

# **SEASON FINALE 2025**

## **PRODUCTION TEAM**

Artistic Director of Arts Umbrella Dance Company:  
Artemis Gordon

Associate to the Artistic Director, Senior and Grad  
Company: Lynn Sheppard and Sabra Perry

Senior and Grad Company Rehearsal Directors:  
Artemis Gordon, Sabra Perry, Lynn Sheppard,  
Nicole Rose Bond, Reid Cuming, and Kennedy  
Kraeling

Apprentice Company Rehearsal Directors: Andrea  
Hodge, Katrina Cruickshank

Additional Rehearsal Faculty: Livona Ellis

Production Stage Manager: Marijka Asbeek Brusse  
- appears with the permission of Canadian Actors'  
Equity Association

Assistant Stage Manager: Sammie Hatch

Lighting Designer: Itai Erdal

Additional Lighting Design: Alan Brodie

AUDC Costume Coordinators: Ainslie Cyopik and  
Näomi Lazarus

Video Recording: Flick Harrison

Dance Administration: Nahomi Anyanwu, Brynne  
Harper, Shari Mountain, Samantha Tawaststjerna,  
Theo Tegg

THANK YOU

All AUDC donors, Ballet BC, Raffle Donors, PainPRO  
Clinics, Arts Umbrella Dance Roadies, Costume  
Angels, and Parent Volunteers

## **AUTour Dance Company:**

Troy Atamanuk, Brooke Corrales, Jennifer Cramer, Dante Gonzalez, Louis Gonzalez, Kaiya Hara-Lee, Zoe Jameson, Emma Kuusela, Elizabeth Louie, Elina Lucky, Nina Masciarelli, Estelle McGuinness, Taryn Miller, Ainsley Nivens, Aaron St. Hilaire, Stan Tonin, Leila Williams

## **Arts Umbrella Dance Grad Company:**

Amillya Beech, Rebecca Craw, Eliza Davis, Lilliana Eneliko, Lily Friesen, Sarah Froese, Anastasia Garraway, Gavin Grey, Gaiya Hagameier, Britney Huang, Quinn Isert, Ekaterina Kuzovkina, Madeline McMillan, Isabel Medalla, Robyn Neumann, Chloe Ohira, Erin Park, Louis Pineau, Niki Powell, Noah Prins, Emiliano Rivera-Patton, Madalyn Sawa, Sophia Springer-Iannantuoni, Irene Sull, Airi Takenouchi, Nia Townsend, Robin van Sliedregt, Mason Ward, Sara Wilson, Quinn Wyland, Nagisa Yoshida, Jayda Zhu

## **Arts Umbrella Dance Senior Company:**

Jessica Ashmore, Elisa Baerg, Emma Clarke, Elia De Pangher, Katelyn Duteau, Zinnia Enns, Nixon Flynn-Kingsley, Sunna Geisler, Hailey Giguere, James Hoag, Mei Kuusela, Jubilee Martens, Avery Maxwell, Monroe McWilliams, Divyana Mohanathas, Natalia Reszka, Esme Saxton, Jade Shields, Wynter Silverthorn, Ginger Whaling

## **Arts Umbrella Dance Apprentice Company:**

Gemma Accettura, Isabella Coman, Miles Gill, Angelina Lukac, Dorothy Rohan, Allegra Sellis, Margot Sellis, Sunna Sigurdardotti, Jocelyn Tang, Shaiyen Temerick-Young, Joey Volk, Vince Zhang

# ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES:

## Stephana Arnold

Born in Hamilton Ontario, Stephana attended the National Ballet School of Canada where she received the prestigious Peter Dwyer Award. Upon graduation, she worked closely with choreographer Xing Bang Fu and danced with several small companies before being asked to join the National Ballet of Canada where she danced for three years. Stephana, went on to join Les Grands Ballets Canadiens for seven years and then, Ballet British Columbia where with both companies, danced a wide and eclectic variety of classical and contemporary roles as First Soloist and Principal dancer. She was also a favourite muse for many choreographers and worked with such names as James Kudelka, Eduoard Lock, Jiri Kylian, Ohad Naharin, Shawn Hounsell, Septime Webber, Jean Grand-Maitre, Giocanda Barbuto and Kevin O'Day, plus many others.

