VIVO PERFORMING ARTS

PRINTABLE/SCROLLABLE PROGRAM

SAT NOV 21 8PM
SUN NOV 22 2PM
CUTLER MAJESTIC THEATRE AT EMERSON COLLEGE

BALLET BC

Medhi Walerski Artistic Director

Kathy MacKenzie Managing Director

Dancers
Luca Afflitto, Sidney Chuckas, Emanuel Dostine, Imani Frazier, Michael Garcia, Joziah German, Orlando Harbutt, Eduardo Jiménez Cabrera, Kiana Jung, Pei Lun Lai, Kelsey Lewis, Kylie Miller, Benjamin Peralta, Vivian Ruiz, Kaylin Sturtevant, Jacalyn Tatro

Emerging artists: Travon Carter, Kaitlin Cheung, Marcos Marqueta, Stan Tonin, Kailey Worontsoff, Jayda Zhu

Production Crew
Kate Burrows *Head of Wardrobe*
William Detlaff *Production Stage Carpenter*
Taylor Janzen *Production Electrician*
Derek Mack *Director of Production*
Kate McMillan *Senior Touring and Company Manager*
Matthew Piton *Lighting Director*
Linzi Voth *Stage Manager*

This evening's program will run approximately two hours, including two intermissions.

Please note that haze will be used throughout this performance.

Following the Saturday evening performance, Ballet BC Artistic Director Medhi Walerski will take questions from the audience. He will be joined by Vivo Performing Arts President & CEO Thor Steingraber as moderator.

Booking direction by David Lieberman - Artists Representatives

For the legal and physical safety of the artists and for the comfort of the audience, cameras and other recording devices are not permitted in the theater during the performance."

2026/27 Dance Series Supporters
Leslie & Howard Appleby, Crescendo Donor Advised Fund, and
Royal Little Family Foundation

This performance is made possible in part by support from Vivo Performing Arts'
Amy & Joshua Boger Innovation Fund

2026/27 Season Sponsors
Crescendo Donor Advised Fund and The Thonis Family

Vivo Performing Arts is supported in part by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

DANCE PROGRAM

SWAY

(World Premiere - 2019, NDT 2, The Hague
Ballet BC Premiere - May 9, 2024)

Choreographer Medhi Walerski
Rehearsal Director Emily Chessa
Original Music composed by Adrien Cronet
Lighting Design Lisette van der Linden & Pierre Pontvianne
Costume Design Medhi Walerski
Set Design Medhi Walerski

PERFORMERS

Saturday: Emanuel Dostine, Imani Frazier, Michael Garcia, Orlando Harbutt, Kelsey Lewis, Kylie Miller, Vivian Ruiz

Sunday: Luca Afflitto, Sidney Chuckas, Kiana Jung, Pei Lun Lai, Benjamin Peralta, Kaylin Sturtevant, Jacalyn Tatro

Music credit
Nun komm der Heiden Heiland,
Chorale Prelude BWV 659, by Johann Sebastian Bach
Transcribed by Ferruccio Busoni
Performed by Víkingur Ólafsson
Courtesy of Deutsche Grammophon GmbH under license from Universal Music Canada Inc.

SWAY embodies the essence of hope, capturing its delicate yet resilient nature. Inspired by the poetry of Emily Dickinson, the creation marked choreographer Medhi Walerski's first collaboration with Belgian composer Adrien Cronet. The piece is intimate, mysterious, and even elusive. It demands a great deal of attention from the dancers as they move through a fluid movement and repetition journey that echoes the spirit of collective optimism.

"Hope" is the thing with feathers
by **Emily Dickinson**

"Hope" is the thing with feathers –
That perches in the soul –
And sings the tune without the words –
And never stops – at all –
And sweetest – in the Gale – is heard –
And sore must be the storm –
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm –
I've heard it in the chillest land –
And on the strangest Sea –
Yet – never – in Extremity,
It asked a crumb – of me.

INTERMISSION

OBSIDIAN

(World Premiere: May 8 2025, Ballet BC)

Choreographers Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber
Rehearsal Director Alexis Fletcher
Music Armenian Song, Kurd Shepherd Dance, Song of the Aisors, Song of the Fisherwomen
The Struggle of the Magicians (#3)
Pianist Perri Lo
Lighting Design Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber
Associate Lighting Design Matthew Piton
Costume Design Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber
Associate Costume Design Kate Burrows
Set Design Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber

PERFORMERS

Saturday: Emanuel Dostine, Sidney Chuckas, Benjamin Peralta, Kylie Miller, Jacalyn Tatro, Imani Frazier

Sunday: Joziah German, Orlando Harbutt, Eduardo Jiménez Cabrera, Kiana Jung, Pei Lun Lai, Vivian Ruiz

Dedicated to Matt Nebel

Music composed by George Ivanovich Gurdjieff and Thomas de Hartmann and used by arrangement with European American Music Distributors Company, sole U.S. and Canadian agent for Schott Music GmbH & Co. KG, Mainz, Germany, publisher and copyright owner.

