

MINNESOTA BALLET

POE

The Ballet

Studio Four, The Depot
Oct. 20–22, 26–29, 2023



Season Sponsor
Essentia Health

POE

*Choreography.....*Karl von Rabenau
*Ballet Master.....*Jennifer Miller
*Music....*Dimitri Shostakovich, Karl von Rabenau
*Costume Designer.....*Heather Boudreau
*Set Design.....*Ann Gumpfer, Karl von Rabenau
*Lighting Design.....*Patrick M. Mulcahey, Jr.
*Production Manager.....*Katie Kampfhenkel
*Sound Board/Spot Operator.....*Rianna Ryan

Special Thanks

UMD Department of Theater
Northern Acrylics & Charles Carter



POE

This evening of works is a journey through the writing and the mind of Edgar Allan Poe. At some moments there will be a literal depiction of the stories, and others will include some creative interpretation, and newly explored twists and turns to give the dancing even more bone-chilling depth!

The Masque of the Red Death

A disease known as the Red Death plagues the country, and it causes its victims to die quickly and gruesomely. Even though this disease is spreading rampantly, the Prince, Prospero, feels happy and hopeful. In an act of denial, he locks the gates of his palace in order to fend off the plague.

The Prince throws a colorful masquerade ball, complete with festive stained glass windows. With each passing hour, the celebration becomes louder and louder, so loud and distracting that the group barely notices the entrance of Death into the palace at midnight. Causing great intrigue, Death is allowed to join the party.

Prospero becomes entangled in a duet; the other guests follow suit and continue their carefree celebration, almost with a new defiance. In the midst of a bold confrontation by the Prince, Death casts her spell and the guests.....and Prospero dies.

"Darkness and Decay and the Red Death" have at last triumphed.

Death: Kyra Olson (10/20, 1022, 10/27, 10/29)

Brooke Bero (10/21, 10/26, 10/28)

Prince: Brian Guerrero (10/20, 1022, 10/27, 10/29)

Sean M. Sullivan (10/21, 10/26, 10/28)

Peasants / Court: Sean M. Sullivan (10/20, 1022, 10/27, 10/29)

Brian Guerrero (10/21, 10/26, 10/28)

Luke Umphlett, Anthony Cefalu, Taylor Phillips

Julianna DeBellis, Isabella Blindauer, Eleanor Darling-Vross

Libby Bocht, Ansley Pierce, Kira Klinkhardt

Servants: Artists of the Minnesota Ballet

15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

The Purloined Letter and More

This tale begins with the writing of the purloined letter. A Priest, troubled, but in love with the queen, writes to express his deep and genuine love. A letter that is meant for her eyes only. But fate twists the story into a darker tale when a manipulative politician finds the letter and uses it to gain power. The Politician snaps while trying to carry out his plan, and murders the queen.

The Politician is consumed with shock, grief, and guilt. He begins to hear things that are not there. In the midst of his unraveling, an Inspector hired by the Priest arrives to inquire as to what the Politician may know about the stolen letter. In an attempt to conceal what has transpired, the Politician plies the Inspector and their accompanying officers with drink.

As the Politician sinks further into insanity, he begins to believe his guests have figured out his deadly secret. He hears an ever-growing heartbeat. Believing it is the Queen's he becomes forever lost in his manic reality.

The truth, and the heartbeat, get closer and closer, and the politician will never find peace... "Nevermore."

Queen: Ximena Azurmendi (10/20, 10/22, 10/27, 10/29)
Brianna Crockett (10/21, 10/26, 10/28)

Priest: Sean M. Sullivan (10/20, 10/22, 10/27, 10/29)
Brian Guerrero (10/21, 10/26, 10/28)

Politician: Isaac Sharratt (10/20, 10/22, 10/27, 10/29)
Victor Smith (10/21, 10/26, 10/28)

Dupin, the Investigator: Brooke Bero (10/20, 10/22, 10/27, 10/29)
Julianna DeBellis (10/21, 10/26, 10/28)

Court: Brian Guerrero (10/20, 10/22, 10/27, 10/29)
Sean M. Sullivan (10/21, 10/26, 10/28)

Luke Umphlett, Anthony Cefalu, Taylor Phillips
Julianna DeBellis (10/20, 10/22, 10/27, 10/29)

