

# GISELLE

MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF BRANDON COLTE SUGGS AND THE  
ELIZABETH MORSE GENIUS FOUNDATION



ORLANDO  
BALLET

ZAVESCO PHOTOGRAPHY  
CIELO IBARROLA

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR **JORDEN MORRIS**

CHOREOGRAPHY **JORDEN MORRIS AND LISA THORN MORRIS**

AFTER **JEAN CORALLI AND JULES PERROT**

COMPOSER **ADOLPHE ADAM**

LIVE MUSIC **ORLANDO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**

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## MISSION INVESTOR



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& Susan Costin

Frank Santos

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# ORLANDO BALLET

JORDEN MORRIS • ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

# GISELLE

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## COMPOSER

ADOLPHE ADAM

## LIBRETTO

JULES-HENRI VERNON DE SAINT-GEORGES & THÉOPHILEE GAUTIER

## CHOREOGRAPHY

JORDEN MORRIS & LISA THORN MORRIS  
AFTER JEAN CORALLI AND JULES PERROT

## REHEARSAL DIRECTORS

LISA THORN MORRIS • HEATH GILL

## PRODUCTION

### SCENIC DESIGN

SIMON PASTUKH

### COSTUME DESIGN

GALINA SOLOVYEVA

### LIGHTING DESIGN

JOSEPH R. WALLS

## ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGN

ETHAN J. HOFFMAN

## ORLANDO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

JULIAN PELLICANO, CONDUCTOR

**MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF BRANDON COLTE SUGGS AND THE ELIZABETH MORSE GENIUS FOUNDATION**

STAGE CREW ARE MEMBERS OF IATSE LOCAL 631, ORLANDO, FLORIDA



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# LETTERS FROM EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP



As we close this remarkable season, we do so with a story steeped in drama, romance, and the transcendent power of dance and music. From the passionate tragedy of *Romeo & Juliet* to this weekend's hauntingly beautiful *Giselle*, Orlando Ballet has taken audiences on a journey through love's joys and sorrows, while also celebrating childhood, family, and the timeless art of storytelling through movement.

Ballet stirs the soul and sparks unforgettable moments—whether through the elegance of George Balanchine's *Divertimento No. 15*, the playful brilliance of Martha Graham's *Maple Leaf Rag*, or the soaring spirit of Alysa Pires' *Skyward*

in its U.S. premiere. Our hope is always to move you—to tears, to joy, to wonder—as you witness the artistry and athleticism of our dancers brought to life through music and passion.

This season has been one of tradition, whimsy, and love, made possible by the incredible talent of our dancers, the dedication of our production and administrative teams, our board of directors, and my partner in life and art, Associate Artistic Director Lisa Thorn Morris.

Most of all, we are deeply grateful to you—our audience. Your presence, enthusiasm, and support make everything we do not only possible, but meaningful.

Thank you for joining us. We look forward to seeing you next season.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jorden Morris".

**JORDEN MORRIS**  
Artistic Director



As we arrive at the final performance of our season, I'm filled with gratitude reflecting on this incredible year—my first with Orlando Ballet. I'm deeply thankful to our board of directors for welcoming me so warmly into the Orlando Ballet family, and to our generous donors, patrons, and community partners who have supported us every step of the way.

This season has been about more than performances; it's been about people—about impact. From inspiring students in classrooms to connecting with new audiences across Central Florida, Orlando Ballet has continued to serve as a cultural pillar, using the power of dance to uplift and engage.

Tonight, we're thrilled to share our final show of the season with you. While *Giselle* is a beloved classic, this evening represents something even more: a celebration of what we've achieved together this season, and the powerful momentum we carry into the future.

A heartfelt thank-you to Brandon Colte Suggs and the Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation for their generous sponsorship of *Giselle*. And to everyone who attended or supported our record-breaking Ballet Ball—your belief in our mission fuels all that we do.

To our sponsors, donors, subscribers, and every audience member: thank you. Your support is what makes our work possible, both on stage and throughout the community.

