

*The*

# NUTCRACKER

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ORLANDO  
BALLET

ISRAEL ZAVALETA ESCOBEDO PHOTOGRAPHY  
MAYA FAZZARI - CHARLIE MELLOR

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR **JORDEN MORRIS**  
CHOREOGRAPHY **JORDEN MORRIS**

SCORE **PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY**

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# ORLANDO BALLET

JORDEN MORRIS • ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

# *The* NUTCRACKER

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## CONCEPT, CHOREOGRAPHY, & DIRECTION

JORDEN MORRIS

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### ASSISTANT TO THE CHOREOGRAPHER

LISA THORN MORRIS

### REHEARSAL DIRECTOR & ANIMATRONIC CHOREOGRAPHY

HEATH GILL

### CHILDREN'S REHEARSAL TEAM

SOFIA ABENANTY • NATASHA GLOS • AMYIA BURRELL

### PRODUCTION

#### COSTUME & SCENERY DESIGN

ROBERT PERDZIOLA

#### ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER

CAITLIN RAIN

#### LIGHTING DESIGN

JOSEPH R. WALLS

#### ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER

CAMERON FILEPAS

#### LIGHTING PROGRAMMER

BRIDGET CHERVENKA

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# SCENIC & COSTUME ELEMENTS UNDERWRITTEN BY:

## ACT ONE

**Choreography created by Jorden Morris sponsored by:** Krista & Jonathan Ledden

**Original Tiaras, Women's Headpieces, & Accessories sponsored by:**  
Colte Debbouza-Suggs

**Battle Scene Ferris Wheel & Hobby Horse sponsored by:** John & Lisa Westlake

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**Battle Scene Christmas Tree sponsored by:** Keith McIntyre & Rick Skaggs

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**Drosselmeyer Costume sponsored by:** Charles & Jane Gibbons

**Clara Costume Collection sponsored by:** David Simon & Melissa Mull

**The Nutcracker Prince Costume Collection sponsored by:**  
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**Party Girl Dresses sponsored by:** Andrew & Elyse Starling

**Mouse King Costume sponsored by:** Sue Ellen Franklin & Ken Lesniak

**Columbina Costume:** Dr. Lynn Le

**Harlequin Costume sponsored in honor of:** Louis & Alexandra Logas

## ACT TWO

**Magical Garden Divertissement sponsored by:** Massey Services, Inc.

**Spanish Women & Men Costume Collections sponsored by:** Theodora Uniken Venema

**Desert Princess Costume sponsored by:** Raul & Jennifer Socarras

**Heron Costume sponsored by:** SchenkelShultz Architecture

**Les Patineurs & Le Patineur Costume Collection sponsored by:** Margaret Shan Atkins & James Edward Erbs

**Trepak Women & Men Costume Collection sponsored by:** Larry & Laura Zirbel

**Mother Goose Costume sponsored in memory of:** Diane "Deedoo" Trezenski

**Waltz of the Flowers Soloist & Corps de Ballet Costume Collection sponsored by:**  
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**Sugar Plum Fairy Costume sponsored by:** Guillermo & Yadhira Sollberger

# LETTERS FROM EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP



Thank you for joining us for *The Nutcracker*, a ballet that brings so many of us together year after year. Now in its third season, this production has become part of our holiday tradition—and last year's sold-out performances were both humbling and heartening.

It's always a joy to revisit this ballet, to uncover new details, and to shape it in small ways that keep it feeling fresh. This year, you'll notice a few changes—small surprises meant to delight, while preserving the story we all know and love.

There's something uniquely magical about this time of year—the way music, movement, and shared experience can lift our spirits and reconnect us to tradition, wonder, and each other. That spirit fills our stage tonight.

We're so glad you're here to celebrate with us.

With holiday cheer,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jorden Morris".

**JORDEN MORRIS**  
Artistic Director



"I like to compare the holiday season with the way a child listens to a favorite story. The pleasure is in the familiar way the story begins, the anticipation of familiar turns it takes, the familiar moments of suspense, and the familiar climax and ending." – Fred Rogers

Each December, *The Nutcracker* becomes just that—a favorite story, lovingly retold. It's more than a performance; it's a tradition that brings families together, ignites imaginations, and fills our community with warmth and wonder lighting up the season. We are honored to have this beloved ballet woven into your holiday memories.

This magic is made possible by a remarkable community. Our sincere thanks to the donors, volunteers, dancers, students, and staff who make this production magical year after year. Their devotion ensures every performance feels as fresh and joyful as a first snowfall. We're also deeply grateful to Orlando Health, whose underwriting support helps bring *The Nutcracker* to the stage, and to their dedicated volunteer medical team, whose expert care keeps our dancers healthy and thriving through the season.

This spirit of generosity and care extends far beyond the stage. One of the most meaningful gifts of the season is seeing more than 16,000 Orange County Public School second graders experience *The Nutcracker*—many for the very first time. Their wide-eyed wonder in the audience is a powerful reminder of why access to the arts matters—and it's your support that makes it possible.

This time of year is about connection, generosity, and joy—and we are so grateful to share that spirit with you.

Warmest wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad".

**BRADLEY RENNER**  
Executive Director

# CAST

## ACT 1

### DROSSELMAYER

Cameron Bailey • Jack Ragland  
Nathan Rowell • Troy Santulli

### CLARA STAHLBAUM

Maya Fazzari • Kate Gardinier  
Ellie Iannotti • Renee Shubov

### NUTCRACKER PRINCE

Thomas Gerhardt • Charlie Mellor  
Nathan Rowell  
Israel Zavaleta Escobedo

### FRITZ STAHLBAUM

Sebastian Marriott-Smith  
Charlie Mellor • Alberto Peñalver  
Israel Zavaleta Escobedo

### MRS. STAHLBAUM

Savannah Campbell • Kenna Gold  
Sabrina Sierens

### MR. STAHLBAUM

John Abenanty • Joshua Fickling  
Jaysan Stinnett

### CHESTNUT VENDOR

Garreth Chapple • Joel Ruybalid  
Caleb Wire

### BUTCHER

Jack Ragland • Troy Santulli

### COOK

Remy Juliette Loren  
Laura Sonnek

## MAID

Dominique Guerra  
Rei Yanagishima

## BUTLER

Declan MacIlsac • Jaime Monroy  
Caleb Wire

## SOUS CHEF/GOOSE PUPPETEER

Cameron Bailey  
Sebastian Marriott-Smith  
Tolly Stewart

## POULTRY SHOP PUPPETEER

Sebastian Marriott-Smith  
Charlie Mellor • Alberto Peñalver  
Israel Zavaleta Escobedo

