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Ballet
314



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Ballet
314

Artistic Director: Robert Poe
Executive Director: Rachel Bodi

Ballet 314 is a nonprofit professional ballet company dedicated to celebrating local talent in the St. Louis region.



DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER:

Robert Poe
after E.L. Doctorow

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT:
Marcela Gómez-Lugo

LIGHTING DESIGN:
Daniel MacLaughlin

STAGE MANAGEMENT & TECHNICAL DIRECTION:
Daniel MacLaughlin, Nichole Bryan, Alice Anders

VIDEO ARTIST:
Vivienne Flory

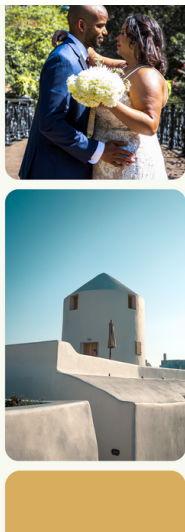
WARDROBE:
Cassidae Pfeiffer & Morgan Pfeiffer

GUEST SPEAKERS:
Joanna Dee Das (2:00) & Erica Hill (7:00)

Financial assistance for this project has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.




Ballet 314 would like to recognize Bucket List Co: our partner for social media content, and creators of our updated website!
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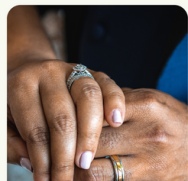
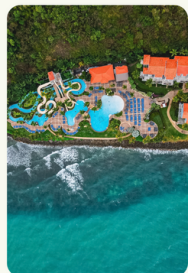
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Hello St. Louis,

I'm grateful that you have come to witness the second iteration of this grand production! Your support of and love for Ballet 314 has been palpable from the very beginning and we thank you for your devotion.



This ballet originally premiered in the summer of '21 and had the fingerprints of COVID all over it: dancers and audiences were masked, the cast was considerably smaller and we were in constant danger of cancellation due to contamination. However, we still made it to the premier because you still came to support, just like you have today. Now, you'll notice that there are no masks onstage, and that the incredible 26 member cast is almost double what it originally was.

With Ballet 314's mission to celebrate local talent in the community, highly collaborative productions like this are integral to our purpose. I intentionally sought out dancers with a multitude of backgrounds to embody what Ballet 314 is working towards highlighting, a vibrantly colorful roster of highly expressive and entertaining dance-artists that look like St. Louis.

During this production, I ask that you leave room to put yourself in these characters' places; acknowledge what makes your heart leap and what ties your stomach in knots. Afterwards, I invite you to hold onto those emotions and join the conversation with our panelists and cast members while we digest the events that we've collectively witnessed. Keep the themes of this ballet with you. Let it spark further conversations on your journey home and into your social circles. And finally, St. Louis, if you've enjoyed seeing the socially relevant and radical content of our full length productions like "The Nutcracker and the World's Fair", and "Ragtime: The American Experience," settle in and get comfortable because this is just the beginning!

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
ROBERT POE (HE/HIM)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Poe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DON GIOVANNI
by WA Mozart

November 17 & 19, 2023

Fall Gala

Old Warson Country Club
October 20, 2023

MANON LESCAUT
by Giacomo Puccini

January 19 & 21, 2024

Royal Tea

The Ritz-Carlton
February 17, 2024

Naughty Marietta
by Victor Herbert

March 1 & 3, 2024



Season tickets
July 15th

Single tickets
August 1st





CAST

ACT I

Wife, a wealthy New Yorker... Rachel Bodi / Aubrey Vaughan*

Husband, an amateur explorer... Elliott Geolat

Coalhouse Walker Jr, a Ragtime pianist... Jorrell Lawyer-Jefferson

Sarah, Coalhouse's lover... Courtney Jefferies

Tateh, an immigrated artist... Brandon Fink

Leah, Tateh's daughter... Ashley Stettes / Rachel Tegtmeier*

Police Captain... Thomas Proctor

Police Deputies... Sammy Lawson, Nathan Krueger

Maid... Katie Skinker

Harlem Ensemble... TerrahSaYahda Green, Daryon Kent, Kimaiya Hall, Jamila Scales, Dexter Bishop

Boutique Workers... Abbie Hinrichs, Quetzal Velasco, Emily Small, Caitlin Lewis

Socialites... Mikayla Fields / Kimberly Limback*
with Marcela Gómez-Lugo, Kendall Heuman, Megan Buckley