Kira Klinkhardt (10/21, 10/26, 10/28)
Isabella Blindauer, Eleanor Darling-Vross,
Libby Bocht, Ansley Pierce

Police Officers: Jessica Lopes
Victor Smith (10/20, 10/22, 10/27, 10/29)
Matthew Frezzell (10/21, 10/26, 10/28)

15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

The Pit and the Pendulum

The Accused has been sentenced to death during the Inquisition. Upon receiving his death sentence, he fights, cries, and pleads for mercy. He finds himself trapped and alone, in complete darkness where he is afraid that he has been locked in a tomb. He has been tortured and is dangerously close to his death, so close that he can see her and feel her. The appeal of Death is overwhelming. The only thing that can snap him out of his despair is the carnal need of food.

As he eagerly consumes some of the food, the Accused is surprised to find he has cellmates, oddly resembling disfigured rats sneaking out of the shadows and swarming around his food. The Accused is relieved to not be alone for now, and gladly shares his food in exchange for companionship.

The fast friends' denial of the dark reality of their situation is swept away by this pleasant moment. It is abruptly interrupted by the Judges, who are ready for the next execution. They drag one unlucky rat to the pit, who becomes the first to be executed for the day... death by pendulum. While traumatized by witnessing the gruesome event, the Accused is chosen by the Judges to be the next victim. Upon being prepared for execution the Accused is again alone and under the spell is Death. This time Death feels inevitable and he is ready to give in. The surviving rats come to his rescue, freeing the Accused from his bonds. They get frantically close to escaping when they are discovered by the Judges, who seize the Accused and once again prepare him for his ultimate demise.

The Accused: Matthew Frezzell (10/20, 1022, 10/27, 10/29)

Isaac Sharratt (10/21, 10/26, 10/28)

Death: Kyra Olson (10/20, 1022, 10/27, 10/29)

Brooke Bero (10/21, 10/26, 10/28)

Judges: Anthony Cefalu, Sean M. Sullivan, Brian Guerrero

Brooke Bero (10/20, 1022, 10/27, 10/29)

Kyra Olson (10/21, 10/26, 10/28), Julianna DeBellis

Luke Umphlett (10/20, 1022, 10/27, 10/29)

Taylor Phillips (10/21, 10/26, 10/28)

Rats: Victor Smith (10/20, 1022, 10/27, 10/29)

Jessica Lopes (10/21, 10/26, 10/28)

Brianna Crockett (10/20, 1022, 10/27, 10/29)

Ximena Azurmendi (10/21, 10/26, 10/28)

Taylor Phillips (10/20, 1022, 10/27, 10/29)

Luke Umphlett (10/21, 10/26, 10/28)

Katie Kampfhenkel: Minnesota Ballet Production Manager

Katie is originally from Katy, Texas, and moved to Duluth to pursue a BFA in Stage Management and minors in Marketing and Communications from the University of Minnesota Duluth. She has spent the past five years stage managing and working on productions at UMD, Duluth Playhouse, and Renegade Theater. She has also spent summers working at the Santa Fe Opera House. She is excited for another season with the Minnesota Ballet. Katie would like to thank her mom, dad, and boyfriend for their constant support throughout the years.

Patrick M. Mulcahy Jr., Lighting Designer

Patrick is a freelance theatrical designer who has lit numerous stages throughout the Twin Ports area. Outside of theatre, Patrick is the president of 3D Robotics Duluth, a 501(c)(3) community-wide robotics organization, where he also coaches three of the eleven teams. Patrick plays the euphonium in the Twin Ports Wind Orchestra and sails on Lake Superior during the weekly sailboat races. From October through the New Year, Patrick is known as the Gingerbread Man. Hundreds of his gingerbread structures (both big and small) can be seen throughout Duluth during the Holiday season.

Heather Boudreau, Minnesota Ballet Costume Manager

Heather's work captivated audiences last season with The Nutcracker; A Duluth Tale, Forward, and Sleeping Beauty, in addition the hauntingly delightful costumes for The Addams Family at the Duluth Playhouse. Heather holds a BFA in Costume Design from Sam Houston State University. Her dedication to preserving the artistry of ballet through remarkable costume design helps ensure that each performance is a truly unforgettable experience.



