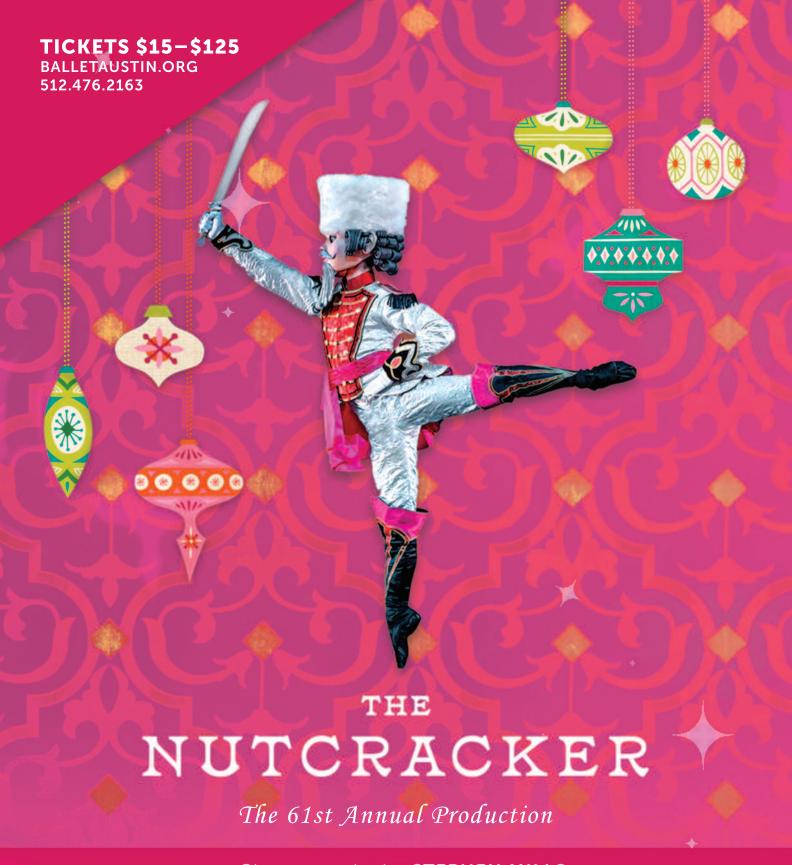




OCT. 7-8 & 14-15 | AUSTINVENTURES STUDIOTHEATER







Choreography by **STEPHEN MILLS DECEMBER 2 - 23 | THE LONG CENTER** 



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# DANCERS GROW HERE

**ENROLL TODAY!** 

**AGES 18 MONTHS TO 18 YEARS** 





t gives me such great joy to bring *Not Afraid of the Dark – The Show that Glows!*® back to our Austin Ventures Studio Theater and the greater Austin community. It's hard to believe that it has been more than two decades since nationally-renowned singer/songwriter Joe Scruggs sat with me, a black light, and two small dolls decorated in livewire in a dark closet at Ballet Austin. Over the subsequent 20 minutes, he shared his marvelous vision of pairing his songs with dance to engage young children in the magical possibilities that can be discovered in the dark. And engage they did! Joe Scruggs' thoughtfully-crafted musical story and Stephen Mills' whimsical choreography (along with 50 glow-in-the-dark props!) have captivated children and their families since its premiere in September of 2001. To date, *Not Afraid of the Dark – The Show that Glows!*® has been seen by nearly 60,000 audience members in Austin and through touring performances across Texas and Arkansas. For many families, this production has become a multi-generational tradition and, in fact, Joe Scruggs and I both have children who grew up watching this show and will likewise share this delightful experience with their own kids. Thank you for being here to share this special nighttime journey with your own families. You are in for a truly enchanting adventure!

MICHELLE MARTIN

Phile Was

Associate Artistic Director



#### MICHELLE MARTIN

Michelle Martin had her early dance training at the Alberta Ballet School and danced professionally with the Alberta Ballet Company, Indianapolis Ballet Theatre, Hartford Ballet and Ballet Austin. During her tenure with these companies she performed soloist and principal roles in a range of classical, contemporary and modern works. Martin's teaching credits include guest teaching engagements in Canada and across the nation, as well as five years on the faculty of Jordan College at Butler University in Indianapolis. Martin began her tenure with Ballet Austin in 1991 as a dancer with the Company and in 1992 she was appointed ballet mistress and curriculum director of the Academy. In 1999 she founded Ballet Austin TWO, Ballet Austin's apprentice program, followed by the Trainee Program (now the Butler Fellowship Program) in 2000. In addition to her work in the rehearsal studio, Martin supervises the curriculum and faculty of Ballet Austin Academy, designs arts education and audience engagement programs and writes grants. She has served on the Texas Commission on the Arts peer panels for Arts Education, and Music and Dance and has been a juror for the American Ballet Competition for the past nine years. Martin was the 2001 recipient of the Austin-Under-40 award for contributions in the area of Arts and Entertainment.

#### BALLET AUSTIN GUILD

Ballet Austin Guild is a volunteer group with a mission to support and promote Ballet Austin in its commitment to excellence in dance through fundraising, community, and education.

Ballet Austin Guild volunteers enjoy a deeper level of connection and involvement with Ballet Austin, making the dream of dance a reality for the wider Austin community.

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#### JOIN THE GUILD TODAY!

Membership benefits include meetings with fellow Guild members, ticket discounts and the opportunity to interact with company dancers.





INFORMATION





(ahn 'fahss) Position of the body in which the dancer is facing directly towards the audience.



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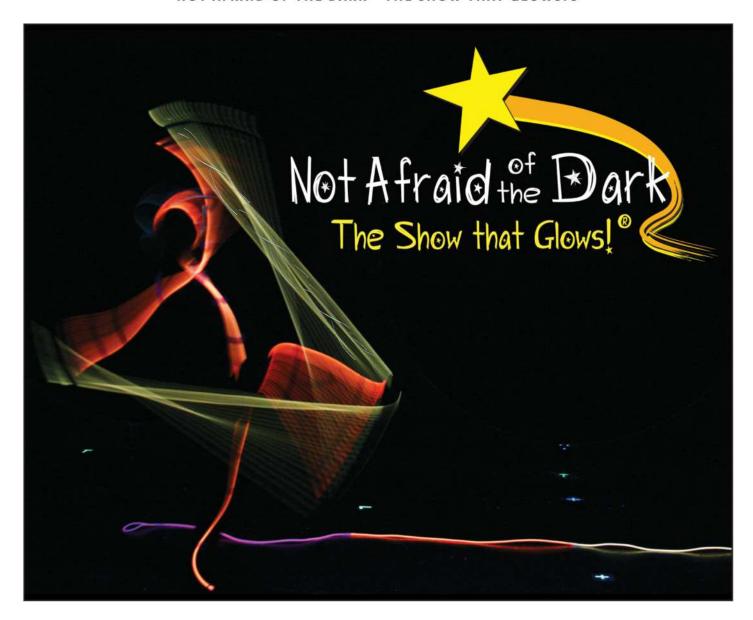