ACT II

Beach Strollers... Abbie Hinrichs, Quetzal Velasco, Caitlin Lewis, Emily Small, Katie Skinker, Nathan Krueger, Daryon Kent

Actors... Megan Buckley and Sammy Lawson with Marcela Gómez-Lugo, Kendall Heuman, Kimberly Limback, Mikayla Fields

Paparazzi... Kimaiya Hall, Jamila Scales

**Denotes cast for 7:00pm performance*

ACT I

Prologue

Idaho Rag, Nan Bostick and Tom Brier

We meet our cast of characters: A domineering Husband and dutiful Wife, a philandering gentleman and his knowing lover, a pioneering immigrant and his lively daughter all surveilled by a corruptible Police Captain and his impressionable Deputies.

Streets of NYC

Symphony No. 1, "Afro-American": III. Humor Animato, William Grant Still, Fort Smith

Symphony, John Jeter; Symphony No. 5, "Western Hemisphere": III. Energetically, William Grant Still, Fort Smith Symphony, John Jeter

The streets bustle with activity. When one of Wife's companions misplaces her purse, accusations are made and once the police are involved, things escalate quickly.

House on the Hill

Wood Notes: III. Moon Dusk: Slowly and expressively, William Grant Still, Fort Smith Symphony, John Jeter

Wife shows Sarah to the room where she will stay, indefinitely. We watch as the two women struggle to find normalcy in each other's presence.

Streets of NY/House on the Hill

Magnolia, Pt. 1: Pt. 1, My Lady Love, Robert Nathaniel Dett, Clipper Erickson; Appalachian Spring: III. Moderato, Aaron Copland, Aurora Orchestra, Nicholas Collon; Appalachian Spring: VII. Doppio movimento, Aaron Copland, Aurora Orchestra, Nicholas Collon

Coalhouse discovers where Sarah has been staying and calls on her. Meanwhile Wife's Husband returns home from his travels and finds Sarah's presence most unwelcome. He storms off with Wife chasing right behind, giving Coalhouse and Sarah space to sort out their differences.

New Rochelle/Streets of NYC

Appalachian Spring: VIII. Moderato - Coda, Aaron Copland, Aurora Orchestra, Nicholas Collon

The lovers take a romantic stroll while Husband continues to fight with Wife over her reckless decisions in his absence.

Harlem Jazz Club

The Majors: The Mind is a Strange Thing, Randy Newman; The Gong on the Hook and Ladder, Charles Ives, Leonard Bernstein, New York Philharmonic

To celebrate their recent engagement, Coalhouse and Sarah go dancing in Harlem with their close friends. Their merrymaking doesn't last long.

Streets of NYC

Music from African Suite for String Orchestra I: Joyful Day, Fela Sowande, Paul Freeman, London Symphony Orchestra

Weeks go by and Tateh gains popularity creating portraits while Wife gains a group of unexpected friends. The characters converge during a chance meeting at a women's boutique.

The Boutique

In the Bottoms: IV. Dance. Juba, Robert Nathaniel Dett, Clipper Erickson

The pettiness of the socialites is on full display while they hatch a plan to get back at Wife for her lack of loyalty to their group.

Streets of NYC

Symphony No. 5, "Western Hemisphere": III. Energetically, William Grant Still, Fort Smith Symphony, John Jeter

Once Wife and Sarah are escorted from the Boutique, they become separated in the bustling city, but the ever-present Police Captain finds Sarah before Wife can.

Sarah's Bedside

Wood Notes: III. Moon Dusk: Slowly and expressively, William Grant Still, Fort Smith Symphony, John Jeter

Sarah suffers lethal injuries from her altercation with the Police Captain and dies with Coalhouse, the baby, and Wife by her side.

The Funeral

Old Home Days Suite (arr. J. Elkus): V. Slow March, Charles Ives, Jonathan Elkus, United States Marine Band; Elegy, William Grant Still, Philip Brunelle

Sarah is bitterly mourned by Coalhouse and her friends. Wife and her Husband's relationship, already strained, seems to be at a breaking point.

--INTERMISSION--

ACT II

PRELUDE

The Whippoorwill Dance, Rick Benjamin

Coalhouse's heart is heavy as he navigates raising his son in Sarah's absence. Separately Tateh is reeling from the success of his portraits and has renamed himself The Baron. He moves himself and Leah to the seaside while he films his latest movie. Wife finally leaves Husband for good and makes a new life for herself in Atlantic City, alone.