ABOUT THE BALLET

The Minnesota Ballet is the premier classical ballet company in the Northland region, and has been providing high-quality performances, pre-professional ballet training, and lively outreach programs for over 55 years.

Whether from their permanent home in Duluth, Minnesota, or on their annual Midwest tours, the Minnesota Ballet offers audiences vibrant new versions of classic works, faithful interpretations of masterpieces by legendary artists, and new commissions from established and emerging choreographers in a range of dance styles.

With a mission to inspire appreciation of the art of dance through performance and education, they also offer a robust set of classes and masterclasses for dancers of all ages and experience levels through the School of the Minnesota Ballet. In all its endeavors the Minnesota Ballet advances and celebrates diversity, inclusion, and equity, which richly nourish the art of dance.



2023–2024 Upcoming Performances



December 8-10, 2023
DECC Symphony Hall

Join young Clara as her enchanting dream—and her prized Nutcracker—come to vibrant life in this annual holiday classic with a local Duluth twist.

February 15-17, 2024
Studio Four, The Depot

An evening of dance featuring contemporary works by Minnesota Ballet artists, and guest choreographer Jayson Douglas. Performed in Studio Four, an intimate theater for experiencing cutting-edge dance.



March 29-30, 2024
DECC Symphony Hall

In the ballet telling of the beloved fairytale, a kindhearted princess and her seven pint-sized rescuers outwit the scheming Evil Queen. This magnificent production is perfect for children and adults alike.

Tickets: minnesotaballet.org • 218-733-7570

MINNESOTA BALLET

STAFF

<u>Karl von Rabenau</u>	Artistic Director
<u>Jennifer Miller</u>	Ballet Master
<u>LilaAnn Coates White</u>	Principal Teacher
Maude Dornfeld	Executive Director
Ashley Carter	Office Manager
Katie Kampfhenkel	Production Manager
Heather Boudreau	Wardrobe Manager
Kaily McLellan, MD*+	Company Physician
Alex Loch, DPT*	Company Physical Therapist
Devin Soul, ATC*	Company Athletic Trainer
Mike Gogolin, ATC*	Company Athletic Trainer

* provided by Essentia Health
+ official Physician of the Minnesota Ballet





Artistic Director
Karl von Rabenau

As a youth **Karl von Rabenau** studied at Minnesota Ballet Academy, then danced with the Ballet as an apprentice.

He further studied at Minnesota Dance Theatre, San Francisco Ballet, and Boston Ballet. He danced with Boston Ballet II, Boston Ballet as apprentice, Omaha Ballet, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, and finished his performing career as soloist for ten years with the Milwaukee Ballet. Mr. von Rabenau danced in such works as George Balanchine's *Serenade* and *Four Temperaments*; Michael Smuin's *The Tempest*; José Limón's *Moor's Pavane*; Choo San Goh's *In the Glow of the Night*; and Bruce Wells' *Romeo and Juliet*. Mr. von Rabenau's choreography has been performed by Milwaukee Ballet and in Regional Dance America festivals. With his wife, Jennifer Miller, he co-founded and served as Co-Director of Lake Arts Project in Milwaukee, an arts collaboration bringing dance and other art forms together for the benefit of both participants and observers. For the Minnesota Ballet, his *Nutcracker: A Duluth Tale* won the praise, "Minnesota Ballet's 'Nutcracker' Delivers New Take on Christmas Classic."



Ballet Master
Jennifer Miller

Jennifer Miller brings 30 years of professional experience to her position as Ballet Master. She enjoys working closely with Artistic Director Karl von Rabenau, assisting in teaching and coaching for performances. She is also Coordinator for Minnesota Ballet Academy. Ms. Miller received formal training from the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet under the tutorage of Marcia Dale Weary, then at the Joffrey Ballet and San Francisco Ballet. At the Milwaukee Ballet she rose to Principal Artist, dancing in featured roles in such ballets as Swan Lake, The Nutcracker, Romeo and Juliet, Hunchback of Notre Dame; and works by Trey McIntyre, Choo San Goh, David Parsons, Antony Tudor, Lila York, Margo Sappington, Alvin Ailey, Bruce Wells, and Michael Pink. After retiring from the stage, she served on the faculty at the Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy. She also taught for Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet for more than 25 years. As choreographer, Ms. Miller has created works for the Milwaukee Ballet, Milwaukee Ballet II, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Point Park University's International Summer Dance, Dance Arts Center and Erie Dance Conservatory.



