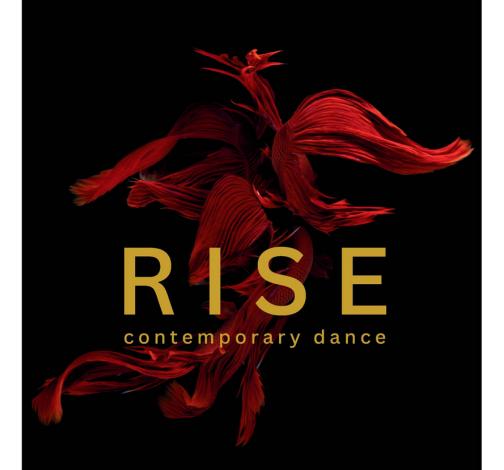
MINNESOTA BALLET



Studio Four, The Depot • February 15–18, 2024









# 2023-24 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, Senior Apprentice
Isabella Blindauer Libby Bocht Anthony Cefalu
Juliana DeBellis Luke Umphlett Ansley Pierce
Kira Klinkhardt Eleanor Darling-Vross

## MINNESOTA BALLET STAFF

Karl von Rabenau	Artistic Director
Maude Dornfeld	Executive Director
Jennifer Miller	Ballet Master
Ashley Carter	Office Manager
LilaAnn Coates White	Principal Teacher
Katie Kampfhenkel	Production Manager
Heather Boudreau	Wardrobe Manager
Kaily McLellan, M.D.†*	Company Physician
Alex Loch, DPT*	Company Physical Therapist
Devin Soul, ATC* & Mike Gogolin, ATC*	Company Athletic Trainers
†Official Physician of the Minnesota Ballet	*Provided by Essentia Health
Katie Kampfhenkel "RISE" Stag	e Manager/Lighting Designer

Rianna Ryan..... "RISE" Sound Board Operator

For more info about the creators and performers:



# RISE

### Isso, Não Tenho Razão

("This, I Have No Reason") Choreography: Isaac Sharratt

Music: Strauss • Tárrega • Gardel/Le • Reynolds - Shostakovich • Piaf Ximena Azurmendi • Brooke Bero • Brianna Crockett Juliana DeBellis • Jessica Lopes • Kyra Olson Matthew Frezzell • Brian Guerrero Taylor Phillips • Sean M. Sullivan • Luke Umphlett

### INTERMISSION

### **Bach Tanz**

Choreography: Jennifer Miller
Music: J.S.Bach
Libby Bocht • Isabella Blindauer • Anthony Cefalu
Eleanor Darling-Vross • Juliana Debellis • Kira Klinkhardt
Taylor Phillips • Ansley Pierce • Luke Umphlett

### PAUSE

### La Grazia

Choreography: Karl von Rabenau Music: Anonymous 4 • Blind Boys of Alabama Brooke Bero • Sean M. Sullivan

### INTERMISSION

### Pulsing

Choreography: Jayson Douglas Music: Dessner

Ximena Azurmendi • Brooke Bero • Brianna Crockett Eleanor Darling-Vross • Julianna DeBellis • Matthew Frezzell Brian Guerrero • Kira Klinkhardt • Jessica Lopes Kyra Olson • Taylor Phillips • Isaac Sharratt Victor Smith • Sean M. Sullivan

### FROM THE DIRECTOR...

**Welcome to RISE**, a showcase of contemporary dance in our intimate Studio Four theater! We are thrilled to bring dance to you where you have the unique experience to be up close to the dancers. This proximity to the dancers gives you the opportunity to see everything the performers have to offer without missing anything.

This year's annual performance highlights the choreographic depth Minnesota Ballet is so fortunate to be able to offer our community. This evening begins with Isaac Sharratt's *Isso, Não Tenho Razão* ("This, I Have No Reason"), which is a wonderful look at the lighter side of dance. Then we transition to the only classical piece on the program, by Ballet Master Jennifer Miller, titled *Bach Tanz*, which highlights our very talented apprentices. From there I offer an intimate portrait of a couple honestly exploring the depth of their relationship. Lastly, we are pleased to continue to showcase choreographers of color with the presentation of Jayson Douglas's *Pulsing*. This work is a beautiful demonstration of what the human body is capable of doing.

I want to thank you all for coming. Your support is critical to Minnesota Ballet's ability to offer evenings of dance of this kind. If you wish to see these types of performances continue, please consider donating to Minnesota Ballet via our website. You can also use the QR code to access our donor page.



# **IAYSON DOUGLAS, GUEST CHOREOGRAPHER**

**Jayson Douglas is originally from** Paterson, New Jersey, where he began his dance training at Dance World Academy. He continued his studies at Steps on Broadway, Broadway Dance Center, the Ailey School, and Point Park University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

**Jayson has performed** for several dance companies including the Lexington Ballet and Company C Contemporary Ballet, where he danced in Twyla Tharp's *Surfer at the River Styx*. In 2014 he performed as a principal dancer with Sarah Berges Dance in Paris, France.

**Jayson moved to Minnesota** to dance with James Sewell Ballet, with whom he had the opportunity to tour to Cannes, France, and most recently danced with Minnesota Dance Theatre. He currently resides as a guest ballet master/rehearsal director in the New York area and as the co-director of NIJAD Dance Artists. *Pulsing* is his first commission with the Minnesota Ballet.