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# NOT AFRAID OF THE DARK THE SHOW THAT GLOWS!®

Concept & Music Joe Scruggs Choreography by Stephen Mills Staged by Alexa Capareda

All Songs arranged, produced, and orchestrated by Gary Powell Scenic, Costume, and Puppet Design by David Gaddy Original Lighting Design by Toni Tucci Additional Scenic and Lighting Design by Bill Sheffield Production Stage Manager Steven Myers. Stage Manager Brad Wilson Costumes Built and Constructed by Alexey Korygin and Emily Cawood

#### PRODUCTION SPONSORS

ENDOWMENT SUPPORT THROUGH THE BALLET AUSTIN FOUNDATION

NOT AFRAID OF THE DARK - THE SHOW THAT GLOWS!®
IS ENDOWED IN BY EMILY MORELAND/MORELAND PROPERTIES

BALLET AUSTIN TWO IS ENDOWED BY SARAH & ERNEST BUTLER THROUGH THE BALLET AUSTIN FOUNDATION.



STEPHEN MILLS
Sarah & Ernest Butler
Family Fund,
Artistic Director

Known for his innovative and collaborative choreographic projects, Stephen Mills has works in the repertoires of companies across the United States and around the world. From his inaugural season as artistic director in 2000, Mills attracted attention from around the United States with his world-premiere production of *Hamlet*, hailed by Dance Magazine as "...sleek and sophisticated." The Washington Post recognized Ballet Austin as "one of the nation's best kept ballet secrets" in 2004 after Ballet Austin performed Mills' world premiere of The Taming of the Shrew, commissioned by and performed at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. The Company was first invited to perform at the Kennedy Center in January of 2002 with Mills' production of A Midsummer Night's Dream and later presented a variety of works at The Joyce Theater (NYC) in 2005. In 2005 after two years of extensive research, Mills led a community- wide human rights collaboration that culminated in the world premiere work Light / The Holocaust & Humanity Project (LIGHT). In 2006 LIGHT was awarded the Audrey & Raymond Maislin Humanitarian Award by the Anti-Defamation League. In September of 2013, the work made its international debut with a tour in three cities across Israel. In October 2016, Mills led his company of dancers through a 16-city tour of the People's Republic of China, which included performances in China's largest city, Shanghai.



COOKIE G. RUIZ, C.F.R.E. Executive Director

Cookie Gregory Ruiz has more than 30 years of experience in the areas of strategic planning, organizational development and non-profit fund-raising/management. Since 2002, she has held the professional designation of Certified Fund Raising Executive (C.F.R.E.) by the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Her community

honors include Austin Business Journal's "Profiles in Power" Award, Leadership Austin's Polly Scallorn Community Trustee Award, Austin Community Foundation's Beverly S. Sheffield Award for Excellence as a Nonprofit Executive, The American Red Cross' "Clara Barton Medal of Honor," Volunteer of the Year award for the Austin Independent School District, the Lone Star Girl Scout Council "Women of Distinction" Award. The Junior League of Austin's Volunteer Extraordinaire Award, and she was a 2016 Austin Arts Hall of Fame inductee. Ruiz served as the city-wide Chair of CreateAustin, was a City Council appointee to Imagine Austin's Citizen's Advisory Task Force, and is a graduate of the Austin's City Works Academy. As a graduate of Leadership Austin, she served four years on its Board of Directors. Ruiz is currently a member of the Board of Texans for the Arts, a member of the national Board of Directors of the Performing Arts Alliance, the Board of Directors of Housing Works Austin, and is a Fellow of The National Arts Strategies International Chief Executive Program. Ruiz serves as a speaker, facilitator and presenter for a variety of leadership conferences, including the National Conference on Community Leadership, the National Performing Arts Conference, American for the Arts Annual Convention. National Conference of Dance/USA. The Governor's Women's Business Leadership Forum and the Texas Commission on the Arts. In 1996 Ruiz joined the staff of Ballet Austin as Development Director, became General Manager in 1997 and Executive Director in 1999.



**BILL SHEFFIELD**Director of Production
/ Stage Manager

Bill Sheffield's long tenure with Ballet Austin extends back to the 1980s when he served as the first director of production for the organization. In 1990 Sheffield became the full time Production Manager of the historic Paramount Theatre. Sheffield rejoined the company as production stage manager in 2002 and added the duties as director of production in 2006. An Austin native, Sheffield also produced some of the summer musicals at Zilker Park, including the hits Seven Brides for Seven Brothers,

Annie Get Your Gun, Into the Woods, and the award-winners Crazy for You and Big River. Sheffield formerly worked with the Austin Musical Theater, where he was stage manager for many of their productions. He has worked with many Austin arts groups, serving as stage manager, lighting designer or master electrician. Some of these groups include Austin Opera, Bruce Wood Dance, Dance Salad, Conspirare, Roy Lozano Ballet Folklorico, Zilker Theatre Productions, Austin Shakespeare Festival, Slavin-Nadal Dance, Austin Dance Ensemble, Austin Repertory Theatre, and Tapestry. More recently, Sheffield help found the Production Managers Affinity Group with Dance USA serving as its chair for two years.



**TONY TUCCI** *Lighting Designer* 

Tucci has been resident lighting designer for Ballet Austin's repertory, for 34 years, lighting designer/director for Ben Stevenson's Texas Ballet Theater and Bruce Wood Dance. Recently designed Flemming Flindt's Phaedra Ballet for the Mariinsky Theatre in Vladivostok Russia. Tucci created the lighting designs for Bernstein's Mass at the Long Center in June 2018. In September 2018, Tucci designed a new production of Cinderella, choreographed by Ben Stevenson for the National Ballet of China. Tucci and has created designs for national and international dance companies: Washington Ballet, Houston Dance Salad, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Colorado Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Ballet West, Cirque Ziva-Golden Dragon Acrobats, Royal Danish Ballet, Winnipeg and Swedish Ballets, Hong Kong Ballet, Singapore Dance Theatre, Ballet Contemporaneo de Caracas, Christopher Bruce's Kingdom-Geneva Ballet. Flemming Flindt's Caroline Mathilde and Lucifer's Daughter-Royal Danish Ballet. Tucci has designed for musical theater, including Austin productions of Damn Yankees, Carousel, West Side Story, Annie, Gypsy, Jesus Christ Superstar, Music Man, Oklahoma, A Chorus Line, Carousel and Sound of Music as well as Charles Duggan's productions of Dames at Sea in San Francisco and at the Goodspeed

