



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 10, 2016

Contact: Erika Overturff (Founder and Artistic Director), 402-541-6946

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BALLET NEBRASKA'S SWAN LAKE REVEALS THE STORY BEHIND THE SWANS

OMAHA -- Rows of graceful ballerinas, clad in flowing white tutus and crowned with feathers, form the iconic image of the beloved classical ballet *Swan Lake*. But what's the story behind all those swans?

That's the question that Ballet Nebraska aims to answer in its new season-opening production, artistic director Erika Overturff said. Premiering October 22 at the Orpheum, the new *Swan Lake* will stay true to the ballet's timeless aesthetics, she said, while revealing the drama behind them.

"We're filling in the backstory," said Overturff. "*Swan Lake* was based on old Russian folk tales that are little-known today. We're bringing back its dramatic elements, so our audience will appreciate *Swan Lake* both for its beauty and for its powerful story of good against evil."

Overturff said the basics of the story are the same as those in Marius Petipa's definitive 1895 production for the Russian Imperial Ballet. By a hidden lake, the sorcerer Rothbart has imprisoned a young woman, Odette, by transforming her into a swan. She and her fellow swan maidens regain their human form only from dusk to dawn. A young prince, Siegfried, is in love with Odette, and vows to break the spell by swearing in public to marry her. But Rothbart and his daughter, Odile, trick Siegfried into pledging his love to Odile instead, and all return to the lake for a final confrontation.

To help tell this story, Overturff said, choreographer and Ballet Nebraska balletmaster Matthew Carter has added a prologue — the same technique Petipa used in his later ballet *The Sleeping Beauty*. The new prologue, Overturff said, lays the groundwork for who the characters are, how they relate to each other, and why they treat each other the way they do.

That knowledge makes *Swan Lake* relatable as well as beautiful, Overturff said. "At heart, it's a story about the danger of being deceived by appearances," she said. "We've all had the experience of misjudging someone, for better or worse, on the basis of looks. *Swan Lake* takes that universal experience and turns it into a beautiful and inspiring theatrical drama."

Information about Ballet Nebraska's Season 7 production of *Swan Lake* is available at balletnebraska.org/performances.

Ballet Nebraska is the region's professional dance company. Season 7 is presented with major support from the Iowa West Foundation, the Fred and Eve Simon Charitable Foundation, and the Richard Brooke Foundation, with additional support from Douglas County, the Nebraska Arts Council, and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment.

##

Ballet

NEBRASKA

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

October 10, 2016

Contact: Erika Overturff (Founder and Artistic Director), 402-541-6946

QUICK GUIDE TO BALLET NEBRASKA'S SWAN LAKE

- What:** Ballet Nebraska's *Swan Lake*
Choreography by Matthew Carter,
based on the original choreography of Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov.
- When/where:** Saturday, Oct 22, 7:30 pm, Omaha's Orpheum Theater
- Why it's important:** *Swan Lake* is generally recognized as one of the most beautiful and most beloved of the 19th-century classical ballets. Its signature roles – Odette, the noble Swan Queen, and Odile, the deviously seductive Black Swan – have become symbols of ballet in popular culture. For example, the 2010 Darren Aronofsky film *Black Swan* uses the characters of the ballet to frame the psychological struggle of the protagonist, portrayed by Natalie Portman.
- Its history:** The original version, choreographed by Václav Reisinger to a score by Piotr Tchaikovsky, premiered in 1877 at Moscow's Bolshoi Ballet. Although the ballet was popular, running for seven seasons, many critics of the time took an unfavorable view both of Reisinger's choreography and the overall production.
- In 1895 the Russian Imperial Ballet gave the ballet a makeover, retaining the Tchaikovsky score but adding new choreography by Marius Petipa and his assistant, Lev Ivanov. The new version received positive reviews and, while infrequently performed at first, became widely staged by companies around the world. The first U.S. production, by the San Francisco Ballet in 1940, was a popular and critical success.
- Many contemporary choreographers and companies have used the *Swan Lake* story as the basis for their own re-interpretations. One of the best-known is Matthew Bourne's 1995 *Swan Lake*, which replaced the female swan maidens with a group of male dancers.
- Key scenes:** The "White Swan" *pas de deux* – Siegfried, hunting at night, comes across what he takes at first to be a flock of swans. Through gestures that gradually transform from birdlike to human, Odette reveals to him that the swans actually are enchanted women.
- The "Black Swan" *pas de deux* – Siegfried has sworn to free Odette from her spell by publicly vowing to marry her. The sorceress Odile impersonates Odette to thwart his plan. She imitates Odette's manner just enough to fool Siegfried, even as sparks of her true nature show through to onlookers.
- Erika's take:** "*Swan Lake* is a landmark of classical ballet. The emotive musical score by Tchaikovsky is one of my all-time favorites, and the corps of graceful swans moving in unison is breathtaking. We're looking forward to taking our place in the history of this iconic work."