## FRITZ'S FRIENDS/CADETS

John Abenanty • Bernardo Betancor  
Thomas Gerhardt • Rwei Lin Cheng  
Sebastian Marriott-Smith  
Alberto Peñalver • Jack Ragland  
Jaysan Stinnett  
Israel Zavaleta Escobedo

## CLARA'S FRIENDS

Aylin Contreras • Maya Fazzari  
Kate Gardinier • Kenna Gold  
Ellie Iannotti • Cielo Ibarrola  
Hazuki Kishida • Hitomi Nakamura  
Renee Shubov • Sabrina Sierens  
Aria Smith

# CAST

## PARENTS - LADIES

Charlotte Anub  
Savannah Campbell  
Aylin Contreras • Rachel Cravener  
Dominique Guerra • Chen-Yu Liao  
Emma Longin • Sara Marin  
Shannon McNiven • Ruri Nonami  
Riley Pollack • Ellarie Price  
Sabrina Sierens • Eliana Smith

## PARENTS - GENTLEMEN

Bernardo Betancor  
Garreth Chapple • Thomas Gerhardt  
Ruei Lin Cheng • Declan MacIassac  
Sebastian Marriott-Smith  
Jaime Monroy • Jack Ragland  
Joel Ruybalid • Troy Santulli  
Caleb Wire

## PARTY GIRLS

Lyla Blankemeier • Rowan David  
Riley DeBellis • Amelia Haase  
Juliane Hancock • Emma Hill  
Landry Johnson • Ava Miller  
Maria Fernanda Moulin Perez  
Clare Pavlov • Mattie Sonsam  
Charlotte Thiemann

## PARTY BOYS

Beatrice Bell  
Michelle Aolan Chen Iannotti  
Leila Clifton • Adriella Collado  
Cara Donovan • Elle Golden  
Cece Goldsberry • Elliot Grissom  
Harper Belle Seliga  
Luisa Sollberger

## MOUSE KING

Cameron Bailey  
Sebastian Marriott-Smith  
Tolly Stewart

## COLUMBINA DOLL

Anna Neudorf • Renee Shubov  
Aria Smith

## HARLEQUIN DOLL

Bernardo Betancor • Charlie Mellor  
Alberto Peñalver

## FIGHTER MICE

Mallory Baggs • Mia Bianchi  
Maya Cohen • Rachel Cravene  
Natalie DuCharme • Sadie Kern  
Viktoriia Kovyreva  
Regina Osorio Cabiedes  
Laura Sonnek • Kotono Suzuki  
Miyu Takasawa • Rei Yanagishima  
Garreth Chapple • Bradyn Harris  
Joel Ruybalid

## LITTLE MICE

Aria Bowerman • Claire Bowerman  
Regan Brighton • Abigail Craig  
Marcela Dominguez  
Cybelle Ferwerda • Reagan Grafton  
Eleanor Landress • Camiola Nelson  
Marcelo Petrocci Moreno  
Wynne Puttick • Katherine Sands  
Phoebe Vick • Natalie Walsh  
Heidi Wieland  
Evangeline Zambrano

## SOLDIERS

John Abenanty • Bernardo Betancor  
Thomas Gerhardt • Ruei Lin Cheng  
Sebastian Marriott-Smith  
Charlie Mellor • Alberto Peñalver  
Jack Ragland • Jaysan Stinnett  
Israel Zavaleta Escobedo

CASTING SUBJECT TO CHANGE

# CAST

## SMALL SOLDIERS

Mina Aleem • Bexley Burket  
Ella Dingman • Elizabeth Fabian  
Ariella Fornea • Adelyn Ginzinger  
Cassidy Hosmer • Madeleine Nort  
Henley Poole • Evelyn Ramirez  
Henery Saygin

## SNOWFLAKES

Charlotte Anub • Mallory Baggs  
Savannah Campbell • Maya Cohen  
Aylin Contreras • Natalie DuCharme  
Kate Gardinier • Kenna Gold  
Hazuki Kishida • Viktoriia Kovyreva  
Chen-Yu Liao • Remy Juliette Loren  
Noe Lynds • Sara Marin  
Shannon McNiven • Anna Neudorf  
Ruri Nonami • Riley Pollack  
Ellarie Price • Renee Shubov  
Sabrina Sierens • Eliana Smith  
Aria Smith • Rei Yanagishima

## ACT 2

## SUGARPLUM FAIRY

Maya Fazzari • Ellie Iannotti  
Cielo Ibarrola • Hitomi Nakamura

## CAVALIER

John Abenanty • Joshua Fickling  
Nathan Rowell • Jaysan Stinnett

## SPRITES

Beatrice Bell • Maisie Bennett  
Lyla Blankemeier  
Michelle Aolan Chen Iannotti  
Leila Clifton • Adriella Collado  
Abigail Craig • Rowan David  
Riley DeBellis • Cara Donovan  
Elle Golden • Cece Goldsberry  
Amelia Haase • Emma Hill  
Skylar Jenkinson • Landry Johnson  
Anelle Kolesov Har-Oz  
Olivia Lothian • Ava Miller  
Maria Fernandez Moulin Perez  
Sloane O'Toole • Clare Pavlov  
Harper Belle Seliga  
Luisa Sollberger  
Mattie Sonsam • Charlotte Thiemann  
Elizabeth Wagner

## SPANISH WOMEN

Savannah Campbell • Kenna Gold  
Cielo Ibarrola • Hazuki Kishida  
Renee Shubov • Sabrina Sierens  
Aria Smith

## SPANISH MEN

Cameron Bailey • Bernardo Betancor  
Joshua Fickling • Thomas Gerhardt  
Alberto Peñalver • Nathan Rowell  
Troy Santulli • Jaysan Stinnett

## DESERT PRINCESS

Kenna Gold • Hazuki Kishida  
Hitomi Nakamura • Aria Smith

## HERON BIRD

Cielo Ibarrola • Hitomi Nakamura  
Renee Shubov

## LE PATINEUR MAN

Joshua Fickling • Charlie Mellor  
Alberto Peñalver  
Israel Zavaleta Escobedo

# CAST

## LES PATINEURS WOMEN

Charlotte Anub • Aylin Contreras  
Chen-Yu Liao • Emma Longin  
Remy Juliette Loren  
Anna Neudorf • Ruri Nonami  
Eliana Smith

