

BALLET THEATRE COMPANY

Cinderella

CHOREOGRAPHY BY STEPHANIE DATTELLAS

APRIL 29-30, 2023

THE BUSHNELL'S
MAXWELL M. & RUTH R. BELDING THEATER



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BALLET THEATRE COMPANY

Cinderella

2023

Saturday, April 29, 1:00pm
Sunday, April 30, 11:00 am*
Sunday, April 30, 3:00 pm

* Sensory-Friendly performance

The Maxwell M. and Ruth R. Belding Theater
The Bushnell Performing Arts Center
166 Capitol Ave, Hartford, CT 06106



Artistic Direction Stephanie Dattellas
Choreography Stephanie Dattellas
Music Prokofiev
Starring Jo-ann Burke
Gennaro Della Ragione
Lindsey Donnell
Darlene Zoller

On the cover: *The Prince and Cinderella*, Gennaro Della Ragione and Jo-ann Burke
Photo by Thomas Giroir | Cover illustration by Sofia Brummitt
Ballroom photo by Chetroni | Dreamstime.com | Graphic Design by Laurel Graphic Design

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Ballet Theatre Company (BTC) is grateful for the generosity of our donors who collectively help to build this growing organization one season at a time. Your investment to create stunning ballet performances, fund programs and support job opportunities will grant you access to unique opportunities for brand recognition and art experiences.

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WELCOME

Hello Friends,

Welcome back to The Bushnell's Belding Theater for Ballet Theatre Company's spring production of *Cinderella*. We are thrilled that you chose to spend the day with us.

It has been a gratifying experience to revisit a production that each day reminds me just how much our company has grown. *Cinderella* was the first production I choreographed for BTC when I joined the company in 2017. Its success marked the beginning of a personal aspiration to grow this well-established dance company and bring professional ballet to a wider audience in Greater Hartford.

Five years later, I am proud to say that BTC has indeed steadily expanded. For example, we provide over 150 jobs each performance season, our dance education reaches hundreds of children, and through a collaboration with The Miracle League of CT we now offer The Sensory-Friendly Ballet. All this and more is made possible by our incredible community of donors, volunteers and patrons like you.

Thank you.

The story of *Cinderella* demonstrates how we can rise above hardships and adversity with kindness, courage, and grit. Our artists want nothing more than to inspire imaginations to take flight, and to leave audiences feeling like there are many possibilities in life for happiness.

We hope to do just that today.

Enjoy the show,

Sincerely,



Stephanie Dattellas
Artistic Director



THE STORY OF CINDERELLA

PROLOGUE

The story begins with young Cinderella grieving at her father's funeral. With both of her parents now deceased, young Cinderella worries about her future with her cruel Stepmother, and two nasty Stepsisters.

INSIDE THE HOUSE

Cinderella is left to grow up serving as a maid to her Stepmother and Stepsisters. All day long Cinderella is made to sweep, clean, and polish, while her mean Stepsisters take every opportunity to torment her. Cinderella looks for comfort and friendship from her only friends, the mice.

The Prince of the kingdom, soon to be crowned king, is advised by his parents to find a wife. To please his parents, the Prince decides to throw a ball and invite all the eligible young ladies in the kingdom. Cinderella's Stepsisters are giddy with excitement to have been invited to the ball at the palace. The town modiste arrives with dressmakers, hairdressers, and jewelers in tow, eager to help the Stepsisters prepare for the ball. Amidst all of the excitement, an old Beggar Woman comes asking for alms. The Stepfamily refuses her request, but Cinderella kindly offers her some bread and water. The old woman casts a gentle look at the kind girl and disappears.

After getting dressed, the Stepsisters practice waltzing with the Dance Master. As the Stepsisters clumsily attempt to dance, Cinderella tries on a dress that was tossed out by the Stepsisters and suggested by the modiste. When the Stepfamily readies to leave for the ball, Cinderella asks to join them. The Stepsisters, seeing her in one of their discarded dresses, become enraged and rip the dress to shreds. The Stepfamily departs for the ball leaving poor Cinderella behind, sad and alone.

THE SEASON FAIRIES

Cinderella's mice friends scurry in to cheer her up and mimic her Stepsisters' attempt to dance. Suddenly, the Beggar Woman reappears and reveals herself as Cinderella's Fairy Godmother. She tells Cinderella that, as a reward for her kindness, she shall go to the Prince's ball. She calls upon the Season Fairies to come and help Cinderella prepare. The Spring Fairy transforms her torn dress into a beautiful glittering ball gown. The Summer Fairies bring Cinderella a crown to adorn her head. The Autumn Fairy brings a pumpkin which she magically turns into a carriage for Cinderella. Lastly, the Winter Fairy presents Cinderella with glass slippers.

Before Cinderella departs, her Fairy Godmother warns her that she must leave the ball before the clock strikes midnight, when all of the magic charms will fade away and Cinderella will be a servant to her unforgiving stepfamily once more.

THE STORY OF CINDERELLA

THE BALLROOM AT THE PALACE

The guests arrive at the palace, including Cinderella's Stepmother and Stepsisters. Prince Nicolai, prince of a nearby kingdom and the life-long best friend of the royal prince, announces the arrival of the Prince, and everyone begins to dance. When Cinderella enters the ball in her stunning, shimmering dress, everyone turns in awe, mistaking her for a princess. Even her Stepmother and Stepsisters fail to recognize Cinderella. The Prince asks Cinderella to dance, and the ballroom is once again filled with waltzing guests.

As the evening continues, the palace maids are summoned to serve the royal feast. The clumsy Stepsisters intervene and a food fight breaks out between them.

The Prince and Cinderella dance a beautiful pas de deux together, falling madly in love. Caught up in the dance, Cinderella loses track of the time. Suddenly, the clock strikes midnight, and Cinderella, remembering her Fairy Godmother's warning, frantically leaves the palace. In her haste, she leaves behind one of her glass slippers, which miraculously remains in the ballroom after the magic has worn off. Dismayed, the Prince picks up the slipper and vows he will find the girl he wishes to marry.