INTERMISSION

BOLERO X

(World Premiere - November 2, 2023, Ballet BC)

Choreographer Shahar Binyamini
Rehearsal Directors Emily Chessa, Sarah Pippin
Music Boléro, M. 81, by Maurice Ravel
Performed by Berlin Philharmonic and Pierre Boulez
Lighting Design Shahar Binyamini
Associate Lighting Design Matthew Piton
Costume Design Shahar Binyamini
Associate Costume Design Kate Burrows

PERFORMERS

Ballet BC
Luca Afflitto, Sidney Chuckas, Emanuel Dostine, Imani Frazier, Michael Garcia, Joziah German, Orlando Harbutt, Eduardo Jiménez Cabrera, Kiana Jung, Pei Lun Lai, Kelsey Lewis, Kylie Miller, Benjamin Peralta, Vivian Ruiz, Kaylin Sturtevant, Jacalyn Tatro

Ballet BC Emerging Artists: Travon Carter, Kaitlin Cheung, Marcos Marqueta, Stan Tonin, Kailey Worontsoff, Jayda Zhu

Boston Conservatory at Berklee
Student Dancers
Angela Acosta-Gonzalez, Yuniel Betancourt, Muna Blake, Andy Claverie, Emma Daniels, Emily Fusco, Ava Gregg, Shiori Hamanaka, Lilia Holladay, Ashlee Holloway, Karina Jimenez, Jaidyn Johns, Hayden Livesay, Natalie Marlowe, Joelis Martínez-Santiago, Demetris Michaelides, Logan Monaco, Amelia Otte, Elvis Pietrzak, Sophia Cobo Ruiz, Tony Silvis, Maddox Stott

In a thrilling display of strength and precision, the full company takes the stage for Shahar Binyamini's epic *BOLERO X.* Set to Ravel's 1928 masterpiece, the work is a bold exploration of unity, individuality, and power—culminating in a breathtaking crescendo of sound and movement.

The creation of *BOLERO X* was made possible through the generous support of The Azrieli Foundation, Josh Pekarsky and Marla Guralnick in honor of Arlene Gladstone; Karen James; Trudy and Dan Pekarsky; Arlene James; The Oasis Foundation; Shirley Barnett; Roberta Beiser; and Jeanie Wexler.

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ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHERS

Raised in France, **MEDHI WALERSKI** (*artistic director; choreographer of* SWAY) initially trained in Normandy with Laurie Bokobza and Christine Caroly before joining the Conservatoire Superieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris. He danced at the Paris Opera Ballet and the Ballet du Rhin before joining the Nederlands Dans Theater in 2001. For more than a decade, he was an integral part of the company, contributing to the creative, innovative style that NDT is famed for. Walerski was awarded the prestigious Dutch dance prize VSCDZwaan in 2013. Walerski has worked closely with many renowned choreographers, creating alongside and performing works by Jirí Kylián, William Forsythe, Ohad Naharin, George Balanchine, Rudolf Nureyev, Paul Lightfoot and Sol Leon, Crystal Pite, Johan Inger, and Wayne McGregor, among others. Walerski's choreographic debut was in 2008 for NDT 2. Since then, he has created numerous acclaimed works for NDT and Ballet BC including Petite Cérémonie (2011), Chamber (2012), GARDEN (2016), Silent Tides (2021), just BEFORE right AFTER (2022), Pieces of Tomorrow (2024), and Last light (2025), as well as works for BernBallet, Goteborg Ballet, the Ballet State of Georgia, StaatBallet Hannover, Staattheater Wiesbaden and Charlotte Ballet. Medhi Walerski was appointed artistic director of Ballet BC in July 2020. His leadership tenure has been highlighted by an artist-centred approach and deep commitment to creation and innovation, an expanded global touring program, increased dancer compensation and equity, a world-renowned brand identity, and unprecedented audience growth. As an educator, he is regularly invited to lecture and give workshops at dance conservatories, intensives, and festivals around the world.

BOBBI JENE SMITH and OR SCHRAIBER Ballet BC Resident Choreographers

BOBBI JENE SMITH *(co-choreographer,* Obsidian) is from Ames, Iowa. She is an alumnus of the Juilliard School, North Carolina School of the Arts, and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School. From 2005-2014, she was a member of the Batsheva Dance Company under the artistic direction of Ohad Naharin. In collaboration with Or Schraiber, she has choreographed original works for the Paris Opera Ballet, the Royal Danish Ballet, Martha Graham Dance Company, Ballet BC, Los Angeles Dance Project, VAIL Dance Festival, the Batsheva

Ensemble, Theater Basel, GöteborgsOperans Danskompani, and others. She is a founding member of American Modern Opera Company.