BALLET NEBRASKA'S SEASON SEVEN COMPANY ARTISTS

Erika Overturff

Founder and Artistic Director



Erika Overturff is the founder and artistic director of Ballet Nebraska, the region's professional ballet company. Under her leadership, Ballet Nebraska enriches the area through an exciting array of professional dance performances and a strong commitment to cultural education and community outreach programming.

Erika began her training in Iowa at the Academy of Ballet, studying at summer programs including North Carolina School of the Arts, American Ballet Theatre, Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, and the Kirov Academy. Erika earned her B.F.A. in ballet performance and teaching from the University of Utah, which she attended on a full scholarship. She graduated *cum laude* in just three years and was chosen outstanding senior by the ballet department faculty.

Erika went on to dance with Montgomery Ballet, Alabama Ballet, and Omaha Theater Ballet. She has performed principal and soloist roles in a wide range of classical and contemporary repertoire. Area audiences have enjoyed Erika's performances in roles such as Eileen in *Swing, Swing, Swing!*, Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Lucy in *Dracula*, Snow Queen and Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*, Queen of Hearts in *Alice in Wonderland*, and Myrtha in *Giselle*. Erika has also been a faculty member and guest teacher for schools throughout the United States.

As a choreographer, Erika has received critical praise for her work. She served as *répétitrice* for Montgomery Ballet and resident choreographer for Omaha Theater Ballet. She has worked on several collaborations with Opera Omaha, created an all-new production of *Peter and the Wolf* with the Omaha Symphony, and regularly creates new works for Ballet Nebraska. As part of the company's ongoing collaboration with Joslyn Art Museum for *Momentum*, Erika has choreographed original ballets inspired by museum artwork or exhibitions, including *Connemara*, *Cleopatra*, and *Go West!* Other featured works include *Tropico*, *Party Animals*, and *The Diner*. Erika also created Ballet Nebraska's lively and entertaining version of the holiday favorite *The Nutcracker*, which has premiered to enthusiastic audiences both at home and on tour. Additionally, Erika is a recipient of the Midlands Business Journal's 40 Under 40 Awards, honoring area entrepreneurs, executives, and professionals.

Ballet

NEBRASKA

Matthew Carter

Ballet Master



Matthew Carter began his training in Pennsylvania with Sharon Filone at the Lake Erie Ballet School and Sandra Barnett at Little's Dance Studio. He went on to study on full scholarship at North Carolina School of the Arts, Miami City Ballet School, and the Chautauqua Festival Dancers. Matthew has danced professionally with Ohio Ballet, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, Lake Erie Ballet, and Omaha Theater Ballet. He has performed numerous leading roles within the classical repertoire, including Prince Desire in *The Sleeping Beauty*, Franz in *Coppélia*, and Mercutio in *Romeo & Juliet*, as well as in works by George Balanchine, Merce Cunningham, Donald Byrd, Heinz Poll, Laura Dean, Luis Montero, and many others. He has also performed as a guest artist with Hawaii Ballet Theatre, Neglia Ballet Artists, and Ballet Tucson.