THE VILLAGE

The next day, the Prince and Nicolai go looking for Cinderella, first paying a visit to the town shoemaker, and then making their way through the kingdom to try the glass slipper on every young woman who attended the ball. Villagers of all ages, eager for the opportunity to marry into the royal family, try to convince the Prince that they are the dazzling young woman from the ball.

INSIDE THE HOUSE

When he arrives at Cinderella's home, the Stepsisters painfully try to fit the small glass shoe on their large feet, to no avail. The Stepmother, desperate to marry into royalty, faints after attempting to fit her own foot into the slipper. As Cinderella rushes to her Stepmother's aid, the matching glass slipper, falls from her pocket. The Prince, seeing the slipper, immediately recognizes the modest Cinderella dressed in rags as the beautiful princess from the ball.

The two reunited lovers share a dance and *live happily ever after.*



CINDERELLA BALLET

ACT I

PROLOGUE

Story-Telling Heralds Aria Greenbaum, Riya Parekh,
Claire Casey*
Wicked Stepmother Darlene Zoller
Young Cinderella Leah Devor
Young Stepsisters Evie Messinger, Sofia Wargo

INSIDE THE HOUSE

Cinderella Jo-ann Burke
Wicked Stepmother Darlene Zoller
Wicked Stepsisters Calvin Bittner, Ali Nitowski
Mice Quinlan Greenbaum, Emmanuelle
Hazelton, Hunter James, Emelia Martinez,
Nicole Therault, Ava Johnson*
Beggar Woman Sophia Furbush
Town Crier Margie Fischer
Modiste Hailey Wankier
Dressers Sofia Brummitt, Nupur Sondhi,
Eva Speranza, Valerie Warner, Kai Whalen,
Elizabeth Windnagle, Jade Bello*, Kyla
Cheng*, Leah Devor*, Jillian Hubbard*,
Evie Messinger*, Sofia Wargo*
Dance Master James Felton II
Shadows Jade Bello, Leah Devor, Sophia Furbush,
Jillian Hubbard, Evie Messinger, Amanda
Rivera, Sofia Wargo
Fairy Godmother Lindsey Donnell

*Understudy

CINDERELLA BALLET

THE SEASON FAIRIES

Cinderella	Jo-ann Burke
Fairy Godmother	Lindsey Donnell
Spring Fairy	Emily Aubrey Silva
Little Spring Fairy	Ella Minto, Anna Webb*, Beth Webb*
Summer Fairies	James Felton II, Naomi Langill
Little Summer Fairy	Emerson Geller, Anna Webb*, Beth Webb*
Fall Fairy	Nicoletta Consales
Little Fall Fairy	Claire Casey, Anna Webb*, Beth Webb*
Little Winter Fairy	Alyssa Greenwood, Anna Webb*, Beth Webb*
Pumpkin	Margie Fischer, Sofia Wargo*
Winter Fairy	Kerry Shannon
Season Fairy Corps	Sofia Brummitt, Kyla Cheng, Nupur Sondhi, Eva Speranza, Hailey Wankier, Valerie Warner, Kai Whalen, Elizabeth Windnagle, Jade Bello*, Leah Devor*, Margie Fischer*, Jillian Hubbard*, Evie Messinger*, Sofia Wargo*
Horses	Lucy Adams, Emmanuelle Hazelton, Hunter James, Emelia Martinez

INTERMISSION

ACT II

THE BALLROOM AT THE PALACE

Story-Telling Heralds	Aria Greenbaum, Riya Parekh, Claire Casey*
Governess	Hailey Wankier

CINDERELLA BALLET

Maids	Sofia Brummitt, Nupur Sondhi, Valerie Warner (4/29, 4/30 AM) // Elizabeth Windnagle (4/30 PM), Kai Whalen (4/29, 4/30 PM) // Eva Speranza (4/30 PM)
Palace Children	Sahana Arulampalam, Abiageal Boyle, Mary Fournier, Mack Raissian
Ballroom Corps	Sofia Brummitt, Kyla Cheng, Nicoletta Consales, Naomi Langill, Kerry Shannon, Nupur Sondhi, Eva Speranza, Emily Aubrey Silva, Hailey Wankier, Valerie Warner, Kai Whalen, Elizabeth Windnagle, Jade Bello*, Leah Devor*, Margie Fischer*, Jillian Hubbard*, Evie Messinger*, Sofia Wargo*
Ballroom Men	L. James O'Gilvie, Connor Whitbey
Wicked Stepsisters	Calvin Bittner, Ali Nitowski
Wicked Stepmother	Darlene Zoller
Prince Nicolai	James Felton II
Prince	Gennaro Della Ragione
Maids with Carts	Sofia Brummitt, Nicoletta Consales, Kerry Shannon, Nupur Sondhi, Valerie Warner (4/29, 4/30 AM) // Elizabeth Windnagle (4/30 PM), Kai Whalen (4/29, 4/30 PM) // Eva Speranza (4/30 PM)
Shadows	Jade Bello, Sofia Brummitt, Kyla Cheng, Leah Devor, Margie Fischer, Sophia Furbush, Jillian Hubbard, Evie Messinger, Amanda Rivera, Nupur Sondhi, Eva Speranza, Hailey Wankier, Sofia Wargo, Valerie Warner, Kai Whalen, Elizabeth Windnagle, Khushi Grover*, Ella Nunez*
Fairy Godmother	Lindsey Donnell