OR SCHRAIBER (co-choreographer, Obsidian) is a dancer, choreographer, actor, and filmmaker. He danced with the Batsheva Dance Company, studied acting at the Stella Adler Studio, and performed in the Broadway production *The Band's Visit* (1st U.S. tour). He has choreographed for Paris Opera Ballet, Royal Danish Ballet, Gothenburg Opera, Ballet BC, Batsheva Ensemble, and L.A. Dance Project. In 2023, he co-choreographed the Off-Broadway production of *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea* at the Lucille Lortel Theater. His film work includes *Aviva* (2019), *The Way of the Wind* (2025), and *The Bride* (2026). A founding member of The Broken Theater and AMOC*, he also directs films and music videos.

SHAHAR BINYAMINI *(Bolero X)* is an internationally acclaimed choreographer, dancer, and director whose work merges the worlds of dance, science, and design. His artistic voice transcends traditional boundaries, offering a multidimensional experience that engages both body and mind. His tenure with the Batsheva Dance Company (2006–2013) showcased his interpretative prowess with choreographers Ohad Naharin and Sharon Eyal.

Shahar's impact extends globally, leaving an indelible mark on prestigious dance companies including Ballet of Teatro alla Scala, Opera Ballet Flanders, Bordeaux National Ballet, Gauthier Dance Company, Norrdans, Ballet du Rhin, São Paulo Dance Company, Slovak National Ballet, Armenian National Ballet, and Ballet BC. His creations have graced iconic stages worldwide, including Lincoln Center in New York, Teatro Alla Scala in Milan, Teatro Colón in Argentina, and Bunkamura Hall in Tokyo.

In acknowledment of his outstanding contributions, Shahar Binyamini received the Israeli Minister of Culture Award for Promising Choreographer in 2021. In 2022, his choreographic work was commissioned to open Shanghai Fashion Week as well as for the music video for SZA's chart-topping song "SNOOZE.*"*

Shahar's work extends into academia. In 2013, alongside Prof. Atan Gross from the Weizmann Institute for Science, Shahar founded TNUDA — a pioneering research group at the confluence of dance, science, and choreography. He has also been a guest professor at UCLA, leaving his mark with *LUNG*, a creation for the opera and dance department.

NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

SWAY

(Choreographer: Medhi Walerski)

To me, *SWAY* embodies the essence of hope, capturing its delicate yet resilient nature. Inspired by Emily Dickinson's poem, ''Hope is the thing with feathers," the creation marked my first collaboration with Belgian composer Adrien Cronet. The piece is intimate, mysterious, and even elusive. I was interested in exploring hope not as something fixed or certain, but as something fragile that we carry within us, a quiet force that can disappear and return, and that continues even in moments of uncertainty.

The dancers move through a fluid journey of gesture and repetition, shifting between intimate solos, duets and collective passages. There is a constant dialogue between the individual and the group, between vulnerability and strength, and between moments of stillness and movement. Much of the dialogue happens through touch, weight sharing, breath, rhythm, and the simple act of moving together. I wanted the choreography to feel almost like a current, something that passes from one body to another and gradually becomes collective.

The music creates an equally important layer to this world. Its richness and subtlety allow the movement to breathe, while creating a sense of mystery and suspension. Together, the music and the choreography create an environment where meaning is not always immediately revealed, but rather felt.

SWAY demands a great deal of attention and sensitivity from the dancers. Repetition becomes an important part of the journey, allowing small shifts and nuances to emerge and giving the movement a sense of continuity. For me, this echoes the spirit of collective optimism, the idea that hope can be deeply personal, yet also something we create and sustain together.

Ultimately, *SWAY* is a reflection on renewal, the possibility of connection, and of finding light even when it is not immediately visible.

- Medhi Walerski

OBSIDIAN

(Ballet BC resident choreographers Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber)

Raw, and deeply physical, *Obsidian* is a visceral exploration of connection, desire, and the human body. Created in close collaboration with the artists of Ballet BC, Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber's movement language blends explosive, earthbound physicality with a sense of ritual and communal celebration that evokes the atmosphere of folk traditions. At its heart is the music—a rare collection of 1920s piano compositions by George Gurdjieff and Thomas de Hartmann, performed live on stage. Pulsing with intimacy and play, the work moves between magnetic partnering, searing solos, and moments of collective abandon.

BOLERO X

(choreographer: Shahar Binyamini)

When the curtain rises on Shahar Binyamini's *BOLERO X* this weekend, two groups of dancers will share the stage: the 22 company members of Ballet BC and 18 students from Boston Conservatory at Berklee. They only met on Thursday afternoon.