Atlantic City

Nappy Lee, Paragon Ragtime Orchestra; Dances for Harp and Orchestra, L. 103: 2. Danse profane, Lavinia Meijer, Amsterdam Sinfonietta; Prince and the Mermaid Suite: II. Waltz, William Grant Still, Fritz Gearhart, Kathryn Lucktenberg; Summerland, William Grant Still, Videmus

Wife arrives in Atlantic City and is soon recognized by The Baron's Daughter, Leah. While the whole beach watches, The Baron finds himself distracted, envisioning a happy life with his daughter and Wife by his side. It doesn't take long for Tateh and Wife to grow quite fond of each other .

Streets of NYC

Symphony No. 1, "Afro-American" (1969 Revision): IV. Lento, con risoluzione "Aspiration", William Grant Still, Cincinnati Philharmonic Orchestra

Weeks go by and Coalhouse is still buried in his grief. His friends drop in to check on him and the baby and, seeing how unwell he is, they conspire on his behalf to fetch Wife from Atlantic City. Perhaps a familiar face will aid in Coalhouse's healing.

Streets of NYC

Lyric for Strings, George Walker, Chicago Sinfonietta, Paul Freeman

Coalhouse takes a walk late one night and finds himself harassed by Sarah's unconvicted killer. He dodges the drunken policeman's pestering till he can stand it no longer. Wife arrives just in time to witness a horrible brawl that takes a deadly turn.

Epilogue

Train Ride - Soundtrack Version, Randy Newman

We watch as Coalhouse's friends gather to pay homage to him. Later, Tateh and Wife are married and they, along with Leah and Coalhouse Jr., live happily together as a blended American family.

--Post-Show Discussion--

2:00pm Joanna Dee Das

7:00pm Erica Hill

Join guest moderators as they lead a conversation between Ballet 314's Artistic & Executive Directors and members of the cast. The audience is encouraged to pose questions to the characters and company leadership surrounding the themes discussed in this ballet.



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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
ROBERT POE (HE/HIM)

A native of South Carolina, Robert Poe has enjoyed a professional dancing career since 2004. For 19 years he has performed with classical and contemporary dance companies across the Southeast and Midwest. Since coming to St. Louis in 2011, he has been a founding member of The Big Muddy Dance Company, performed with the St. Louis Ballet and danced with Opera Theater St. Louis on several occasions. In February of 2019, Robert co-founded and co-directs Ballet 314; a Ballet company focused on celebrating local talent in St. Louis. Through this organization he has re-written the classic Nutcracker story to highlight St. Louis history, co-authored a children's book entitled *The Nutcracker and the 1904 World's Fair* based off of that same production, and choreographed his first full length ballet, *Ragtime the American Experience* inspired by the novel by E. L. Doctorow. Robert also teaches varying dance styles for multiple studios, Universities and companies in the St. Louis area.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RACHEL BODI (SHE/HER)

Originally from Pittsburgh, PA, Rachel Bodi began her professional career in 2008, and has enjoyed performing in St. Louis for the past 11 years. Prior to founding Ballet 314 in 2019 alongside Robert Poe, she enjoyed careers with Missouri Ballet Theatre, Common Thread Contemporary Ballet, Nashville Ballet 2, and as a guest artist with Texture Contemporary Ballet. Since founding Ballet 314, Rachel has co-choreographed original works both alone and in tandem with Co-Director Robert Poe, most notably premiering Ballet 314's adaptation of the classic *The Nutcracker & the World's Fair*; also co-authoring this story as a children's book and interactive ebook. Other original works include *Chocolat*, *llama llama and friends*, *Assemblé*, and our newest Dance the Story program in collaboration with Sheldon Concert Hall. Each of these children's educational programs highlight literacy through the arts. Rachel is presently adjunct faculty of Fine Arts at Missouri Baptist University, and has enjoyed a dance teaching career since moving to St. Louis. She leads classes at dance studios throughout the St. Louis region.

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DPU Dance & Formations Dance Center are your homes away from home. We pride ourselves on celebrating individuals and using movement to enrich the lives of students through the power of dance. DPU Dance & FDC Dance offer classes in a variety of styles for all ages and skill levels. Our Artistic Staff is made up of qualified professionals committed to creating a positive dance experience. We strive to guide students in becoming the best they can be.