PAUSE

CINDERELLA BALLET

THE VILLAGE

Shoe Maker	Connor Whitbey
Village Corps	Sofia Brummitt, Kyla Cheng, Nupur Sondhi, Eva Speranza, Hailey Wankier, Valerie Warner, Kai Whalen, Elizabeth Windnagle
Village Teenagers	Jade Bello, Leah Devor, Margie Fischer, Khushi Grover, Jillian Hubbard, Evie Messinger, Ella Nunez, Sofia Wargo
Village Children	Claire Casey, Elizabeth Fournier, Emerson Geller, Aria Greenbaum, Alyssa Greenwood, Ava Johnson, Emelia Martinez, Ella Minto, Riya Parekh, Heather Voth, Anna Webb, Beth Webb, Lucy Adams*, Quinlan Greenbaum*
Village Demi-Soloists	Nicoletta Consales, Kerry Shannon
Prince Nicolai	James Felton II
Prince	Gennaro Della Ragione
Young Village Children	Abiageal Boyle, Mack Raissian
Village Soloist 1	Naomi Langill
Story-Telling Heralds	Aria Greenbaum, Riya Parekh, Claire Casey*
Village Soloist 2	Emily Aubrey Silva

INSIDE THE HOUSE

Cinderella	Jo-ann Burke
Wicked Stepmother	Darlene Zoller
Wicked Stepsisters	Calvin Bittner, Ali Nitowski
Prince Nicolai	James Felton II
Prince	Gennaro Della Ragione
Fairy Godmother	Lindsey Donnell
Mice	Quinlan Greenbaum, Emmanuelle Hazelton, Hunter James, Emelia Martinez, Nicole Therault, Ava Johnson*

BTC COMPANY DANCERS



BTC's company dancers are joined by international and world-renowned guest artists to bring its production of *The Cinderella* to life on stage.

To learn more about BTC's company dancers see pages 23-25.

BTC's Workforce Development Fund

BTC provides over 150 jobs per performance season.

The ballet company consists of resident dance professionals, choreographers, office staff, costume designers, lighting designers, master electricians, videographers, photographers, scenic designers, stagehands, and teaching artists.

BTC is part of the Greater Hartford arts scene, and we are proud to be a part of growing the region's robust and artist-friendly economy. Your patronage will benefit the strength of the artistic community in the heart of Connecticut.

Please email giving@dancebtc.org if a contribution to BTC's Workforce Development Fund is right for you.

BTC GUEST ARTISTS



Lindsey Donnell
Fairy Godmother

Lindsey Donnell is an artist with the internationally renowned Dance Theatre of Harlem. She was born and raised in Midland, Texas where she studied ballet under the late Judy Coleman and Susan Clark followed by her time at Butler University, earning degrees in Dance-Arts Administration and Journalism. She began her professional career with Nashville Ballet until moving to New York City to join Dance Theatre of Harlem for the company's celebrated return and inaugural year under Virginia Johnson. During her time with the company, she has had the honor of performing in almost all 50 states and for audiences around the world, including Italy, Honduras, Israel, Turkey, Poland and Brazil and at the White House for former First Lady Michelle Obama. Witnessing the power of art to unite communities led Lindsey to speak at TEDxBroadway 2016 and be a featured artist at the opening of One World Trade Center. Some performance highlights for Lindsey include the 2017 Kennedy Center Honors, Jacobs Pillow, Veil Dance Festival, and the Kennedy Center's Ballet Across America. In her repertoire are works by George Balanchine, William Forsythe, Nacho Duato, Alvin Ailey, Robert Garland, Geoffrey Holder, Dianne McIntyre and Annabelle Lopez-Ochoa. Lindsey is ever grateful for her family and friends, her mentor Charla Genn, and to be dancing with BTC this season! (Photo: Theik Photo)



Darlene Zoller
Step Mother

Darlene Zoller is the co-founder and co-artistic director of Playhouse on Park where she has directed *Pippin*, (Best Director of a Musical/Broadway World,) *Nunsense*, *Chicago* (Best Director of a Musical/Broadway World,) *Pinkalicious*, *Elephant and Piggie*, *Swinging On A Star*, *That Holiday Feeling* and *Say Things Funny*, and choreographed; *Pippin*, (Best Choreographer of a Musical/Broadway World,) *Into The Woods*, *The Scottsboro Boys*, *In The Heights*, *A Chorus Line*, *Hair*, *Cabaret*, among others. She is the founder, director and choreographer of stop/time dance theater, the resident dance company of Playhouse on Park, now in its twentieth year. She was voted Best Director of a Musical/Broadway World for *I'd Rather Be Dancing*. CT Critics Circle nominee for Best Choreographer for *Hair*, *Rockin' The Forest* and *In The Heights*. She IS Mama D of *Mama D's Outrageous Romp*; a grownups-only music, dance, and comedy event exclusive to the Playhouse. Social media followers know her as "the driveway lady" for having taught 450 consecutive days of *We're Better When We're Dancing* dance classes online during the pandemic where she gathered a loyal following. Darlene is an adjunct professor at the University of Hartford's Hartt School where she directed and choreographed *Chicago* and did the choreography for *On The Twentieth Century*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Smile*, *Curtains* and *Nunsense*. Zoller also teaches dance classes for adults for the Playhouse Theatre Academy and other locations and is a dance/fitness instructor at Big Sky Fitness in Vernon.

BTC GUEST ARTISTS



Calvin Bittner
Stepsister

Calvin Bittner is a performer and choreographer living in Hartford, CT. He graduated from The Hartt School in 2017 with a degree in Dance Performance. Since then he spent a year as a company artist with Ballet Hartford (formerly Vivid Ballet), and is now freelancing as a choreographer, ballet teacher, and performer. He is currently on faculty at The Hartt School (University of Hartford) and Ballet Theatre Company of West Hartford. His choreographic work has been presented at The American College Dance Association, University of Saint Joseph, The Alvin Ailey School, and Jacob's Pillow. He has also pursued work as a professional wig stylist.



L. James O'Gilvie
Ballroom Man

L. James O'Gilvie began his dance education with Boston Ballet School's City Dance Program progressing to the Pre-Professional Program and performed in the Nutcracker as a Party boy for three years. In 2017, following a summer studying at The Ailey School's Summer Intensive Program in New York, James was inspired to expand his dance education with other genres and joined Urbanity Dance as a student, Youth Company member, and Junior Apprentice. He is currently a BFA candidate in Dance Performance at the Hartt School, the University of Hartford with plans to graduate in 2024.



