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25
26



NOV 6 / 7 / 8 2025

TRILOGY

SWAY

LILA

BOLERO X

Medhi Walerski

Sofia Nappi

Shahar Binyamini



TRILOGY

BALLET BC

WELCOME ↓

CREDITS + NOTES ↓

CHOREOGRAPHERS ↓

DANCERS ↓

SUPPORT ↓

Ballet BC is located on the traditional lands of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), sḵw̓x̓ wú7mesh (Squamish), and sə́l̓l̓wətaʔt̓ (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations. We are grateful for the opportunity to live, work and learn together on unceded Coast Salish Territory.

ARTISTS OF BALLET BC AND ARTS UMBRELLA.
PHOTO BY NOAH ASANIAS.

WELCOME



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

It is a thrill to welcome you to Ballet BC's 2025/26 season. Entering my second year as Chair of the Board, I am more enthused than ever by the contributions this organization continues to make to the cultural landscape here in Vancouver, and around the world.

Since we were last together, the company embarked on an ambitious tour of the UK and Germany, earning countless accolades and rave reviews along the way. We wrapped our biggest-ever 44 Summer Intensive, welcoming 104 young dancers from near and far eager to learn from esteemed faculty in our studios. The Ballet BC Annex, our junior company, premiered two new creations from Vancouver-based choreographers Alexis Fletcher and Vanessa Goodman, and our Ballet BC company dancers got off to a busy start, revisiting a remarkable six pieces of

repertoire to share with audiences on tour, and building a world premiere you will be among the first to see. Their talent and dedication is endless.

At TRILOGY we welcome a record number of season subscribers. It's a phenomenal outpouring of loyalty that enables us to dream big, and is especially heartening as we set the stage for our 40th anniversary season. Thank you for choosing to support Ballet BC.

Bob Armstrong

Chair of the Board

TRILOGY



BALLET BC

LETTER FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

This evening once again reflects the company's vision—one that celebrates creativity, collaboration, and remarkable artistry. TRILOGY brings together three voices, each exploring movement, emotion, and connection in their own way. Together, they reflect

the diversity and depth of what makes Ballet BC unique.

I am constantly inspired by the dedication and imagination of our dancers. Their work, both in and out of the studio, is a true act of devotion—to the art form, to one another, and to the audience. I want to thank choreographers Sofia Nappi and Shahar Binyamini, as well as all the collaborators who have poured their talent and heart into shaping this evening. A special thank you to the dancers of Arts Umbrella, led by the incomparable Artemis Gordon, for their constant support in making the impossible possible. What you witness on stage is the result of countless hours of exploration, courage, and trust.

Behind the scenes, an extraordinary team has brought this vision to life. From production and wardrobe to administration and technical crews, every detail you see and feel tonight carries their imprint. I am deeply grateful for their commitment and passion.

As we begin a new season, I feel immense gratitude for you, our audience, whose presence gives meaning to what we do. Thank you for sharing this journey with us and for supporting Ballet BC as we continue to grow, question, and dream.

Enjoy the performance.

Medhi Walerski

Artistic Director



LETTER FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

Over the past year, I have had the privilege of watching our dancers grow and deepen their artistry. Each one brings something uniquely their own to the stage, and together—whether moving as one or stepping into the spotlight alone—they embody the skill, synchronicity, and mastery that make Ballet BC so extraordinary.

Of course, what you see on stage is the result of countless hands, hearts, and minds working behind the scenes. I am fortunate to be surrounded by an exceptional team whose dedication turns artistic vision into reality.

This week, we also launch our Winter Campaign, a matching initiative to raise \$400,000 in support of Ballet BC's work both on stage and in the community. From building sets to leading workshops in classrooms, your support makes it possible.

We invite you to join us by visiting balletbc.com to make a gift.

Most importantly, thank you. A performance only comes fully alive when it is shared with an audience. We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support as patrons, donors, and volunteers. Special thanks also to our Board of Directors, who so generously give their time and resources to ensure Ballet BC continues to thrive.

We also acknowledge the vital support of our public funders: the Government of Canada, Canadian Heritage, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Province of British Columbia, BC Gaming, the BC Arts Council, and the City of Vancouver.

Finally, I wish to thank Medhi Walerski, my co-leader, whose dedication and vision have made this past year such an inspiring journey. I look forward to the year ahead with excitement and anticipation.

Enjoy the performance.