While still dancing she became a Ballet B.C. Company Teacher from 2004-09 and in 2010, came out of retirement to dance in the Opening Ceremonies for the Vancouver Winter Olympics. In the past several years, Stephana has won various ballet and contemporary choreography awards, the latest being the 2021 YAGP Best Ensemble in Canada and has recently created pieces for Coastal City Ballet and Arts Umbrella Dance Company. She has been Resident Choreographer for CatchingArt Contemporary Ballet Theatre, Senior Coach at North Vancouver's Pro Arte Centre, on faculty at Arts Umbrella and Founder/Director of the Dance Conservatory in North & West

Vancouver. Stephana currently is a sought after Guest Teacher, Master ballet coach, on faculty at Coastal City Ballet, plus a popular instructor at Oxygen Yoga and Fitness. She also is an Adjudicator for many Canadian ballet festivals and the Youth American Grand Prix since 2022.

# Roy Assaf

Roy Assaf is a mammal of the hominid family, belonging to the species *Homo sapiens*, although there are those who are convinced he possesses Neanderthal genes. He was born in 1982 in the rural community of Sde Moshe in a place that some call Israel, and some call Palestine. He broke his front tooth at the age of five while dancing on the slippery floor of his family home. At age six, he began giving tap concerts for his neighbor, who watched him dance on his concrete balcony from her window across the yard. From 1990 to 1996 he began creating and performing his own dances for monthly family gatherings in Jerusalem. At the age of 16 he met Regba Gilboa, an educator, dance lover, and believer in people who rooted in Roy the confidence that dance is where he belongs.

Two years later, Roy was drafted into the Israel Defense Forces. A fact which never prevented him from continuing to envision dances. And from time

to time, when things got tough, he would sway and groove to uplift his spirits.

In 2004, he met Emanuel Gat who introduced him to Schubert and for whom he wore his first dress.

In 2005 Roy met Anat Inditzky, who loves him for all his shortcomings to this day. Between 2008 and 2017 he met Aya, Nuri, Layla and Jona who continue to teach him about patience, perseverance, and fortitude, among many other things. In 2010, after three years in France, he came back to the place that some call Israel, and some call Palestine. And after one year of idleness, he gathered the courage to make a dance... after which he created another one and another...and another... and continues to this day.



# Cyril Baldy

Cyril Baldy, born in France, is a distinguished dancer, choreographer, educator, rehearsal director, and stager. He began his formal dance education at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris from 1993 to 1997. He launched his professional career with Le Jeune Ballet de France in 1997. Shortly after, he joined Nederlands Dans Theater II, and subsequently Nederlands Dans Theater I, under the guidance of Jirí Kylián, where he remained until 2002. Baldy then moved to Frankfurt Ballet, eventually joining The Forsythe Company in 2005, where he danced until 2014 under the artistic direction of William Forsythe.

Transitioning to freelance work in 2014, Baldy embraced multiple roles including choreographer, educator, rehearsal director, and stager for Forsythe's works. He contributed to numerous prestigious companies like Ballet BC, Nederlands Dans Theater, Le Ballet de l'Opéra de Lyon, and Pacific Northwest Ballet.

His choreographic works are performed globally, including pieces like “With Love And All That” (2025), “Nonsense and Other Matters” (2024), and “Divertissement” (2023). Baldy also developed the “Sentient Method,” a unique dance practice taught at institutions like PARTS and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. His influence in dance is profound, both on stage and in educational settings.

## **Gioconda Barbuto**

Gioconda Barbuto is an internationally esteemed Canadian dancer and choreographer. As a long-time member of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens and Nederlands Dans Theater III, Gioconda was quickly recognized as a versatile and magnetic artist, gracing the works of many leading choreographers. Her synergy in studio with Jiří Kylián in particular led to two celebrated dance films, *Birth Day* and *Car Men*. In 1996, she was nominated for The Kennedy Center Fellowship and received The Banff Centre’s Clifford E. Lee Choreography

Award. Gioconda has unflaggingly pursued her choreographic calling, creating detailed, dynamic friezes of full-bodied gesture, marked by her innate musicality. Her oeuvre now counts over fifty works. In 2015/16 Gioconda was selected as the McKnight International Choreographer and was also selected for Oregon Ballet Theater's Choreography XX competition. Gioconda shares a collaborative approach to creation and methods for moulding space and energy through her Movement workshops and is invited to choreograph and teach worldwide.