Connor Whitbey
Ballroom Man

Connor Whitbey is 20 years old from Columbia, Missouri. He is currently training at the University of Hartford's Hartt School as a second year. Previously he spent his years traveling across the country with his home studio. He has been dancing for 11 years. He currently is an aspiring professional dancer and choreographer.

CINDERELLA PRODUCTION TEAM

Artistic Director	Stephanie Dattellas
Choreography	Stephanie Dattellas
Rehearsal Director	Emily Silva
Production Manager	Megan O'Brien
Lighting Design	Samuel Biondolillo
Scenic Design	Jacob Sikorski
Stage Manager	Joshua Stenger
Costume Design	Tracy Dorman, Pat Ubaldi Nurnberger, Norma Savarino
Seamstresses	Tracy Dorman, Pat Ubaldi Nurnberger, Darby Newsome, Andrea Usami
Headpiece Design	Heidi Usami
Prop Design	Megan Klamert, Megan O'Brien
Scenic Fabrication of Clock	J. Pizzuti
Scenic Fabrication of Carriage	William Heerdt
Social Media Coordinator	James Felton II
Graphic Designer	Laurel Hoskins
Graphics Intern	Sofia Brummitt
Lead Chaperones	Margaret Casey, Claire Fournier, Kelley Geller, Brooke Greenwood, Karla Kress-Boyle, Kerri Raissian
Costuming Assistant	Kelley Geller
Boutique Coordinator	Monica Whalen
Photography	Tracy Dorman, Thomas Giroir
Videography	Peter Cofrancesco, Creation Dream



Additional thanks goes to the many parents and volunteers for their tireless support of Ballet Theatre Company's production of *Cinderella*.

Thank you to our foundation supporters, our business sponsors, and to our patrons.

ABOUT BALLET THEATRE COMPANY

BALLET
THEATRE
COMPANY

The mission of Ballet Theatre Company (BTC) is to enrich Greater Hartford by offering professional-caliber dance productions, dance education for ages 3 to adult in its training school, The School of Ballet Theatre Company provides dance related experiences and workshops free of charge to children through its Community Youth Enrichment Program.

BTC was founded in West Hartford in 1999. During its first three years, the performance company presented an annual spring repertory performance at the Gilman Theater, Greater Hartford Jewish Community Center. In December 2002, BTC accepted an invitation to stage its first production of *The Nutcracker* at the University of Saint Joseph's Hoffman Auditorium in the Carol Autorino Center for the Arts and Humanities.

In 2021, BTC moved its performance season to The Bushnell. Since then, it has presented two sold out productions of *The Nutcracker* (in 2021 and 2022), premiered its original ballet, *Aladdin*, and is presenting *Cinderella* in Spring 2023.



Jo-ann Burke and Aldeir Monteiro, BTC's Aladdin, 2022 | Photo: Thomas Giroir

BTC ARTISTIC TEAM



Stephanie Dattellas, Artistic Director

Stephanie Dattellas is an accomplished professional dancer, choreographer, director, and teacher. Her training began with Ballet and Dance of Upstate NY, Inc., under the direction of Kathleen Rathbun, and continued professionally performing with companies such as Suzanne Farrell Ballet, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, and Buglisi Dance Theatre. Dattellas has in-depth experience developing young dancers' technique, strength and artistry, and passionately believes that finding personal individuality is equally as important as developing technique. Dattellas joined Ballet Theatre Company as Artistic Director and General Manager in June 2017 and since has choreographed and premiered *Cinderella* (2018), the first full-length ballet presented by BTC, *The Nutcracker* (2018), *Sleeping Beauty* (2019), and *Aladdin* (2022). Prior to Ballet Theatre Company, Dattellas was the Ballet Mistress and Company Manager of the Syracuse City Ballet.



Emily Silva, Rehearsal Director

Emily Aubrey Silva grew up in Sandown, NH, and completed her pre-professional training at Boston Ballet School followed by Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre's Graduate Program, where she also taught on the Children's Division faculty. Emily holds a BFA in Dance Performance and Ballet Pedagogy from the University of Hartford's Hartt School and is a former soloist with Ballet Hartford. She has been a member of SBTC faculty and BTC Artistic Staff in various roles since 2018, in addition to appearing as a guest dancer. Silva joined BTC as a Season Dancer in 2019 and has been BTC's Rehearsal Director since 2020.

BTC ARTISTIC TEAM



Paul Mejia, Artistic Advisor

Paul Mejia was born in Lima, Peru, but was raised in New York. He joined the School of American Ballet in 1958, and had choreographed his first ballets by the age of fourteen. Mr. Mejia joined the New York City Ballet in 1964, and danced principal roles in many of George Balanchine's ballets. In 1972, he joined Maurice Bejart's Ballet of the Twentieth Century where he danced and choreographed throughout Europe; and in 1977, he staged a season of ballet in Guatemala, where he created four new ballets including *Romeo and Juliet*, the first of his highly acclaimed Shakespearean ballet series. Mr. Mejia

joined the Chicago City Ballet as co-artistic director with Maria Tallchief; and during the next seven years, he created fifteen new ballets, including his full-length version of *Cinderella*, which toured nationally and internationally to great acclaim. His ballet *Eight by Adler*, music by Richard Adler, was later filmed for PBS and won an Award for Suzanne Farrell.

From 1987 to 1998, he was the artistic director of the Fort Worth Dallas Ballet, during which time he added thirty-two of his own works to the company's repertoire, including sixteen world premieres. Dedicated to the artistic vision and philosophy of George Balanchine, Mr. Mejia has choreographed dramatic story ballets, as well as works in the neoclassical style; and has choreographed several works for operas, including the Chicago Lyric Opera. He has been a guest teacher and lecturer in various schools and universities throughout the US.