Omaha audiences have enjoyed Matthew in roles such as Albrecht in *Giselle*, Cavalier in *The Nutcracker*, White Rabbit in Kennet Oberly's *Alice In Wonderland*, the Asp in Erika Overturff's *Cleopatra*, and Puck in Oscar Antunez's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Also a choreographer, he has premiered original works with numerous schools and professional companies, including *Bacchanale Variations*, *Signs of Life*, *Sadako* and *Poseidon* for Ballet Nebraska. Matthew is the co-director of Motion41 Dance in Omaha and continues to serve as a guest teacher for schools throughout the country. Matthew returns for his seventh season as ballet master.

Ballet

NEBRASKA

Artists

Erin Alarcón



Erin Alarcón received her dance training under Christine Taylor and Luba Gulyaeva at North Jersey School of Dance Arts in Hackettstown, NJ where she was also a member of New Jersey Civic Youth Ballet. Erin went on to graduate *magna cum laude* with a B.A. in dance performance at Mercyhurst University under the direction of Tauna Hunter. During her time at Mercyhurst she performed both leading and soloist roles. During the summers she studied with Eglevsky Ballet and Joffrey Ballet. She has worked with a number of guest artists including Laura Alonso, Bruce Marks, Vivi Flindt, and Bill Evans.

Erin has studied abroad with Valerie Valentine of the Dutch National Ballet, danced professionally with SoMar Dance Works and Ballet Concert, and has appeared as a guest artist with Iowa Dance Theater performing the title role of *Cinderella*. With Ballet Nebraska, she has performed title roles in *Giselle*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and as Sugar Plum Fairy in Erika Overturff's *The Nutcracker*. She was featured in Mikhail Fokine's *The Dying Swan*, the Black Swan *pas de deux* from *Swan Lake*, and as Fee in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Erin recently choreographed the ballet *One in Three*, which was featured in *Momentum* to rave reviews. She also serves as Ballet Nebraska's operations manager and teaches classes and workshops throughout the state. This is Erin's seventh season with the company.

Ryan Christopher



Ryan Christopher grew up in Colorado playing baseball and football through high school. He received his classical ballet training at International Youth Ballet on a full scholarship under the tutelage of Mark Carlson and German Zamuel. Ryan also trained during summers at The Performing Arts Conservatory of Texas directed by H. Christopher Fairbank. Ryan previously danced with Denver's Ballet Ariel and Boulder Ballet where he performed soloist roles in classical repertory including *Le Corsaire*, *Les Sylphides*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Cinderella*, *The Nutcracker*, *Peter Pan*, *Giselle*, *Napoli*,

Beauty & the Beast, and *Les Patineurs*, as well as roles in many neoclassical and modern works. With Ballet Nebraska, Ryan has performed featured roles in *Giselle*, *Paquita*, *Snow White*, *The Nutcracker*, *Cleopatra*, and several works in *Momentum* including Charles Weidman's *On My Mother's Side* and Erika Overturff's *Go West!* He has appeared as a guest artist throughout Colorado and around the United States. This is Ryan's fourth season with the company.

Marco Clemente



Marco Clemente graduated from the Ruth Page School of Dance in Chicago, Illinois under the direction of Larry Long and Dolores Lipinski-Long. He has performed in numerous productions with the Civic Ballet of Chicago under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Long, including productions of *Napoli* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, in which he danced the role of Puck. Marco has performed with Dayton Ballet and Minnesota Ballet in works such as the *Harlequinade* *pas de deux*, and as Goro in *Madame Butterfly*. This is Marco's first season with Ballet Nebraska.