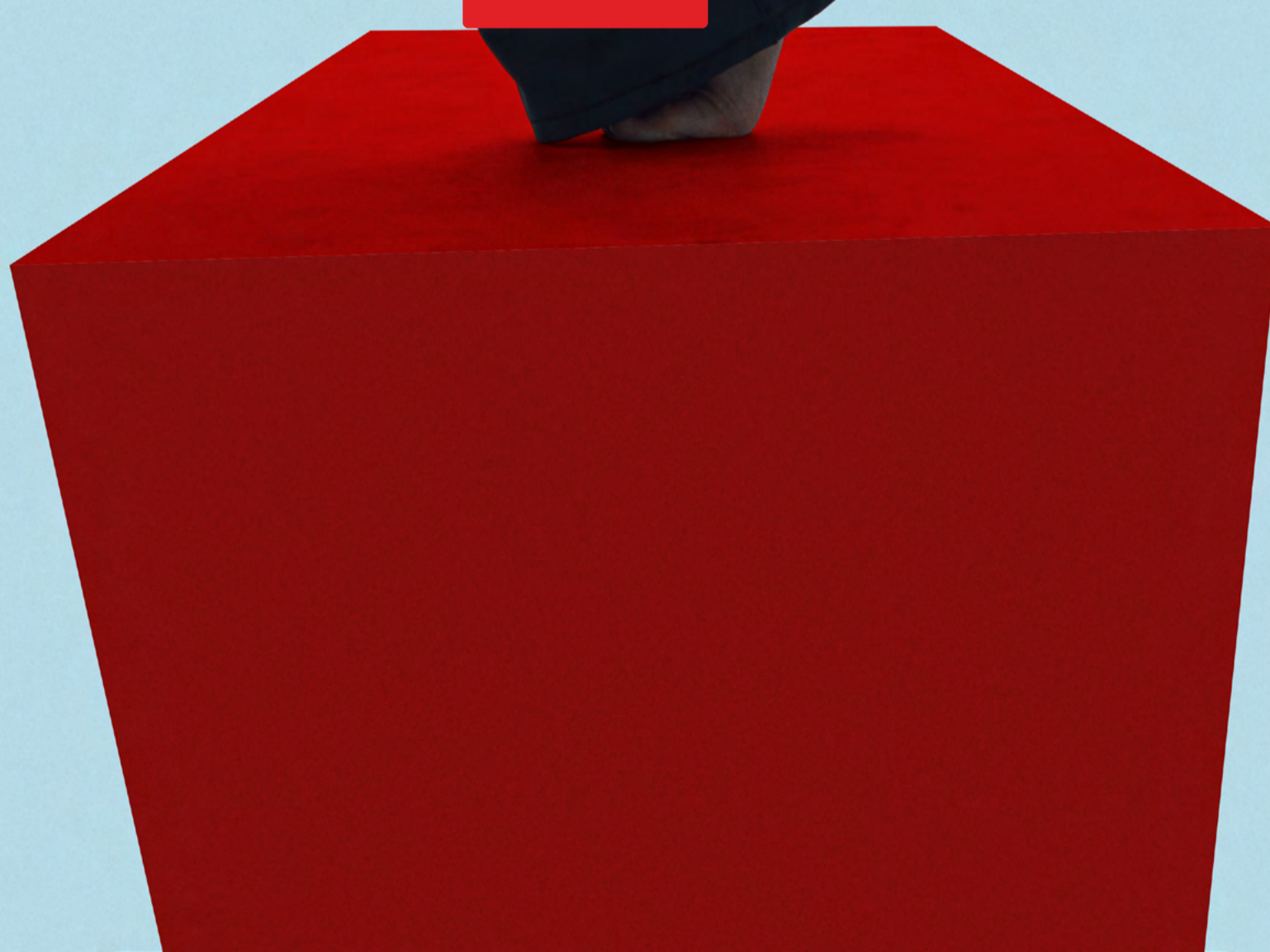
Kathy MacKenzie

Managing Director

TRILOGY

BALLET BC

2025



CREDITS + NOTES

SWAY

World Premiere

November 1 2019, NDT 2, The Hague

Ballet BC Premiere

May 9, 2024

Choreography

Medhi Walerski

Music

Composition by Adrien Cronet

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

Lighting Design

Lisette van der Linden & Pierre Pontvianne

Costume Design

Medhi Walerski

Set Design

Medhi Walerski

Performers

Thu eve / Sat eve

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

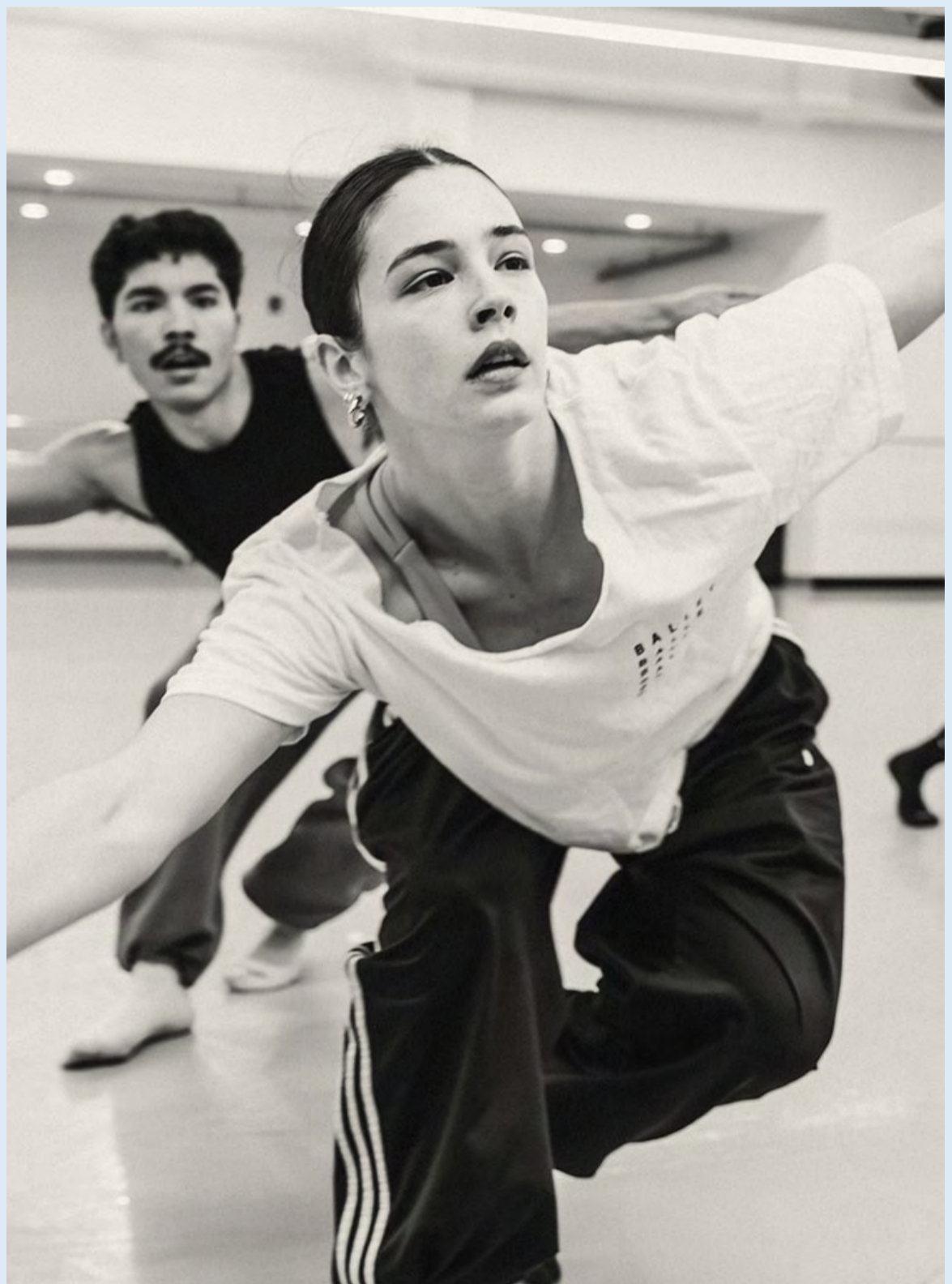
Fri eve / Sat mat

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

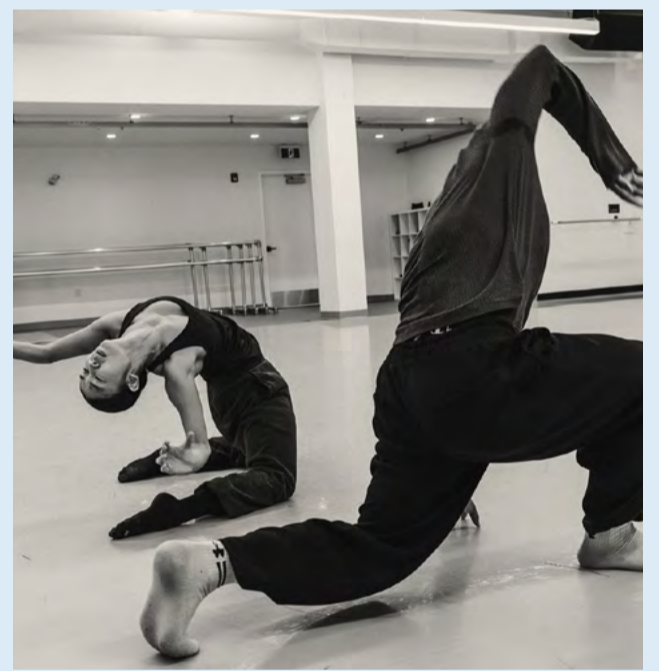
About the work

To me, SWAY embodies the essence of hope, capturing its delicate yet resilient nature. Inspired by the poetry of Emily Dickinson, the creation marked my 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.

— Medhi Walerski



TRILOGY



BALLET BC

LILA

World Premiere

Choreography

Sofia Nappi in collaboration with the dancers

Rehearsal Director

Emily Chessa

Music

Compositions by Ciaran Morahan

“Staumauer” performed by
Kangding Ray, written by David Letellier

“I Would Like” performed by Deru,
written by Benjamin Wynn

“Sofrimento” from the Waldemar Bastos album
“Pretaluz,” courtesy of Luaka Bop

“Bach: Adagio (After Violin Concerto No. 2,
BWV 1042)” performed by Gabriela Montero,
written by Johann Sebastian Bach

“Un Mundo Raro” performed by Chavela Var-
gas, written by Jose Alfredo Jiminez

“Heavens Dust 2” performed and written
by Michael Wall. Used with permission /
courtesy of soundFORMovement