In 1984, he was selected by Esquire Magazine as one of the "Outstanding Americans Under 40." In 1998, Mr. Mejia became the artistic advisor of the Metropolitan Classical Ballet, then Ballet Arlington. He has added many of his own works to the company's repertoire, including three world premieres, and has staged several George Balanchine ballets. In 2001, he assumed the position of executive director for the Company, and in 2002 was named co-artistic director with Alexander Vetrov. He and his wife, Maria Terezia Balogh, and their children, Roman, Isabella and Lazslo, reside in West Hartford, CT.



Maria Terezia Balogh, Artistic Advisor

As a professional ballerina for twenty-two years, Maria Terezia Balogh was a principal dancer with the Lyric Opera Ballet, later known as Chicago City Ballet, and the Fort Worth Ballet. During that time, she was an instructor in the official schools of both companies. After she retired as a dancer, she married and had three children, but continued her career as a ballet instructor. Presently, she is the Founding Director of Dance for All Saints' Episcopal School in Fort Worth, where she instructs student levels early childhood - 12. Ms. Balogh's greatest reward is to instill in her students a love of classical ballet they can enjoy throughout their lives.

BTC ADMINISTRATION TEAM



Brianna Dunlap, Development Director

Brianna Dunlap joined Ballet Theatre Company in 2021. Brianna is a results-oriented leader who specializes in growing and maintaining organizational development programs. She loves connecting people to what they are passionate about, and focused on building and stewarding strong relationships with our BTC supporters. Brianna earned her Master's degree in Public History at Central Connecticut State University (2016). She is the author of *Connecticut Valley Tobacco*, a History Press book on the history, culture, and people of cigar tobacco agriculture.



Nicoletta Consales, School Administrator

Nicoletta Consales is an Italian-American, classically trained dancer and choreographer from northern New Jersey. In addition to her role as BTC's School Administrator, Nicoletta is also a resident dancer. See page 24 for more information about her dance experience.



Victoria Jaenson, Community Engagement

Originally from Kampala, Uganda, Victoria Jaenson began her formal dance training at the age of seven in Vermont. She later studied at the Rock School in Philadelphia, eventually joining the faculty. In addition to her role as a BTC resident dancer, Victoria is excited in her position as BTC's Community Engagement Administrator for the 2022-2023 Season.



James Felton II, Social Media Content Creator

James Felton II is a resident dancer with Ballet Theatre Company. He also fills additional role of BTC's Social Media guru for the 2022-2023 Season. Please see page 23 for more information about his dance experience.

BTC PRODUCTION TEAM



Thomas Giroir, Photography

Thomas attended Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas on a dance scholarship and received his BFA in Dance. He joined the Hartford Ballet and danced there for nine years. After retiring from dance, Giroir pursued a career in photography, specializing in dance photography. He has worked with many dance companies and schools in the New England area, including photographing Mikhail Baryshnikov's one man show in 2004. He has also done work for corporations and educational institutions.



Laurel Hoskins, Graphic Designer

Laurel's relationship with Ballet Theatre Company began 22 years ago when her 5 year old daughter Lianna took ballet lessons at the Masonic Hall on Main Street, the rented studio where the fledgling BTC ran classes and performances. Soon after, BTC hired her to promote their growing business and productions. A self-taught designer, Laurel has worked in graphic design and marketing for FPS Marketing in Milford, CT, and has been self-employed as a freelance graphic designer for 25 years.



Peter Cofrancesco, Resident Videographer

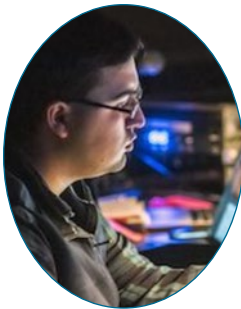
Peter Cofrancesco, Creation Dream Video, is a full time freelance videographer specializing in filming live events and providing legal video services. In 2020 and 2021 he filmed the digital premieres of BTC's *Up Close* and the full-length ballet *Snow White*.

BTC PRODUCTION TEAM



Megan O'Brien, Production Manager

Megan O'Brien is returning as Production Manager for the company's 2022-2023 season. Originally from South Windsor, Connecticut, she earned her BA in Theater at Eastern Connecticut State University and her MFA in Lighting Design at Wayne State University. Before going back to school, O'Brien worked with BTC for three years as the master electrician and spotlight operator for *The Nutcracker*, and is thrilled to be working with the company again.



Samuel Biondolillo, Resident Lighting Designer

Samuel J. Biondolillo is a New York-based lighting designer for theatre, dance, television, and live events. Off-Broadway: *NYC Dance & Music Festival*, *Geek! The Musical*. Regional: *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Cabaret* (Moonbox Productions), *The Complete History of Comedy Abridged* (Lost Nation Theater), *Private Lives* (Vermont Stage), *Henry IV Parts 1 & 2* (CT Repertory Theatre), *Flamingo Kid*. Television/Events: *The Celebration of the Inauguration of Governor Wolf 2019* (ESM, Assit.), The White House Frontiers Conference hosted by President Obama (ESM, Drafting Assoc.), *Ice Chips Show of Champions* (Boston Skating Club, Assit.). Sam is an adjunct professor of lighting and sound technology at UCONN, a proud lighting design member of Local USA 829, and holds a BA from Boston College in Theatre Arts. SJBLightingDesign.com or SamuelBiondolillo.com



Jacob Sikorski, Scenic Design

Jacob Sikorski (he/they) is a NYC based scenic and lighting designer for theatre and live events. Recent designs include: *Constellations* (lighting, CCSU), *The Crucible* (scenic, Parallel45 Theatre), *Cabaret* (scenic, Parallel45 Theatre), *Little Shop of Horrors* (lighting, Connecticut Repertory Theatre), *Blood at the Root* (scenic, Connecticut Repertory Theatre). Jacob is so excited to be making their creative team debut at BTC with *The Nutcracker*! Jacob holds an MFA from UConn and a BA from the University of Iowa. [@sikorskidesign](https://www.instagram.com/sikorskidesign) www.jacob-sikorski.com



Joshua Stenger, Stage Manager

Joshua Stenger (Stage Manager) is delighted to be back with BTC after having called *Aladdin* last spring! He is currently pursuing an MFA in Stage Management from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Favorite credits include *Once* at Bristol Valley Theatre and *Footloose* at The REV. Much thanks to my parents for their constant support, and my cat, Pip, for never needing to set a morning alarm ever again. Lights GO and enjoy the show!