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MEGAN BUCKLEY (SHE/HER)

Born and raised in St. Louis, Megan was the recipient of first place in the National Society of Arts & Letters Ballet Competition- St. Louis Chapter trained at Joffrey Ballet NYC Trainee program, Nashville Ballet School under scholarship and professionally with Milwaukee Ballet 2, Portland Ballet in Maine, Verb Ballets, Common Thread Contemporary Ballet, Collective Motion, and as alum at Alexandra Ballet, Owen/Cox Dance Group and Ballet 314. A budding entrepreneur, she completed 500 hour Comprehensive Core Dynamics Pilates Certification, is a Nutrition Coach and works with bodies of all ages. Megan is passionate about choreographing/coaching for Pointe. With a mission to serve through wellness & art education for the whole family, Megan is the CEO/ Founder of BioPointe, LLC- Pilates, Nutrition & Dance in St. Louis. Megan recently performed the role of "Angel" for Rocky Marlow's "Let It Be Christmas" featuring her own choreography December 2022. Megan is looking forward to starting her 4th season with Ballet 314.



MIKAYLA FIELDS (SHE/HER)

Mikayla graduated Cum Laude from Anderson University where she earned her B.A in Dance Performance from the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance. During her time in school, Mikayla had the opportunity to perform as a soloist in Earl Mosley's "Journey Draft 4," at the American College Dance Association Festival at The Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. She then went on to study under the direction of Brian Enos and perform with the company in the capacity as a trainee with The Big Muddy Dance Company from 2018-2020. During her summers, she trained at Burklyn Ballet Theatre, wherein, she studied under Helen Starr, Alun Jones, Arthur Leeth, Thom Clower, Amanda McKerrow, John Gardner, Sarah Tallman, Maria Konrad, Oliver Green-Cramer, and Dylan Crossman. She was accepted in 2013 to perform with Burklyn Ballet Theatre as a soloist in their presentation of Cinderella at The International Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Mikayla is looking forward to starting her 3th season with Ballet 314.



ABIGAIL HINRICHS (SHE/HER)

Abigail is a dancer, choreographer, and teacher native to St. Louis, Missouri. She holds a BFA from the UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance where she was inspired to not only perform professionally, but to collaborate and create with a variety of other artists. Abigail has been teaching dance and Pilates for all ages throughout the St. Louis area for over 5 years. She currently serves as the Studio Manager at Central Studio and is so grateful for the opportunity to help others discover mental and physical healing through movement. Abigail has the honor of dancing, performing, and participating in community outreach with Karlovsky & Company Dance, Collective Motion (Central Studio's resident non-profit), and Ballet 314. Abigail is looking forward to starting her 4th season with Ballet 314.



MARCELA GÓMEZ-LUGO (SHE/HER)

Marcela Gómez Lugo was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She began her pre-professional ballet training at the age of fourteen at Andanza School of Dance. In 2019, she graduated, with the highest academic honors, from Mercyhurst University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance: minors in Dance Pedagogy and Psychology. After moving to St. Louis, MO, Marcela joined The Big Muddy Dance Company Trainee Program (2019-2020). In 2021 she obtained a certification in the Progressing Ballet Technique (PBT) and completed the Cuballet USA-Cuban Ballet Methodology Course. Currently, Marcela is in her 2nd season with Ballet 314 where she serves as a company member, choreographer and Executive Assistant. In 2022, Marcela co-choreographed with Rachel Bodi an original children's ballet titled "Chocolat" which created a collaboration with multiple Puerto Rican artists and Ballet 314. She also teaches and choreographs for several dance studios in St. Louis and coaches students for ballet competitions such as YAGP. Marcela's passion for the performing arts, education, and writing have led her to design dance curriculums and be an educational consultant for studios. It is her goal to be an accessible guide to the world of ballet. Marcela is looking forward to starting her 3th season with Ballet 314.



KENDALL HEUMAN (SHE/HER)

Originally from Central Illinois, Kendall Heuman began dancing at Dance Arts studio and performed with The Springfield Ballet Company. In May of 2020, she graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BFA in Dance, emphasis in Ballet, from Webster University. In the Summer of 2018, she studied abroad in Geneva, Switzerland. After graduation in 2020, Kendall danced in "do NOT go gentle" choreographed by Jacob Henss and was in the Convergence Trainee Program at the Big Muddy Dance Company for their 2020-2021 season. Currently she performs in freelance works by local artists and is a dancer with Ballet 314. Outside of performing, Kendall is on faculty as an instructor at MJ Performing Arts Academy, Patzius Performing Arts, and Saint Louis Ballet School. Kendall is looking forward to starting her 3rd season with Ballet 314.