Ballet

N E B R A S K A

Vivi DiMarco



Hailing from Chicago, Vivi DiMarco trained in ballet, modern, and Vaganova character dance at the School of DanceWest Ballet under the direction of Ricardo and Regina Moyano. While attending college, Vivi continued to train at Hubbard Street's Lou Conte Dance Studio and the Ruth Page Center for the Arts. She also danced, directed, and choreographed for University Ballet. She graduated with honors from the University of Chicago with a B.S. in chemistry. Vivi was a trainee at The Joffrey Ballet of Chicago, performing in trainee productions of *Paquita* and Gerald Arpino's *Birthday Variations*.

With Ballet Nebraska, Vivi has danced as Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*, the lead in *Paquita*, and featured roles in *Alice in Wonderland*, *Les Odalisques*, George Balanchine's *Valse Fantaisie*, and many roles in *Momentum*. She also serves as Ballet Nebraska's marketing coordinator. Vivi returns for her fifth season with Ballet Nebraska.

Katherine Eppink



Katherine Eppink is a graduate of the University of Utah where she earned a B.F.A. from the department of ballet. Katherine began her classical ballet training in Des Moines at Iowa Dance Theatre. She also danced on scholarship as a member of Utah Ballet, the resident performing company of University of Utah, where she performed lead roles in *Serenade*, *Coppélia*, *Swan Lake*, *Ruslan and Ludmila*, and *The Nutcracker*. Katherine spent summers training with Pacific Northwest Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Joffrey Ballet, Ballet West, Nashville Ballet, Ballet Met, and Korean Ballet Theatre. At Ballet

Nebraska, Katherine has danced in *Giselle*, *The Nutcracker*, *Paquita*, *On My Mother's Side*, *Cleopatra*, *One in Three*, and *Go West!* Katherine returns to Ballet Nebraska for her third season.

Claire Goodwillie



Claire Goodwillie began her ballet training at Omaha Theater Ballet School of Dance. She spent summers training with Pacific Northwest Ballet and Ballet Austin, as well as in Banff, Canada. Claire danced as an apprentice with Omaha Theater Ballet. With Ballet Nebraska, Claire has danced the title role in *Cleopatra*, Rat Queen in *The Nutcracker*, Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Vampire Bride in *Dracula*, Geisha in *Sadako*, Red Queen in *Alice in Wonderland*, Ostrich in *Party Animals*, Zulme in *Giselle*, and featured roles in *Paquita*, *The Diner*, *Go West!*, and George Balanchine's *Valse Fantaisie*.

She has also performed with Opera Omaha and Omaha Symphony. Claire returns for her seventh season with the company.

Ballet

NEBRASKA

Bret Samson



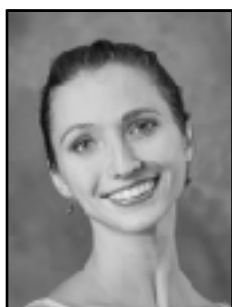
Originally from Wisconsin, Bret Samson began her dance training at Lake Shore Dance with Amy Aichele and Gwen Agee in Saukville, and Melissa Anderson and Rafael Delgado in Milwaukee, later continuing to dance at Steps on Broadway in New York City. She has danced with Milwaukee Ballet II, Madison Ballet and Omaha Theater Ballet. Bret has performed in works by noted choreographers including Harrison McEldowney, Oskar Antunez, Winthrop Corey, Kennet Oberly, and Jean-Paul Commélin. A founding member of Ballet Nebraska, Bret has performed as Arabian Princess in *The Nutcracker*, soloist in Mikhail Fokine's *The Dying Swan*, Moyna in *Giselle*, and featured roles in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Cleopatra*, and many works in *Momentum*. Bret has also performed with Opera Omaha and Omaha Symphony. This is Bret's seventh season with the company.