We look forward to all that's ahead—and we're so grateful to have you with us on this journey.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brad".

**BRADLEY RENNER**  
Executive Director

# CAST

Thursday, Friday, Saturday – 7:30 p.m.

## GISELLE

Hitomi Nakamura

## ALBRECHT

John Abenanty

## HILARION

Jaysan Stinnett

## BERTHE

Sofia Abenanty

## WILFRED

Tolly Stewart

## BATHILDE

Kenna Gold

## DUKE

Francis Mihm

## PEASANT PAS DE QUATRE

Kellie Fulton • Renee Shubov • Israel Zavaleta Escobedo • Charlie Mellor

## VILLAGE LADIES

Liang-Cheng Chiu • Rachel Cravener • Dahlia Denicore • Kate Gardinier • Hazuki Kishida • Noe Leilani • Lillian Munson • Anna Neudorf • Sabrina Sierens • Eliana Smith • Aria Smith • Sierra Willis

## VILLAGE MEN

Cameron Bailey • Thomas Gerhardt • Jaime Monroy • Alberto Peñalver • Nathan Rowell • Joel Ruybalid

## LEADER OF THE HUNT

Rony Baseman

## LADIES & GENTLEMEN OF THE HUNT

Aurora Chernis • Emily Estrada • Kera Fernstorm • Avery McDougall • Shannon McNiven • Miri Mochizuki • Kanon Nomura • Dru Oetjen • Kate Shibagaki-Ong • Laura Sonnek • Natalie Taylor • Rei Yanagishima • Bradyn Harris • Sebastian Marriott-Smith • Zach Mench • Jack Ragland • David West

## MYRTHA

Cielo Ibarrola Leon

## ZULME

Hazuki Kishida

## MOYNA

Sabrina Sierens

## WILIS

Aurora Chernis • Liang-Cheng Chiu • Dahlia Denicore • Maya Fazzari • Kera Fernstrom • Kellie Fulton • Kate Gardinier • Miri Mochizuki • Lillian Munson • Anna Neudorf • Kanon Nomura • Ellaire Price • Kate Shibagaki-Ong • Renee Shubov • Aria Smith • Eliana Smith • Natalie Taylor • Sierra Willis

# CAST

*Saturday, Sunday – 2:00 p.m.*

## **GISELLE**

Ellie Iannotti

## **ALBRECHT**

Amir Dodarkhojavev

## **HILARION**

Charlie Mellor

## **BERTHE**

Sofia Abenanty

## **WILFRED**

Rony Baseman

## **BATHILDE**

Cielo Ibarrola Leon

## **DUKE**

Francis Mihm

## **PEASANT PAS DE QUATRE**

Kate Gardinier • Aria Smith •  
Nathan Rowell • Jaysan Stinnett

## **VILLAGE LADIES**

Liang-Cheng Chiu • Rachel  
Cravener • Dahlia Denicore • Kellie  
Fulton • Hazuki Kishida • Noe  
Leilani • Lillian Munson • Anna  
Neudorf • Renee Shubov • Sabrina  
Sierens • Eliana Smith • Sierra Willis

## **VILLAGE MEN**

Thomas Gerhardt • Sebastian  
Marriott-Smith • Jaime Monroy •  
Jack Ragland • Joel Ruybalid • David  
West

## **LEADER OF THE HUNT**

Tolly Stewart

## **LADIES & GENTLEMEN OF THE HUNT**

Aurora Chernis • Emily Estrada •  
Kera Fernstorm • Avery McDougall •  
Shannon McNiven • Miri Mochizuki  
• Kanon Nomura • Dru Oetjen • Kate  
Shibagaki-Ong • Laura Sonnek •  
Natalie Taylor • Rei Yanagishima •  
Cameron Bailey • Israel Escobedo  
Zavaleta • Brayden Harris • Zach  
Mench • Alberto Peñalver