BOLERO X calls for dozens of dancers to mesmerize and overwhelm, filling the stage as Ravel's "Boléro" builds to its crescendo. Ballet BC's core roster can perform a version of it on its own, but Binyamini's vision is within reach at home and on tour when the company partners with outstanding student dancers.

Delivering an indelible artistic experience while showcasing young artists and strengthening ties to organizations in our community makes this connection an essential part of a Ballet BC booking for Vivo Performing Arts CEO Thor Steingraber.

Steingraber brings to Vivo a long history of presenting Ballet BC, and a deeply collaborative relationship with Artistic Director Medhi Walerski. At The Soraya, on the campus of Cal State University - Northridge, Thor championed student dancers' participation in *BOLERO X.* Almost as soon as he landed in Boston, he made doing the same here a priority. The expanded cast enhances the impact of *BOLERO X,* he says, noting the "infectious quality to this work…as the piece builds and more dancers fill the stage, the impact grows and grows."

Ballet BC, too, values the partnership. “In a city like Boston, with a program like Boston Conservatory,” says Rehearsal Director and Stager Sarah Pippin, “we couldn’t not ask for that kind of collaboration.”

Pippin danced with Ballet BC for five seasons and was in the room when Binyamini created a new version of *BOLERO X*. She came to Boston in September to audition the students and returned in late October to teach them the piece. In the rehearsal room, Pippin said, “we’re learning the circle section, but we’re only half of the circle. Ballet BC is the whole other half.”

The two halves of the circle—professionals and students—came together this week in just a few hours of rehearsal. Pippin isn’t surprised it works. The cohesion speaks, she says, “to how incredible dance is as a language, that we don’t even have to be in the same room.”

As the dancers ebb and flow, as the circle opens and closes, as the momentum builds and you’re overwhelmed by the power of the music, you’ll be reminded that as incredible it is to learn a dance at a distance, it’s even better when it all comes together in person.

With gratitude toward the students, faculty, and administration of the Dance department at Boston Conservatory at Berklee.

Michael Shinn Executive Director
Tommy Neblett Dean of Dance
Joshua Tuason Associate Professor and Rehearsal Director

Angela Acosta-Gonzalez
Yuniel Betancourt
Muna Blake
Andy Claverie
Emma Daniels
Emily Fusco
Ava Gregg
Shiori Hamanaka
Lilia Holladay
Ashlee Holloway
Karina Jimenez
Jaidyn Johns
Hayden Livesay
Natalie Marlowe
Joelis Martínez-Santiago
Demetris Michaelides
Logan Monaco
Amelia Otte
Elvis Pietrzak
Sophia Cobo Ruiz
Tony Silvis
Maddox Stott

FROM THE ARCHIVES...

Vivo Performing Arts presents Ballet BC for the first time this weekend.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Founded in 1986 by David Y.H. Lui and Jean Orr, Ballet BC is Canada's leading contemporary dance company. Based in Vancouver and led by Artistic Director Medhi Walerski, the company performs at venues throughout British Columbia and on the world's best stages. Ballet BC dancers are a group of open-minded and curious artists, each unique for their exceptional artistry while sharing an intuitive passion for movement. Deeply committed to new creation in addition to presenting masterworks from today's most sought-after voices in dance, Ballet BC's diverse repertoire includes works by

choreographers such as Crystal Pite, Johan Inger, William Forsythe, Jiří Kylián, Medhi Walerski, Out Innerspace, Imre and Marne van Opstal, Roy Assaf, Micaela Taylor, and more. The company offers a variety of professional development and educational opportunities in the community, aiming to bring the power of dance to the widest audience possible.

LUCA AFFLITO

Luca Afflitto (he/him) is originally from Genova, Italy, where he started dancing at age 11. In 2014, he was admitted to the Academie de Danse Princesse Grace in Monte Carlo under the direction of Luca Masala where he graduated three years later. At the academy, Luca had the opportunity to study with internationally renowned teachers and to dance works by Jiří Kylián, Marco Goecke, and Mats Ek, among others. In 2017, he joined Ballett Zurich under the direction of Christian Spuck and after two seasons in the Junior Ballet, joined the main company. While in Zurich, Luca danced works by choreographers such as Crystal Pite, William Forsythe, Ohad Naharin, Jiří Kylián, Marco Goecke, Goyo Montero, Edward Clug, Johan Inger, and Cayetano Soto. In 2019, he was awarded the Dance Prize of the Friends of Ballet Zurich. In 2022, Luca joined Ballet BC under the direction of Medhi Walerski, where he has the opportunity to explore, create and perform works of internationally renowned choreographers for Canadian audiences and around the world, dancing works by Medhi Walerski, Sharon Eyal, Crystal Pite, William Forsythe, Fernando Magadan, Roy Assaf, Jiri Pokorny, Out Innerspace, Imre & Marne van Opstal, among many more. This is Luca’s fifth season with Ballet BC.