Opera House. For 1996 Summer Olympics, Tucci designed for the Cultural Olympiad, showcasing national and international companies. He is the recipient of two Iden Payne Awards and Critics Table awards for lighting in Austin



**ALEXA CAPAREDA**Rehearsal Director Ballet Austin TWO
and Butler Fellowship
Program

Alexa Capareda received her early training in classical ballet and modern dance at the Philippine High School for the Arts in her native Philippines. After moving to Texas, she trained professionally at Ballet Austin. She continued her studies in Canada at Ecole Superieure de Ballet Contemporain de Montreal before joining Mario Radacovsky's Balet Bratislava in Slovakia, where she had the privilege of performing Jiri Kylian's Falling Angels and Six Dances. She began exploring her own choreography before leaving Europe, winning 3rd prize at the 2013 Festival of Choreographic Miniatures in Serbia. Capareda joined Ballet Austin's artistic staff and Academy faculty in 2015. As Rehearsal Director for Ballet Austin II and the Butler Fellows, she has restaged ballets by Stephen Mills, Nelly van Bommel, Nick Kepley, Thang Dao, and Jimmy Orrante for Ballet Austin II, and has created original pieces for BAII and the Butler Fellowship Program. Maria and the Mouse Deer, her new ballet for BAII based on Philippine folk stories, has been awarded a Grants for Arts Projects award from the National Endowment for the Arts. Capareda is an artist and Assistant Director with Jennifer Hart's Performa/Dance. She has co-produced and performed with Frank Wo/Men Collective and has worked with ARCOS, BLiPSWiTCH, Jennifer Sherburn, and Magdalena Jarkowiec. She has collaborated with sound artists/musicians Steve Parker, Brent Baldwin, Henna Chou, Lynn Lane, Austin Camerata, LOLA Austin, and visual artists Tom Suhler and Susan Scafati. She has presented work at Austin Dance Festival, Barnstorm Dance Festival, and Fusebox Festival. In 2017, Capareda received an Austin Critics Table Award for Excellence as a Dancer. She has a B.A. in English and a minor in Theater and Dance from UT Austin.



**ALEXEY KORYGIN**Wardrobe Director

Alexey Korygin was born in Donetsk City, Ukraine. He earned a Master's Degree in Fine Arts from the Kiev State Ballet School of the Ukraine, and following his graduation in 1984, he danced with Donetsk State Academic Opera and Ballet Theater as a soloist and toured extensively throughout the USSR, Europe and United States. In 1992 after auditioning in New York, Korygin joined and danced for four seasons with Ballet Austin. At the same time, he began designing and building costumes for the company. In 1996, Korygin finished his dancing career and assumed the position of Ballet Austin's wardrobe master. His costumes can be seen in Stephen Mills' My Wall of Names and Bolero, as well as Lambros Lambrou's Remembrances. Lady of the Camellias. Evolution of An Angel: Part II, Homecoming and Ulysses. He is also credited for his costumes in Ballet Austin's production of Fokine's Les Sylphides, Balanchine's Pas de Dix, the pas de deux from Le Corsaire, and the principal costumes for Ballet Austin's Swan Lake production. In 1996, Ballet Austin unveiled a new production of The Nutcracker with costumes designed by Tommy Bourgeois; Korygin masterfully constructed 40 of the new costumes, while also building all of the costumes for Not Afraid of the Dark—The Show that Glows!® in 2001. Additionally, Korygin has served as resident costume designer and co-designer for Ballet Austin's New American Talent / Dance competition and has designed and co-designed costumes for 32 full-length and one-act ballets, while supervising costume construction and wardrobe operations for more than 100 Ballet Austin productions.



MIRIAM JURGENSEN Ballet Austin TWO Head of Wardrobe

Miriam Jurgensen rejoined the Ballet Austin staff in the fall of 2019. She previously worked for the company as a stitcher and dresser from 2013-2016. She is a native Austinite with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theater Arts Technology and Graphic Design from St. Edward's University and a Masters of Fine Arts in Costume Technology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has also completed the Costume Intensive Course at the Northern College of Costume in York, England. Most recently, Miriam has worked as a draper for the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts in Urbana, Ill., and Hope Summer Repertory Theatre in Holland, Mich. In 2015 and 2017, she was the costume shop manager at the Summer Repertory Theatre Festival in Santa Rosa, Calif. Miriam's favorite credits include craftsperson for Illinois Theatre's The Minotaur, draper, and craftsperson for Illinois Theatre's A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, draper for The Wiz at Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, and shop manager for South Pacific, Tartuffe, West Side Story, Chicago, and The Drowsy Chaperone at the Summer Repertory Theatre Festival.

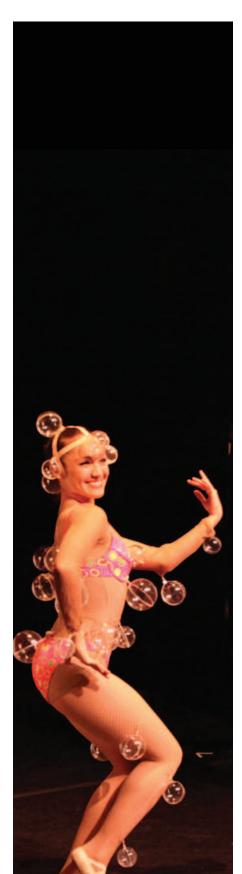


STEVEN MYERS
Technical Director

Steven Myers joined Ballet Austin in 2010 and works with Ballet Austin's main company as well as Ballet Austin II and the Butler Fellowship program participants for their performances. Myers travels with Ballet Austin II and the Butler Fellows for numerous educational outreach performances, bringing the arts to area schools. In addition, Myers also works with many local performing arts organizations, such as Kathy Dunn Hamrick, Cheryl Chaddick, and SoCo Women's Chorus and serves as the resident lighting designer for Performa/Dance. Prior to joining Ballet Austin, Myers spent 12 years as the production stage manager for the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet. While in Aspen, he toured the world as well as theaters both big and small. Highlights included tours of Israel, Italy, Greece, and France, as well as working with notable choreographers, such as Jorma Elo, Nicolo Fonte, Cayetano Soto, Helen Pickett, Twyla Tharp, David Parsons, Moses Pendleton, and Trey McIntyre.

#### THE ARTISTIC TEAM

#### CONTINUED





JOE SCRUGGS
Concept & Music

Joe Scruggs' musical background can be traced to his childhood days and his involvement with the Methodist Church Choir. He was heavily influenced by the folk singers of the Sixties and enjoyed playing his guitar whenever possible. In the 1980s, Joe began writing family-oriented songs to help his wife with her work in her kindergarten classroom. Her stories of the children's concerns and activities—as well as the contributions of their own children-ensured that Joe would never be at a loss for material. Joe's music has earned four prestigious Parent's Choice Awards. His two videos are also both award winners. Joe Scruggs in Concert was chosen as a winner of a 1993 Notable Children's Video Award from the American Library Association. He performed as the Celebrity Mother Ginger in Ballet Austin's 1999 & 2000 productions of The Nutcracker. Whether Joe Scruggs addresses our fear of the dark, our ability to think up imaginative excuses, or our enjoyment of the simple things in life, his words and music will always find a responsive home within our hearts.