## TREPAK WOMAN

Maya Fazzari • Kenna Gold  
Aria Smith

## TREPAK MEN

John Abenanty  
Sebastian Marriott-Smith  
Charlie Mellor • Jack Ragland  
Caleb Wire  
Israel Zavaleta Escobedo

## MOTHER GOOSE

Rachel Cravener • Sadie Kern  
Laura Sonnek

## MOTHER GOOSE DRIVERS

Brady Harris • Joel Ruybalid  
Tolly Stewart • Caleb Wire

## POLICHINELLE GIRLS

Samarah Allen • Zury Ambroise  
Bexley Burket • Reese Cravens  
Samantha Garcia-Visbal  
Adelyn Ginzinger  
Emerson Hogancamp  
Cassidy Hosmer  
Razaina Robertson • Calla Warner

## POLICHINELLE BOYS

Delilah Cuprill • Eden Freiburger  
Danna Jimenez Sofia • Daisy Lemos  
Anabella Moreau • Hunter Moreland  
Maggie Reeves • Harper Updike  
Giuliana Vargas • Stella Yonfa

## POLICHINELLE (FLYING)

Ella Dingman • Elizabeth Fabian  
Henley Poole

## FLOWER WOMEN SOLOISTS

Savannah Campbell • Kate Gardinier  
Kenna Gold • Hazuki Kishida  
Ruri Nonami • Ellarie Price  
Sabrina Sierens • Aria Smith

## FLOWER MEN SOLOISTS

Cameron Bailey • Bernardo Betancor  
Joshua Fickling • Thomas Gerhardt  
Ruei Lin Cheng  
Sebastian Marriott-Smith  
Charlie Mellor • Alberto Peñalver  
Jack Ragland • Troy Santulli

## FLOWER CORPS WOMEN

Charlotte Anub • Maya Cohen  
Aylin Contreras • Rachel Cravener  
Viktoriia Kovyreva • Chen-Yu Liao  
Emma Longin • Remy Juliette Loren  
Noe Lynds • Sara Marin  
Shannon McNiven • Anna Neudorf  
Riley Pollack • Ellarie Price  
Eliana Smith • Laura Sonnek  
Rei Yanagishima



SCAN HERE FOR DAY OF CASTING

CASTING SUBJECT TO CHANGE

# SYNOPSIS

## ACT ONE

On Christmas Eve, Drosselmeyer the toy maker prepares for the Stahlbaum family's festive celebration, bringing with him a magical Nutcracker doll created especially for young Clara. As the town buzzes with holiday energy, he delights children with a puppet show depicting a battle between the Nutcracker and the Mouse King. At the Stahlbaum home, the party begins with dancing, laughter, and the arrival of Clara's beloved gift. When her brother Fritz breaks the Nutcracker, Drosselmeyer repairs it, and the evening ends with joyful family dances as Clara drifts off to sleep.

Later that night, Clara sneaks downstairs, drawn by a mysterious glow from Drosselmeyer's enchanted snow globe. Suddenly, mice invade the room and a magical transformation begins — the Christmas tree grows sky-high, toys come to life, and Clara finds herself in a fantastical world. Her Nutcracker becomes a valiant soldier and battles the Mouse King in a whimsical war. With Clara's quick thinking, the Nutcracker triumphs, and a grateful dance follows. As snowflakes swirl and the scene turns to a glistening Snow Kingdom, Drosselmeyer reappears and sends Clara soaring off to meet the Sugar Plum Fairy in a new land of enchantment.

## ACT TWO

In the heart of the Magical Garden, playful Sprites awaken and dance with Drosselmeyer as they await Clara's arrival. She floats gently from the sky, greeted by the Sugar Plum Fairy, her Cavalier, and the Nutcracker, who all celebrate her bravery in the great battle. Clara is invited to stay and join in the festivities, where she dances with dazzling characters from around the world — fiery Spanish couples, the graceful Desert Princess, a colorful Heron, icy Patineurs, leaping Trepak dancers, and even Mother Goose with her cheerful Polichinelles.

The celebration crescendos with a radiant waltz of flowers and a final, enchanting dance from the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier. As the magical world begins to fade, Clara bids farewell to her new friends. Drosselmeyer gently returns her Nutcracker and sends her soaring one last time. She lands softly back in her living room, cradling her beloved Nutcracker and dreaming of the adventures still to come.

# ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



## JORDEN MORRIS

Artistic Director

After his dance career, Jorden Morris studied teaching and choreography at Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet (RWB) and later dance and theatre arts at New York University. He trained in French choreography and pedagogy with Claude Bessy and Serge Golovine at the Paris Opera and later with Russian masters Sergei Berejnoi and Tatiana Terekhova at Boston Ballet.

Morris' elite training led to artistic leadership at RWB where he premiered his first work – an interpretation of Alexander Dumas' *The Three Musketeers*. He later joined Boston Ballet's artistic staff and choreographed two pieces for

Queen Elizabeth II during her visit to Canada.

From 2002 to 2013, Morris served as RWB's associate school director and was commissioned to create his first, full-length production – *Peter Pan*, the company's best-selling production, surpassed only by his *Moulin Rouge® the Ballet*, whose grand debut required performances to be added.

Morris directed and choreographed *Head Start/Feet First*, a collaboration between the RWB and intercity academic schools, which resulted in Canada's popular children's television show, "The Toy Castle," in which he also starred.

Morris premiered two other works at RWB - *The Doorway*, inspired by the poetry and voice of Leonard Cohen; and *MOA*, inspired by the artist Egon Schiele.

While *Moulin Rouge®* toured the world, Morris' *Peter Pan* was being performed by the RWB, Pittsburgh Ballet and Nevada Ballet Theatre.

In 2019, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre premiered *The Great Gatsby*, Morris' glamorous ballet with an original score by composer Carl Davis. Before being named its artistic director, Morris came to Orlando Ballet in 2020 as Artist in Residence and staged three grand ballets. In 2023, he debuted his newest creation, a reimaged production of *The Nutcracker*, a highlight of Orlando Ballet's 50th anniversary season.

# ARTISTIC TEAM

## LISA THORN MORRIS

Associate Artistic Director

As Associate Artistic Director at Orlando Ballet, Lisa Thorn Morris, who joined Orlando Ballet in 2015, has significantly contributed to the success of the professional company's artistic development.



Lisa enjoyed a 20-year dance career as an artist with the Kansas City Ballet where she performed numerous principal roles by some of the world's greatest choreographers including favorite roles by Alvin Ailey, George Balanchine, Todd Bolender, August Bournonville, Merce Cunningham, Agnes DeMille, Nacho Duato, Ruth Page, Marius Petipa and Twyla Tharp, to name a few.