SIDNEY CHUCKAS

Sid Chuckas (they/he) was born in Chicago. They learn, create, and educate through their multidisciplinary art practices with a larger mission to dismantle the institutionalized marginalization of minoritized bodies. Dancing since age five at Dance Center Evanston and graduating from the USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance and USC School of Architecture have all taught Sid to utilize their diverse experiences to thoughtfully engage in others’ work while engaging those around them in progressive conversation, practice, and change.

Sid has performed works by Sharon Eyal, Crystal Pite, Marco Goecke, and Medhi Walerski and premiered roles in new works by Dorotea Saykaly, Shay

Keubler, Johan Inger, Roy Assaf, and Out Innerspace. They have also danced for Brandy, Chance the Rapper, and Paris Jackson, and just recently was featured in *VOGUE Mexico* for a closing solo performance at Vancouver Fashion Week for Eduardo Fashion Studios. Sid also creates and produces their own choreographic works for stage and screen, with their most recent projects including a multi-platform solo titled 'MANZANAR' and world premieres for Arts Umbrella, LAMONDANCE, and Ballet BC 44. Their time at USC also led them to discover their passion for design, where they completed their undergraduate studies with a minor in Architecture and received an academic scholarship to attend the Pratt Institute of Design's Master's of Architecture program. Sid is humbled by the opportunity to continue feeding their passion for inclusive, collaborative innovation and creativity. This is Sid's sixth season with Ballet BC.

EMANUEL DOSTINE

Emanuel Dostine (he/him) was born in Detroit, Michigan and received his initial dance training from Spotlight Dance Works where he was a YoungArts winner in contemporary dance. He moved to Vancouver to further his education at Arts Umbrella under the direction of Artemis Gordon.

After graduating, Emanuel was an Emerging Artist with Ballet BC for two seasons before becoming a full-time company member. Over the past six years, Emanuel performed works by Crystal Pite, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Fernando Hernando Magadan, Marco Goecke, Sharon Eyal, Johan Inger, Jiří Pokorný, Medhi Walerski, Marne and Imre Van Opstal, Roy Assaf, Shahar Binyamini, and Jiří Kylián. This is Emanuel's fifth season with Ballet BC.

IMANI FRAZIER

Imani Frazer (she/her) began her training in Colorado Springs, CO, at Barbara Ellis Studio of Dance before moving to Arizona to study at Tucson Dance Academy and Club Dance Studio. After high school, Imani went on to graduate with a BFA in dance from NYU Tisch in May 2024 under the direction of Pamela Pietro where she was nominated for the prestigious Princess Grace Award and had her choreography showcased at the Mark Morris Choreo Lab.

Since joining Ballet BC, she has performed works by Medhi Walerski, Pierre Pontvianne, Shahar Binyamini, Crystal Pite, Fernando Hernando Magadan, Andrea Peña, Johan Inger, Jiří Kylián, Bobbi Jene Smith & Or Schraiber, and

Sofia Nappi. Imani has completed Orsolina28, Hubbard Street Summer Dance Intensive, Alvin Ailey Professional Division Intensive, and participated in the B12 Summer Festival. Outside of her role as a dancer, Imani has explored her drive for creation through Ballet BC's Take Form program and joined the faculty for the company's 44 Intensive this past summer. This is Imani's third season with Ballet BC.

MICHAEL GARCIA

Michael Garcia was born in McAllen, TX. His early ambition and passion for dance led him to Dallas, where he finished his training at Dance Industry Performing Arts Center & Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts; during this time he was recognized as a National YoungArts finalist.

After high school, Michael received his BFA from the Juilliard School, under the direction of Alicia Graf Mack. Since graduation, he has performed with Loni Landon Dance Projects and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Beyond performing, Michael has many pursuits in teaching and choreography and looks forward to further cultivating his career beyond company life both in Vancouver and around the world. He has been commissioned by Arts Umbrella Dance, BTWHSPVA, and is a four-time outstanding choreography award winner from YAGP. Michael also teaches for Ballet BC's MOVE program, within which he teaches both contemporary and improvisation classes for adults, as well as faculty for Orsolina28's Walerski intensive and the Ballet BC 44 summer intensive. He has worked as an assistant for New York City Dance Alliance since 2018.

Michael has performed repertoire and creations by Bryan Arias, Roy Assaf, Aszure Barton, Sharon Eyal, William Forsythe, Marco Goecke, Johan Inger, José Limón, Lar Lubovitch, Ohad Naharin, Crystal Pite, Out Innerspace, Dwight Rhoden, Jermaine Spivey, Imre & Marne van Opstal, and Medhi Walerski. This is Michael's fifth season with Ballet BC.