PETE MARKHAM
President, Shadow
Play Records

Mr. Markham graduated from the University of Texas with a degree in Journalism. He then moved to Los Angeles, and for nine years worked in advertising and promotion. Markham returned to Texas In 1983, and has been president of Shadow Play Records & Video Since its inception. Pete and Joe Scruggs are co-owners of this record label and music publishing company Pete is responsible for label and artist promotion, concert touring, and distribution. Markham has, along with Scruggs, been the executive producer of two video releases and nine albums including the music for Not Afraid of the Dark - The Show that Glows! ®. Pete Markham is a founding member of the American Academy of Children's

Entertainment He received a Cable Ace Award for his involvement with (and his appearance in) Discovery Communications presentation of the music video, *Bahamas Pajamas* by Joe Scruggs. Markham also performs in the national touring show *Live from Deep in the Jungle, Joe Scruggs in Concert.* Together, Markham and Scruggs have entertained hundreds of thousands of children and parents all over the United States and Canada since 1986.



**GARY POWELL**Musical Producer
& Arranger

Gary Powell's accomplishments read like a Who's Who catalog of children's music. His list of credits include scoring work and songs represented on Walt Disney's storybook and song albums of The Little Mermaid, Aladdin. Beauty and the Beast. The Lion King, Pocahontas, Toy Story, A Bug's Life, Toy Story II and Dinosaur. In Powell's work with Walt Disney Records, five of his productions have gone Gold and one Platinum. He has also produced the entire catalog of albums and videos for Joe Scruggs. In 1999, Powell won a Grammy Nomination for his production of Disney's "A Bug's Life Sing Along". In 2001 Gary Powell was awarded the "Award of Distinction" from both the Communicator Awards and Videographer Awards for his video production of "Gary Powell Presents...." a behind-the-scenes look at the recording sessions for "A Bug's Life Sing Along". Powell has won five Gold Parents' Choice Awards and one Silver for his work as producer for Joe Scruggs. Joe's first video, another Powell production, won the National Parenting Publication Award, is a California Video Award winner and has been honored at the USA Film Festival. Powell's production of Joe Scruggs' song Bahamas Pajamas won the 1996 Cable Ace Award for "Best Original Song". Mr. Powell can be found on the web at www.garypowell.com.



#### NOT AFRAID OF THE DARK - THE SHOW THAT GLOWS!®

**Fireflies** \*Karis Wu / \*\*Katriel Hwang, \*Alexandra Owens / \*\*Amelia Bednar

**Bubbles** \*Karis Wu / \*\*Katriel Hwang, \*Katelyn Hagel / \*\*Celena Fornell, Jackson Rankin, \*Reagan Arenz / \*\*Isabelle Lapierre, Jordan Lovelace, \*Christina Cole / \*\*Angelina Carbonaro

**Gingerbread Man** \*Karis Wu / \*\*Katriel Hwang, \*Katelyn Hagel / \*\*Celena Fornell, Jackson Rankin, \*Caroline Darnell / \*\*Nya Mitchell

Nightlight \*Karis Wu / \*\*Katriel Hwang, \*Katelyn Hagel / \*\*Celena Fornell

**Under Your Bed** \*Karis Wu / \*\*Katriel Hwang, \*Katelyn Hagel / \*\*Celena Fornell, \*Alexandra Owens / \*\*Amelia Bednar, Julius Taiber

**Falling Asleep** \*Anika Crouser / \*\*Alayna Hamade, \*Christina Cole / \*\*Angelina Carbonaro, \*Caroline Darnell / \*\*Nya Mitchell

Late Last Night Ensemble

Moon & Stars \*Anika Crouser / \*\*Alayna Hamade, Julius Taiber

I Can Dance \*Alexandra Owens / \*\*Amelia Bednar, \*Christina Cole / \*\*Angelina Carbonaro, Jordan Lovelace, Jackson Rankin

**Popcorn** \*Reagan Arenz / \*\*Isabelle Lapierre, \*Caroline Darnell / \*\*Nya Mitchell

**Stickman** Jorden Majeau, Julius Taiber, \*Anika Crouser / \*\*Alayna Hamade

Rainbow-Colored Jump Rope Ensemble

Conga Line Ensemble

\*Performs Oct 8 & 14 / \*\* Performs Oct 7 & 15

Photo by Anne Marie Bloodgood

# NOT AFRAID OF THE DARK - THE SHOW THAT GLOWS!®

#### **Concept and Music**

Recorded at Powell Studio Production and Austin Recording Studio

#### **Executive Producers for all Music**

Pete Markham and Joe Scruggs

#### **Guest Vocalist**

Hudson Mueller: "I Can Dance" Bethani (Beth Ullman): "Moon and Stars"

#### **Guest Soloists**

Paul Baker, Soprano Sax: "Moon and Stars-Gary Slechta, Trumpet Rise: "Conga Line"

#### Voiceover Talent

Jon Kurlylowicz - Shadow Dancer
Alexis Menendez - Child
Casey Scruggs - Shadow Dancer
Joe Scruggs - Main Narrator
Linda Scruggs - Mom
Patrick Scruggs - Shadow Dancer
Derrian Tolden - Singing Telegram,
Second Narrator
Kami Townsend - Fairy of the Subconscious

#### Musicians & Vocalists

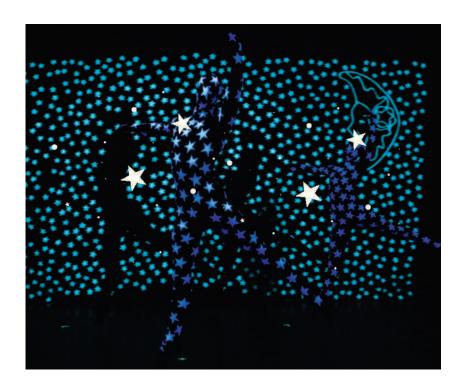
Chester Baldwin, Paul Baker, Laura Benedict, Beth Blackerby, Craig Boudreaux, Jennifer Bourianoff, Carlos Eddie Cantu, Helen Darling, Wallace Depue, Marc Erck, Mandy Kaye, Richard Kilmer, Derick Larkin, James T. Fenner Jr., Daniel Fulmer, Brain Green, Tom Hale, Pamela Hart, Jeff Helmer, Hank Hemsath, Billy Henry, Robin Huston, Ladonna Jones, Alicia Jones, Richard Kilmer, Mark Lang, Pete Markham, Chris Martin, Pam Miller, Abby Paulson, DeeAnne Paulson, Becky Penberthy, Gary Powell, Ray Ramos, Jeanne Rogers, Jeanie Runion, Russell Scanlon, Rebecca Schoolar, Linda Scruggs, Gary Slechta, Tracy Seeger, Greg Self, Larry Seyer, Spencer Starnes, Shannon Swindle, Suzi Stern, J.R. Taylor, John Treanor, Beth Ullman, David Vik, John White, Bruce Williams, Kenny Williams, Patty Wonder, Stephen Wray, Chris Wright