While at Kansas City Ballet, Lisa transitioned to serve as Associate Ballet Mistress before being elevated to Ballet Mistress in Residence.

In addition to dancing professionally, Lisa has also choreographed for numerous organizations including Orlando Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Actors Theatre of Kansas City, and the Kansas City Youth Ballet. Lisa's choreographic skills and success led to her being named 2005's Emerging Choreographer at the Craft of Choreography Conference.

Lisa earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts in Dance, graduating Summa Cum Laude from the University of Missouri where she also served as an Adjunct Professor at the Conservatory of Music and Dance.

## HEATH GILL

Rehearsal Director

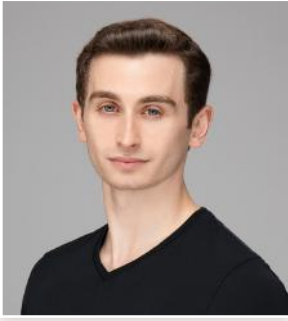
Throughout his career, Heath had the opportunity to perform featured roles in a widely varied repertoire that included renowned creators such as: John McFall, Jorden Morris, Christopher Wheeldon, James Kudelka, Twyla Tharp, David Bintley, Jean-Christophe Maillot, Jorma Elo, Val Caniparoli, Helen Pickett, Liam Scarlett, Jiri Kylian, Alexander Eckman, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Michael Pink, and Ohad Naharin. Heath received critical acclaim for his performances and was recognized as one of ArtsATL's "30 under 30" and Dance Magazine's "25 to Watch".



In 2017 Heath co-founded Terminus Modern Ballet Theatre in Atlanta, Georgia. Beyond bringing his skills to the stage for TMBT, Gill served on the Board of Directors and as the company's Production Director and Resident Choreographer. In his time at Terminus, he created many full evening dance works and his production, *Marley Was Dead, To Begin With* was named "Best Dance Production of 2020" by ArtsATL. He continues to aid the organization in a Board Emeritus role.

Since joining the team at Orlando Ballet, Heath has continued to present and create new works for the company including *Confronting Genius*, *The Next Big Thing*, and *Memento*. He also continues his creative endeavors by serving as a guest choreographer for other companies and as a stager for Kenneth Tindall's works. Heath has a sincere love for coaching and is thrilled to be passing his skill and love of the artform on to the next generation as Orlando Ballet's Rehearsal Director.

# ORLANDO BALLET COMPANY



## JOHN ABENANTY

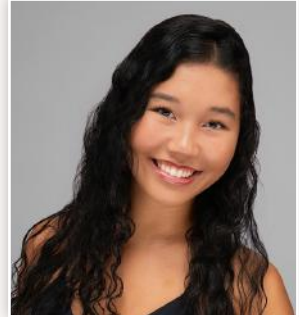
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Born in New York, John Abenanty is a graduate of The Harid Conservatory. He was the first American principal dancer of the Sofia National Opera & Ballet and has toured to many countries. John is also a laureate of the Varna International Ballet Competition and a USA IBC finalist. He is in his fifth season with Orlando Ballet.

## CHARLOTTE ANUB

---

Originally from New York, Charlotte Anub trained at New York Theatre Ballet School and became an apprentice at 14, performing works by Limón, Tudor, Cunningham, and Whiteside. She later joined Pacific Northwest Ballet's Professional Division, dancing Balanchine repertory. This is her first season with Orlando Ballet.



## CAMERON BAILEY

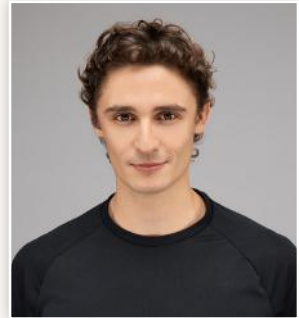
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Born in England, Cameron Bailey trained at the Royal Ballet in the junior associate program, followed by joining Elmhurst Ballet School. Representing the UK at the 2017 Cecchetti International Ballet competition, he earned a scholarship with Oklahoma City Ballet and later graduated from English National Ballet School. He is in his third season at Orlando Ballet.

## BERNARDO BETANCOR

---

Raised in the Canary Islands, Bernardo began dancing at the age of four and in 2015 moved to Madrid to train under Victor Ullate. In 2017 he joined The Washington School of Ballet, followed by English National Ballet earning a Level 6 Diploma in Dance and Choreography from Trinity College. In 2022, he joined Les Grands Ballets Canadiens in Montreal, performing for three seasons. This is his first season with Orlando Ballet.



## SAVANNAH CAMPBELL

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Originally from Illinois, Savannah relocated to Florida at age twelve and trained at Orlando Ballet School. She joined Sarasota Ballet, advancing from trainee to main company member. Her performance highlights include principal in Renato Paroni's *Rococo* and featured appearances in George Balanchine's *Serenade*, *Who Cares?*, and *Western Symphony*. This is her first season with Orlando Ballet.

# ORLANDO BALLET COMPANY



## ISRAEL ZAVALETA ESCOBEDO

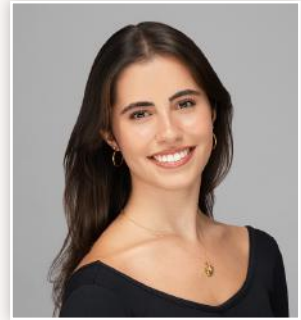
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Born in Mexico, Israel Zavaleta Escobedo is a proud Orlando Ballet School alumnus. Prior to attending Orlando Ballet School, he received training from his family's dance company Ballet Folklorico Texcoco de Noe Zavaleta. He is in his eighth season with Orlando Ballet.

## MAYA FAZZARI

---

Born in Canada, Maya Fazzari trained at Canada's National Ballet School. Following her graduation in 2021, she joined their post-graduate program and performed with the National Ballet of Canada. She joined OBII in 2023, and this is her second season with Orlando Ballet.



## JOSHUA FICKLING

---

Born in Meltham, England, Joshua Fickling trained at The Royal Ballet School and later with Mentors in Ballet Education, where he earned Diplomas in both the Enrico Cecchetti Method and Dance Education. He has performed with Birmingham Royal Ballet, The McNicol Ballet Collective, and The Sarasota Ballet of Florida. This is his first season with Orlando Ballet.