## **Aszure Barton**

Aszure Barton's choreography has been performed on stages worldwide as well as in museums and exhibits. She has also choreographed for film, opera, and theater, including Broadway. Early in her career, she founded Aszure Barton & Artists in order to create a collaborative platform for process-centered creation. Barton has also worked with

artists/companies including Mikhail Baryshnikov, Misty Copeland, Cyndi Lauper, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre, Grand Théâtre de Genève, Hamburg Ballett, Martha Graham Dance Company, Nederlands Dans Theater, San Francisco Ballet, Teatro alla Scala, among others. Her latest venture is a collaboration with acclaimed composer/trumpeter Ambrose Akinmusire; their revered work, *A a | a B : B E N D*, will be touring internationally through upcoming seasons. Barton is a longtime resident artist at Baryshnikov Arts and has received various accolades, including a Bessie Award and the prestigious Arts & Letters award. She is also an Ambassador of contemporary choreography in Canada.

## **Ethan Colangelo**

Ethan Colangelo was born and raised in Toronto where he began his initial training at Canada's National Ballet School and Elite Dancworx.

He is now an alumni of The Juilliard School where he received the Hector Zaraspe Prize for Choreographic Promise. As a choreographer, he has presented work at The Baryshnikov Arts Center, Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur, The Queen Elizabeth Theatre, APAP, Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center and the Brooklyn Academy of Music. Ethan was also one of nine choreographers selected internationally for the Copenhagen International Choreography Competition in 2018 and 2021. At the competition in 2021, his piece recurrence won the Audience Choice Award along with the DAF Production Prize and a residency with Hessisches Staatsballett. Most recently, he has created new works for Ballet BC, BODYTRAFFIC, Whim W'Him Contemporary Dance and the National Ballet of Canada. Colangelo has also taught and made new creations for educational institutions such as The Juilliard School, The Ailey School, Arts Umbrella Dance Company, Springboard Danse Montréal, DAF in Rome and MOVE NYC.

# Julia Cratchley

Julia Cratchley is a Toronto based choreographer originally from Richmond Hill, Ont. Julia trained as a contemporary and classical artist in Vancouver, B.C, with Arts Umbrella's Graduate Program under the direction of Artemis Gordon and Lynn Sheppard. Having the opportunity to work with internationally known choreographers, including Emily Molnar, Roberto Campanella, Serge Bennethon, and Robert Glumbek to name a few. Julia is a certified pilates instructor which has been a great support to her dance training and teaching.

Julia was lucky enough to be a part of Toronto dance company Helix Dance Project for four seasons as a dancer and assistant choreographer. She was a dancer and choreographer for Bridge to Artists first three seasons. Julia also danced for Toes for Dance, Conteur Dance Company and Rutherford Movement Exchange. Julia has toured Canada, New York and Dominican Republic.

Julia founded her own immersive company TranscenDance Project in 2015 with its first interactive show “Eve of St.George” which has now run for four seasons as well as “A Grimm Night” which has run for two seasons. TranscenDance Project is premiering its new work Ophis this April.

## **Darren Devaney**

Darren Devaney was born in Edmonton, Canada and studied at the Victoria School of Performing and Visual Arts. He continued his studies at the Boston Conservatory and, after receiving his Bachelor of Fine Arts, joined Ballet BC under the direction of Emily Molnar. There he danced in works by Johan Inger, Jorma Elo, Cayetano Soto, and William Forsythe, among others. Since 2016 he has worked for Sharon Eyal and Gai Behar in the Sharon Eyal Dance Company. He was part of the creations of Love Chapter 2, Chapter 3: The Brutal Journey of the Heart, and Into the Hairy.

# Livona Ellis

Livona Ellis was born in Vancouver on the unceded territories of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. She has performed with Ballet BC (11 seasons), Buhnen Bern, Mascall Dance and Rachel Meyer. Livona has created works for Dances for a Small Stage, Dance Deck, Public Salon 2019, Contemporary Art Gallery Gala 2018, Arts Umbrella Season Finale, and Ballet BC Take Form. In 2017 she received the Vancouver Mayor's Arts Award for Emerging Artist and in 2023 received the inaugural Louise Bentall Award for Emerging Choreographer.