BTC INTERNS



Yvonne Ramos, Administrative Intern

Yvonne is a Senior at the University of Hartford majoring in Management at the Barney School of Business. She has also completed a minor in Dance Performance at the University of Hartford's, Hartt School. She is a member of the Barney Leadership Council and has held numerous leadership positions in Delta Gamma Fraternity. Yvonne looks forward to combining her passion for dance and business through her internship at Ballet Theatre Company.



Sofia Brummitt, Art & Graphics Intern

Sofia Brummitt is a student at The School of Ballet Theatre Company and a member of the *Junior Corps de Ballet*. She is a senior at Glastonbury High School and has consistently received high honor roll recognition there. In addition to dancing, Sofia is an accomplished artist. She has earned three recognition awards from the Scholastic's Art and Writing regional competitions for works she has completed in school. Sofia started her graphics internship with Ballet Theatre Company in 2020, creating illustrations for *Snow White*, *The Nutcracker*, and *Aladdin*, the Dance-a-Thon, and BTC's Community Youth Enrichment Program. She illustrated BTC's Season 24 Performance Cover graphics.



Kai Whalen, Photography Intern

Kai Whalen is a member of BTC's *Junior Corps de Ballet* as well as a student at The School of Ballet Theatre Company. In addition to being a dancer, they are also a skilled photographer who captures moments from BTC rehearsals and performances. They recently joined BTC as an intern in 2022 and are a junior at Hall High School.

BTC COSTUME TEAM



Pat Nurnberger, Head Costume Designer

Pat Ubaldi Nurnberger obtained her Master's Degree in Costuming from UCONN. She graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design and began her career as a fashion designer in New York. She began designing for her daughter's ballet school, and quickly fell in love with this art form. She decided to leave the apparel business and devote herself to the theater. While at UCONN, she worked on *Tito's Dream*, a theatrical presentation of Carlos Garcia's eponymous poem. Larger works included designs for *Big Love* and *Midsummer Night's Dream*, as well as assisting on two operas. In the past years, she has designed a ballet version of *L'Enfant et Les Sortileges*, as well as several versions of *The Nutcracker*, *Giselle*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Coppelia* and others. Musicals include *Anything Goes*, *Always...Patsy Cline* and *Spring Awakening*, *Bus Stop*, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Hair*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *The Fantasticks*. Opera designs for *HMS Pinafore*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Cendrillon*, *Sour Angelica*, *Princess Ida* and *The Mikado* have followed. In 2022, Pat was lead designer of the costumes for BTC's production of *Aladdin* as well as *The Nutcracker* at The Bushnell's Belding Theater.



Tracy Dorman, Professional Seamstress

Tracy Dorman has nearly six decades of experience costuming theater and dance productions. Mostly self-taught, her first costuming project was *Snow White* for a children's theatre wing of a summer stock theater company while she was still in high school. She designed and built the costumes for the Connecticut Valley Regional Ballet. She volunteered in the costume shop of the Hartford Ballet, working on designs by Sandra Woodall for *The American Nutcracker* and also the student-based Manchester Ballet. For the first five years of Ballet Theatre Company, she was the sole designer and costumer for all of the company's performances, working with a small crew of volunteers.

BTC COSTUME TEAM



Darby Newsome - Professional Seamstress

Darby Newsome (Costume Technician) is a Connecticut-based Costume Designer and Technician, and graduate of The University of Connecticut. Costume Design credits include Thoroughly Modern Millie (Kingswood-Oxford), Gianni Schicchi Exc.(The Santa Fe Opera), Die Entführung aus dem Serail Exc.(The Santa Fe Opera), The Grapes of Wrath (Connecticut Repertory Theater), and She Kills Monsters (Connecticut Repertory Theater).



Andrea Rossol Usami - Professional Seamstress

With degrees in Art History from Columbia and Yale Universities, Andrea has worked in costume design and construction for the past thirteen years. Currently Head Costumer for the Main Street Ballet Company, she specializes in ballet, opera, and theater costuming.



Heidi Usami - Headpiece Designer

Heidi is delighted to make her debut with the Ballet Theatre Company as Headpiece Designer. She began her artistic instruction under Sibley Morosco at the Main Street Ballet Company, where she has danced and worked for the past 13 years. Her headpieces premiered in MSB's production of *The Nutcracker* in 2019, and some of her favorite designs include headpieces for the Sugar Plum Fairy, Tea, and the fairies from *Cinderella*. Heidi is currently a high school junior specializing in writing and 3D Studio Arts.

BTC COMPANY DANCERS



Jo-ann Burke

Jo-ann Burke began her pre-professional training in Massachusetts with Irina Vakhromeeva, Carlos Molina, and Alexandra Koltun. She attended The School of the Pennsylvania Ballet, and participated in the trainee program under Artistic Director Angel Corella. She continued training with The Kansas City Ballet, under Artistic Director Devon Carney. At age 19 she danced as a member of Milwaukee Ballet's second company MBII, before joining Syracuse City Ballet as a company member. While at SCB she was cast in featured roles including "Lucy" in *Dracula*, "The Snow Queen", "Arabian Princess", and "Spanish Pas De Deux" in *The Nutcracker*, and "The Cat" and "The Spring Fairy" in *Cinderella*. While at Ballet Theatre Company she has performed original choreography by Stephanie Dattellas, Derek Brockington, Paul Mejia, Kate St. Amand, and has been featured in roles such as a demi soloist in "Flowers" and "Snow", along with "The Arabian Pas De Deux" in *The Nutcracker*, "The Wicked Queen" in *Snow White*, and most recently as the leading role of "The Princess of Agrabah" in *Aladdin*. This is Jo-ann's second season with Ballet Theatre Company.