## KATE GARDINIER

---

Born in Pittsburgh, Kate Gardinier trained at the Washington School of Ballet's Professional Training Program where she had the opportunity to perform under the direction of Julie Kent. She joined OBII in 2021. She is in her fourth season with Orlando Ballet.



## THOMAS GERHARDT

---

Born in England, Thomas Gerhardt trained at the Royal Ballet School White Lodge. He soon joined the Royal Ballet Upper School and worked with choreographers Ashley Page, Carlos Acosta, and the Birmingham Royal Ballet. He is in his fourth season with Orlando Ballet.

# ORLANDO BALLET COMPANY



## KENNA GOLD

---

Born in California, Kenna Gold trained at The Rock School on a full scholarship. She joined Orlando Ballet in 2018 as a trainee and has since danced numerous lead roles. She is in her fifth season with Orlando Ballet.

## DOMINIQUE GUERRA

---

Born in South Carolina, Dominique started her training at Ballet Spartanburg in South Carolina. She also received training from Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre and Pacific Northwest Ballet. Before joining Orlando Ballet, she danced with United Ballet Theatre's company as a trainee. She is thrilled to begin her second season with Orlando Ballet.



## ELLIE IANNOTTI

---

Born in New Jersey, Ellie Iannotti trained at The Rock School for Dance Education, and later became a part of ABT's National Training Scholar program. She then attended the ABT Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School on scholarship for a year before joining OBII. She is in her fourth season with Orlando Ballet.

## CIELO IBAROLA LEON

---

Born in Paraguay, Cielo Ibarrola trained at the Miami City Ballet School Pre-Professional Program, graduating in 2022. Joining OBII in 2022, she was then promoted to Apprentice. She has performed in *Western Symphony* (MCBS) and *Paquita* (OBII). She is in her third season with Orlando Ballet.



## HAZUKI KISHIDA

---

Born in Canada, Hazuki Kishida trained at the Victoria Academy of Ballet and graduated from their Post-Secondary Bridge Program in 2022. Upon graduation, she joined OBII and was later promoted to Apprentice for the 23/24 season. She is in her third season with Orlando Ballet.

# ORLANDO BALLET COMPANY

## REMY LOREN

---

Originally from California, Remy Juliette Loren trained at Ballet Arte and held trainee positions with Philadelphia Ballet and Joffrey Ballet. She performed works by Christopher Wheeldon and Kathy Marston and attended summer programs with San Francisco Ballet, ABT, Royal Ballet School, and Dutch National Ballet. This is her first season with Orlando Ballet.



## SEBASTIAN MARRIOTT-SMITH

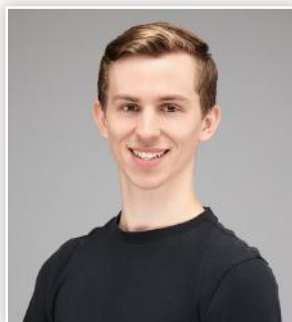
---

Born in England, Sebastian Marriott-Smith trained at the Royal Ballet School, later graduating from English National Ballet School where he worked with Tamara Rojo on the World Premiere of her production, *Raymonda*. He joined Orlando Ballet in 2022 as an OBII. He is currently in his third season with Orlando Ballet.

## CHARLIE MELLOR

---

Born in England, Charlie Mellor trained at Tring Park School. There, he secured first place at the Cecchetti Children's Awards at Sadler Wells and is a Mabel Ryan Junior Award runner-up. His TV debut in BBC Young Dancer of the Year showcased a *La Fille Mal Gardée pas de deux*. He is in his fourth season with Orlando Ballet.



## HITOMI NAKAMURA

---

Born in Japan, Hitomi started her training at Kaneta Kono Ballet Academy, then she moved to the states and trained with Houston Ballet Academy. She joined OBII and was promoted to apprentice in 2014. Since joining the company, she has performed several principal roles. This is her twelfth season with Orlando Ballet.

## ALBERTO PEÑALVER

---

Born in Spain, Alberto Peñalver trained at the Conservatorio Profesional de Danza of Murcia, John Cranko Schule, and School of American Ballet. He was a Tulsa Ballet II member before becoming a Company Dancer at Ballet Arizona. He is in his fourth season with Orlando Ballet.



# ORLANDO BALLET COMPANY



## JACK RAGLAND

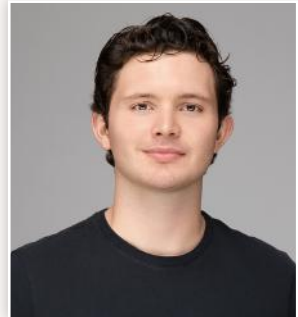
---

Born in South Carolina, Jack trained at South Carolina Christian Dance Theatre and attended summer programs at Charlotte Ballet, University of SC Dance Conservatory and Pennsylvania Ballet. Jack was invited to The Youth America Grand Prix Finals in 2021 as well as being invited to perform in the *Danza en Arte a Pietrasanta Festival*. This is his second season with Orlando Ballet.

## NATHAN ROWELL

---

Born in Oregon, Nathan Rowell trained at Houston Ballet Academy and then later at Texas Ballet Theatre. He joined Orlando Ballet in 2019 as an OBII. He is currently in his fifth season with Orlando Ballet.



## TROY SANTULLI

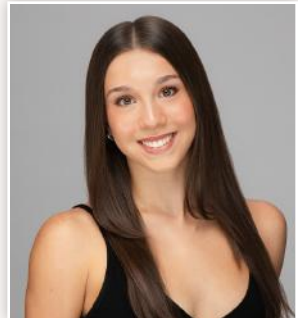
---

Originally from Massachusetts, Troy Santulli trained at Boston Ballet School and performed in Mikko Nissinen's *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, and *Giselle*. He danced with Kansas City Ballet II in works by Lila York, Michael Pink, and Tomm Ruud; with Texas Ballet Theater in ballets by Ben Stevenson, O.B.E.; and with Milwaukee Ballet in productions by Kenneth Tindall, Michael Pink, and Mark Godden. This is his first season with Orlando Ballet.

## RENEE SHUBOV

---

Born in New York, Renee Shubov started her training at the Academy of Dance Arts in New Jersey. At 14, she moved to Houston to train at Houston Ballet Academy. After two years, she joined Houston Ballet II under the direction of Claudio Muñoz. In 2023, Renee joined OBII. She is in her second season with Orlando Ballet.