## **MYRTHA**

Kenna Gold

## **ZULME**

Hazuki Kishida

## **MOYNA**

Sabrina Sierens

## **WILIS**

Aurora Chernis • Liang-Cheng Chiu  
• Rachel Cravener • Dahlia Denicore  
• Maya Fazzari • Kera Fernstrom •  
Kellie Fulton • Kate Gardinier • Miri  
Mochizuki • Lillian Munson • Anna  
Neudorf • Kanon Nomura • Kate  
Shibagaki-Ong • Renee Shubov •  
Aria Smith • Eliana Smith • Natalie  
Taylor • Sierra Willis

CASTING SUBJECT TO CHANGE

# SYNOPSIS

## ACT ONE

The story of Giselle is a romantic tale of innocent love and betrayal; of philandering Count Albrecht and a trusting peasant maid, Giselle. Although she has a weak heart, Giselle loves to dance.

Her beauty has enchanted Albrecht. On the day of the village wine festival, Albrecht, in order to court Giselle, disguises himself as a peasant. Giselle, in her innocence and unaware of his noble birth, resists Albrecht's advances—only to succumb to his ardor and persistence. He gently induces her to trust his pledge of eternal love. His plans are thwarted by the arrival in the village of the Duke of Courland and his beautiful daughter Bathilde, to whom Albrecht is already engaged.

Bathilde is enchanted with Giselle and her youthful innocence. When Giselle tells the princess that she is engaged, Bathilde gives her a necklace, unaware that they are betrothed to the same man.

Hilarion, a gamekeeper in love with Giselle, discovers Albrecht's disguise. Consumed with jealousy, he reveals his rival's true identity. Giselle loses her reason, and the first act ends with the famous mad scene, and her death.

## ACT TWO

Giselle has been buried deep in the forest and has now become a Wili. The Wilis are ghostly apparitions of folklore, girls who have died betrayed by their faithless lovers on the eve of their weddings.

Hilarion is discovered mourning at Giselle's grave. Myrtha, Queen of the Wilis, summons her maidens, who haunt the forest, luring wayfarers to dance with them until they die from exhaustion before the dawn. Hilarion is forced to dance until he dies.

Albrecht, full of remorse, comes to mourn at Giselle's grave. The Queen commands Giselle to come from her grave and entice Albrecht to join her in dance. Giselle continues dancing with Albrecht through the night. Although she has been betrayed by Albrecht, Giselle still loves him, and helps him to stay alive until the dawn, when the Wilis lose their power and will not be able to destroy him.

Giselle's love frees him from their grasp, and her forgiveness frees her from their fate.



## 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 reimagined 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 Cu 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.

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*. 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.



### JULIAN PELLICANO

Guest Conductor

Known for his versatility across a broad spectrum of genres, dynamic interpretations and meticulous technique, American-Canadian conductor Julian Pellicano has been recently appointed to the conducting staff of the National Ballet of Canada and is Music Director and Principal Conductor of Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet. Bringing an incisive musicality and collaborative spirit to every performance, he has built a wide-ranging international career leading the Winnipeg Free Press to proclaim that "his versatility is truly astonishing."

Associate conductor of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra from 2013 - 2024, Julian conducted hundreds of performances on all of the orchestra's various series, contributed to the development of the orchestra's programming and established himself in the community as an ambassador for the WSO. As a guest he has conducted orchestras and ballet companies across North America and abroad.

Highly experienced with live-to-film performances, Mr. Pellicano's film project credits encompass more than 35 titles, including many legendary films scored by John Williams, recent blockbusters, and classic films of the "Golden Age" of Hollywood.