Photographer: Brett Groehlert

Principal Teacher
LilaAnn Coates White

LilaAnn Coates White has been a part of Minnesota Ballet since she was twenty years old, as a company mem-

ber, Principal Teacher of Minnesota Ballet Academy, choreographer and rehearsal assistant for both the company and school, and Artistic Associate. Lila has worked under five artistic directors and has staged and rehearsed portions of *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *Coppélia*, and *Giselle*. She has taught all levels of ballet and pointe as well as character, men's class, dance history, repertoire, and choreography workshops. To celebrate her 25th anniversary as Principal Teacher, Lila created a Grand Défilé for the Student performance and a Tribute to the Academy for the Ballet's 50th Anniversary Gala. Lila has choreographed numerous pieces for the Minnesota Ballet including "Precarious" and "Appassionato" and "Scenes from a Supper Club". Lila is an Assistant Professor of Dance at the University of Minnesota Duluth and holds a B.A. in Health Sciences and an M.A. in Physical Therapy. She has choreographed for UMD productions, American College Dance Association, Dances on the Lake-walk, Lyric Opera of the North, and Arrowhead Chorale.

2023-2024

MINNESOTA BALLET

COMPANY

Ximena Azurmendi

Brooke Bero

Brianna Crockett

Matthew Frezzell

Brian Guerrero

Jessica Lopes

Kyra Olson

Isaac Sharratt

Victor Smith

Sean M. Sullivan

Apprentices

Taylor Phillips *Sr. Apprentice*

Isabella Blindauer

Libby Bocht

Anthony Cefalu

Eleanor Darling-Vross

Juliana DeBellis

Kira Klinkhardt

Ansley Pierce

Luke Umphlett





Company Dancer

Ximena Azurmendi

sponsored by

Morgana and Leroy Kolenda

Ximena Azurmendi, born and raised in El Paso, Texas, began training with the El Paso Ballet Theater, where she performed with the company in *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *Don Quixote*, *Cinderella*, and *Giselle*. In 2015 she relocated to Florida to begin pre-professional training with Magaly Suarez at The Art of Classical Ballet and at Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts, where she graduated in 2016 as a Dance Major. She joined the second company at Orlando Ballet under the direction of Robert Hill, performing with the company in productions such as Robert Hill's *Carmina Burana*, *Bolero*, *The Nutcracker*, Arcadian Broad's "Seasons", and Victoria Morgan's *Cinderella*. Ximena joined Minnesota Ballet in 2020 and was featured as Dew Drop in Karl von Rabenau's *The Nutcracker: A Duluth Tale*, in Paul Taylor's *Dream Solo* from "Company B," and as Katrina Van Tassel in the Karl von Rabenau's *Sleepy Hollow*.



Company Dancer

Brooke Bero

sponsored by

Jonathan Reznick

Brooke Bero, originally from Pewaukee, Wisconsin, began training with Milwaukee Ballet under the direction of Rolando Yanes and Michael Pink. There she performed in Michael Pink's original works including Peter Pan, The Nutcracker, and Cinderella. She then earned her B.A. in Dance from Point Park University under the direction of Susan Stowe. There she performed works including George Balanchine's Serenade and Nicolas Petrov's Romeo and Juliet. Her professional career began at Eugene Ballet under the direction of Toni Pimble, where she was a part of newly created works including Toni's Great Gatsby and The Snow Queen. She's also spent seasons dancing with Charlottesville Ballet, Ballet Fantastique and as a freelance artist in Portland, Oregon, and Melbourne, Australia. Brooke is thrilled to be returning to Minnesota Ballet for her second season.



Company Dancer

Brianna Crocketts

sponsored by

Claudia von Wilpert

Brianna Crockett began training at International Ballet School in Littleton, Colorado. She graduated from the Ellison Ballet Professional Training Program in New York City. Summer intensives included Joffrey Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Kaatsbaan Extreme Ballet, Ellison Ballet, and the School at Jacob's Pillow. Brianna danced for the Colorado Ballet's Studio Company in corps de ballet in Swan Lake, The Nutcracker, and Serenade. She also danced in Michael Pink's Dracula and Derek Deane's Romeo and Juliet. Brianna is in her fifth season with the Minnesota Ballet performing roles such as Chosen One in Robert Gardner's Rite of Spring; grown-up Clara, Ice Fairy, Dew Drop Fairy in Allen Fields' The Nutcracker; as Katrina Van Tassel in Karl von Rabenau's Sleepy Hollow and Clara in his The Nutcracker: A Duluth Tale.