COURTNEY JEFFERIES (SHE/HER)

Courtney Jefferies is originally from Montgomery County, Maryland. She began dancing at the age of five and continued her dance studies at The Madeira School where she graduated as a member of their Select Dance Company. Courtney holds a Bachelor of Arts in Romance Languages and Literatures from Bowdoin College. Her love of language and culture has taken her around the world, including to Paris, France where she lived for two years while studying dance and French. Upon returning to the states, Courtney was a company dancer with The Big Muddy Dance Company. Courtney is looking forward to starting her 3rd season with Ballet 314. She is thankful for every opportunity she has to dance and is thrilled to be reprising the role of Sarah this year. 1 Cor 15:1-4



CAITLIN LEWIS (SHE/HER)

Originally hailing from Wadsworth, Ohio, Caitlin Lewis is a recent graduate of Vassar College, earning degrees in Cognitive Science and Drama. While in school, she also was a member of Vassar Repertory Dance Theater (VRDT). This program, directed by John Meehan, allowed her to gain pre-professional company experience in modern, jazz, and ballet alongside her academic studies. In the summer of 2019, Caitlin worked at the American Dance Festival (ADF) as a production intern. There, she had the opportunity to study contact improvisation, modern, and ballet. Not only does she bring her passion for dance to the stage, but also behind the scenes as a stage manager. She traveled with Footprints to both the American Dance Festival as well as the Lumina Festival in 2019, and worked with VerbBallets as stage manager in the summer of 2018. After college, she moved to St. Louis to work with the Big Muddy Dance Company as a trainee, where she performed in various works including A Carol for the Holidays and Lemp Legends. She is excited to work with Ballet 314 in her first season!



EMILY SMALL (SHE/HER)

Emily Small received her training at Newport Academy of Ballet. She received her BFA in Dance and BS in Public Health from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she studied ballet, pointe, modern, contemporary, jazz, hip hop, composition, ballroom, improvisation, contact improvisation, and West African. She went on to become a trainee with Island Moving Company. For the 2020-21 season, she trained with the Big Muddy Dance Company and is now working with Resilience Dance Company and Ballet 314. Her dance education has been supplemented by Kaatsbaan Extreme Ballet, American Academy of Ballet, Urbanity Dance, Rioult Dance, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, and Goucher Summer Arts Institute. Emily is certified in STOTT Pilates and has been teaching Pilates and dance classes since 2018. Emily is looking forward to starting her 3rd season with Ballet 314.



ASHLEY STETTES (SHE/HER)

Ashley is a graduate of Southeast Missouri State University with a BFA in Dance Performance and a Minor in Fine Arts Entrepreneurship. Born and raised in St. Louis, Ashley returned to the area after college and is excited to be in her third season with Ballet 314! She has formerly performed with Common Thread Contemporary Ballet and Leverage Dance Theater. In addition to her time spent with Ballet 314, Ashley is also the Assistant Director of Devine Performing Arts and an instructor with Vitality In Motion, a company that brings dance-inspired fitness classes to seniors throughout the St. Louis Region. Ashley is looking forward to starting her 4th season with Ballet 314.



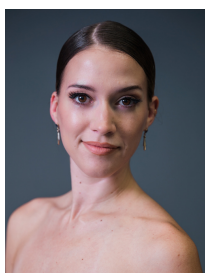
KIMBERLY STEVENS (SHE/HER)

Kimberly Limback of Bradenton, Florida received her early training from Diane Partington Studio of Classical Ballet. She then trained year round in the pre professional division with Miami City Ballet School. Kimberly performed in George Balanchine's Swan Lake and George Balanchine's Serenade. Kimberly spent three summers training with Pacific Northwest Ballet School. In her professional career Kimberly danced with Sarasota Ballet in their trainee program. She was a Richmond Ballet II member performing in the Nutcracker, Swan Lake, Malcolm Burn's Classical Symphony and Val Caniparoli's Djangology. She also danced with Ballet San Antonio and Missouri Ballet Theatre. Kimberly has danced with Ballet 314 since their inaugural season in 2019. She teaches at Dance Center of Kirkwood and is PBT certified.