Julian Pellicano studied conducting at the Yale School of Music with Shinik Hahm and he studied percussion at the Peabody Conservatory, the Royal College of Music in Stockholm, Sweden, and at the Yale School of Music. As a percussionist, he has performed in concert halls and festivals in North America, Europe and Asia. He also holds a degree in philosophy from The Johns Hopkins University

# ORLANDO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

## VIOLIN 1

Rimma Bergeron-Langlois  
Annabelle Gardiner  
Olga Ferroni  
Sacha Phelps  
Julia Gessinger  
Joni Hanze  
Maria Chirinos  
Ross Monroe Winter

## VIOLIN 2

Alexander Stevens  
Victor Ferroni  
Galen Kaup  
Dina Fedosenko  
Linda Van Buren  
Jennie Rudberg  
Daniel Seymour

## VIOLA

Joseph Henderson  
Douglas Pritchard  
Melissa Swedberg  
Tyler Pacheco

## CELLO

Ronald Gardiner  
Isaac Moorman  
Brenda Higgins  
Jonathan Stilwell

## BASS

Don-Michael Hill  
Chris Morgan

## FLUTE

Colleen Blagov  
Carrie Wiesinger

## OBOE

Jamie Strefeler  
Sherwood Hawkins

## CLARINET

Nikolay Blagov  
Seok Hee Jang

## BASSOON

Gabriel Bergeron-Langlois  
Diane Bishop

## HORN

August Haller  
Mark Fischer  
Kathleen Thomas  
Kevin Brooks

## TRUMPET

Daniel Kassteen  
Matt Pieper  
Thomas Macklin  
Lyman Brodie

## TROMBONE

Jeffrey Thomas  
Alexis Regazzi

## BASS TROMBONE

Brian Brink

## TUBA

Robert Carpenter

## TIMPANI

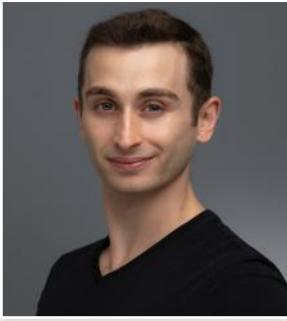
Carl Rendek

## PERCUSSION

Mark Goldberg  
Kirk Gay  
Christopher Nolin

## HARP

Haley Rhodeside



## JOHN ABENANTY

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Born in Brooklyn, 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 fourth 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, following 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 second season at Orlando Ballet.



## DAHLIA DENICORE

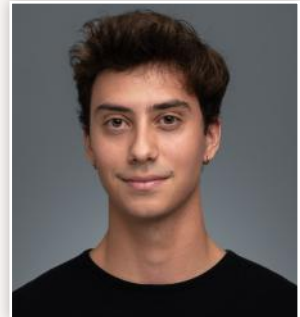
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Born in Virginia, Dahlia Denicore trained at the San Francisco Ballet School. She joined Orlando Ballet in 2022 and made her professional debut as Lucy in Michael Pink's *Dracula* and Blanche in Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's *A Streetcar Named Desire*. She is in her third season with Orlando Ballet.

## AMIR DODARKHOJAYEV

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Born in Kazakhstan, Amir Dodarkhojayevev trained at Harid Conservatory. He won first place at Youth America Grand Prix Dallas in 2021 and later joined Orlando Ballet as an OBII. He is in his fourth season with Orlando Ballet.



## ISRAEL ZAVALETA ESCOBEDO

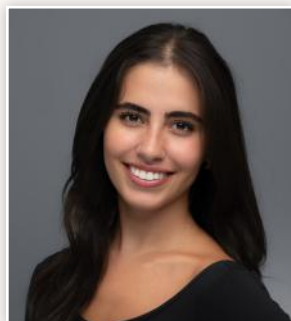
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Born in Mexico, Israel Zavaleta Escobedo is a proud Orlando Ballet School alumnus. Prior to attending Orlando Ballet School, he received training from his family's dance company Ballet Folklorico Texcoco de Noe Zavaleta. He is in his seventh season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

# ORLANDO BALLET COMPANY

## 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 first season with Orlando Ballet.



## KELLIE FULTON

Born in New Jersey, Kellie Fulton trained at the School of Pennsylvania Ballet. She joined the second company and completed the Butler Fellowship Program at Ballet Austin. Her journey also includes programs at Boston Ballet and San Francisco Ballet. She is now in her sixth 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 third 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 third season as a Company Dancer with Orlando Ballet.