JOZIAH GERMAN

Joziah German (he/him), from Frisco, Texas, began his dance training at Prodigy Dance and Performing Arts Centre before continuing his education at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, where

he was recognized as a Texas Young Master and a YoungArts Silver Award winner in contemporary dance. He completed his training at the Juilliard School.

Joziah has performed works by choreographers including Aszure Barton, Michelle Dorrance, Marco Goecke, Johan Inger, Jiří Kylián, Crystal Pite, Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber, Medhi Walerski, and Johannes Wieland. His versatility also extends to film and television, with credits spanning projects for ABC, NBC, FOX, Nickelodeon, and Warner Bros. Beyond performance, Joziah is passionate about choreography, developing new works annually for Ballet BC's Take Form and, most recently, for BBC's 44 Summer Intensive. This is Joziah's third season with Ballet BC.

ORLANDO HARBUTT

Orlando Harbutt (he/him) is a dancer and collaborator originally from New York City. He spent part of his early childhood in Rome, Italy, before returning to the United States in 2011, where he began his formal dance training at age ten. He trained in ballet and hip hop before refining his classical technique at Manhattan Youth Ballet as the inaugural Men of Merit Scholarship recipient.

At 16, Orlando was accepted to the Juilliard School, where he studied under the direction of Alicia Graf Mack. During the pandemic, he spent a year training at Arts Umbrella under the direction of Artemis Gordon before returning to Juilliard to complete his Bachelor of Fine Arts while beginning his professional career with Ballet BC.

Orlando has performed works by William Forsythe, Marco Goecke, Sharon Eyal, Johan Inger, Johannes Wieland, Jiří Kylián, and Aszure Barton, and has originated roles in creations by Medhi Walerski, Crystal Pite, Imre and Marne van Opstal, Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber, David Raymond and Tiffany Tregarthen, and Shahar Binyamini, among others. This is Orlando's fifth season with Ballet BC.

EDUARDO JIMENEZ CABRERA

Eduardo was raised in Cartago, Costa Rica, where he felt an undeniable attraction to movement practices. This led him to begin his dance training at age 15. In 2024 he obtained a BFA in Dance from the University of the Arts under the direction of Donna Faye Burchfield. During his time in the United

States he was a part of BigKid Dance, led by Mark Caserta and Bocatuya, directed by Omar Román de Jesús. He has also worked with Brooklyn-based multidisciplinary arts collective Tribe, under the direction of Shamel Pitts. Eduardo joined Ballet BC in 2023 as an emerging artist. He has performed works by Crystal Pite, Shahar Binyamini, William Forsythe, Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber, Johan Inger, Out Innerspace, Medhi Walerski, Imre and Marne van Opstal, Marco Goecke, Fernando Hernando Magadan, Andrea Peña, Paxton Ricketts, Mark Caserta, and Jesse Zarrit. This is Eduardo's fourth season with Ballet BC.

KIANA JUNG

Kiana Jung (she/her) is a Vancouver, British Columbia, native who began her dance training at Arts Umbrella at age nine. She completed the Professional and Graduate Program under the direction of Artemis Gordon. During her time at Arts Umbrella, Kiana was selected to perform in Ballet BC's production of *Romeo + Juliet* during the 2017/18 season and performed works by notable choreographers including Mats Ek, Stephan Laks, and Emily Molnar.

Since joining Ballet BC in 2019, Kiana has performed at notable festivals both in North America, and internationally all throughout Europe. Her repertoire includes works by choreographers including Aszure Barton, Sharon Eyal, William Forsythe, Marco Goecke, Johan Inger, Out Innerspace, Jiří Kylián, Crystal Pite, Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber, and Medhi Walerski. This is Kiana's eighth season with Ballet BC.

PEI LUN LAI

Pei Lun (she/her) is from Kaohsiung, Taiwan, where she started dancing at age eight. In 2021, Pei joined Hung Dance and premiered online for the American Dance Festival the work *Equilibrium* by Hung Dance Artist Director Lai Hung-Chung. In 2022 she performed *Formless Erosion* with Hung Dance. In the same year, the dance creation with the co-choreographer Xiao Annette *Listen, I'll speak* won the gold medal in the MOC's Taiwan Creative Competition. In June 2023, Pei Lun graduated from Taipei National University of the Arts with a BA in Dance. During her time there, Pei performed works by Ihsan Rustem, Lo Man-Fei, Zhang Xiao-Xiong, Tsai Hui Chen, and Tsai Po-Cheng, among others. This is Pei's fourth season with Ballet BC.