Company Dancer

Matthew Frezzell

sponsored by

Story North Productions

Matthew Frezzell began his ballet training in Norfolk, Virginia at Ballet Virginia International. In 2014, after attending the summer intensive program at Orlando Ballet, he joined the Orlando Ballet School Academy under the direction of Dierdre Miles Burger. Matthew then joined Orlando Ballet II the next year in 2017 under direction of Robert Hill. While dancing at Orlando Ballet Matthew had the opportunity to dance in original works by artistic director Robert Hill. From 2020-22 Matthew danced as a company dancer with Columbia City Ballet under direction of William Starrett. For the 2022-23 season Matthew had the opportunity to dance with Ballet San Antonio under the direction of Sofiane Sylve as a corps de ballet dancer. A few highlights include the King of Hearts in Brian Enos' "Alice in Wonderland" and a member of the corps for Houston Thomas's "Pauline Project". This will be Matthew's first season with Minnesota Ballet.



Company Dancer

Brian Guerrero

sponsored by

Patricia Salo Downs

Brian Guerrero began his training at the Sarasota Cuban Ballet School in 2012 and graduated in 2020. During his time there he performed roles such as Cavalier in The Nutcracker and the lead in Grand Pas Classique. While there he also participated in Young America Grand Prix and was awarded 3rd place in classical and 1st place in pas de deux. Since then Brian has performed in numerous dance festivals in Cuba, the Festival Internacional de Ballet de Costa Rica, and performed with the Youth Ballet Company Panama. Brian is returning to the Minnesota Ballet for his second season as a company member.



Company Dancer

Jessica Lopes

sponsored by

Jack and Cindy Seiler

Jessica Lopes, Brazilian-born, began her ballet training in 2014 at Escola de Dança Alice Arja, then graduated from Miami City Ballet's Pre-Professional Program. Returning to Brazil, she joined Cia de Ballet do Rio de Janeiro as a Corps de Ballet member. Jessica returned to the States to join the Milwaukee Ballet 2 Program, where she spent two seasons training and performing alongside the company. She was featured in Corps de Ballet roles and received soloist casting in Milwaukee Ballet's Genesis Choreographic Competition. She danced with American Midwest Ballet for two seasons and a digital series during the pandemic. She has worked with many choreographers including Aleix Mane and Ann Reinking. This is Jessica's second season with Minnesota Ballet and her first season as a full company dancer. While with Minnesota ballet Mrs. Lopes has been featured as Princess Florine from Sleeping Beauty.



Company Dancer

Kyra Olson

sponsored by

Ed Schumacher

Kyra Olson is originally from Wolcott, Connecticut where she began her training at Studio One and Triple Threat Dance Company. After graduating high school in 2016, she attended Nutmeg Conservatory for the Arts and graduated from their two year post-grad program. In 2018, she joined the Ruth Page Training Company and had the opportunity to perform as Aurora, American Beauty Rose from the Nutcracker, Raymonda, Swan Lake Pas de Trois, Giselle Peasant Pas, Esmeralda Pas de Deux, Meetings Along the Edge by Venetia Stifler and Pasaje del Tiempo by Victor Alexander. She attended Ballet Summer Workshop in Estonia where she performed in their Gala and was featured in works by Viki Bromberg Psihoyos, Konstantin Keykhel, Triinu Upkin and Cristiano Principato. While with Minnesota Ballet she performed in Karl von Rabenau's Sleepy Hollow and The Nutcracker as well as contemporary works by Jennifer Miller and Karl von Rabenau. She is excited for her fourth season with Minnesota Ballet!