## SABRINA SIERENS

---

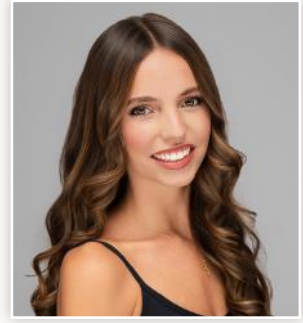
Born in Michigan, Sabrina Sierens started dancing at the Ann Parsley School of Dance. She then continued her training at The Rock School for Dance Education in Philadelphia where she graduated under Peter Stark and Stephanie Spasoff. She joined Orlando Ballet as an OBII in 2023. She is in her second season with Orlando Ballet.

# ORLANDO BALLET COMPANY

## ARIA SMITH

---

Born in Southern California, Aria Smith began her training at Maple Conservatory of Dance. At 10, she joined Ballet West Academy where she participated in many performances. Aria graduated from the Ballet West Professional Training Division in 2022 and joined OBII that fall. She is in her second season with Orlando Ballet.



## JAYSAN STINNETT

---

Born in Tennessee, Jaysan Stinnett trained at the Thomas Armor Youth Ballet in Miami, followed by additional training at the Harid Conservatory. He garnered full scholarships for various prestigious summer programs. He is currently in his seventh season with Orlando Ballet.

# ORLANDO BALLET SECOND COMPANY (OBII)



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LIN CHENG



AYLIN  
CONTRERAS



CHEN-YU  
LIAO



EMMA  
LONGIN



NOE  
LYNDS



DECLAN  
MACISAAC



SHANNON  
MCNIVEN



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ANNA  
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RURI  
NONAMI



RILEY  
POLLACK



ELLARIE  
PRICE



ELIANA  
SMITH



TOLLY  
STEWART



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WIRE

# ORLANDO BALLET SCHOOL TRAINEES



Back row - left to right: Joel Ruybalid • Garreth Chapple • Bradyn Harris

Middle row - left to right: Viktoriia Kovyreva • Miyu Takasawa  
Rachel Cravener • Mallory Baggs • Mia Bianchi • Regina Osorio Cabiedes  
Sara Marin • Sadie Kern

Front row - left to right: Maya Cohen • Rei Yanagishima • Natalie DuCharme  
Kotono Suzuki

\*Not pictured: Laura Sonnek

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---

## ORLANDO BALLET

JORDEN MORRIS • ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



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Orlando Ballet is more than a company—it is a movement, a family, and a force of artistry that transcends borders and generations. None of it would be possible without you — our generous donors, whose support fuels everything we do. Thanks to you, our 27 company dancers from seven countries, along with 16 dedicated OBII dancers, can bring world-class performances to life, captivating audiences and inspiring the next generation of artists.

Your generosity extends beyond the stage and into our Academy, where we welcome students as young as 18

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Your support isn't just a donation—it's the heart of our mission. Every performance, every class, and every life we touch is because of you. From the stage to the studio, from the youngest dreamers to the most seasoned professionals, your generosity makes it all possible.



**This is the impact of your giving.  
This is Orlando Ballet, made possible by you.**

# ORLANDO BALLET FAMILY



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Orlando Ballet would like to thank Tony Jenkins and our friends at Florida Blue for their generous contributions to help us keep educating, enriching, and entertaining.



TONY JENKINS

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The Artists, Board of Directors, students, families, and staff at Orlando Ballet Company and School extend heartfelt thanks to the generous individuals, foundations, corporations, and government agencies whose support continues to allow us to fulfill our mission to entertain, educate, and enrich through the highest quality of dance.

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as of October 27th, 2025

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2025/2026 SEASON

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We are deeply grateful to all of these generous supporters, as well as the more than 595 donors who contributed up to \$1,499. Every gift—no matter the size—plays an essential role in helping Orlando Ballet entertain, educate, and enrich through the transformative power of dance. Your support keeps our artists on stage, our students in the studio, and our community inspired.

Thank you!

as of October 27th, 2025

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## Grab a Drink, Grab a Snack

- Pop by the bars on tiers 1, 3, or 4 for a range of food and drinks—including delicious culinary offerings created by our in-house chef. Bar service starts 1.5 hours before shows. You can also preorder drinks for intermission.
- On tier 2, you can visit Crafts on two and enjoy local craft beer, wine, cocktails, and Foxtail Coffee. Beverages in the auditorium are allowed if they are purchased in the Dr. Phillips Center. Please enjoy your food before taking your seat.
- It's our goal to make your experience as smooth as possible. Concessions and coffee bars are now cashless to make checkout easier—so you can get back to your seat quicker. All major credit and debit cards and mobile payment options accepted.

## Feel at Home

- Restrooms are available on each tier, and all are wheelchair accessible.
- Elevators reach all tiers of the theater. One elevator is on the north side of the Harvey & Carol Massey Family Grand Staircase, and two are on the south side.
- Applause is welcome! The dancers love to know if you're enjoying the performance, so don't be afraid to applaud after a dancer does something spectacular onstage, when the dancers take a bow, or at the ballet's end.

## Be a Good Neighbor

- We all want to enjoy the performance. Please refrain from talking or whispering during the performance. Help keep an unobstructed view by arriving on time, being seated before the performance starts, and not leaning forward or resting your head on your seatmate's head or shoulder.

## Need Some Help?

- Ticket services are available through the Dr. Phillips Center Box Office Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 pm, Saturday, 12 p.m. to 4 pm, or two hours before showtime.
- Visit [drphillipscenter.org](http://drphillipscenter.org) or call 407-358-6603.
- Subscriber services are available through the Orlando Ballet Box Office Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Visit [orlandoballet.org](http://orlandoballet.org) or call 407-418-9828.
- Lost and Found is at the concierge desk behind the Harvey & Carol Massey Family Grand Staircase in Della Phillips Grand Lobby.

## Important Policies

- Late seating isn't allowed while a performance is in progress. You'll be asked to stand until a break, at the discretion of house management, which may be at intermission. Guests can watch a live stream of the performance from monitors in the Della Phillips Grand Lobby until entry is permitted.
- Guests can freely leave and re-enter the performance at any time during our Family & Sensory-Friendly performances.
- Occupying a seat other than the seat for which you hold a ticket isn't allowed. Please sit only in your ticketed seat.
- Audio/visual recordings of any kind of the performance are strictly forbidden.
- Mobile devices should be turned off and put away before the performance. The lights and sounds are a distraction to the performers and your fellow patrons.