Livona joined Kidd Pivot in June 2023 and is currently collaborating with NYC based artist Rebecca Margolick on the creation of their full length duet "Fortress".



# Sharon Eyal & Gai Behar

Sharon Eyal was born in Jerusalem. She danced with the Batsheva Dance Company between 1990- 2008 and started choreographing within the framework of the company's Batsheva Dancers Create project.

Eyal served as associate Artistic Director for Batsheva between 2003-2004, and as a House Choreographer for the company between 2005-2012. During 2009 Eyal began creating pieces for other dance companies around the world: Killer Pig (2009) and Corps de Walk (2011) for Carte Blanche Dance of Norway; Too Beaucoup (2011) for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago; Plafona (2012) for Tanzcompagnie Oldenburg, Germany.

In 2013 Eyal launched L-E-V with her long-time collaborator Gai Behar. L-E-V's repertoire consists of 5 creations at the present and will be premiering their new creation titled – Love Chapter 2, this coming July, at the Montpellier Dance Festival. For

the second time L-E-V's creation is co-produced with two of the leading dance venues around the globe: Sadler's Wells - London and Julidans - Amsterdam and this year, for Love Chapter 2, also joined for the co-production: Montpellier Danse Festival, GROS Culture Percentage -Dance Festival STEPS, the RomaEuropa Festival and Theater Freiburg. In the past 4 years since L-E-V was founded, the company had more than 150 performances some in the most exclusive venues around the world such as: The Joyce Theatre – NYC; Jacob's Pillow - Becket, Massachusetts; Sadler's Wells - London, UK; The Montpellier Danse Festival – France; Julidans – Amsterdam.

Alongside their work with L-E-V, Eyal and Behar had also been commissioned to create for external companies: the Nederland Dance Theatre- Sara (2013); Bedroom Folk (2015); Salt Womb (2016), Half-Life for the Royal Swedish Ballet and more.

# William Forsythe

William Forsythe (1949) has been active in the field of choreography for over 50 years. His work is acknowledged for reorienting the practice of ballet from its identification with classical repertoire to a dynamic 21st century art form. Forsythe danced with the Joffrey Ballet and later the Stuttgart Ballet, where he was appointed Resident Choreographer in 1976. In 1984, he began a 20-year tenure as director of the Ballet Frankfurt after which he founded and directed The Forsythe Company until 2015. Forsythe's deep interest in the fundamental principles of organization of choreography has led him to produce a wide range of projects including Installations, Films, and web-based knowledge creation. While his work for the stage resides in the repertoire of ensembles worldwide, his installations are presented internationally in exhibitions and museums. Forsythe has been the recipient of numerous awards which include the Golden Lion of the Venice Biennale and Der FAUST German Theatre Award, both for lifetime achievement.

# Michael Garcia

Michael Garcia was born in McAllen, TX. His early ambition and passion for dance led him to Dallas, where he finished his training at Dance Industry Performing Arts Center & Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. After High School, Michael was fortunate to receive his BFA from The Juilliard School, under the direction of Alicia Graf Mack. Since graduation, he is grateful to have performed with Loni Landon Dance Projects at Jacob's Pillow, been a company member with Hubbard Street Dance Chicago for their 44th season and is currently residing in Vancouver for his third year as a full-time company artist at Ballet BC. Beyond performing, Michael has many pursuits in teaching, choreography, modelling and looks forward to further cultivating his career beyond company life both in Vancouver and around the world. He has performed repertoire and creations by Bryan Arias, Roy Assaf, Aszure Barton, Sharon Eyal, William Forsythe, Johan Inger, Jose Limon, Lar Lubbovitch, Ohad Naharin, Crystal Pite, Out Innerspace, Dwight Rhoden, Jermaine Spivey, Imre & Marne Van Opstal and Medhi Walerski.