Company Dancer
Isaac Sharratt
sponsored by
Betsy Holcomb

Isaac Sharratt began ballet training in Tucson, Arizona, first at Tucson Regional Ballet and then Ballet Tucson. He attended several summer intensive programs including San Francisco Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Houston Ballet, and Milwaukee Ballet. He rose from Ballet Tucson's academy into the company at the age of 16, where he performed the lead in Anthony Tudor's *Little Improvisations*, as well as performing Tudor's *Continuo*. In ten years with Milwaukee Ballet, Isaac was cast in several ballets by Michael Pink, lead roles in many and the title role in Michael Pink's *Beauty and the Beast*. At Milwaukee Ballet Isaac worked with choreographers such as Trey McIntyre, Val Caniparoli, and Ann Reinking. Most recently he danced with American Midwest Ballet. Isaac is also an aspiring choreographer, having set many pieces on Milwaukee Ballet's second company and main company, as well as having choreographed on Ballet Minnesota in 2017.



Company Dancer

Victor Smith

sponsored by

Pamela and Ryan Arola

Victor Smith was born in Hong Kong and received his early ballet training at the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts. After moving to Australia at a young age, he continued his training at the Queensland Conservatoire of Ballet in Brisbane completing his Diploma of Dance. He then went on to Sydney at Alegria Dance Studios under the direction of Hilary Kaplan and Archibald McKenzie, with whom he performed at the Sydney Opera House. Victor then went on to extend his dance education in the United States with the Boston Ballet School as Trainee, Ellison Ballet, Gelsey Kirkland Academy and the Joffrey Ballet School. Former companies include Joffrey Concert Group, Baltimore Ballet, Charlottesville Ballet, Ballet Theatre of Maryland, Wilmington Ballet and most recently the American Midwest Ballet. Victor is excited to be joining Minnesota Ballet for its 2023 - 2024 season!



Company Dancer

Sean M. Sullivan

sponsored by

Mary and Joe Gummerson

Sean M. Sullivan, originally from Dade City, Florida, began dancing at age seven as a traditional Irish dancer. At age 16, he began ballet training at North Carolina Dance Theatre, under the direction of Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux and Patricia McBride, then at University of North Carolina School of the Arts, under the direction of Susan Jaffe. There, he performed the role of Snow King in Ethan Stiefel's *The Nutcracker*, in Sir Frederick Ashton's *Birthday Offering*, and in Susan Jaffe's *Polovtsian Dances* and *Metallurgy*. He then studied at the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre Graduate Program performing in works such as George Balanchine's *Serenade* and *Western Symphony*. With the Lexington Ballet Company, he performed many principal roles. Since joining Minnesota Ballet, he has had the great pleasure of premiering the role of Brom 'Bones' Van Brunt in Karl von Rabenau's *Sleepy Hollow* and performing as Oberon in Bruce Wells' *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This is Sean's fifth season at Minnesota Ballet.



Senior Apprentice

Taylor Phillips

sponsored by

Pamela and Ryan Arola

Taylor Phillips, originally from Grand Rapids, Michigan, began his dance training at the age of nine at the Letha Fulton's School of Dance. Letha truly fostered his love of dancing. He later danced at various studios in Grand Rapids including the West Michigan Youth Ballet, where he performed his first Nutcracker. At 16, he moved to Florida to train at the Sarasota Cuban Ballet School under the tutelage of Ariel Serrano and Wilmian Hernandez. In the fall 2022 season he started with the Minnesota Ballet. He will be going onto his second season with the Minnesota Ballet.



Apprentice

Isabella Blindauer

sponsored by

Pamela Nelson

Isabella Blindauer, born and raised in Duluth, has been dancing at Minnesota Ballet Academy since 2014. She is currently in her senior year of high school and working towards her Associate degree. Most notable roles include Clara and Madeline in Allen Fields' Manhattan Nutcracker and the Columbine doll in Karl von Rabenau's The Nutcracker: A Duluth Tale. She is looking forward to dancing in her second season with the company.

Libby Bocht began at Stacey's Studio of Dance Education, where she danced competitively for over five years. She was introduced to the style of ballet by her first teacher, Amanda Abrahamson Roseth, former Minnesota Ballet company dancer. Libby joined the Minnesota Ballet year-round after the 2019 summer intensive. She has been in Karl von Rabenau's Sleepy Hollow and The Nutcracker: A Duluth Tale. She is thrilled to be joining the Minnesota Ballet for her second season and is thankful for her family's support.