## KENNA GOLD

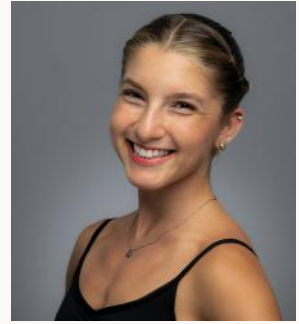
Born in California, Kenna Gold trained at The Rock School on a full scholarship. She joined Orlando Ballet in 2018 as a trainee and has since danced numerous lead roles. She is in her fourth season with Orlando Ballet.



# ORLANDO BALLET COMPANY

## 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 first season as a Company Member 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 second 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 second season with Orlando Ballet.

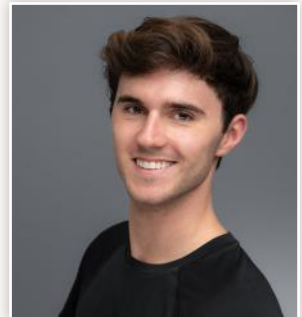


## CIELO IBARROLA

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 second 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 second 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 third season with Orlando Ballet.



## ZACH MENCH

Born in California, Zachary Mench began his training under former Bolshoi Ballet Soloist, Sobir Utabaev, in Kaiserslautern, Germany. He then moved to the states and resumed training with The School of Washington Ballet and joined the Houston Ballet Academy at the age of 16. He then trained under the direction of Claudio Muñoz and Orlando Molina. He is in his first season with Orlando Ballet.



## FRANCIS MIHM

Born in Iowa, Francis Mihm trained at Heartland Academy. He attended American Ballet Theatre and Milwaukee Ballet summer intensives and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Dance Arts Administration from Butler University. He is in his third 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 eleventh 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 second 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 first season with Orlando Ballet.

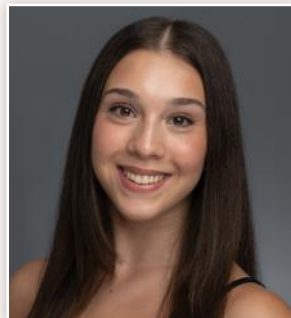


## NATHAN ROWELL

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 fourth 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 first 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 first season with Orlando Ballet.



## 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 first season with Orlando Ballet.

## JAYSAN STINNETT

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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 sixth season with Orlando Ballet.



## DAVID WEST

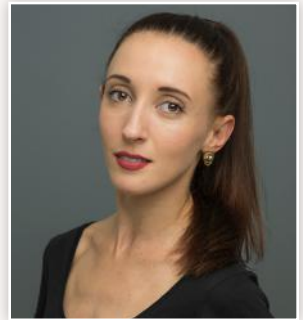
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Born in New Jersey, David West trained at Petrov Ballet School. Achieving recognition in the Youth American Grand Prix, he earned a full scholarship to Boston Ballet's trainee program. He is in his third season with Orlando Ballet.

## SOFIA ABENANTY , GUEST ARTIST

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Born in Bulgaria, Sofia Abenanty trained at Bulgaria's National School of Dance Arts, later becoming a soloist at Sofia National Opera and Ballet. She is a Varna International Ballet Competition Bronze Medalist. She joined Orlando Ballet in 2022 as a Company Dancer and is now teaching full-time with Orlando Ballet School.



# ORLANDO BALLET SECOND COMPANY (OBII)



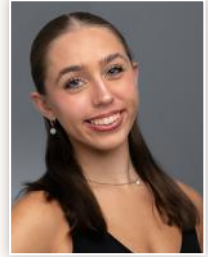
RONY  
BASEMAN



LIANG-CHENG  
CHIU



AURORA  
CHERNIS



KERA  
FERNSTROM



MIRI  
MOCHIZUKI



JAIME  
MONROY



LILLIAN  
MUNSON



ANNA  
NEUDORF



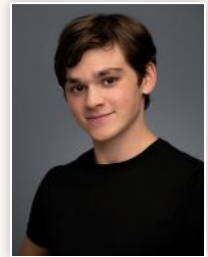
KANON  
NOMURA



KATE  
SHIBAGAKI-ONG



ELIANA  
SMITH



TOLLY  
STEWART



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Lisa Thorn Morris .....	Associate Artistic Director
Heath Gill .....	Rehearsal Director
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Angelynn Chen .....	Company Pianist