KELSEY LEWIS

Kelsey Lewis (she/her) was born and raised in New York City, and her passion for dance and creativity led to her training at the Ailey School, Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School, and MOVE|NYC| Young Professionals Program. Kelsey graduated from the Juilliard School in May 2025 with a BFA in dance, under the direction of Alicia Graf Mack. During her time at Juilliard, she performed works by Sidra Bell, Camille A. Brown, Johannes Wieland, Bobbi Jene Smith & Or Schraiber, and many others. Kelsey has furthered her training at summer intensives, including Ballet BC's 44 Summer Intensive, NDT Summer Intensive, and Complexions Summer Intensive. She has also worked with the dance collective, kNonAme Artist, under the direction of Roderick George. Kelsey is a National YoungArts Winner in Modern/Contemporary and a Dance Teacher Magazine Scholar. Since joining Ballet BC, Kelsey has performed works by Medhi Walerski, Shahar Binyamini, Crystal Pite, Johan Inger, and Jiří Kylián, among others. This is Kelsey's third season with Ballet BC.

KYLIE MILLER

Kylie Miller (she/her) is a contemporary dance artist and educator from Vancouver, based on the unceded territories of the xʷməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. She trained at the Modus Operandi Contemporary Dance Program from 2016 to 2020 under Tiffany Tregarthen, David Raymond, and Kate Franklin, developing a strong technical foundation and creative voice. Since then, Kylie has worked with Out Innerspace Dance Theatre, Company 605, and Ne.Sans Opera & Dance. In 2022 Kylie joined the Batsheva Ensemble in Tel Aviv, immersing herself in Gaga movement language and performing Ohad Naharin's works locally and internationally. This is Kylie's second season with Ballet BC.

BENJAMIN PERALTA

Benjamin Peralta (he/him) grew up in Jacksonville, Florida, where he danced competitively and trained at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. In 2018,

Benjamin left home to pursue a BFA in dance at the USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance as part of the Class of 2022. While studying at USC Kaufman, Peralta performed the works of artists such as William Forsythe, Jiří Kylián, Ohad Naharin, and more. Prior to joining Ballet BC, Peralta staged William Forsythe's 'The Barre Project' alongside Jodie Gates and William Forsythe at the Dance Theatre of Harlem in New York City. During his time at Ballet BC, he has been in creation processes with Crystal Pite, Medhi Walerski, Johan Inger, Roy Assaf, Pierre Pontvianne, Andrea Peña, and Fernando Hernando Magadan, to name a few. He has also performed works by Sharon Eyal, Marco Goecke, Imre & Marne van Opstal, and others while with Ballet BC. This is Benjamin's fifth season with Ballet BC.

VIVIAN RUIZ

Vivian Ruiz (she/her) was born in Miami, Florida, where she began her dance training at Stars Dance Company and the Sarasota Cuban Ballet School. In 2019, she moved to Vancouver, BC, to attend the Arts Umbrella Post-Secondary Program under the direction of Artemis Gordon.

During her time at Arts Umbrella, Vivian performed works by Crystal Pite, Marco Goecke, Medhi Walerski, Nacho Duato, Victor Quijada, David Raymond, Lesley Telford, Lukas Timulak, and Sharon Eyal. She also participated in Ballet BC's Performance Project during the 2021/22 season and joined the research process for Crystal Pite's Animation in 2021.

In the spring of 2022, Vivian joined Kidd Pivot as a swing for the European tour of *Revisor.* Later that year, she became a company artist with Ballet BC, where she has performed works by William Forsythe, Imre & Marne van Opstal, Johan Inger, Roy Assaf, Jiří Pokorný, Out Innerspace, Bobbi Jene Smith & Or Schraiber, and many other internationally acclaimed choreographers. In addition to performing, Vivian has taught company repertoire and created new work for Ballet BC's 44 Summer Intensive, continuing to develop her voice as an artist. This is Vivian's fifth season with Ballet BC.

KAYLIN STURTEVANT

Kaylin Sturtevant (she/her) is originally from Plano, Texas, and grew up training at Dance Industry Performing Arts Center and Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. She achieved her BFA in Dance in

2020 from the USC Kaufman School of Dance in Los Angeles under the leadership of Jodie Gates. At USC, Kaylin had the opportunity to work closely with and perform works by artists such as William Forsythe, Barak Marshall, Aszure Barton, and Jodie Gates. In 2016, Kaylin was named a U.S. Presidential Scholar of the Arts and National YoungArts Winner in Modern Dance, where she performed at the Kennedy Center in a multi-faceted arts show directed by Debbie Allen.

Kaylin has worked professionally with the DASH Ensemble directed by Gregory Dolbashian and is a certified Pilates instructor through the BASI Comprehensive Program. During her time at Ballet BC, she has performed throughout Europe, the USA, and Canada, dancing works by Medhi Walerski, Sharon Eyal and Gai Behar, William Forsythe, Johan Inger, Marco Goecke and Roy Assaf, Jiří Kylián, and Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber, among others. This is Kaylin's sixth season with Ballet BC.