Apprentice

Libby Bocht

sponsored by

Betsy Holcomb



Apprentice

Anthony Cefalu

sponsored by

Patricia Salo Downs

several small studios in Waukesha, Wisconsin, and Norwalk, Ohio. He then trained at Saint Louis Ballet and then at the Milwaukee Ballet Academy and performed in Ascend and 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. In 2020 he joined the Louisville Ballet Studio Company under the direction of Robert Curran and Mikelle Bruzina. There he performed in Robert Curran's Swan Lake, The Nutcracker, and Sleeping Beauty. He is excited to return for his second season with Minnesota Ballet.

Eleanor Darling-Vross Eleanor began their training at Northern Michigan Dance Academy until she eventually transitioned to the Milwaukee Ballet. At 14, Eleanor began their schooling at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. After graduating in 2021, she attended both Milwaukee Ballet and Colorado Ballet's Pre-Professional Programs, respectively. In Colorado, they danced under the direction of Erica Fischbach and Domenico Luciano. Now, she's starting her first season as an Apprentice with the Minnesota Ballet and could not be more excited!



Apprentice

Eleanor Darling-Vross

sponsored by

Penny Darling



Apprentice

Juliana DeBellis

sponsored by

Shawn and Rachel Cefalu

Juliana DeBellis, originally from Carlsbad, California, grew up training at San Elijo Dance and Music Academy. Juliana also attended intensives at Kansas City Ballet, Princeton Ballet, and Ballet Austin before joining Texas Christian University's School for Classical and Contemporary Dance. There she performed in such works as Gabrielle Lamb's "Waveform," Francesca Harper's "Angela, Gloria, and Io" and August Bournonville's "Konservatoriat." She graduated summa cum laude with a BFA in Ballet and a minor in Arts Leadership and Entrepreneurship. Juliana is excited for her second season with the Minnesota Ballet.

Kira Klinkhardt began her ballet training in her hometown of Brookfield Wisconsin. Kira was a part of Milwaukee Ballet's pre-professional program where she was able to perform many different ballets such as Le Corsaire, Paquita, Raymonda, and Sleeping Beauty. Along with studying classical ballet, Kira has also had the opportunity to perform many contemporary works in Milwaukee's Fringe Fest, Chicago's Elpis Festival, and with the contemporary company Dance Circus. She is excited to work with Minnesota Ballet this season and continue to learn and grow as a dancer.



Apprentice

Kira Klinkhardt

sponsored by

Eric Huie



Apprentice

Ansley Pierce

sponsored by

Jayme Hartman

Ansley Pierce began her training at Hinsdale Dance Academy, then attended UMKC. After two years at UMKC, Ansley transferred to Northern Illinois University School of Theatre and Dance. Ansley has performed many soloist and principal roles as well as numerous works by student choreographers. Through her variety of performance experiences and varied coursework, Ansley discovered a love for choreography. Notably in her first year at NIU, she was the first-ever recipient of the Jerry Tulk Choreography Award and Scholarship. Ansley is now in her first season with the Minnesota Ballet as an apprentice.

Luke Umphlett is from Columbus, North Carolina, and has been dancing ballet for 10 years! He has performed roles such as The Nutcracker Prince, The Rat King, The Sugar Plum Cavalier, and so much more! He just finished his training with The Washington School of Ballet, and is very excited to be joining Minnesota Ballet for his first season!



Apprentice

Luke Umphlett

sponsored by

Jayme Hartman

The **ACADEMY**

Minnesota Ballet Academy is the premier ballet school for professional training in the Northland

We provide ballet and other dance classes for children and young people, ages 3 and up, as well as adults. Our professional faculty focuses on providing an inclusive, safe, nurturing atmosphere where we emphasize training with a positive approach.

The training we provide is based on traditional Vaganova technique. Our original syllabus specializes in the breaking down of and proper clarity in teaching ballet steps that lead to a solid

foundation of dance in any discipline.

Our goal is to nurture young people, allowing them to develop into thriving, self-empowered young adults, as well as passionate artists and art lovers.

Events and features of our training include annual school performances, community appearances, educational outreach. And opportunities to appear in professional performances with Minnesota Ballet.

Want to learn more?