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Gina Makarova .....	OBS & Community Enrichment Wardrobe Coordinator
Eibhlin Stack .....	Assistant Stage Manager

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Victoria Sarau .....	Sr. Manager of Educational Operations
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Amyia Burrell .....	Head of Young Dancer Program
Gonzalo Espinoza .....	Assistant to the School Director & Head of Trainee Program
Natasha Glos .....	Head of Pre-Professional Program
Kim Marsh .....	Head of Academy Program, Student Services & Certification
Chandler Blum .....	Community Enrichment Coordinator
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Sports Medicine

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Foot and Ankle

## Orthopedics

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Orlando Health Jewett Orthopedic Institute  
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## Performance Health Specialist

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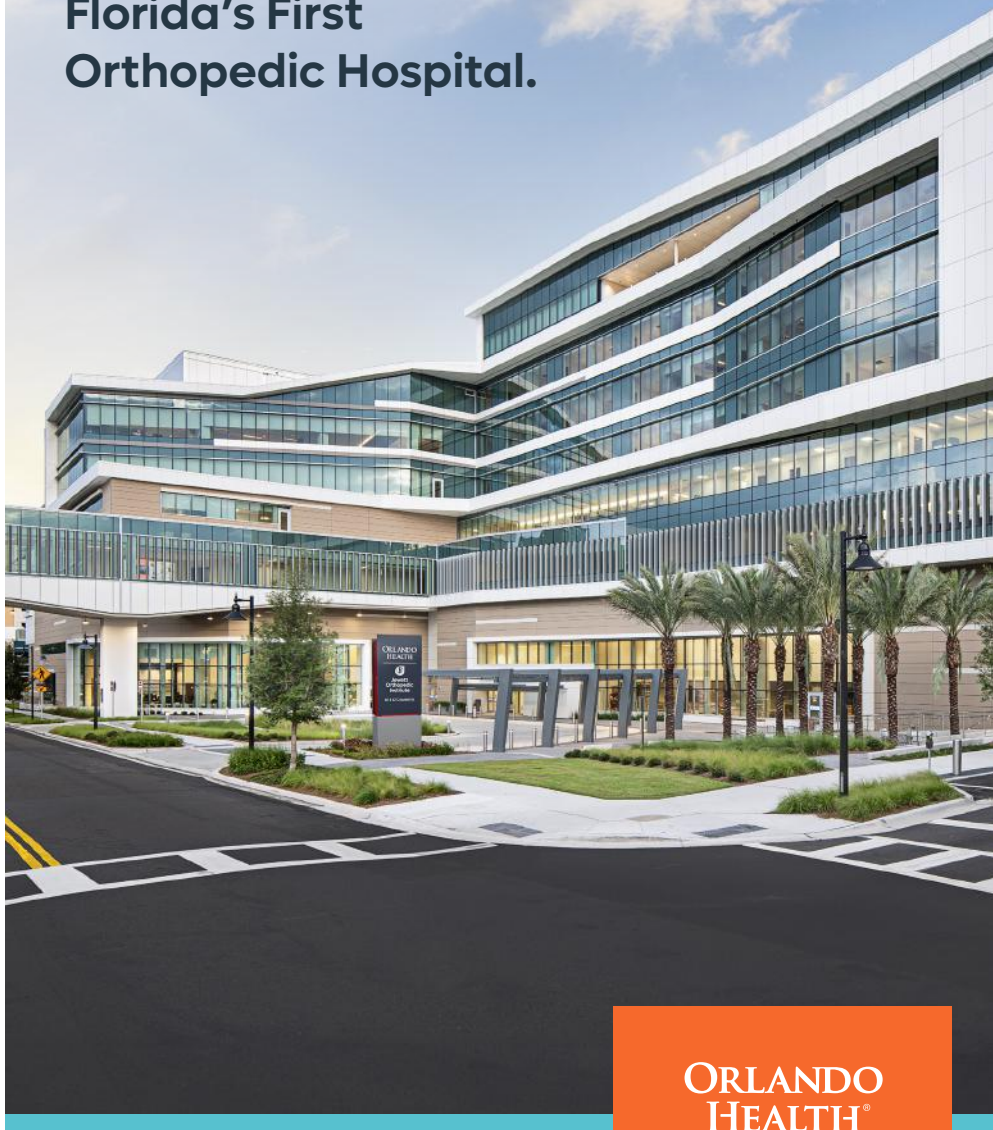
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# ORLANDO BALLET