Lighting Design

Matthew Piton

Costume Design

Adriano Popolo Rubbio

Associate Costume Design

Kate Burrows

Performers

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

About the work

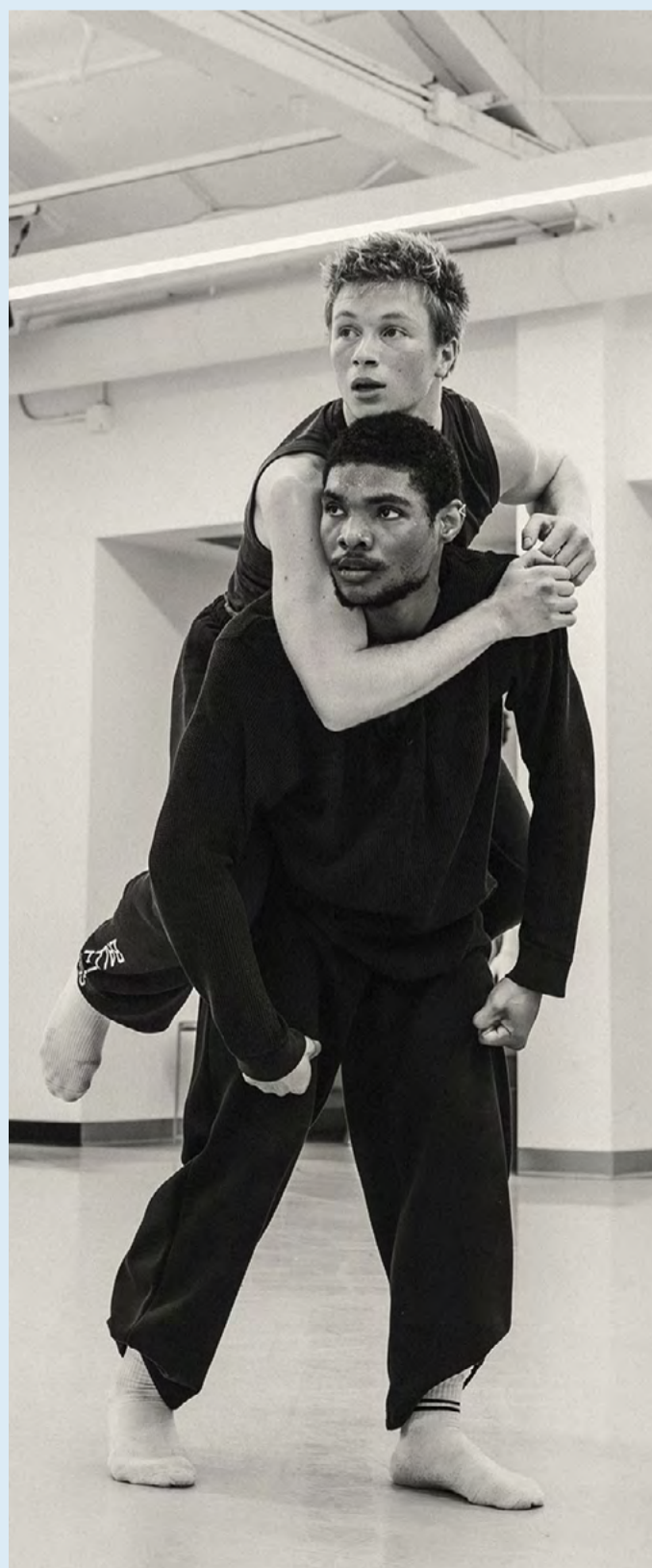
In Sanskrit, LILA means play—the “divine play” of the universe, the unfolding of creation itself. It also carries the resonance of night (laila in Hebrew and Arabic) and lilac, a flower of peace and sensitivity.

It’s so precious as a maker to maintain the world of LILA as delicate and intuitive—as the process was—encouraging to allow the pure experience of it. The main themes that move the work are vulnerability and openness to the unknown, a willingness to stay with not-knowing, which becomes fertile, inclusive, and transformative. As the Italian poet Chandra Livia Candiani writes in “Questo immenso non sapere (‘This Immense Not-Knowing’)”:

“A good practice before any other is the practice of wonder. Practice not-knowing and marveling. [...] Animals and trees teach us not to know, to inhabit the world without the obsession to understand. Their lack of control doesn’t make their world smaller, but vast, mysterious. They know how to surrender, and they teach us a primal and radical trust.”

LILA is not a path to answers, but a surrender to the immensity of not-knowing, where vulnerability becomes strength and encounter becomes creation. In this space, the self dissolves into something larger. Transformation arises naturally, playful yet profound, a gesture of peace in fractured times.

— Sofia Nappi





TRILOGY

BALLET BC

BOLERO X

World Premiere

November 2, 2023, Ballet BC

Choreography

Shahar Binyamini

Music

“Boléro M. 81”, by Maurice Ravel. Performed by Berlin Philharmoniker and Pierre Boulez

Courtesy of Deutsche Grammophon GmbH under license from Universal Music Canada Inc.