[Visit \[mlnnesotaballet.com/education\]\(http://mlnnesotaballet.com/education\)](http://mlnnesotaballet.com/education)





STUDIO FOUR

At Minnesota Ballet, we don't believe that the arts are only for the elite or privileged.

STUDIO FOUR is Minnesota Ballet's new, dynamic studio and performance space.

STUDIO FOUR'S mission is to offer a new, affordable and inclusive venue for grassroots arts initiatives, nonprofits, and emerging artists to share their unique talents and perspectives. STUDIO FOUR is also available to rent for fundraisers, parties and special events.

For information about renting STUDIO FOUR, contact info@minnesotaballet.org.

To support this special community resource, visit minnesotaballet.org/support.

DONATIONS

As a non-profit with over 55 years of history in this community, we're committed to providing access to high-quality, professional dance performances to all.

Whether through discounted or donated tickets or our extensive outreach programming, we want to ensure anyone and everyone has the chance to fall in love with our art form. Your support helps guarantee the Midwest's premier classical ballet company will be able to continue those efforts for another 55 years – and beyond.

Interested in supporting our mission?

[Visit minnesotaballet.com/support](https://www.minnesotaballet.com/support)



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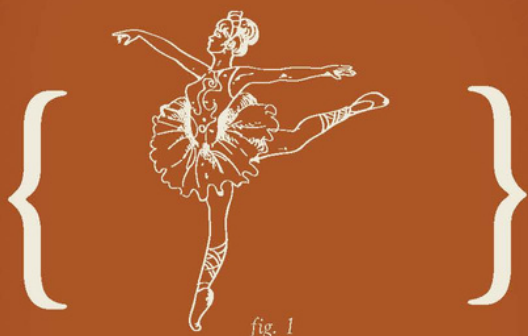
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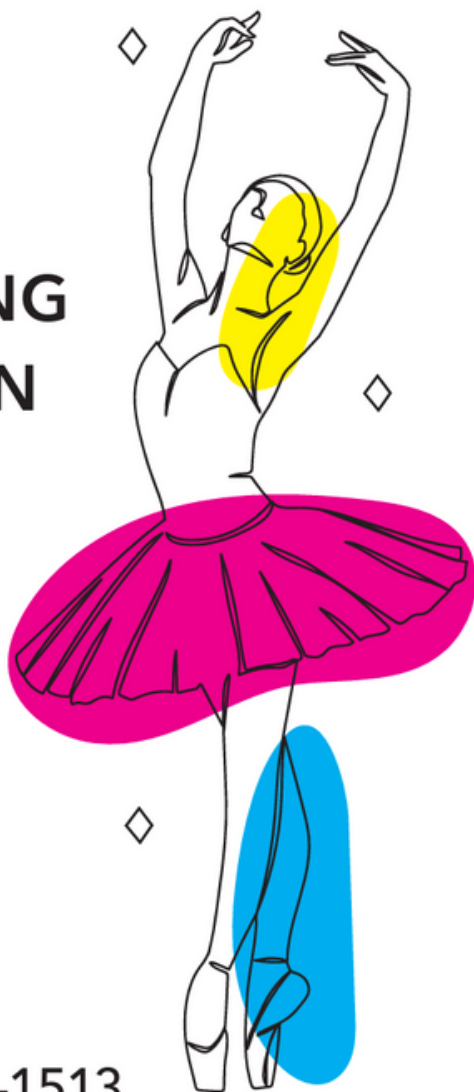
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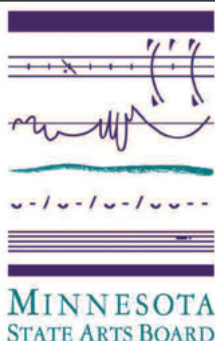
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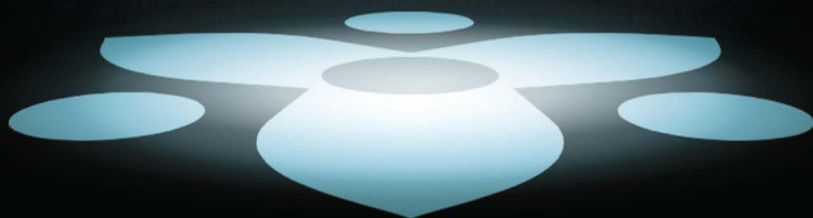
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