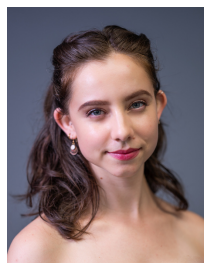
RACHEL TEGTMEIER (SHE/HER)

Rachel Tegmeier is a graduate of Webster University, earning her BFA in Dance with a Ballet Emphasis. During her time at Webster she performed works by artists such as Eve Mason, Michael Uthoff, Maggi Dueker, and others. Following graduation she worked as a freelance dancer, utilizing the flexible schedule to focus on choreographic and educational development in the St. Louis area. As an educator, her focus on core technique and challenging choreography has earned special awards in the competitive dance circuit. She assisted in the production of Leverage Dance Theater's film "Wear Me Out" (2020), which received the Kramer Award from the Pittsburgh Fashion Week. Rachel is looking forward to starting her 2nd season with Ballet 314.



AUBREY VAUGHAN (SHE/HER)

In 2010, Aubrey began her professional career as a Nashville Ballet trainee and was elevated to a company apprentice in 2015. Under the direction of Paul Vasterling, Aubrey enjoyed performing in works such as Carmina Burana, Peter Pan, Swan Lake, and the role of Spanish in The Nutcracker. During the 2016- 2018 seasons, Aubrey danced as a company member with Ballet Quad Cities. Her highlighted performances included the lead role of Sugar Plum Fairy in the Nutcracker, the Mad Hatter in Alice in Wonderland, and Lucy in Deanna Carter's Dracula. Since moving to St. Louis Aubrey has had the opportunity to dance with the Modern American Dance Company (MADCO) and she is looking forward to starting her 4th season with Ballet 314.



QUETZAL VELASCO (SHE/HER)

Quetzal Velasco grew up on a small family farm in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky and took a variety of dance classes at the local studio for ten years. She studied ballet under the direction of Jeana Klevene, Allegro Dance Project Founder and Artistic Director. In 2015 she moved to Louisville, Kentucky and studied pre-professional ballet at several ballet academies, including The Louisville Ballet School. Quetzal accepted a Convergence Trainee position with The Big Muddy Dance Company in 2020 and moved to St. Louis amid the pandemic. After dancing with The Big Muddy Dance Company as a trainee for two seasons, she accepted a summer residency with Jacob Hennis culminating in three performances in August 2022. She is excited to perform in her first season with Ballet 314 and is looking forward to a career as both a dancer and choreographer.





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DEXTER BISHOP (HE/HIM)

Dexter Bishop received his early ballet training under Jennifer Beasley, Artistic Director of Mississippi Metropolitan Ballet. He went on to earn a Dance Performance degree from Oklahoma City University and, upon graduation, began dancing with Missouri Ballet Theatre under the direction of Adam Sage and Robert Philander. After dancing with Missouri Ballet Theatre for seven seasons, Dexter joined modern dance company Winifred Haun & Dancers for three seasons. As an alumni of the nationally recognized showchoir 'Attache', from his hometown of Clinton, Mississippi, Dexter has become an in demand choreographer working with the Clinton High School, Clinton Junior High, Tupelo Middle School, Randolph-Macon College and Jackson Academy show choirs.



BRANDON FINK (HE/HIM)

Brandon Fink is from Oklahoma City, OK and began his performance training in 2003. Brandon received his B.F.A. in Dance Performance from the University of Central Oklahoma. Upon graduation, Brandon attended the American Dance Festival where he was selected to perform Twyla Tharp's Sweet Fields. Brandon was a company member with MADCO (2011-2016), The Munny in Fiddler On The Roof (2016), Variety Theatre in Wizard Of Oz (2017)/The Little Mermaid (2018), Opera Theatre of St. Louis in Orfeo and Euridice (2018), Bach Society of St. Louis in Bach In Motion (2019), and Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis in Such Sweet Thunder (2019). He is currently a company member at The Big Muddy Dance Company (2016-present) as well as an active member of AEA and AGMA. Brandon's choreography has been presented at the Big Muddy Dance Company, the University of Missouri St. Louis, The University of Central Oklahoma, Florida Atlantic University, the Oklahoma Contemporary Dance Festival, the St. Louis Arts Alliance, the American Dance Troupe, The Big Muddy Dance Company Trainee Program, and MADCO. Brandon currently serves as the Founder and Artistic Director for La Voûte Performance Ensemble and the Director of Education at The Big Muddy Dance Company.