# Marco Goecke

Marco Goecke completed his ballet training in 1988 at the Heinz-Bosl-Stiftung ballet academy in Munich as well as at the Royal Conservatoire of the Hague, where he received his diploma in 1995. Engagements followed at the Berlin State Opera and Theater Hagen. It was in the year 2000 at this theatre that Goecke created his first choreography, entitled *Loch*. There followed several choreographies for the Noverre-Society with dancers from the Stuttgart Ballet, and an invitation to the New York Choreographic Institute. In July 2003 Goecke won the Prix Dom Pérignon in Hamburg with the piece *Blushing*, danced by the Stuttgart Ballet. In the years that followed, he received numerous commissions for international companies such as Les Ballets de Monte Carlo, the Norwegian National Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet in Seattle and the Berlin State Ballet.

In the 2005/2006 season Marco Goecke was appointed Choreographer in Residence at the Stuttgart Ballet, and it was there in December 2006 that he created his

first narrative ballet The Nutcracker, which was later also filmed for the ZDF theatre channel. From 2006 to 2012 Goecke also held the post of Choreographer in Residence at the Scapino Ballet in Rotterdam. Since the 2013/2014 season he has been Associate Choreographer at the renowned Nederlands Dans Theater.

Of the over sixty works Goecke has created in just a few years, many are also performed by companies for whom they were not originally created, for example in Tel Aviv, in Sao Paulo, by Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, by the Canadian National Ballet, by the Ballett-Theater in Munich, by the Finnish National Ballet in Helsinki, by the Stanislavsky Theater in Moscow, by the Zurich Ballet, by the German Opera on the Rhine in Düsseldorf, and by the Vienna State Opera.

Goecke has received several international awards, including the Culture Prize of the State of Baden-Württemberg in 2005, the Nijinsky Award in Monte Carlo in 2006, the Choreographer of the Year in the critics' survey by the magazine Tanz in 2015, and

the Dutch dance prize Zwaan as well as the Italian prize Danzadanza for the best choreography of the year in 2017. This award was for the full-length work Nijinski, which he created in 2016 for Gauthier Dance in Stuttgart; since then it has been performed on worldwide tours to great success. The book Dark Matter (Königshausen & Neumann, Würzburg), published in 2016, offers a concise overview of his oeuvre.

Since January 2019 he is Artist in Residence with Gauthier Dance Stuttgart, in February 2019 Goecke created his first piece for the Ballet of the Paris Opera.

Since the season 2019/20 Marco Goecke is Artistic Director of the State Ballet Hannover.

His most recent successful works include a Gershwin evening created for Gauthier Dance, the full-length piece “The Lover” based on the novel of the same name by Marguerite Duras for the Staatsballett Hannover, “The Big Crying” for the Nederlands Dans Theater and “Sweet Bones’ Melody” für the Bavarian State Ballet.



# Jae Man Joo

He was born and raised in Kwang-Ju, Korea where he trained Classical Ballet, Modern, and Korean traditional Dances. He graduated from Dankook University in Seoul, Korea. In 1996, he received the Best Individual Artist Award from The Bagnolet International Dance Festival in Paris, France. After moving to New York City he started working with Contemporary Ballet companies. He was a Principal Dancer at Ballet Hispanico and Complexions Contemporary Ballet. He also has worked with Shen Wei, Zvi Gotheiner, Igal Perry, and Jessica Lang. In 2009 he received The Princess Grace Award for excellence in choreography. For the past 19 years, He Worked with Complexions Contemporary Ballet served as the Associate Artistic Director (2011-2018), a Ballet Master (2007-2019), and a Resident Choreographer (2008-Present). He created many ballets for Complexions and all works premiered at the one and only The Joyce Theater, New York City. "Tears" (Rachmaninoff) in 2007, "Surface" (Debussy) in 2008, "Atmosphere" (Bach) in 2009, "Flight" (Bach) in 2012, "Recur"(Richter,Silverstrov) in 2013. "Goodnight"



(Arvo Pärt) in 2017. Jae Man Joo Created the work “Beautiful Imperfection” (Nyman) Commissioned by MMCD in 2015. And the same year he created “Into The Light” (Vivaldi) for Alvin Ailey/ Fordham and also performed by PCDC. In 2016 he created a New Work “Circular” (Denisov, Handel) for Ailey II - Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. In 2017 Jae Man Joo was invited to create a new work for Jacob’s Pillow 85th Anniversary season and his new work “Canvas” which world premiered at the prestigious Jacob’s Pillow Inside/Out stage. In 2018 He Reconstructed and reimagined the revival of “Into the Light” music of Vivaldi, Performed by Point Park Univ. In 2018 He created a brand new work “Intermezzo” for Wise Ballet Theater and premiered in Seoul, Korea. In 2019 for the second time Jacob’s Pillow invited him to create a new work for the Contemporary Program. The title “Dive & Unfold” premiered at the prestigious Pillow Inside/Out stage. Recently he created a full-length Evening Ballet “Vita” his second ballet creation for Wise Ballet Theater Korea. “Vita” received a 2021 Korea Dance Critics Choice Award.