Gennaro Della Ragione

Gennaro is a professional dancer from Naples, Italy. His teachers included Carmela Pirozzi, Margherita Veneruso, and Ferdinando Arenella in Italy. He studied in Germany at the official school of the Semperoper Theater. Della Ragione was chosen as a solo dancer for the show *Una Voce for Padre Pio*, a prime-time show on Italian TV. In the US, he has been Principal dancer for Sonia Plumb Dance Company as well as Dimensional Dance. He also performed as a principal dancer in *La Bayadere* with Centro Danza and *Sheherazade* at the Teatro Mediterraneo in Naples. Della Ragione also apprenticed with the Mystic Ballet company directed by Goran Subotic. Most recently Gennaro performed as a title role in *Aladdin*. This is Gennaro's second season with Ballet Theatre Company.



James Felton II

James Felton II started training at Sandra Brewer's Dance Connection then later at the Flint School of Performing Arts with the Flint Youth Ballet under the direction of Karen Mills-Jennings. James graduated from Western Michigan University with his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Performance and Choreography in 2021, where he was gracious to perform works by George Balanchine, Mikal Fokine, Jennifer Archibald, Seyong Kim, Mike Esperanza, David Curwen and more. James began guest performing with Ballet Theatre Company in the Spring of 2022 and is thrilled to join as a Company Dancer for the 2022-2023 season!

BTC COMPANY DANCERS



Naomi Langill

Originally from Sacramento, California, Naomi Langill trained with Capitol Ballet Company under the direction of Stuart Carroll and Sharon Newton. Naomi has danced with Ballet Frontier of Texas and guested with Capitol Ballet Company. She has been honored to have performed many different ballets and original pieces. Some of her favorite roles have been Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Clara and the Snow Queen in *The Nutcracker*, as well as the title role in *Sylvia*. Naomi enjoys sharing the love of dance through every new role. This is Naomi's second season with Ballet Theatre Company.



Emily Silva

Emily Aubrey Silva grew up in Sandown, NH and completed her early pre-professional training at Boston Ballet School. After graduating high school, Emily trained in Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School's Graduate Program and went on to attend the University of Hartford's Hartt School, graduating summa cum laude with a BFA in Dance Performance and Ballet Pedagogy. Emily is a former soloist with Ballet Hartford and has performed with Ballet Theatre Company since 2017. Her recent featured roles include "Lead Diamond" in *Aladdin*, "Snow Queen" in *The Nutcracker*, and "Snow White" in *Snow White*. This is Emily's second season with Ballet Theatre Company.



Nicoletta Consales, Apprentice

Nicoletta is an Italian-American, classically trained dancer from northern New Jersey. She started at a local dance studio with creative movement, then moved to Nunnbetter Dance Theatre where she immersed herself in the study of ballet, variations, jazz, theater, modern, and contemporary. Nicky has worked with many prominent names in dance including Eleanor D'Antuono, Margo Sappington, Michelle Manzanales, and Bennyroyce Royon. She attended Gelsey Kirkland Academy of Classical Ballet, Kaatsbaan International Dance Center, and Ballet Hispánico's summer programs. She also participated in three YAGP competitions where she placed as finalist for ensemble twice. Nicky graduated with a BA in Dance and Linguistics from Smith College and is very excited to be pursuing dance with BTC.

BTC COMPANY DANCERS



Ali Nitowski, Apprentice

Ali Nitowski (he/him) is thrilled to be back with BTC this season as an apprentice. He was last seen in BTC's *Aladdin* as The Emperor last spring. He was recently in the musical *Head Over Heels* ensemble at Playhouse Stage Company in Albany, NY. Some of his past credits include: *A Chorus Line* (Larry, u/s Bobby), *Celebration* (Reveler), *A Midsummer...Dream* (Oberon/Egeus). Ali has a BA in Theatre Performance from Wagner College, located in Staten Island. This is Ali's first season with Ballet Theatre Company.



Kerry Shannon, Apprentice

Kerry Shannon, of West Hartford, began her training at the age of 8 at The Hartt School Community Division where she trained with many outstanding instructors including Carol Roderick and Sarkis Kaltakhtchian. Kerry completed a year of training at Greenwich Ballet Academy under the direction of Yuri Vodolago. She competed at YAGP regionals in Boston and placed in the top 3 each time earning her a spot to Finals in 2019. She was also a Gold Medal winner at CT Classic 2018. She trained on scholarship at many outstanding summer intensives and was accepted to Canada's National Ballet School in 2019. After returning to the US, Kerry trained for a year at University of North Carolina School For The Arts where she performed many roles, including Dew Drop and Clara in *The Nutcracker*, excerpts from Napoli, and a contemporary piece "Before We Go" choreographed by Grady Bowman. Kerry is thrilled and honored to return to West Hartford for her senior year of High School and to perform with Ballet Theatre Company.

JUNIOR CORPS DE BALLET

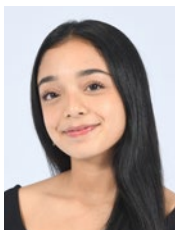
Ballet Theatre Company (BTC) offers students a unique opportunity for young aspiring dancers to perform in professional ballet productions as part of BTC's *Junior Corps de Ballet*. The mission of BTC's *Junior Corps de Ballet* is to provide serious dancers the opportunity to train at a high caliber, experience professional dance at a young age, and, if interested, to prepare for a future in dance.