#### Music Mixed by

Gary Powell and J.R. Taylor

#### **Production Assistant**

J.R. Taylor



A child's fear of the dark is perhaps one of the most universal of childhood emotions. Shadows on the wall and discarded clothing on the floor become terrifying monsters, disappearing only with the appearance of dawn's first light. Who among us hasn't leapt across the bedroom, making sure that our feet don't touch the floor until we're safely outside the reach of the "snakes" and "alligators" lying in wait under the bed?

In Not Afraid of the Dark-The Show that Glows!®, we take a journey into a marvelous "glow-in-the-dark" world, a world where turning off the lights isn't scary at all—it's funny, it's exciting, it's fantastic! As we follow a young child through their nighttime ritual of bath time, bedtime and beyond, we discover that there really are lots of wonderful things that can happen when you turn out the lights.

Not Afraid of the Dark-The Show that Glows!® is the result of a 2 and a half year collaboration between Ballet Austin, artistic director and choreographer, Stephen Mills and nationally-known children's entertainer, Joe Scruggs. For many years Joe Scruggs has incorporated several "in the dark" songs into his children's programs and has recognized the often intense fear that this elicits in some of his younger patrons. Using an array of special lighting effects and dancing stickmen, Not Afraid of the Dark-The Show that Glows!® seeks to dispel that fear and leave children (and adults too!) with a lasting impression of the beauty and magic that can only happen when you turn out the lights.

Joe Scruggs designed many of the lighting special effect. He frequently tried out these ideas on his own little boy. For example, he created "Stickman" after attaching glow-in-the-dark sticks to his son! Joe built models of all his ideas, and then the dancers experimented with these ideas in the dark to discover which worked best.

The lighting for this production includes black lights and fluorescent paints to create special, glow-in-the-dark effects. The lighting, combined with the dancers' movements, creates the effect of stars on the night sky and shoes walking across the stage and ceiling.

Photo by Anne Marie Bloodgood

Ballet Austin TWO and the Butler Fellowship Program are endowed by Sarah & Ernest Butler through the Ballet Austin Foundation



Ballet Austin TWO, established in 1999, is Ballet Austin's second company, with dancers also serving as apprentices to the main company. Ballet Austin TWO dancers are selected through a nationwide audition process and make Austin their home to participate in this unique training opportunity. With over 40 performances per season, they dance with the main company for larger productions and present their own extensive roster of work in Austin and on tour across the state.

Dancers range in age from 18-23 and are employed for a 32-week season. They are contracted with Ballet Austin TWO for up to two years, during which time they receive artistic guidance, career management counseling, and job placement assistance. To date, more than 200 graduates of Ballet Austin TWO and the Butler Fellowship Program have secured contracts with professional dance companies, and represent more than half of Ballet Austin's current main company.



Photos by Anne Marie Bloodgood

The Butler Fellowship Program serves as Ballet Austin's trainee program. All Butler Fellowship positions are fully endowed, allowing up to 15 outstanding dancers the opportunity to train at Ballet Austin tuitionfree. Currently, 6 of Ballet Austin's main and second company contracts are filled with graduates of the Butler Fellowship Program.

Designed for post-high school dancers, the Butler Fellowship Program features an innovative and personal approach to professional-track training. It is linked directly to the artistic "arc" of Ballet Austin, with all daily technique classes taught by Artistic Director Stephen Mills, Associate Artistic Director Michelle Martin, and Rehearsal Directors Christopher Swaim and Alexa Capareda.

Recruited through a nationwide audition process, Butler Fellows participate in up to 25 hours of training per week. Additionally, they present their own repertory performances each spring and perform with Ballet Austin TWO and the main company in larger productions.

#### **Ballet Austin TWO**



CHRISTINA COLE
Joined Ballet Austin TWO
in 2023

Originally from Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, Christina began her training at 7 years old with Mary Geiger. In 2018, she was accepted into Boston Ballet School's Professional Division under Margaret Tracey where she was a recipient of the Bruce Marks scholarship. She performed as Clara in Mikko Nissinen's The Nutcracker, and in school productions of Bournonville's Le Conservatoire and excerpts from Copellia. In 2022, she joined Pacific Northwest Ballet's Professional Division under Peter Boal, performing in Balanchine's The Nutcracker, A Midsummer Night's Dream, and Serenade. She has also attended numerous summer intensives on scholarship, including Boston Ballet School, the School of American Ballet, Complexions. and Pacific Northwest Ballet.



ANIKA CROUSER
Joined Ballet Austin
TWO in 2023

Originally from Columbus, Ohio, Anika received her early training from Dublin Dance Center and Columbus City Ballet. She supplemented her training with several summer intensive programs including Chautaugua Institution, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Houston Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, and BalletMet. She graduated from Southern Methodist University In 2023, where she received a BFA in Dance Performance and a BA in Creative Advertising. At SMU, her notable performance experience includes George Balanchine's Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux, Silas Farley's Meadows Serenade, Martha Graham's Diversion of Angels, and Adam Houghland's Less.



CELENA FORNELL Joined Ballet Austin TWO in 2023

Celena Fornell is from Seattle, Washington. She trained at Pacific Northwest Ballet School on full scholarship and at Boston Ballet School. While at PNB, Celena has performed in many company productions, including Balanchine's The Nutcracker and A Midsummer Night's Dream, Crystal Pite's The Seasons' Canon, Kent Stowell's Swan Lake and Carmina Burana, Petipa's Giselle, as well as the title role of Snow White in Bruce Wells' Snow White. She was also a participant of the Student Exchange between PNB and The National Ballet of Canada in 2022.



**ISABELLE LAPIERRE**Joined Ballet Austin
TWO in 2023

Isabelle began her dance training in Columbus, OH, with BalletMet. At age 14, she was invited to the School of American Ballet in New York City and performed in SAB's Lecture-Demonstrations and with the New York City Ballet in their 2022 Spring Gala. She spent a post-graduate year with Miami City Ballet School performing in their company's productions of Cranko's Romeo and Juliet, Balanchine's The Nutcracker, and Symphony In Three Movements. Her summer training included the Paris Opera Ballet, Académie Princesse Grace Monaco, American Ballet Theatre, and Royal Danish Ballet. Isabelle is also pursuing an undergraduate degree in clinical psychology.