Lighting Design

Shahar Binyamini

Associate Lighting Design

Matthew Piton

Costume Design

Shahar Binyamini

Associate Costume Design

Kate Burrows

Performers

Ballet BC Company Artists

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

Nathan Bear, Emma Kuusela, Stan Tonin,
Kailey Worontsoff

Guest Participant

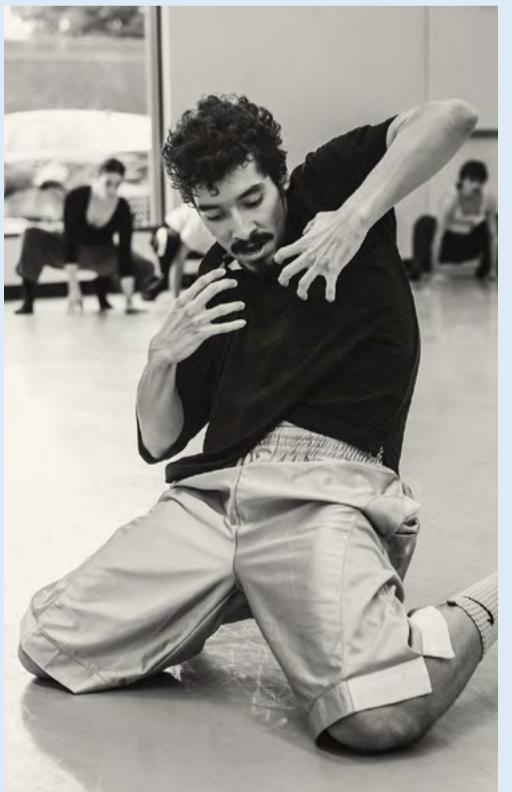
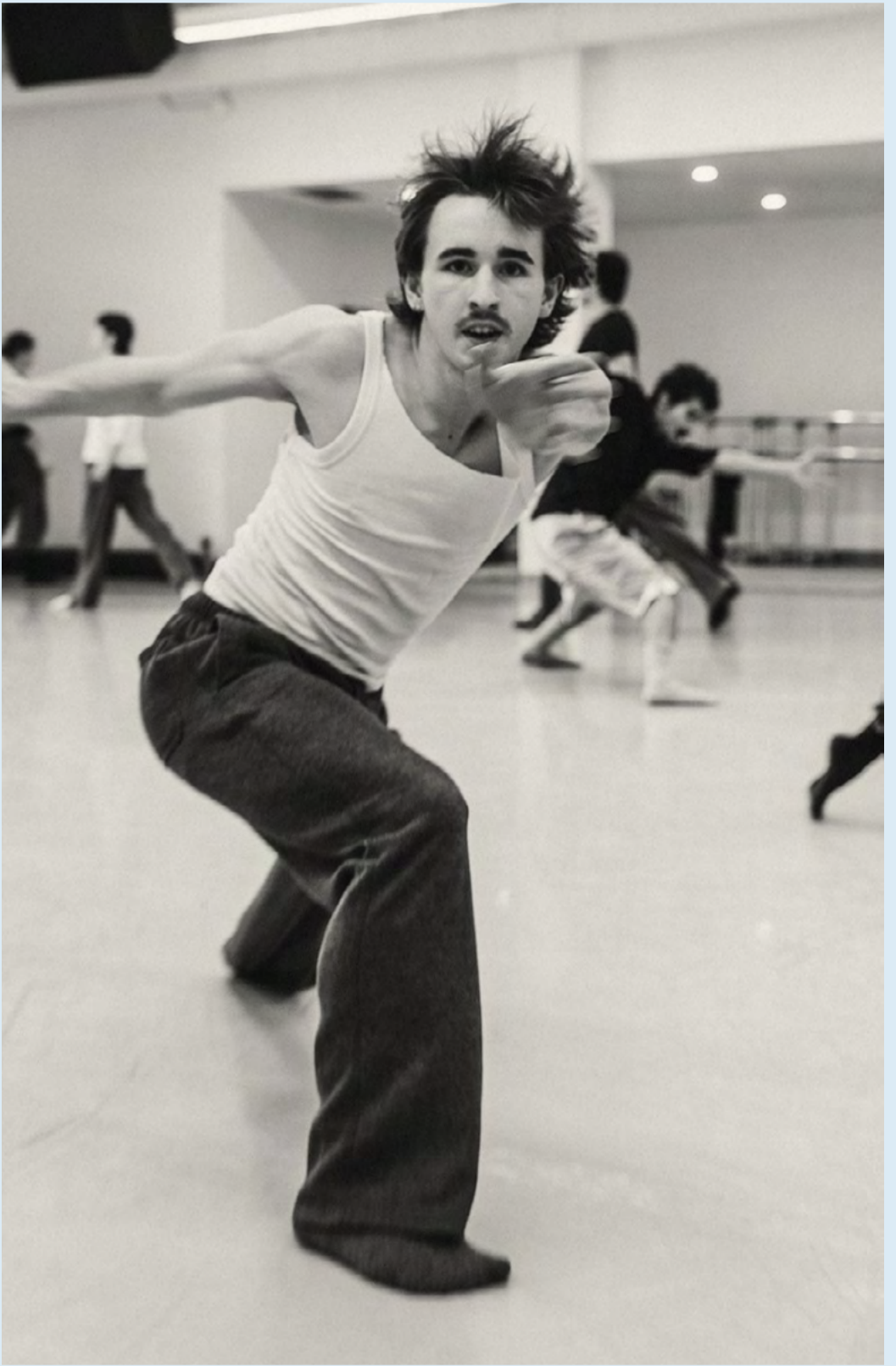
Elizabeth Louie

Arts Umbrella

Amillya Beech, Nathan Coburn, Rebecca Craw,
Eliza Davis, Lilliana Eneliko, Lily Friesen, Sarah
Froese, Ana Garraway, Nia Giselle, Gavin Grey,
Gaya Hagemeyer, Britney Huang, Quinn Isert,
Estelle McGuinness, Madeline McMillan, Isabel
Medalla, Robyn Neumann, Chloe Ohira, Niki
Powell, Noah Prins, Emiliano Rivera-Patton,
Madalyn Sawa, Sophia Springer-Iannantuoni,
Irene Sull, Airi Takenouchi, Robin van Sliedregt,
Mason Ward, Quinn Wyland, Jayda Zhu

About the work

In a thrilling display of strength and precision, 50 dancers take the stage for the return of 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.



TRILOGY

BALLET BC



TRILOGY

BALLET BC

2025

CHOREOGRAPHERS



MEDHI WALERSKI

Raised in France, Walerski initially trained in Normandy with Laurie Bokobza and Christine Caroly before joining the Conservatoire Supérieur 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 VSCD Zwaan in 2013. Walerski has worked closely with many renowned choreographers, creating alongside and performing works by Jiří 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 Bern Ballet, Goteborg Ballet, the Ballet State of Georgia, Staatsballett Hannover, Staatstheater Wiesbaden and Charlotte Ballet.

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.