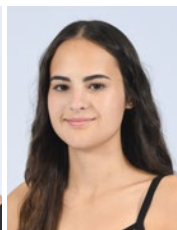
Sofia Brummitt



Kyla Cheng



Nupur Sondhi



Eva Speranza



Hailey Wankier



Valerie Warner



Kai Whalen

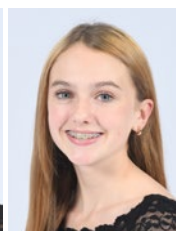


Elizabeth
Windnagle

APPRENTICES



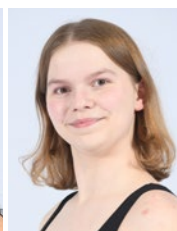
Jade Bello



Leah Devor



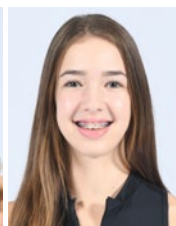
Margie Fischer



Jillian Hubbard



Evie Messenger




Sofia Wargo

Portraits by Thomas Giroir

SEASON 24

PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

UP Close: FALL
October 1–7:00pm
October 2–2:00pm



The Ron and Nancy
Compton Studio


The Nutcracker
November 25–2:00pm & 7:00pm
November 26–11:00am* & 3:00pm
The Bushnell's Belding Theater



**One Night
in Hollywood**
February 11, 2023 7:00pm
West Hartford Town Hall



UP Close: SPRING
March 4, 2023 –7:00pm
March 5, 2023 – 2:00pm



The Ron and Nancy
Compton Studio

Cinderella
April 29, 2023–1:00pm
April 30, 2023–11:00am*
& 3:00pm



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Soiree**
Friday, June 16
Town & County Club



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with the Miracle League of Connecticut

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THE SCHOOL OF BALLET THEATRE COMPANY

The School of Ballet Theatre Company (SBTC) is the official school of Ballet Theatre Company (BTC), offering classes for students ages 3 to adult, from beginner to advanced levels. Its carefully-constructed curriculum emphasizes strong technique, proper alignment, musicality, and expression.

Through a faculty of distinguished professionals, its ballet instructors incorporate the best of the French, Italian, and Russian training methods in a nurturing and supportive classroom environment that fosters the development of young artists.

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Ballet Theatre Company is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization



Behind the Curtain is affiliated with BTC's main stage productions such as *Cinderella* and *Sleeping Beauty*, along with the annual production of *The Nutcracker*. BTC's team of professional dancers and artists travel to schools throughout CT to educate students about the many aspects of dance productions.

In opening students' eyes to the many wonders of a ballet production through interactive workshops and performances, Behind the Curtain aims to share the joys of live performances with young audiences and inspire a lifelong connection to the arts, whether that be as a performer, costume designer, member of the crew, or audience member.

Behind the Curtain's school tours are complimented by entertaining workbooks so that students can further explore the presented ballet and performing arts world, while also practicing essential academic skills.

BTC is always looking to partner with more schools for this program! Please reach out to outreach@dancebtc.org if you know of any school or classroom that may be interested.



BTC is proud to continue its partnership with the Miracle League of CT and offer Everybody Dance Now (EDN), an adaptive dance program.

EDN provides dancers of all abilities and ages the opportunity to express themselves through movement, despite their physical and emotional limitations. EDN is designed to develop self-esteem and self-expression, improve mobility and fitness, build cognitive abilities, and give participants the experience of performing live.

Everybody Dance Now celebrates 5 years!

Through EDN, over 100 children with all types of exceptionalities have been able to express themselves through dance since its start up in 2018.



Visit www.dancebtc.org



Raising the Barre (RTB) is BTC's longest running Community Enrichment program. RTB provides children in Greater Hartford with studio education dance classes and workshops free of charge. RTB not only introduces children to various dance forms such as ballet, jazz and hip hop, but it inspires and encourages them to dream, set, and achieve lofty goals.

Through this program, children build socialization and relationship skills, explore self-expression, and grow in individuality, self-esteem, and confidence. They gain physical fitness in strength, coordination, mobility, flexibility, and cognitive ability. The program culminates in a performance that will allow participants to showcase their talents and progress with family and friends.

BTC partners with the Hillcrest Area Neighborhood Outreach Center (HANOC) and the Hartford Boys and Girls Club (BGC) that serve children anywhere from ages 5-16.

To learn more about BTC's Raising the Barre program visit dancebtc.org/raising-the-barre

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BTC is proud to collaborate with its long-time partner, The Miracle League of Connecticut, to provide the best experience for all attendees through **The Sensory-Friendly Ballet**. Since this unique initiative was first offered for BTC's 2022 *The Nutcracker*, over 200 families have enjoyed the holiday classic. We thank The Miracle League of Connecticut and The Bushnell's team for their consultation on bringing this program to the public.

To support this program, please make your donation today at dancebtc.org/sensory-friendly-ballet or by scanning the code below. Thank you!

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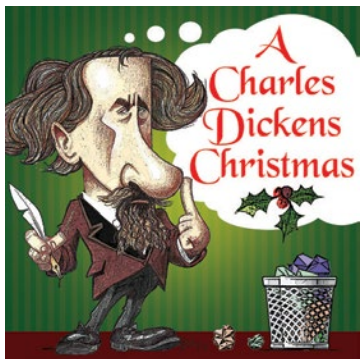
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10am

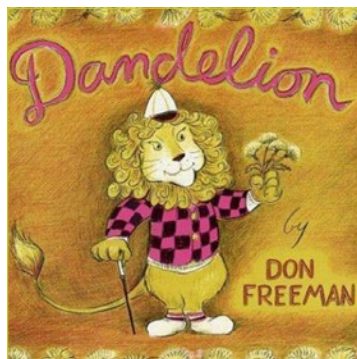


Apr. 25 – May 14, 2023

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Book & Lyrics by Joan Ross Sorkin

Music by Mary Liz McNamara



Sensory-Friendly Performance:

Saturday, May 13

10am



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