# Taylor LaBruzzo

Taylor LaBruzzo is a freelance dancer, teacher, and dance rehearsal director/assistant based in New York City. She currently works at The Juilliard School as the dance division's first Rehearsal Assistant, teaches contemporary dance at the School of American Ballet, and works regularly with Aszure Barton as a collaborator, assistant, and stager. A graduate of The Juilliard School, Taylor first worked with Barton as a student there in 2015, later returning to re-stage the same work in 2022. She has also staged Barton's work at Houston Ballet, Canada's National Ballet School, and Boston Conservatory, and has assisted her creations at Hamburg Ballet and The Juilliard School. In 2023, she was part of the world premiere of *A a | a B : B E N D* by Barton and Ambrose Akinmusire, taking place at the International Summer Festival Kampnagel in Hamburg, Germany.

# Felix Landerer

During his dance career at the Opera of Hannover, Felix Landerer (Germany) began choreographing. In 2006 Landerer transitioned to working full time as a freelance choreographer and founded his own company LANDERER&COMPANY. He was appointed the house choreographer at Scapino Ballet Rotterdam in 2011. Landerer created for the first time for the company in season 2018-2019, when he made *The whys and wherefores are elusive* for the NDT 2 dancers.

Felix Landerer started training as a dancer at Gymnasium Essen-Werden and the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Frankfurt, after which he danced professionally for fifteen years before he transitioned to working full time as a choreographer in 2006. Besides choreographing for his own company, Landerer has created works for several dance companies all across Europe and the United States.

For his choreographic work, Landerer won the first prize in the International Competition for Choreographers in Hannover for his duet Suits in 2010 and he was nominated for a Dutch Swan award in the category 'Best Dance Production' for his production Blind Spot in 2013. His company LANDERER&COMPANY received the Pro Visio prize for exceptional artistic achievements for the production Revolte! as well as the Stadtkulturpreis Hannover for outstanding civic engagement in arts and culture in 2017.

## **Fernando Hernando Magadan**

Fernando Hernando Magadan is a freelance stager, choreographer and teacher with roots in professional gymnastics. Throughout his 20 seasons with the Nederlands Dans Theater, he created with and performed works by prominent choreographers such as Jiří Kylián, Ohad Naharin, Mats Ek, Crystal Pite, Sol Leon, Paul Lightfoot, Johan Inger, and Hofesh Shechter among others. Notably, he was

invited to perform at the Benois de la Danse Gala Performance at the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow. He later went on to be rehearsal director and ultimately Artistic Leader of the prestigious junior ensemble NDT2.

He has been invited to teach in dance institutions around the world and has set works of Jiří Kylián, Johan Inger, Sol Leon and Paul Lightfoot for companies such as the Norwegian National Ballet, Ballet British Columbia, Ballett Zürich and Ballett Saarländisches Staatstheater.

Characterized by his highly physical, inventive and musical movement vocabulary, Magadan has created original works for companies such as NDT1 and NDT2, Cross Connection Ballet Company, Luna Negra Dance Theater, Ballet Mainz, Ballett Saarländisches Staatstheater, Korzo Theater, Ballet British Columbia, Theater Luzerner, Korzo Theater and BODYTRAFFIC.