JORDEN MORRIS • ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

25/26 SEASON



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ZAVESCO PHOTOGRAPHY • ELLIE IANNOTTI

# WHAT SETS US APART: OUR ORLANDO BALLET FAMILY



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



months and nurture aspiring pre-professionals toward their dreams. Because of you, 35% of our Academy graduates earn a coveted trainee position, 20% of those trainees rise to our second company, and 80% of our company dancers once stood in the very same second company ranks—a testament to the power of the opportunities you provide.



The impact doesn't stop there. Through 140 residencies held by our 25 teaching artists, we have reached over 1,800 individuals, from age four to an inspiring 103-year-old. Our talented instructors have traveled more than 40,000 miles, ensuring that dance is accessible to all. Thanks to you, we've been able to provide over 900 pairs of ballet shoes to the community, creating small steps that lead to big dreams.

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



## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

"As a child, I was inspired by my mother's love of ballet. After moving to Orlando, I became a neighbor and close with the late Harriett Lake. In 2011, to honor both women, I became a benefactor of Orlando Ballet. I believe that Orlando Ballet is a cultural force that enriches our city through artistry, movement, and storytelling. Supporting its mission means investing in a community where art doesn't just exist - it shifts perspectives and redefines experience."

- Andrea Eliscu  
President, Medical Marketing, Inc.



# THE BALLET FUND

## ORLANDO BALLET DONOR LIST

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.

### HARRIETT'S LEGACY SOCIETY

*Current as of date to April 15, 2025*

Includes individuals who have made a commitment to support Orlando Ballet with a planned gift.

Sue Ellen Franklin & Ken Lesniak  
Wally Harper\*  
Anna France Henriquez\*  
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*This list represents gifts received as of April 15, 2025*

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as of April 15, 2025

2024/2025 SEASON

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Orlando Ballet is grateful for the long-term support of benefactors who have helped sustain our mission and vision. Special thanks for the distinguished circle of donors whose \$100,000+ cumulative commitments shape the legacy and future of Orlando Ballet.

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*\*indicates deceased*

*as of April 15, 2025*

# WELCOME TO THE DR. PHILLIPS CENTER

## 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.

## 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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THE MAGIC OF THE 2025

# NEVERLAND BALL

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through the extraordinary dedication, creativity, and passion of our Ballet Ball Committee. Your countless hours and unwavering commitment transformed our vision into an unforgettable evening of wonder.

JOYCE ALMEIDA • BETTINA BUCKLEY  
EKTA DESAI • NANCY GIBBONS • ERIC HORNER  
DIANE KUHL • ROSE ELLEN MOCOMBE

**Your belief in the power of dance has  
helped Orlando Ballet soar to new heights.**

With deepest appreciation,

BRANDON  SUGGS

2025 NEVERLAND BALL CHAIR

A MAGICAL

# THANK YOU

**TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS, DONORS,  
AND ATTENDEES OF THE 2025 NEVERLAND BALL:**

Your remarkable support made this the largest and most successful Ballet Ball in Orlando Ballet's history. Like pixie dust that enables flight, your generosity allows our dancers to continue captivating, educating, and inspiring our community.