JORDAN LOVELACE
Joined Ballet Austin
TWO in 2023

Originally from Dallas, TX, Jordan trained at The Dallas Conservatory and Booker T. Washington for the Performing and Visual Arts. In 2015, he won the "Senior Grand Prix" at YAGP and in 2017 was awarded a scholarship to London's Royal Ballet School summer intensive. In 2018, Jordan attended The Washington School of Ballet

dancing works by Mimmo Miccolis and Xiomara Reyes, and roles including Solor in La Bayadere and Basilio in Don Quixote. With The Washington Ballet, Jordan danced the Prince in The Nutcracker as well as company and character roles in Julie Kent's and Victor Barbee's Sleeping Beauty. A year later, he went to San Francisco Ballet School and then to Houston Ballet as an apprentice for the 2021-22 season. In Houston, Jordan danced in Stanton Welch's Silvia and Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra.



JORDEN MAJEAU Joined Ballet Austin TWO in 2023

Born in New Orleans, Jorden trained at Jefferson Ballet Theater under the instruction of Kimberly and Kenneth Beck. He spent time in Salt Lake City as a Trainee at Ballet West where he trained under Jeff Rodgers and academy faculty. Jorden is excited to see what Austin holds for him this season. He would like to thank his family for the support they have provided him and to thank Ballet Austin for the opportunity to bring magic to the stage this year.



ALEXANDRA OWENS
Butler Fellow: 2021-2023
| Joined Ballet Austin
TWO in 2023

Alexandra began her dance training at the age of 3 in Wichita, KS, under the direction of Jill Landrith. She performed with Ballet Wichita from 2013-2019. In the fall of 2019, she joined Next Generation Ballet's trainee program under the direction of Philip Neal. Additionally, Alexandra has attended summer intensives at Kansas City Ballet, Oklahoma City Ballet, Ballet Austin, Pacific Northwest Ballet, and Next Generation Ballet. With Next Generation Ballet, she performed the roles of Clara and Shepherdess in *The Nutcracker*, as well as the Pas de Trois and Spanish in *Swan Lake*.



JACKSON RANKIN
Butler Fellow: 2022-2023
| Joined Ballet Austin
TWO in 2023

Originally from Fayetteville, Arkansas, Jackson spent his early years moving around the U.S. playing numerous sports and adventuring outdoors. He started dancing at a small studio in Northern California where he trained for 5 years. He later received a scholarship to dance with the Goh Ballet Academy under the direction of Chan Hon Goh. Since Jackson joined Goh Ballet Academy, he has danced in notable roles such as Basilio in *Don Quixote*, Franz in *Coppelia*, and the Nutcracker Prince. He has spent his summers training with Ballet West, The School of Washington Ballet, and Goh Ballet Academy.



JULIUS TAIBER
Butler Fellow: 2020-2022
| Joined Ballet Austin
TWO in 2022

Born in Munich, Germany and raised in Greenville, SC, Julius began his early dance training at the International Ballet Academy at the age of 9. From 2014-2017, he trained at the Nutmeg Conservatory for the Arts and then with the Next Generation Ballet from 2017 – 2018. He then attended Houston Ballet Academy under the direction of Claudio Munoz where he was given the opportunity to perform in Stanton Welch's Bruiser and The Nutcracker, as well as Ben Stevenson's Sleeping Beauty. He has attended summer programs at Next Generation Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Ellison Ballet, Boston Ballet, and Houston Ballet.

#### **Butler Fellows**



REAGAN ARENZ
Joined Butler Fellowship
Program: 2022

Originally from Houston, TX, Reagan began dancing at age two. She advanced into pre-professional training at Vitacca Dance under Kelly Ann Vitacca & Phillip Broomhead. At 15, Reagan moved to NC joining Cary Ballet Conservatory & Company under Mariaelena Ruiz & Heather Iler. With Cary Ballet, she performed the roles of Sugar Plum Fairy & Snow Queen in *The Nutcracker*, Russian demi in Balanchine's *Serenade*, and in Krista King-Doherty's *Mechanisms* at the Festival de Danza in Orizaba, Mexico. Reagan attended summer intensives at Houston Ballet, Orlando Ballet, Philadelphia Ballet, and Boston Ballet.



**AMELIA BEDNAR**Joined Butler Fellowship
Program: 2022

From Stillwater, Minnesota, Amelia began her training with Minnesota Dance Theatre at age 10. From ages 14 to 17, she performed with the company as a trainee, including such works as Loyce Houlton's Nutcracker Fantasv. Carmina Burana (Lovce Houlton). Jennifer Hart's Unbound, and Enchantment by Lise Houlton. She has attended summer programs with Pacific Northwest Ballet, School of American Ballet, and Miami City Ballet, where she spent her senior year as a pre professional student. Last season she trained with Westmet Classical Training where she was casted as the Snow Queen in their production of A Nutcracker Sweet and as a soloist in Giselle.



ANGELINA CARBONARO Joined Butler Fellowship Program: 2023

From Clearwater, Florida, Angelina began her training with Tampa Bay Ballet at age 6. In 2018, she joined Next Generation Ballet's trainee program and studied under Philip Neal, where she performed several classical and contemporary works. Some of her most notable roles were Snow Queen, Clara, and Dew Drop in *The Nutcracker*, Kitri in *Don Quixote*, Bluebird Pas de Deux in *Sleeping Beauty*, in addition to other roles in George Balanchine's *Western Symphony*, *Swan Lake*, and *Le Corsaire*. Angelina attended summer intensives at Pacific Northwest Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet, Sarasota Ballet, Carolina Ballet, and Joffrey Ballet.



CARLY DARNELL
Joined Butler Fellowship
Program: 2022

Carly was raised in Beavercreek, OH, and began dancing at the age of three. She received her pre-professional training and mentoring from Barbara Pontecorvo and Gregory Robinson at Pontecorvo Ballet Studios and Gem City Ballet (GCB). There, she performed in twelve seasons of The Nutcracker, including the roles of Clara, Flowers, Principal Arabian, Dew Drop Fairy, Snow Queen and Sugarplum Fairy. Carly also performed Kitri in Don Quixote, principal roles in Giselle and Paquita, The Cygnets in Swan Lake, and corps in Coppelia and Cinderella. Over the past six summers, Carly trained with Ballet Chicago, School of American Ballet and Ballet Austin.



**ALEXA DOLLAR**Joined Butler Fellowship
Program: 2023

Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, Alexa began her training at the age of 3. She progressed into pre-professional training with the Colburn Dance Academy in Los Angeles when she was 14. Since being with Colburn, Ms. Dollar has performed lead roles in George Balanchine's Motzartiana, Justin Peck's Pulcinella Variations, and Jerome Robbin's Goldberg Variations and Antique Epigraphs. Over the past 6 summers, Alexa has trained with Boston Ballet School and Pacific Northwest Ballet School.