Kelsey Schwenker



Boulder native Kelsey Schwenker began her classical ballet training with Ballet Nouveau of Colorado, where she was a five-year member of its student company directed by Julia Wilkinson Manley. She trained during summers with Kansas City Ballet, Brooklyn Ballet Theatre, Boulder Jazz Dance Workshop and Paul Taylor Dance Company. Kelsey received her B.F.A. in ballet performance, graduating summa cum laude from the University of Oklahoma, where she trained with Mary Margaret Holt, Donn Edwards, Steve Brule and Jeremy Lindberg. Kelsey has performed in notable works including *Rodeo*, *Divertimento No. 5*, *The Firebird*, *Afternoon of a Faun* and *Les Biches*. With Ballet Nebraska, she has performed lead roles in *Alice in Wonderland* and *Poseidon*, as well as featured roles in *The Nutcracker*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Dracula*, *Les Odalisques*, *Bacchanale Variations*, *Sadako*, *Party Animals*, *Giselle*, *Paquita*, *The Diner*, *Cleopatra*, *Go West!*, and George Balanchine's *Valse Fantaisie*. She is rehearsal director for Repertory Ensemble, the company's youth performance group. Kelsey returns for her seventh season with the company.

Anna Swenson



Anna Swenson began her classical ballet training at Ballet Arts Academy of Spokane, Washington, where she performed in original works by choreographers Charles Askegard, Dodie Askegard and Deidre A. Kellogg among others. She studied during summers at Walnut Hill School for the Arts, Joffrey Ballet's Jazz and Contemporary program, and School of Alberta Ballet in Calgary, Canada. She joined the trainee program at School of Alberta Ballet in 2012, performing in Aram Manukyan's *The Nutcracker* and in Yukichi Hattori's *Numbers*. With Ballet Nebraska, Anna has performed in *Giselle*, *Paquita*, *Snow White*, *The Nutcracker*, *Cleopatra*, *On My Mother's Side*, *Go West!*, and many roles in *Momentum*. Anna returns for her fourth season with Ballet Nebraska.

Ballet

N E B R A S K A

Katie van der Mars



Katie van der Mars is a graduate of the University of Utah where she received her B.F.A. in ballet performance. She began her training in classical ballet at Corvallis Academy of Ballet in Corvallis, Oregon. Katie trained during summers with Atlanta Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, and Ballet West. During her time in Salt Lake City, she performed as a 3-year member of the University's resident company, Utah Ballet, where she danced in *Giselle*, *La Bayadere*, *Paquita*, the pas de deux from *Scheherazade*, *The Nutcracker*, *Les Odalisques* pas de trois from *Le Corsaire*, *The Firebird*, Fokine's *Ruslan & Ludmilla*, and many contemporary works. At Ballet Nebraska, Katie has danced the lead in George Balanchine's *Valse Fantaisie*, French soloist in *The Nutcracker*, and featured roles in *Alice in Wonderland*, *Party Animals*, *Giselle*, *The Diner*, *Cleopatra*, *Go West!* and many works in Ballet Nebraska's mixed-repertory production *Momentum*. Katie returns for her fifth season at Ballet Nebraska.

Sasha York



Originally from Chelyabinsk, Russia, Sasha York trained at Paavola School of Dance in Flint, Michigan. He later returned to Russia, where he trained with Urey Urivich. Sasha was accepted into the pre-professional program at Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, where he performed in company productions of *Don Quixote*, *The Nutcracker*, *Peter Pan*, and *Alice in Wonderland*. He has worked with many well-known choreographers such as Viktor Plotnikov, Septime Webre, and Harrison McEldowney. With Ballet Nebraska, Sasha has performed as Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Marc Antony in *Cleopatra*, Hilarion in *Giselle*, Prince Charming in *Snow White*, Cavalier and Snow King in *The Nutcracker*, White Knight in *Alice in Wonderland*, and lead roles in *Dracula*, *Swing Swing Swing!*, *Paquita*, Charles Weidman's *On My Mother's Side*, and Erika Overturff's *Go West!*. He previously danced for two seasons at Omaha Theater Ballet and is a featured guest artist in ballet productions throughout the United States. Sasha returns for his seventh season with the company.