**The journey to Neverland may have ended,  
but the magic you've created will continue  
to transform lives through dance for  
years to come.**



*p.s.*  
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THE MALL AT MILLENIA

A man in a teal suit and tie stands in a city square, holding a newspaper. The newspaper's masthead features the Bloomingdale's logo. The background shows a building with windows and a green vehicle.

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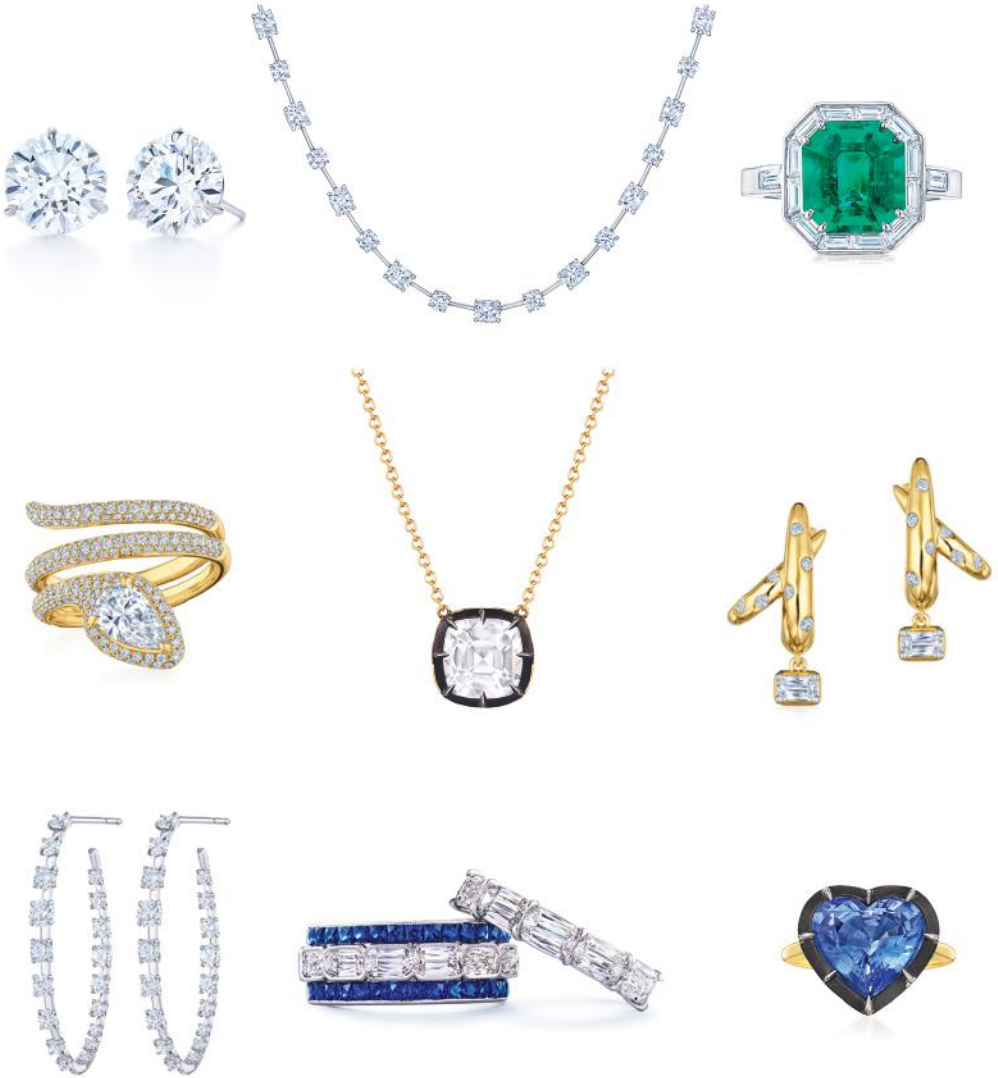
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