**KATELYN HAGEL**Joined Butler Fellowship
Program: 2023

Born in Daegu, South Korea and raised in Ridgewood, NJ, Katelyn began her training at Petrov Ballet School where she performed the roles of Snow Queen, Dewdrop, and Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker* with The Catskill Mountain Foundation. In 2020, she joined The Washington School of Ballet's Professional Training Division under the tutelage of Xiomara Reyes, Rinat Imaev, and

artistic director Julie Kent, and was promoted to Trainee the following year. Katelyn's repertoire with the company included Julie Kent's and Victor Barbee's staging of Swan Lake, Giselle, The Sleeping Beauty, Septime Webre's The Nutcracker, and George Balanchine's Theme and Variations. She spent her summers training at San Francisco Ballet, American Ballet Theater, The Washington School of Ballet, and Tulsa Ballet.



**ALAYNA HAMADE**Joined Butler Fellowship
Program: 2023

Native to Austin, Alayna began dancing at the age of three. She received her pre-professional training from Kelly Yankle at the Austin Dance Conservatory. At the age of 16, Alayna was accepted to the University of North Carolina School of the Arts on scholarship. During her time at UNCSA, Alayna performed the roles of Sugar Plum Fairy and Clara in Ilya Kozadayev's *The Nutcracker* as well as principal and soloist

roles in Claudia Schrier's *First Impulse* and George Balanchine's *Symphonie Concertante*. Alayna is excited to be back in her hometown as a member of the Ballet Austin Butler Fellowship program.



**NYA MITCHELL**Joined Butler Fellowship
Program: 2022

Nya began training with the Ballet Austin Academy at the age of three. She's enjoyed performing in several Ballet Austin productions, including Stephen Mills' A Midsummer Night's Dream, Cinderella, and The Nutcracker, along with Septime Webre's ALICE and Paul Vasterling's Peter Pan. With the academy, Nya was featured in Mills' Coppélia and Paquita, and pieces by Jennifer Hart, Christopher Swaim, and Alexa Capareda. Nya has also performed as a soloist with Performa/Dance. She's trained in summer programs with the Royal Danish Ballet, Alonzo King LINES, Pacific

Northwest Ballet, American Ballet Theatre (New York), Miami City Ballet, BalletMet, and Boston Ballet.



**ELIANNA PRICE**Joined Butler Fellowship
Program: 2023

Born in Rochester, NY, Elianna primarily studied classical ballet and contemporary. At Odasz Dance Theatre, Elianna competed in world-renown competitions such as YAGP and ADC/IBC receiving 1st place overall YAGP awards in 2018. She also performed at the Nervi Festival in Genova, Italy in 2020. At 19, she joined Texas Ballet Theater Studio Training Company. While at TBT Elianna performed with the main company, enjoying roles such as Clara and Snowflake in Ben Stevenson's *The Nutcracker*, The Bird in Tim O'keefe's *Peter and the Wolf* and new works from many of the top company members.





**CLAIRE STURGEON** Joined Butler Fellowship Program: 2023

From Cincinnati, Claire began her training with the Cincinnati Ballet Academy. Alongside Cincinnati Ballet, Claire attended The School of Creative and Performing Arts and performed classical, neoclassical, modern, and contemporary pieces. At 16, Claire joined Cincinnati Ballet's Professional Training division studying under Sarah Hairston and Victoria Morgan. She was promoted to Trainee for the 2022-23 season under direction of Jodie Gates. Claire's repertoire with the company included corps de ballet roles in Victoria Morgan's The Nutcracker, Cinderella, and Bold Moves Performances, as well as the trainee production of Balanchine's Raymonda. In the summers, Claire trained with San Francisco Ballet, Ballet West, and Ballet Austin.



**AVA TELLIER** Joined Butler Fellowship Program: 2023

Originally from Minnetonka, Minnesota, Ava received her pre-professional training at Westmet Classical Training under Allynne Noelle and Thomas Brown. During this time Ava had the opportunity to perform roles such as the Sugar Plum Fairy and Dew Drop Fairy in Allynne Noelle's Nutcracker Sweet. She also performed lead/featured roles in multiple Maria Konrad works, Sidra Bell's Beyond The Edge Of The Frame, and Dark Angel in George Balanchine's Serenade. She has attended summer's at Pacific Northwest Ballet on scholarships before most recently accepting the Butler Fellowship position.





Photos by Anne Marie Bloodgood

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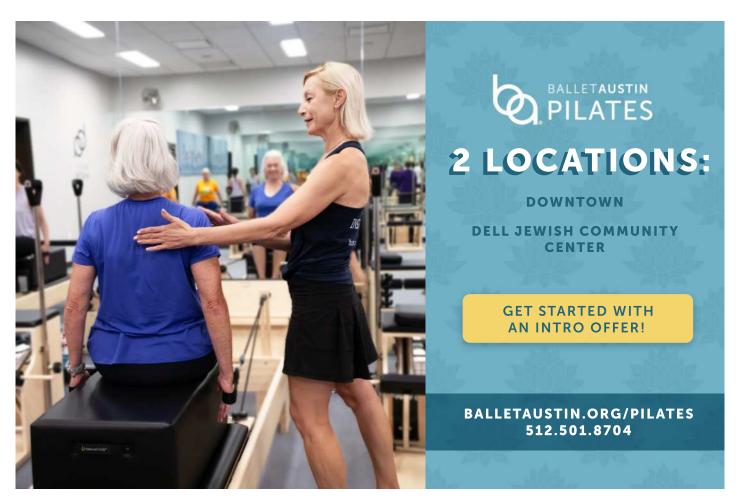
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Jennifer Guthrie
Alex Ladage
Ryann Reaud
Stephanie Whitehurst

Derry Swanger, Swanger Prickett LLP Legal Advisor

Jon Fellows, Fiducient Advisors Financial Advisor

#### **ENDOWMENT DONORS**

#### \$6,000,000+

Dr. & Mrs. Ernest C. Butler

#### \$100,000 +

Anonymous In loving memory of Nancy Carpenter Ballet Austin Board of Directors Janette & Patrick Keating Mr. & Mrs. Joe Long

#### \$50,000+

Anonymous In honor of Sarah Butler, 2022 BAF Trustees and Advisory Council Members In loving memory of Martha B. Harrington In loving memory of Terri Lynn Wright Ballet Austin Guild Dr. & Mrs. Craig C. Kuglen Edie Rogat & Cotter Cunningham Dilum & Surangi Chandrasoma Peter Schram & Harry Ullmann

#### \$25,000+

In loving memory of Marilyn H. Ferguson Steve Adler & Diane T. Land Barbara & Alan Cox in memory of James Alan Cox Martha & Cliff Ernst Jo & Jonathan Ivester Catherine Leon-Parker Jennene & K. Ray Mashburn Emily Moreland / Moreland Properties Cathy & Dwight Thompson

#### LEGACY CIRCLE MEMBERS

Ballet Austin thanks our Legacy Circle members, donors who graciously remember Ballet Austin in their estate plans.