# **Rise**Production Staff



# 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.

# Upcoming Events



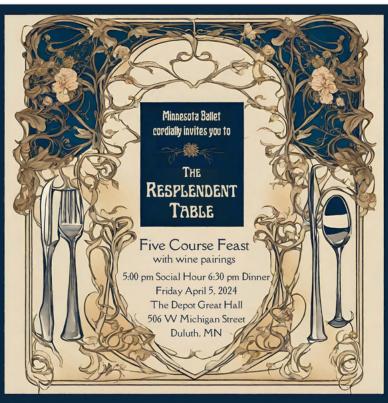


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Friday, March 29, at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 30, at 1 p.m. & 7 p.m. DECC Symphony Hall

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# 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.



# Minnesota Ballet Staff





# 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 cofounded 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.



# 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 "Appasionato" 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.

# Minnesota Ballet Company Dancers





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 "Seasons", and Nutcracker, Arcadian Broad's Morgan's Cinderella. Ximena joined Victoria 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 School in Littleton, Colorado. She Ballet 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 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

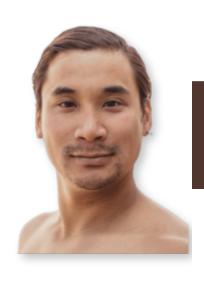
Ed Schumacher

**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 While with Minnesota Principato. 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 Oueensland 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 extended 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 Hallow 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

<u>Pamela and Ryan Arola</u>

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 Amanda Abrahamson teacher, 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 the Night Before **'Twas** 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 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 Luciano. Domenico Now, she's starting her first season as an Apprentice with the Minnesota Ballet and could not be more excited!



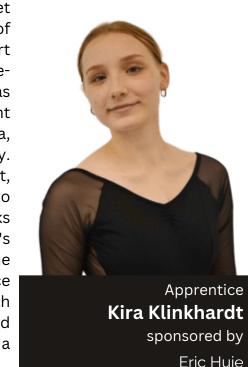
Apprentice **Eleanor Darling-Vross**sponsored by

Penny Darling



**DeBellis**, originally from Juliana 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 Classical and Contemporary Dance. There she performed in such works as "Waveform." Gabrielle Lamb's 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 Brookfield Wisconsin. Kira was a part Milwaukee of Ballet's preprofessional program where she was perform many different able to 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, with and 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
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 Northern Illinois University School of Theatre and Dance. Ansley performed many soloist and principal roles as well as numerous works by student choreographers. Through her variety of performance experiences varied coursework, Ansley and 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!



# 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.

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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.

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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.

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## ARTISTRY

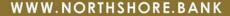
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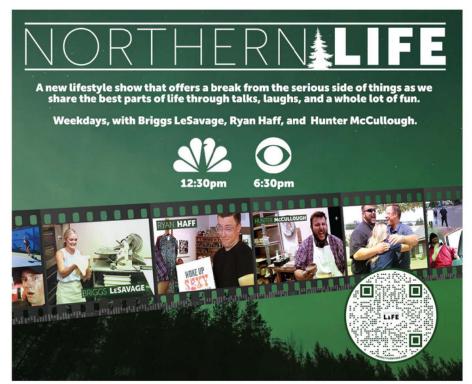
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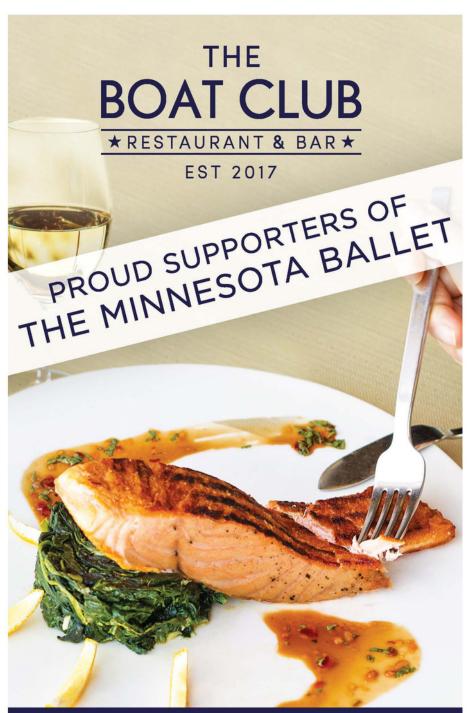
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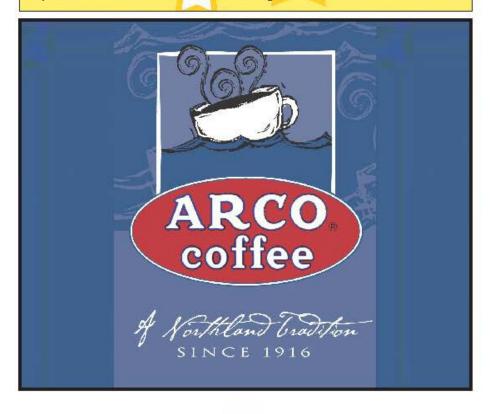
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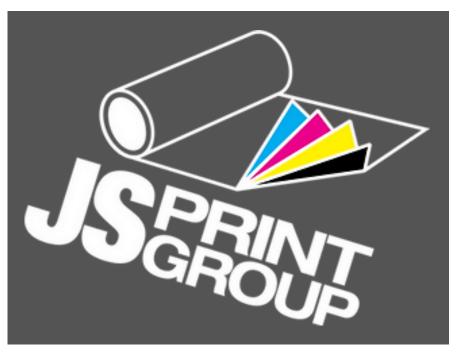
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