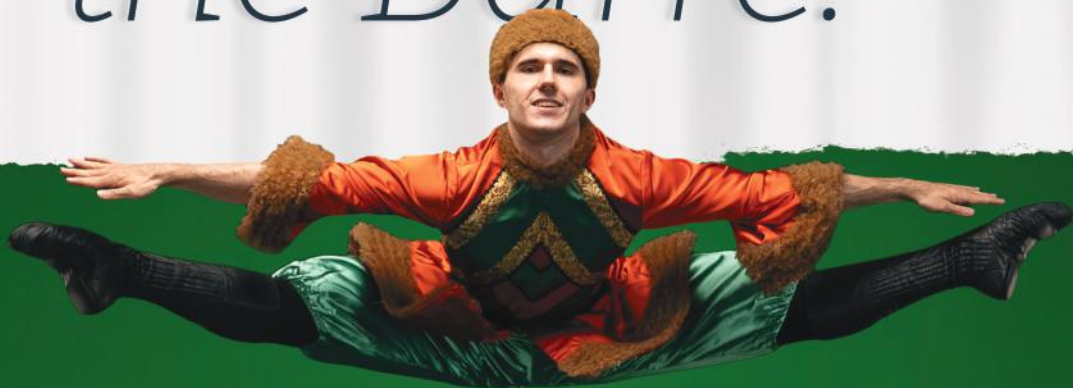


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# Behind the Curtain, Raising the Barre.



## Behind the Scenes with Orlando Health Jewett Orthopedic Institute

**E**very December, as the curtain rises on *The Nutcracker*, a familiar sense of wonder fills the theater. Behind the scenes, another kind of performance unfolds, built on skill, collaboration and care. Orlando Health Jewett Orthopedic Institute helps ensure that every dancer takes the stage healthy, strong and ready to shine.

At the heart of this effort are Courtney Butler, head athletic trainer, and Lexy Keener, athletic trainer, who work side-by-side with the performers each day. **"We are the ones who are with them daily,"** Butler says. **"We're usually the first line of defense if there is an injury or an issue."**

Team physician Elizabeth Davis, MD, relies on that consistent, hands-on presence.

**"They are definitely my right hand, and they are my eyes and ears on the ballet from a day-to-day perspective,"** she says.

Keener brings a dancer's intuition to the work. **"I grew up dancing, and I really wanted to provide the healthcare that this sport requires,"** she says.

The partnership between Orlando Health Jewett Orthopedic Institute and Orlando Ballet has grown steadily, from a volunteer network to a comprehensive, technology-driven program. **"It has been eight years in the making, but we have a huge team now,"** Butler says.

That comprehensive care model — which includes daily on-site training support, same-day access to orthopedic specialists, and integrated therapy and performance health services — has become a blueprint for other ballet companies across the country.

**"These dancers are treated like the professional athletes they are,"** Butler says. **"It's a level of consistency and communication that many organizations don't yet have, and it's something we're proud to be setting the standard for."**

As a former dancer, Keener is heartened by the evolution: **"It's been really special to see that change — to see professional dancers finally getting the care they deserve and knowing we're part of that shift."**

Much like *The Nutcracker* itself, the partnership continues to evolve — embracing new tools and techniques while holding fast to its foundation of trust and tradition.


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A promotional image for the play 'Harry Potter and the Cursed Child'. It features two characters, one in a grey suit and one in a green shirt, standing in front of a large, glowing clock face. They are surrounded by bright, fiery magical energy and sparks. The scene is set against a dark background with decorative starburst patterns in the corners.