Steve Adler & Diane T. Land
Becky Beaver
Rick Bennett
Paula & Bob Boldt
Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Butler
Darlene & Dan Byrne
Ann & Jim Downing
Martha & Cliff Ernst
Dr. Harvey Evans & Gloria Evans
Malcolm Ferguson
Jennifer Guthrie
David L. Harrington
Becky & Richard Herrington
Nikki Bryant Irion & Terry Irion
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We would be honored to visit with you about tax strategies which may benefit you and your family as you make your year-end charitable giving plans. Please contact Development Director, Christi Lotz, at christi.lotz@balletaustin.org for more information.

# **BALLET AUSTIN IS...**

### HERE TO INNOVATE



## HERE TO TEACH



#### HERE TO SERVE







#### **BALLET AUSTIN STAFF**

#### ARTISTIC TEAM

Stephen Mills, Artistic Director
Sarah & Ernest Butler Family Fund
Michelle Martin, Associate Artistic Director
Eugene Alvarez, Company Manager
Christopher Swaim, Rehearsal Director
Alexa Capareda,

Rehearsal Director – Ballet Austin TWO & Butler Fellowship Program

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM**

Cookie Gregory Ruiz, C.F.R.E.,

Executive Director
Lital Yaacob, Director of Business
Analytics & Ticketing
Billie Bledsoe, Director of Operations
Roshae Richard, Executive Administrator
Maureen Cross, Associate Director of Ticketing
Jane Trembley, Database Specialist
Emily McLaughlin, Controller
Jake Hardy, Facilities Manager
Paul Petrosky, Ticketing Manager
Finda Kollie, Accounting Associate

#### PRODUCTION TEAM\*

Bill Sheffield, Production Director / Stage Manager Steven Myers, Technical Director Tony Tucci, Lighting Supervisor Alexey Korygin, Wardrobe Director Conrad Haden, Head Carpenter Andrew Ferrucci, Head Electrician C.J. Swinburn, Light Board Operator Valerie Sadorra, Head Props Bill Mester, Head Audio Joan Miller, Head Wardrobe Jessica Boettger, Stitcher Bon Davis, Head Projectionist James Cameron, Assistant Carpenter Anthony Celenza, Props Assistant Kate Nance, Props Assistant Richard Reid, Head Flyman Charlie King, Audio Assistant Miriam Jurgensen, Ballet Austin TWO Head of Wardrobe Brad Wilson, Associate Production Manager

\* Stage employees of Ballet Austin are represented by I.A.T.S.E. Local 205.

Gloria Labatut Davies, Assistant Stage Manager

#### **BALLET AUSTIN ACADEMY**

William Piner, Academy Director
Michelle Martin, Faculty Chair
Jennifer Hart, Curriculum Manager
Katelyn Rustagi, Senior ProgramsManager
LB Flett, Young Children's Program Manager
Siobhan O'Donnell, Registrar
Jessica O'Brien, Academy Administrator
Hannah Neuhauser, Academy Associate
Amy Stelly, Academy Associate
Rob Greenfield, Pianist Manager

#### EDUCATION TEAM

Pei-San Brown, *Director of Education*Kathleen Rockefeller, *Associate Director of Education*Sam Rosas-Mantilla, *Education Assistant*Rebecca Tulis, *EduMoves™ Teaching Artist*McKenzie Chen, *EduMoves™ Teaching Artist*NaKia Whitaker, *EduMoves™ Teaching Artist* 

#### **CREATIVE SERVICES TEAM**

Paul Michael Bloodgood, Associate
Director, Film & Video Production

Anne Marie Bloodgood, Senior Manager,
Digital & Social Media / Chief Photographer

Sarah Pace, Marketing and
Communications Manager

Rachel Pérez, Graphic & Visual Design Manager

Jazz Collins, Video Content Creator

#### DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Christi Cuellar Lotz, C.F.R.E.,

Development Director

Brooke Holmes, Associate Director,

Individual Giving

Maria Murphy-Mayberry, Senior

Development Manager

Miranda Cave, Grants &

Institutional Giving Associate

Claire Coker, Development Administrator

#### **BUTLER CENTER FOR DANCE & FITNESS**

Vicki Parsons, Director of the Butler Center for Dance & Fitness & Pilates Center

Vlada Sheber, Pilates Program Director
Lauren Parra-Faudree, Associate Director
of the Butler Center for Dance & Fitness
Rajiv Awasthi, Customer Experience Team
Aidan Abraham, Customer Experience Team
Katie Qin, Customer Experience Team
Irina Raleigh, Customer Experience Team
Alexandria Richmond,

Customer Experience Team Mary Riley, Customer Experience Team Sophie Vaught, Customer Experience Team

#### **ACADEMY & BUTLER CENTER INSTRUCTORS**

Jenny Alperin, Leah Baxter, Ian J. Bethany, Courtney Borrero, Pei-San Brown, Daniel Broxton, Colin Canavan. Alexa Capareda, Ivana Castaneda, Danielle Cortier, Aisling DiRico, Lisa del Rosario, Katherine Deuitch, Lexi Eicher, Lauren Parra Faudree, Laura Beth "LB" Flett, James Fuller, Kaeilie Geiser, Emmalie George, Jennifer Hart, Heather Haycock, Stacey Huston, Vivian Kaw, Heilla Lain, Fay Leonard, Jean Claude Lessou, Emily Lofton, Arletta Howard Logan. Brenda Susanto Madsen, Kerin Martinez, Emily McLaughlin, Mia Moi, Annie Nimmo, Jessica O'Brien, Cicily Oliver, Sahel Flora Pascual, Elise Pekarek, Selena Offenberg, Priscilla Pope, Marissa Ramirez, Lucy Record, Jason Rhodes, KC Shonk, Megan Richard, Sam Rosas-Mantilla, Katelyn Rustagi, Allison Spell, Jadelyn Stanfill, Morgan Stillman, Christopher Swaim, Dereke Thompson, Venese Trejo, Rebecca Tulis, Sydney Vila, Ramsay Wall, Taylor Williams

#### **ACCOMPANISTS**

Rob Greenfield, *Pianist Manager*Mike Brown, Shawn Ellison, Rob Greenfield,
Lan-Thach Kratzke, Kelsey
Nelson, Stevie Sparks,
Peter Stopschinski, Ben Tibbetts,
Corinne Vassallo