SOFIA NAPPI

Sofia Nappi is choreographer, founder and artistic director of KOMOCO, a contemporary dance company based in Italy. Her works are presented in Italy and internationally, with tours across Europe as well as Mexico, Canada, and Serbia, hosted by international institutions and festivals such as: La Biennale di Venezia, The Albania Meeting Dance Festival, RomaEuropa Festival and MASDANZA.

Nappi graduated from the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre in New York and her training has been strongly influenced by close contact with the Hofesh Shechter Dance Company and her study of Gaga, the movement language developed by renowned choreographer Ohad Naharin. As an independent choreographer, Nappi creates new works for internationally renowned dance companies and theaters. In 2021, she re-staged *Holelah* with the National Theatre Mannheim, originally

created for the 2019 Venice Biennale; in 2023, *Tagadà* at Staatsoper Hannover, *Moving Cloud* for Scottish Dance Theatre, premiered as part of Celtic Connections 2023, and the inclusive project *Kemet* commissioned by the Dutch company Introdans as part of the HubClub'23 project. In 2024, she choreographed the stage movements for the opera *Platée* at Göteborg Opera and presented the creation *Hara* for NDT 2 as part of the Up & Coming Choreographers project. In 2025, she created *DUENDE* for Leipziger Ballett as well as world premieres for Gauthier Dance//Dance Company Theaterhaus Stuttgart in addition to Ballet BC.





SHAHAR BINYAMINI

Shahar Binyamini 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 and 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.

Acknowledging 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.



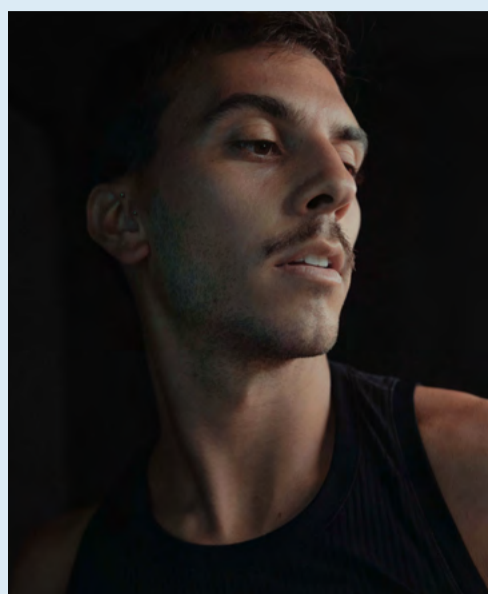
2025

BALLET BC



TRILOGY

DANCERS



Luca Afflitto

Genoa, Italy

Training // Academie de Danse Princesse
Grace, Monte Carlo

Previously danced with // Ballett Zürich
Joined Ballet BC // 2022

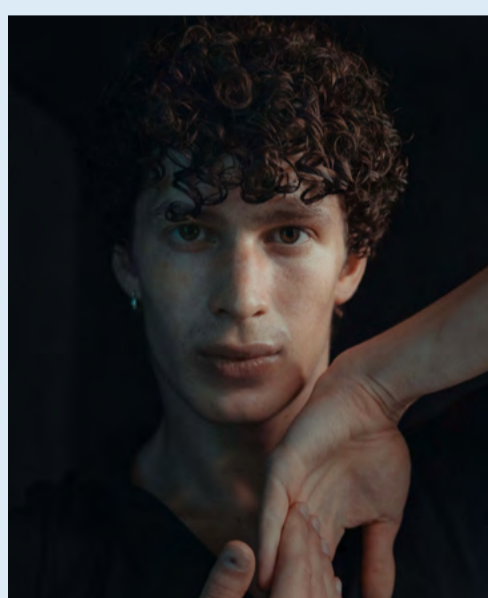


Sidney Chuckas

Evanston, Illinois, USA

Training // USC Gloria Kaufman
School of Dance

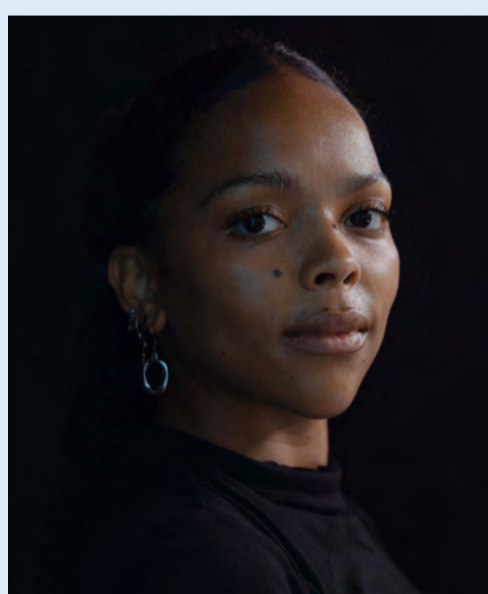
Joined Ballet BC // 2021



Emanuel Dostine

Detroit, Michigan, USA

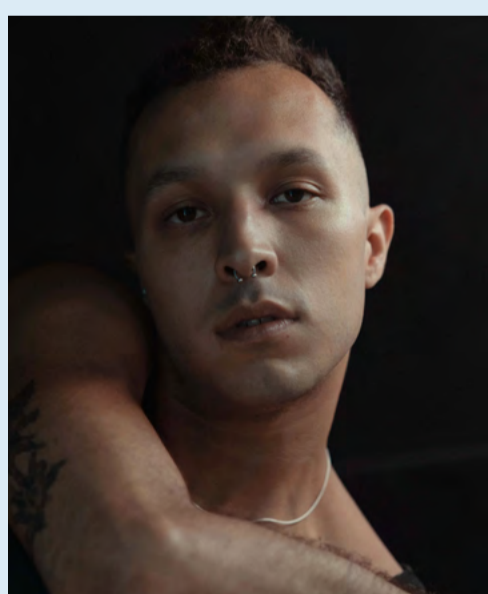
Training // Arts Umbrella
Joined Ballet BC // 2022