Ballet

NEBRASKA

Ensemble Artists

Rebecca Brenner



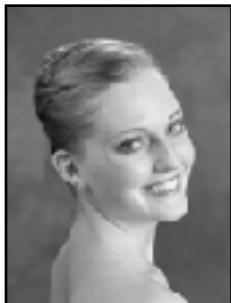
Ohio native and former member of Rochester City Ballet, Rebecca received her ballet training from Columbus City Ballet School and University of Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. She attended summer intensives with American Ballet Theatre in New York City, trained on merit scholarship at Orlando Ballet School in Florida, and participated in Youth American Grand Prix, competing twice in its New York City finals. She has performed Balanchine works including *Walpurgisnacht Ballet*, *Valse-Fantaisie*, *Stars and Stripes*, *Raymonda Variations*, and *Serenade*. At Rochester City Ballet, she appeared in *The Nutcracker*, *Cinderella*, *Serenade* and the premiere of Jamey Leverett's *New York Cityscapes*. With Ballet Nebraska, Rebecca has performed in *Giselle*, *The Nutcracker*, *Paquita*, and *Cleopatra*. This is Rebecca's third season with Ballet Nebraska.

Jake Godek



Originally from Keller, TX, Jake Godek studied dance at West Texas A&M University under Edward Truitt, Leslie Williams, and Crystal Bertrand. He danced for two seasons with Lone Star Ballet of Amarillo, TX performing the role of Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*, Nutcracker Prince in *The Nutcracker*, and Caesar in *Cleopatra*, among others. Jake also performed three summers in the outdoor musical drama, *Texas*, as a dancer and as understudy to theatrical roles, eventually performing the lead role of Calvin. With Ballet Nebraska, Jake has performed featured roles in *Cleopatra*, *The Nutcracker*, and *Go West!* This is Jake's second season with Ballet Nebraska.

Alyssa Grimsley



Alyssa Grimsley began her dance training at Western Arkansas Ballet in Fort Smith, Arkansas. She trained during summers at Joffrey Midwest, Ballet Austin, Tulsa Ballet, and Cincinnati Ballet. Alyssa graduated summa cum laude with a B.F.A. in ballet performance from the University of Oklahoma, where she trained with Mary Margaret Holt, Clara Cravey, Steve Brule, Ilya Kozadayev, and Jeremy Lindberg. Alyssa toured with Oklahoma Festival Ballet at the Haydn's Classical Music Festival in Eisenstadt, Austria and with Burklyn Ballet Theatre to perform at Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland. She has performed in Ballet Nebraska productions of *Giselle*, *The Nutcracker*, *Paquita*, *On My Mother's Side*, and *Go West!* Alyssa returns for her third season with Ballet Nebraska.

Amaris Sharratt

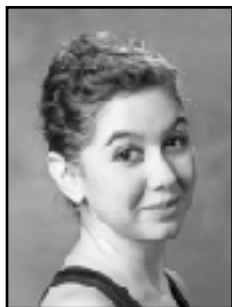


Amaris Sharratt began her training at Ballet Arts in Tucson, Arizona under the direction of Mary-Beth Cabana. She spent summers training on full scholarship at Pacific Northwest Ballet, Houston Ballet, and Ballet Tucson. As a Marshall Thurber Scholarship recipient at Burklyn Ballet Theater, Amaris performed in Edinburgh, Scotland at Fringe Festival where she performed a featured role in Robert Royce's *Beauty and the Beast*. She also performed with Milwaukee Ballet II, Houston Ballet, Nevada Ballet Theater, Ballet Tucson, Earthen Vessels, and Hopestone Dance Company. Her repertoire includes *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Amahl And The Night Visitors*, *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, *Cinderella* and other classical and contemporary works. At Ballet Nebraska, Amaris has performed in *Giselle*, *The Nutcracker*, *Paquita*, *Cleopatra*, and *Go West!* Amaris returns for her third season with Ballet Nebraska.