JACALYN TATRO

A native of Naperville, Illinois, Jacalyn Tatro began her training with Inspire School of Dance, and in May 2022, graduated with a BFA in dance from the Juilliard School. In the spring of 2022, she was chosen for Terese Capucilli's recreation of Martha Graham's 1937 solo, "Deep Song," becoming the first dancer after Ms. Graham to perform the solo set to its original Henry Cowell music score.

Since her time at Ballet BC, Jacalyn has worked on repertoire by Medhi Walerski, Crystal Pite, Jiří Kylián, Johan Inger, William Forsythe, David Raymond and Tiffany Tregarthen, Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber, Sharon Eyal, Roy Assaf, and others. Jacalyn enjoys the challenge of new experiences and has completed Springboard Danse Montreal, the Gaga Lab, Hubbard Street Summer Dance Intensive, and others. This is Jacalyn's fifth season with Ballet BC.

TRAVON CARTER

Emerging Artist

HOMETOWN
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

TRAINING
USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance

JOINED BALLET BC
2026

KAITLIN CHEUNG

Emerging Artist

HOMETOWN
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

TRAINING
Modus Operandi, Nuova X

JOINED BALLET BC
2026

MARCOS MARQUETA

Emerging Artist

HOMETOWN
Barcelona, Spain

TRAINING
IEA Oriol Martorell, European School of Ballet

PREVIOUSLY DANCED WITH
Opera Wrocławska

JOINED BALLET BC
2026

STAN TONIN

Emerging Artist

HOMETOWN
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

TRAINING
Arts Umbrella

JOINED BALLET BC
2025

Stan Tonin (he/him) is a dance artist originally from Halifax, Nova Scotia. In 2022, he moved to Vancouver to attend the Arts Umbrella Post-Graduate Dance Program under the direction of Artemis Gordon. During his time at Arts Umbrella, Stan performed works by choreographers including Crystal Pite, Sharon Eyal, Marco Goecke, William Forsythe, Mats Ek, Aszure Barton, Rebecca Margolick, Ethan Colangelo among many others. He also took part in the Young Choreographers Mentorship Project, directed by Crystal Pite, where he contributed as a choreographer.

To broaden his artistic development, Stan attended summer intensives with companies such as Ballet BC and Nederlands Dans Theater. In the fall of 2024, he joined Ballet BC Annex, performing works by Medhi Walerski, Micaela Taylor, and Zachary Seto. Stan joined Ballet BC for the 2025/26 season. In his first year as an Emerging Artist, Stan performed works by Johan Inger, Crystal Pite, Shahar Binyamini, Medhi Walerski, Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber. This is Stan’s second season with Ballet BC.

KAILEY WORONTSOFF

Emerging Artist

HOMETOWN
Long Island, New York

TRAINING
The Juilliard School

JOINED BALLET BC
2025

Kailey Worontsoff (she/her) was born in Long Island, New York, and raised in Wellington, Florida. She began her diverse dance training at Dance Universe and continued her education at Dreyfoos School of the Arts High School. During her time at Dreyfoos, she earned recognition as a YoungArts Silver Award recipient in contemporary dance and was honored as a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts. Following high school, Kailey moved to New York to attend the Juilliard School under the direction of Alicia Graf Mack and

Melissa Toogood, where she earned her BFA in dance in 2026. During her time at Juilliard, she performed works by Chanel DaSilva, Hope Boykin, Pam Tanowitz, Kyle Abraham, Jose Limon, Aszure Barton, and many others.

Kailey has further honed her artistry through participation in summer intensives, including Springboard Danse, Ballet BC's 44, Nederlands Dans Theater's Summer Intensive, Orsolina28, Arts Umbrella, Alonzo King LINES Ballet, and Complexions Contemporary Ballet. Through these programs, she has studied and performed works by Medhi Walerski, Luca Tessarini, Crystal Pite, William Forsythe, David Raymond and Tiffany Tregarthen, and Sharon Eyal. Kailey joined Ballet BC as an Emerging Artist for the 2025/26 season, and during her first season, she performed major works by Medhi Walerski, Jiri Kylian, Crystal Pite, Johan Inger, Shahar Binyamini, and Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber. This is Kailey's second season with Ballet BC.

JAYDA ZHU

Emerging Artist

HOMETOWN
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

TRAINING
Arts Umbrella

JOINED BALLET BC
2026

BALLET BC

Medhi Walerski artistic director
Kathy MacKenzie managing director
Kate Burrows head of wardrobe
William Detlaff production stage carpenter
Taylor Janzen production electrician
Derek Mack director of production
Kate McMillan senior touring and company manager
Matthew Piton lighting director
Linzi Voth stage manager