# Harry Potter

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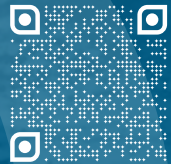
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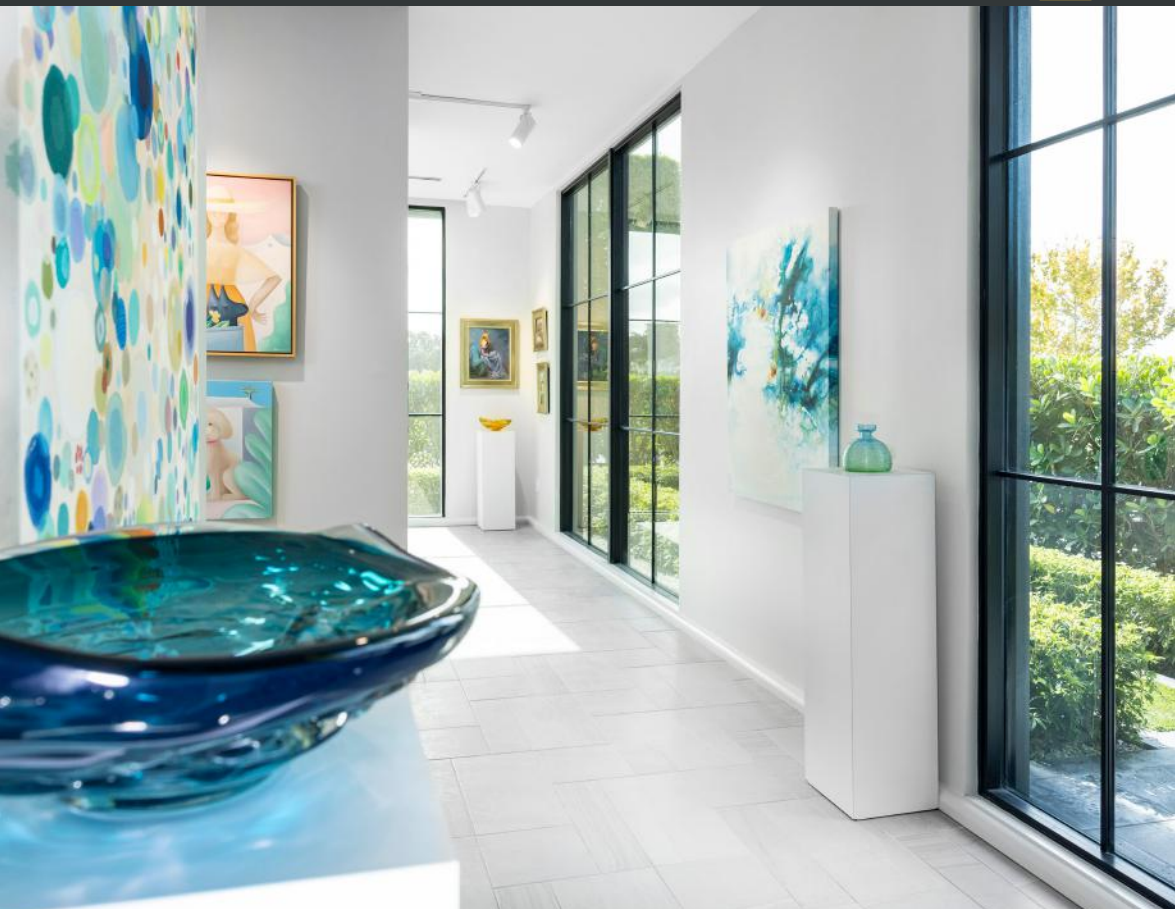
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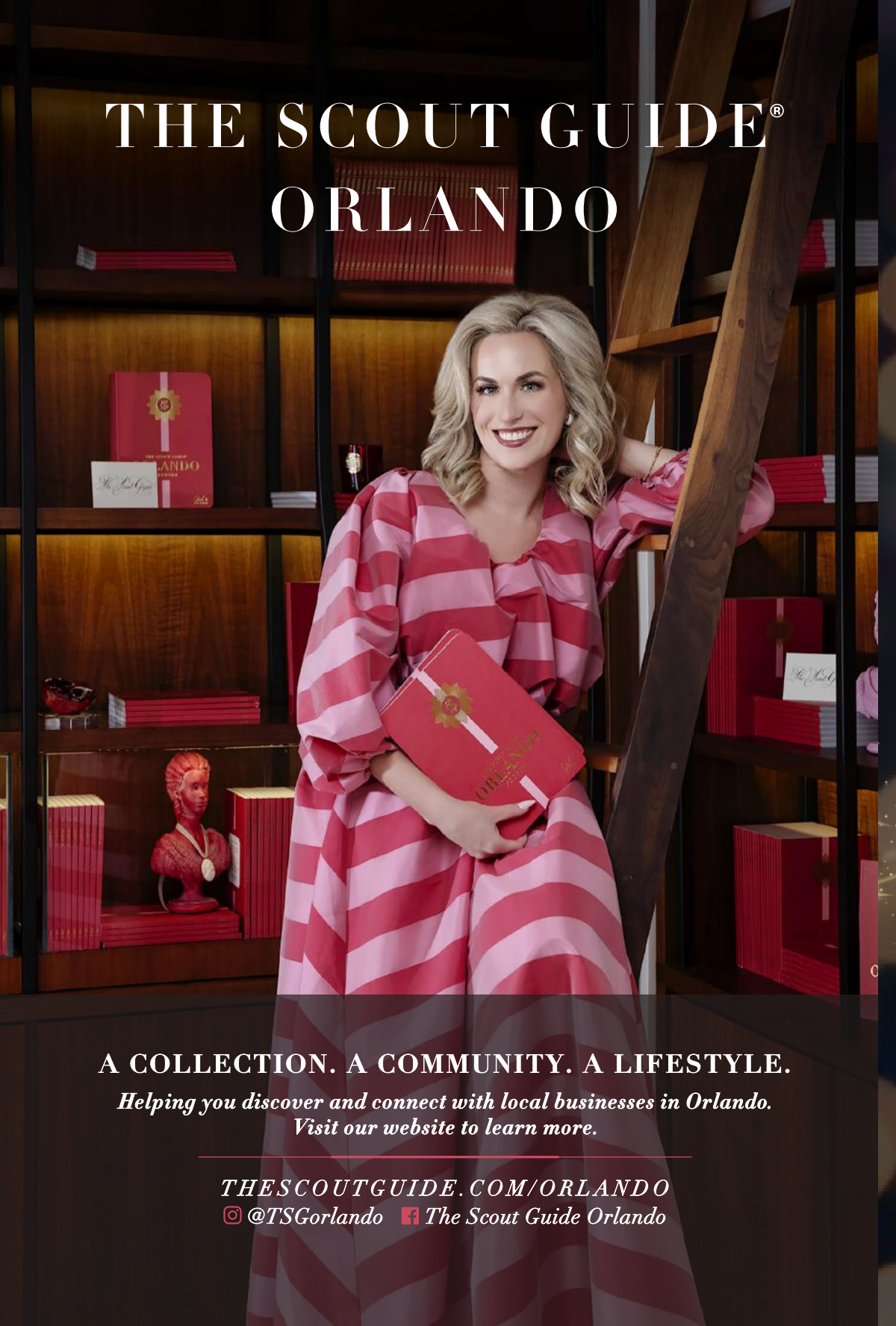
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ISRAEL ZAVALA ESCOBEDO PHOTOGRAPHY

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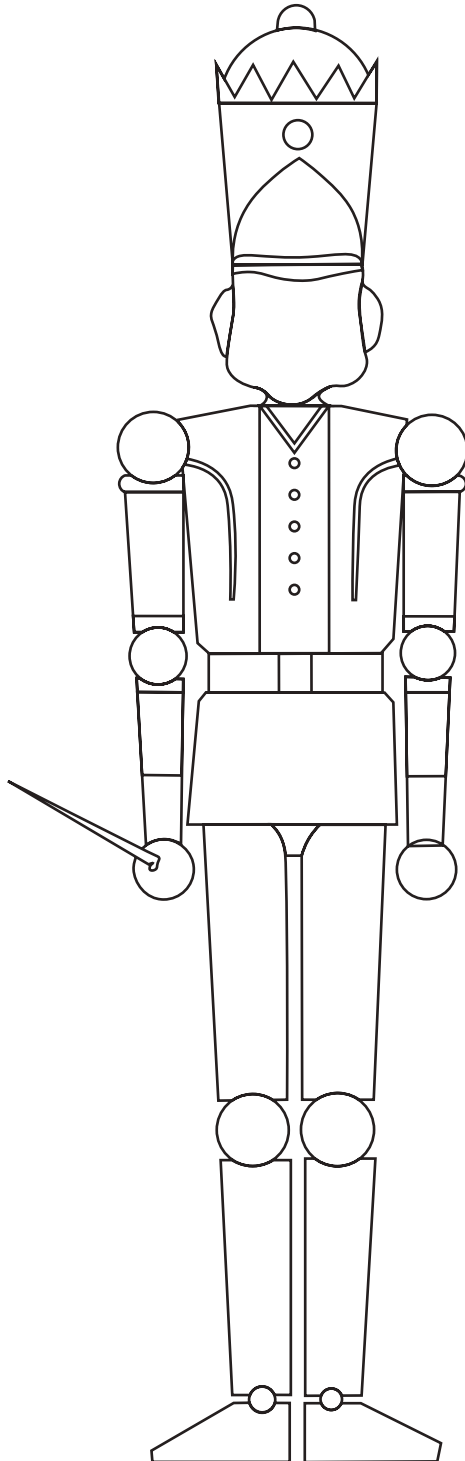


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