Imani Frazier

Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA

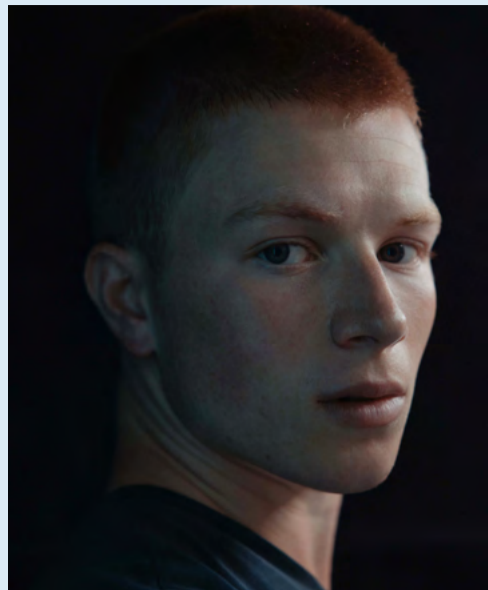
Training // NYU Tisch School of the Arts
Joined Ballet BC // 2024



Michael Garcia

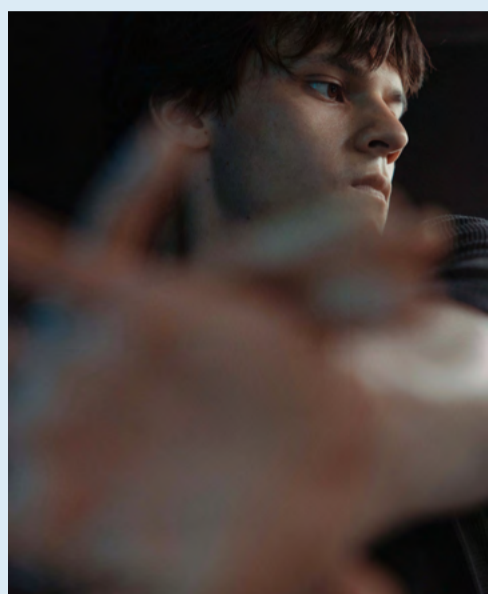
McAllen, Texas, USA

Training // The Juilliard School
Previously danced with // Hubbard Street
Dance Chicago
Joined Ballet BC // 2022



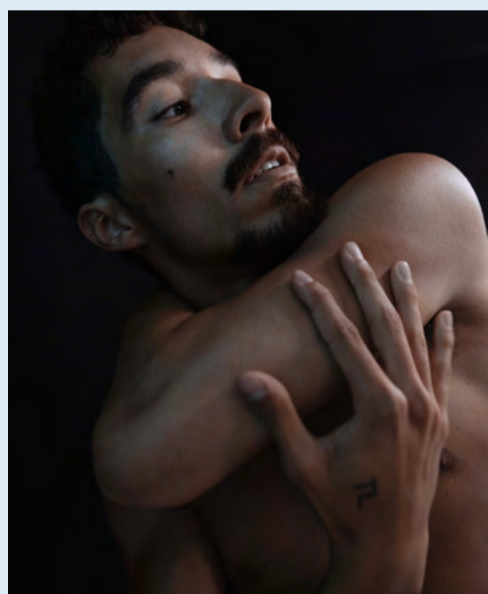
Joziah German
Frisco, Texas, USA

Training // The Juilliard School
Joined Ballet BC // 2024



Orlando Harbutt
Hudson, New York, USA

Training // Manhattan Youth Ballet,
The Juilliard School, Arts Umbrella
Joined Ballet BC // 2022



Eduardo Jiménez Cabrera
Cartago, Costa Rica

Training // The University of the Arts,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Joined Ballet BC // 2023



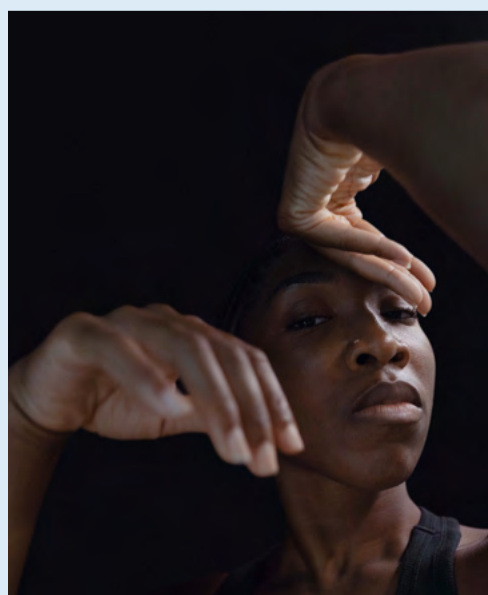
Kiana Jung
Vancouver, BC, Canada

Training // Arts Umbrella
Joined Ballet BC // 2019



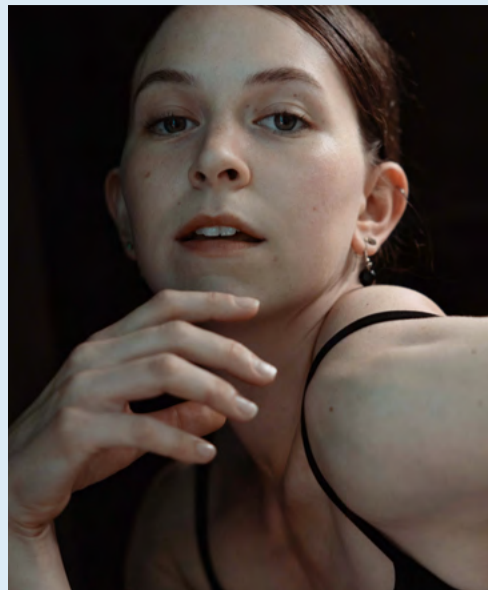
Pei Lun Lai
Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Training // Taipei National University Of The Arts
Joined Ballet BC // 2023