# Maiko Miyauchi

Maiko began her dancing at the age of four, studying at the Ecole de Ballet Classic and Tokyo Junior Ballet. After graduating high school, Maiko chose to pursue her training at Goh Ballet Academy in Vancouver, British Columbia. In an effort to challenge herself even further, Maiko began exploring other dance forms, immersing herself in the local Jazz and Hip-Hop communities while continuing to teaching and study at Source Dance Co. and Harbour Dance Centre. Throughout her career, Maiko has worked and choreographed for artists like Young MC, Elise Estrada, Cory Lee, Econoline Crush, as well as organizations/festivals like the Canadian Football League, New Balance, New Works, Dancing on the Edge, Lululemon, and Native shoes. She's also appeared in major motion picture and television projects like Sucker Punch, Once Upon A Time, Hellcats, John Tucker Must Die, The Sorority Wars, Caprica, Impulse, Grave Halloween, Black Sash, and Mirror's Edge 2. While well-versed in many styles of dance, Maiko's

current focus is contemporary dance. Building upon her work with 605 Collective and the response, her role as Co-Director of OURO Collective allows her to follow her passion for experimentation and collaboration with other artists.

## **Crystal Pite**

In a choreographic career spanning three decades, Crystal Pite has created over 50 works for companies including The Royal Ballet, The Paris Opera Ballet, Nederlands Dans Theater I, Cullberg Ballet, Ballett Frankfurt, The National Ballet of Canada, Ballets Jazz Montréal (resident choreographer 2001–04), and Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet. Pite is a Member of the Order of Canada, and is the recipient of numerous awards including the Benois de la Danse, Canada Council Jacqueline Lemieux Prize, Grand Prix de la danse de Montréal, two UK Critics' Circle Dance Awards, four Laurence Olivier Awards, and the 2022 Governor General's Performing Arts



Award. She began her dance career as a company member of Ballet British Columbia (Ballet BC), then William Forsythe's Ballett Frankfurt, and is currently Associate Choreographer of Nederlands Dans Theater I, Associate Dance Artist of Canada's National Arts Centre, and Associate Artist at Sadler's Wells in London. She holds an honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from Simon Fraser University and is a Member of the Order of Canada. In 2002, she formed Kidd Pivot in Vancouver.

## **Amy Raymond**

Amy Raymond danced professionally as a soloist with Dutch National Ballet and with William Forsythe's Frankfurt Ballet. Over the last 20 years she has worked as freelance choreographer, improvisation teacher, ballet teacher, and stages the works of William Forsythe. She has worked in many professional companies and schools and crosses both the classical and contemporary worlds. Some of these institutions include The



Forsythe Company, Paris Opera, NDT, San Francisco Ballet, Dutch National Ballet, Cullberg, Tanztheater Wuppethal Pina Bausch, Goteborg Danskompani, English National Ballet, Arts Umbrella, Codarts, and National Ballet Academy. Over the past 15 years she has studied with martial artist master Akira Hino and has integrated his unique in-depth knowledge of the body in all aspects of her work.

## **Paxton Ricketts**

Paxton Ricketts was born in Denmark and grew up in Canada. He trained at Arts Umbrella Dance from the age of 9 until 19.

In 2014, Paxton joined Nederlands Dans Theater 2 and moved to Nederlands Dans Theater 1 in 2017. During his time with the company, he toured worldwide, performing work by world-renowned choreographers. He left the company in 2024. He has also performed with Ballet BC, Wen Wei Dance, Adam Linder Studio, Fran Diaz and Korzo Theater, among others.

As a choreographer, Paxton has created dozens of works for stage, film, and site-specific venues. In 2022, he studied choreography under Crystal Pite during her creation at The Royal Ballet. In 2023, he participated in the Pioneer Project hosted by Korzo Theater. Recently, Paxton has choreographed new works for GöteborgsOperans Danskompani (Sweden), Kammerballetten (Denmark), NDT Summer Intensive (Netherlands), Fabula Collective (UK), Korzo Theater (Netherlands), Sonder Ensemble (Germany), Arts Umbrella Dance (Canada), HD Theatre (USA) Club Guy & Roni Spring Seminar (Netherlands), and Thorvaldsens Museum (Denmark). His work was a semi-finalist in the 2022 Rotterdam International Duet Choreography Competition. He was selected as an Aerowaves Twenty25 Artist for his work “Live! Not to be missed. Touring Regionally.”

Paxton now lives in London.

# Stephen Shropshire

Stephen Shropshire is a choreographer, curator and dance researcher who has created new choreographic works for companies and festivals all around the world. He is a graduate of the Juilliard School in New York City, holds a MA from the University of Maastricht, and is a doctoral candidate at PhDArts, Leiden University Academy of Creative and Performing Arts in collaboration with the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague.