is an ABT® Certified Teacher through the ABT® National Training Curriculum and is certified to teach levels Pre-Primary through Level 5. Since coming back to Fort Wayne Ballet, she has enjoyed dancing in numerous productions such as The Nutcracker, The Sleeping Beauty, Gerald Arpino's Birthday Variations, and Agnes DeMille's Three Virgins and A Devil. Maddie is thrilled to begin her third 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. She is also 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 fourth season with Fort Wayne Ballet, as well as her third season teaching for the Auer Academy!

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 Emyprean 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!

MEET THE DANCERS

CORPS DE BALLET

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KATIE BROWN
AVALOU BURNS
KATHERINE CACKOVIC
MAIA CULBREATH
BRITTANY FOCHT
ANNA HESS
SANDRA IMBRIACO
ERIN JENKINS
SADIE JONES
CAILIN KLUTTZ
OLIVIA LEY
CARRINGTON MARTIN
SETH MOSTOFSKY
CHRISTYNA SCHUPPE
ABBY STORER
ALEXANDRA VERONESE-MILIN
AMY WHITTEMORE
PAYTON WILSON

TRAINEES

ALYA KING
SAMANTHA JO DUNHAM
MEGAN CASTELLANO
TEAGAN BENTLEY
RUDOLPH DAVIS



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Dracula

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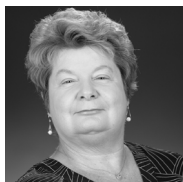
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KAREN GIBBONS-BROWN
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



JIM SPARROW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



CHRISTINE JONES
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



CHRISTINA BRINKER
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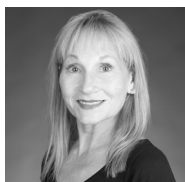
JOHN DAWKINS
MARKETING COORDINATOR



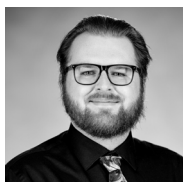
TRACY TRITZ
BALLET MISTRESS &
DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH



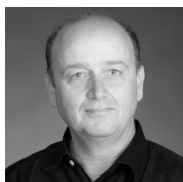
RALEIGH SPARROW
ACADEMY REGISTRAR



NAN POSSEMATO
COSTUME MISTRESS



DUNCAN SMITH
COSTUME ASSISTANT



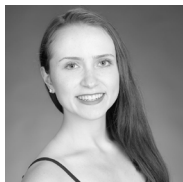
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MUSIC DIRECTOR



ELEONORA POKHITONOVA
HARTUNG
MASTERTEACHER,
CHOREOGRAPHER,
CHARACTER ENSEMBLE
DIRECTOR



KIM SAGAMI
RESIDENT MASTER TEACHER



LEAH WOLFE
YOUTH COMPANY CO-DIRECTOR

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



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