Kelsey Lewis
New York, New York, USA

Training // The Juilliard School
Joined Ballet BC // 2024



Kylie Miller
Vancouver, BC, Canada

Training // The Batsheva Ensemble,
Modus Operandi
Joined Ballet BC // 2025



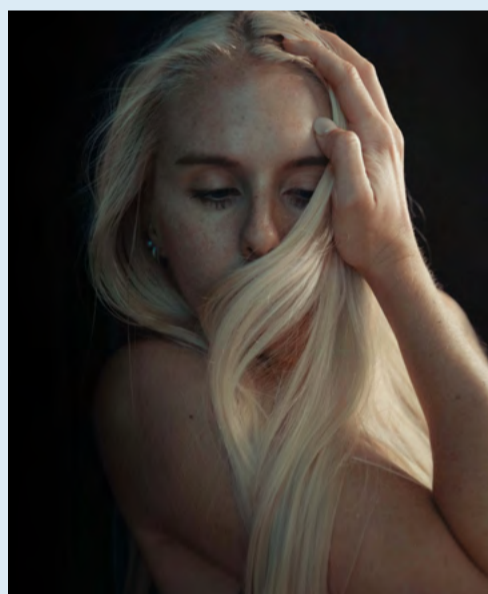
Benjamin Peralta
Jacksonville, Florida, USA

Training // USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance
Joined Ballet BC // 2022



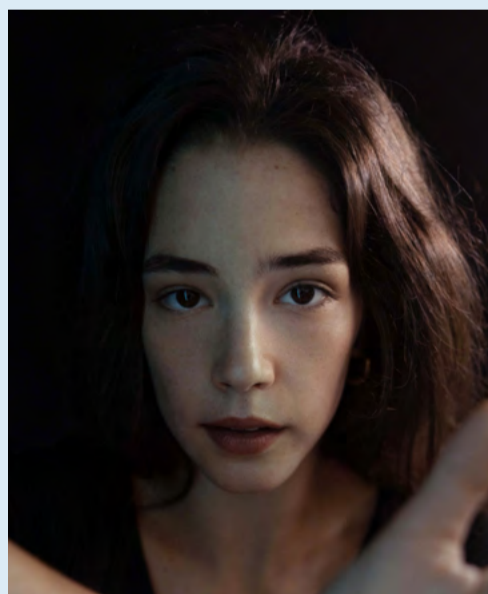
Vivian Ruiz
Miami, Florida, USA

Training // Arts Umbrella
Previously danced with // Kidd Pivot
Joined Ballet BC // 2022



Kaylin Sturtevant
Plano, Texas, USA

Training // USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance
Previously danced with // The DASH Ensemble
Joined Ballet BC // 2021



Jacalyn Tatro
Naperville, Illinois, USA

Training // The Juilliard School
Joined Ballet BC // 2022

EMERGING ARTISTS

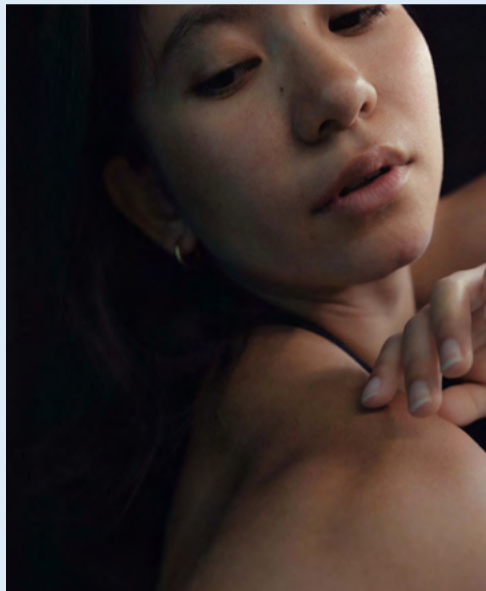


Nathan Bear

Langley, BC, Canada

Training // Arts Umbrella

Joined Ballet BC // 2024



Emma Kuusela

Vancouver, BC, Canada

Training // Arts Umbrella

Joined Ballet BC // 2024



Stan Tonin

Halifax, NS, Canada

Training // Arts Umbrella

Joined Ballet BC // 2025



Kailey Worontsoff

Long Island, New York, USA

Training // The Juilliard School

Joined Ballet BC // 2025



Elizabeth Louie

(Guest Participant)

Vancouver, BC, Canada

Training // Training // Arts Umbrella



2025

BALLET BC

TRIOLOGY

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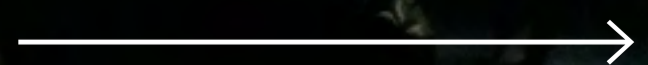
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