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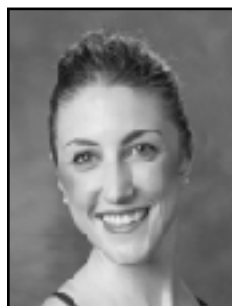
Chloé Watson



Chloé Watson graduated *cum laude* from Purchase College Conservatory of Dance at State University of New York (S.U.N.Y.) with a B.F.A. in dance performance. She began her classical ballet training at Dallas Ballet Center and graduated with distinguished high honors from Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas, Texas. She studied on scholarship at Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance and performed in George Balanchine's *Serenade* at Jacob's Pillow. While at university, Chloé studied at Paris Opéra Ballet at the invitation of Kazuko Hirabayashi and traveled to Madrid with members of Compañía Nacional de Danza, where she performed in Balanchine's *The Four Temperaments*. At Ballet Nebraska, Chloé has performed in *Giselle*, *Snow White*, *The Nutcracker*, *Paquita*, *Cleopatra*, *Go West!* and many works in *Momentum*. She presented her original work, *Temporary Dwelling*, as part of Ballet Nebraska's *New Works* program. Chloé returns for her fourth season with Ballet Nebraska.

Apprentices

Katherine Boatright



Hometown: Bartlesville, Oklahoma

Training & Experience: B.A. in dance performance with a minor in arts administration at Mercyhurst University, Osage Ballet, Ballet Concerto

Summer Programs: Joffrey Ballet, American Ballet Theatre

Alexandra Hoffman



Hometown: Cleveland, Ohio

Training & Experience: Louisville Ballet trainee, Cleveland San Jose Ballet School

Summer Programs: Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Nashville Ballet, and Louisville Ballet

Kogan Murphy



Hometown: Chicago, Illinois

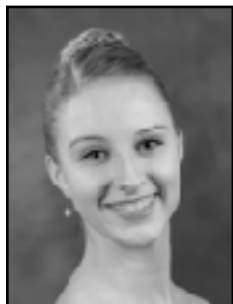
Training & Experience: Ballet Theatre of Indiana, Joffrey Ballet trainee, Judith Svalander School of Ballet, Miss Illinois talent scholarship

Summer Programs: Joffrey Ballet

Ballet

NEBRASKA

Rachel Smith



Hometown: Plymouth, Massachusetts

Training & Experience: Nashville Ballet trainee, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre graduate program, Boston Ballet School

Summer Programs: Walnut Hill School of the Arts, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Miami City Ballet, Houston Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Nashville Ballet

Whitney Walsh



Hometown: Westlake Village, California

Training & Experience: Joffrey Ballet trainee, California Dance Theatre, Pacific Festival Ballet

Summer Programs: Joffrey Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Houston Ballet, Kirov Academy of Ballet

Trainees

Hannah Birdwell

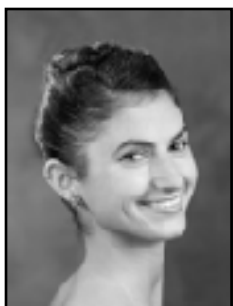


Hometown: Omaha, Nebraska

Training & Experience: Ballet Nebraska II, Motion41 Dance

Summer Programs: Joffrey Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, Motion41 Dance, Omaha Theater Ballet

Nora Carr

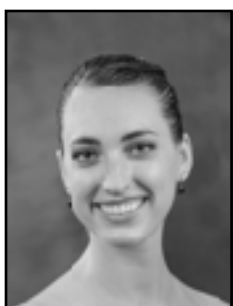


Hometown: Burnt Hills, New York

Training & Experience: Akjun Ballet Theatre, B.F.A. in ballet from the University of Cincinnati-College Conservatory of Music, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet

Summer Programs: American Ballet Theatre, Miami City Ballet, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet

Julie Zukaitis



Hometown: Omaha, NE

Training & Experience: B.F.A. in dance from the University of Arizona, Omaha Academy of Ballet

Summer Programs: Ballet Austin, American Ballet Theater, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Hubbard Street