ELLIOTT GEOLAT (HE/HIM)

Born in St. Louis, Elliott Geolat comes from a background of classical pianists and music instructors. He took his first dance class at the age of four and, at thirteen, began training at The Ballet Conservatory in St. Louis under the tutelage of artistic director Nathalie LeVine. After studying with instructors such as Frances Svendsen, Deborah Carr, Maxim Tchernychev, Anthony Wozniak and Irina Zykova, he was awarded full scholarships to attend American Ballet Theatre in New York City and Houston Ballet Academy. In 2000, he was invited to join Saint Louis Ballet where he rose to the rank of Principal Dancer. In addition to performing leading roles in Swan Lake, The Sleeping Beauty, Romeo and Juliet, Cinderella, Giselle, and other classical ballets, he has been featured in contemporary works by choreographers such as George Balanchine, Twyla Tharp, Christopher d'Amboise, Jessica Lange, Amy Seiwert, and Brian Enos. Since 2022, he has been performing with Huntsville Ballet under artistic director Phillip Otto where he has danced leading roles in both classical and contemporary ballets. Elliott Geolat is also a choreographer and has created works for both the camera and the stage, including six dance films and two world premieres for Saint Louis Ballet.



TERRAHSAYAHDA GREEN (SHE/HER)

Born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, TerrahSaYahda Green (Terrah) started taking dance classes at the age of twelve in the year of 2000. While dancing competitively Terrah also served as Captain on her high school Pom Squad at McCluer North. During that time she received the UDA All Star Award during dance camp. After high school, Terrah taught dance and choreographed for several dance studios along with high school dance teams. Terrah also had the pleasure of becoming a 2015 -2016 St. Louis Rams cheerleader, where she performed in front of thousands of Rams fans during nationally televised home games. In 2018, after a year of dancing on the St. Louis Ambush's dance team, the St. Louis Ambush Brigade, Terrah was honored to accept the position of the Director and Coach for the team. As of now, she is currently the Owner, Coach and choreographer of the St. Louis Bombshells Professional Cheerleading Team.



KIMAIYA HALL (SHE/HER)

Kimaiya Hall is a dancer/choreographer from Saint Louis MO! Kimaiya got her formal training from CVPA. Kimaiya has choreographed for The Golliday opening for Grammy nominated Jon B, MarQ for the biggest STL summer concert "the superjam" was featured on MTVs MADE, and was a recipient of the Dance Saint Louis Dance Career Award. Kimaiya has done professional work in NYC dancing for Karma Soul ENT, dancing in festivals & teaching heels choreography and has danced behind R&B legend Ginuwine! Kimaiya has also danced behind Stl's hottest upcoming female rapper Yvette opening for Megan The Stallion and at Harris Stowe State University's homecoming. Kimaiya Hall has heels training from legendary heels dancers & artist Kiira Harper Tramon, Danielle Polanco, Yanis Marshall, Jonte and more. Kimaiya trains award winning competition dancers in her hometown. Kimaiya has a dance company & agency in STL MO that has worked with Cinco De Mayo with Cherokee Street, 104.1, Harris Stowe & more! Kimaiya looks forward to stepping more into creative direction and choreography this upcoming year!



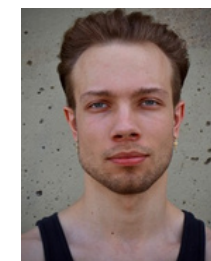
DARYON KENT (HE/HIM)

Daryon Kent began his dance training at Ms. Bridget's Conservatory of Dance and continued four years of training at Central Visual Performing Arts High School (CPVA) under the instructor Raymond Perks where he studied jazz, ballet, tap, modern, hip hop, and contemporary dance. Daryon also trained at Alexandra School of Ballet under the Artistic Director Alexandra Zaharias and became a member with the company which he performed in several different major roles such as The Nutcracker, A Midsummer Night's Dream, and Coppelia. Daryon has been a member with the Modern American Dance Company (MADCO) since 2015 where has performed the work of several choreographers such as Gina Patterson, Jennifer Archibald, Cecil Slaughter, Neja Yatkin, Be Be Miller, Christian Denice, and Lindsay Hawkins. In 2019, Daryon choreographed his first solo piece "Heart Ache" which he performed at the MADCO 2 showcase. In 2020, Daryon choreographed his second solo piece "Time Loop" which he performed at the MADCO Dare to Dance showcase and he was also featured as a dancer in the YouTube music video "Over and Over" created by music artist Whiskey Racoons.



SAMMY LAWSON (HE/HIM)

Sammy began his dance career in color guard. He served as the director for the Cape Central Tiger Band in Cape Girardeau, Missouri (2019-2022). Sammy is currently working on a B.S.E. in Education (Highschool) with a minor in dance and music at Southeast Missouri State University, and he is an alumni of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. At SEMO, Sammy began his dance training in 2020 with classes in classical ballet, modern, improvisation, and various partnering styles. Sammy has been a member of La Voûte Performance Ensemble for 3 seasons. He's performed with Ballet314 in their production of Ragtime (2021) and in a variety of dance pieces and concerts at SEMO, including Sonder (2020), Choreography by Fernando Bujones (2021), The Nutcracker Pas de Deux (2021), By My Side (2021), and Grow As We Go (2022), and Alyssa Alger's Nutcracker Suite where he performed as the Cavalier. Sammy also trains with Burklyn Ballet Theatre under Arthur Leeth, Helen Starr, Jared Mesa, and Ashley Calligan. He has performed as Albercht from Giselle, Siegfried from Swan Lake, as well as excerpts from La Bayadre and Graduation Ball.



NATHAN KRUEGER (HE/HIM)

Nathan Krueger is a junior BFA Dance major at Southeast Missouri State University. He has trained in many styles of dance since age six, but has especially focused on classical and contemporary ballet and modern dance since attending college.



JORELL LAWYER-JEFFERSON (HE/HIM/THEY)

Jorell Lawyer-Jefferson holds both his BA in Music and his MFA in Dance from Sam Houston State University. He has performed works by Andy and Dionne Noble, Evelyn Toh, Joshua Peugh, Shen Wei, Thang Dao, Gabrielle Lamb, Joshua Manculich, Elizabeth Corbett, Kirven Douthit-Boyd and Norbert de La Cruz III. After debuting as a featured dancer in Houston Grand Opera's 2019 production of *Florencia en el Amazonas*, Jorell has gone on to work with directors Eric Sean Fogel, Francesca Zambello, Rob Ashford and Robert Wilson among others. Notably, he choreographed HGO's 2020 production of *Aida* where he worked closely with directors Phelim McDermott and Joe Austin. Jorell is currently a company member with The Big Muddy Dance Company and regularly sets work in the St. Louis area. This summer he will be choreographing *Rinaldo* and performing as the featured dancer in *Candide* for the Glimmerglass Festival's 2023 season.



THOMAS PROCTOR (HE/HIM)

Thomas Proctor is a professional Dancer and Choreographer in the St. Louis area. After dancing with the Ashleyane Dance Company for 10 years as a Dancer and later as a Choreographer and Rehearsal Director, Thomas has recently begun branching out to work with other local artists. He has taught at several universities since receiving his M.F.A. in Dance at Washington University, and currently works at Grand Center Arts Academy teaching grades 6-12. Additionally Thomas is the Founder of the St. Louis Broadsword Academy, teaching historical Scottish fencing and Celtic martial arts.



JAMILA SCALES (SHE/HER)

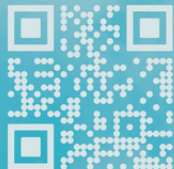
Jamila Scales began her dancing career at the young age of 6 years old performing in an elementary showcase in St. Louis; from this experience, she knew at the age of 6 dancing would be her career. Jamila went on to join Judy Best Dance Talent Center's competition team. While on this team she learned the fundamentals to many dance styles such as Ballet, Jazz, Pom Poms, and Hip Hop. Jamila danced with The Judy Best Talent Center for 12 years, during which she honed in on and polished her skill and talent. Once she became familiar with and mastered the basics, Jamila went on to Stephens College to foster more skills and embrace styles and specializations such as Ballet, Pointe, Modern Dance, Jump Rhythm Jazz, Synthetic Theater, and Musical Theater. Upon the completion of the previously mentioned styles and specialities, Jamila received her BFA degree in Dance from Stephens College in 2017.



KATIE SKINKER (SHE/HER)

Katie Skinker graduated from Southeast Missouri State University in May of 2020 with an honors degree in Environmental Science and a Minor in Dance. While at SEMO she performed in numerous concerts for both faculty and student choreography. Katie is originally from the St. Louis area. She trained at DuFrenne Dance Academy and later at the Center of Creative Arts under the direction of Christine Kardell and Amy Scheers, as well as Antonio and Kirven Douhit-Boyd. During her time at COCA, she was a member of Ballet Eclectica for eight years. She is an instructor at Dimensions Dance Center and a pointe shoe fitter at the Dance Bag. She is ecstatic for the opportunity to perform with Ballet 314.

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SESSION 2: JULY 24-AUG 18

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**THE BIG MUDDY
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BLAZE

5/19 AT 7:30PM

5/20 AT 2:00PM

5/20 AT 7:30PM



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