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UNIVERSITY THEATRE
The UNIVERSITY *of* OKLAHOMA

NOVEMBER 6–8
Elsie C. Brackett Theatre



Oklahoma Festival Ballet

Choreography by George Balanchine, Michael Bearden, Boyko Dossev, Jiří Kylián



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WEITZENHOFFER FAMILY COLLEGE OF FINE
UNIVERSITY THEATRE
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA

and OU School of Dance

present

Oklahoma Festival Ballet

CHOREOGRAPHERS
George Balanchine
Michael Bearden
Boyko Dossev
Jiří Kylián

COSTUME DESIGNERS
Lloyd Cracknell
Sydney Hagen
Joke Visser

LIGHTING DESIGNERS
Harrison Best
Joop Caboort
Lucas Knapp
Ruby Ravsten

STAGE MANAGERS
Ericka Dodson
Christopher Sadler
JJ Toly

OU SCHOOL OF DANCE DIRECTOR
Michael Bearden

OKLAHOMA FESTIVAL BALLET DIRECTOR
Glenn Edgerton

Elsie C. Brackett Theatre
November 6, 7, 8, 2026 at 8 p.m.
November 7, 8 at 3 p.m.

OU Fine Arts Box Office • (405) 325-4101 • theatre.ou.edu

On behalf of the University of Oklahoma School of Dance students, faculty, and staff, welcome to our first main stage production of the season: Oklahoma Festival Ballet. We are thrilled to bring to the stage the opening movement of George Balanchine's *Symphony in C*. This work was premiered by the Paris Opéra Ballet at the Palais Garnier on July 28, 1947, and the following year made its New York City Ballet debut. This classic work has been a wonderful learning experience for our students, and they are thrilled to share this work with you on stage.

Faculty member Boyko Dossev brings his lovely work, *Fantaisie-Impromptu*, back to the stage, this time in collaboration with Dr. Igor Lipinski, Associate Professor of Music (Piano) at the School of Music. This delightful work highlights our talented incoming first-year students with a mixture of neoclassical ballet, including hints of traditional character dance.

To complete the program, we are pleased to present two works by world-famous Czech choreographer Jiří Kylián. The first will be an excerpt of *Sarabande*, designed for six male dancers, followed by the return to the stage of *Falling Angels*. These works have been staged by OU Dance faculty member Glenn Edgerton and represent an incredibly rare experience for students to perform.

I want to say a special thank you to the design and production team in the School of Drama for their hard and detailed work in bringing together such a large production so beautifully. Thank you to Ryan Nye and the Oklahoma City Ballet for allowing some of their company dancers to participate in this production. Lastly, I would like to thank the Director of Oklahoma Festival Ballet, Glenn Edgerton, the faculty, staff, and students in the School of Dance for working so tirelessly on this production. It has been an incredible team effort, and I am grateful to work with such dedicated and creative professionals.

Warm Regards,

Michael Bearden
Director, School of Dance
University of Oklahoma

Dear Friends and Patrons,

It is always a great pleasure to welcome you to each production of our University Theatre season because it's our opportunity to share the arts we love with you and to showcase the work and creativity of our faculty, staff, and student artists. This production is certainly no exception as it includes choreography by two icons of the artform, George Balanchine and Jiri Kylian in addition to original works by faculty choreographers Michael Bearden and Boyko Dossev.

With this production we also pay tribute to and memorialize two dear friends without whom the School of Dance would not be what it is today. Professor Emeritus Donn Edwards moved quickly from being a student in the School of Dance to an exceptional career with the Joffrey, Hamburg, and Boston Ballets performing worldwide before he returned to OU as a faculty member inspiring students with his love of dance and care for their success. He was truly a friend, mentor, and colleague.

It is not surprising that Donn and Betsy (Susan E.) Brackett became friends as Betsy became involved with our school. She and husband Gregg Wadley touched every aspect of the school with their generosity, support, and enthusiasm. Betsy, having studied ballet herself. was an inveterate lover of the art, as happy watching class or rehearsal as much as a full performance, and later eager to discuss every detail.

We are very deeply grateful to have shared the art of dance with Donn and Betsy, and we will remember them always with deep gratitude for their special gifts. We extend deepest thanks to you, our audience, for joining us for this special performance.

With thanks and best wishes,

Professor Mary Margaret Holt
Dean, Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts
Nichols' Chair, Regents' Professor, and
Presidential Professor
University of Oklahoma

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100% of the funds raised through the OU Dean's Circle membership go toward providing students in the College of Fine Arts opportunities off-campus that promote artistic and intellectual development.

Questions? Contact Kimberley Worrell, Executive Director of Advancement, OU Foundation at kworrell@ou.edu or call (405) 325-7376.

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IN MEMORY OF

BESTY BRACKETT

SEPTEMBER 26, 1953 - SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

Susan Elizabeth (Betsy) Brackett, dear friend and patron of the School of Dance, passed away at home on Sept. 11, 2026, with her beloved golden retriever, Riley, by her side.

Betsy was both talented and tenacious as she created new pathways in her profession and lifted others into the arts.

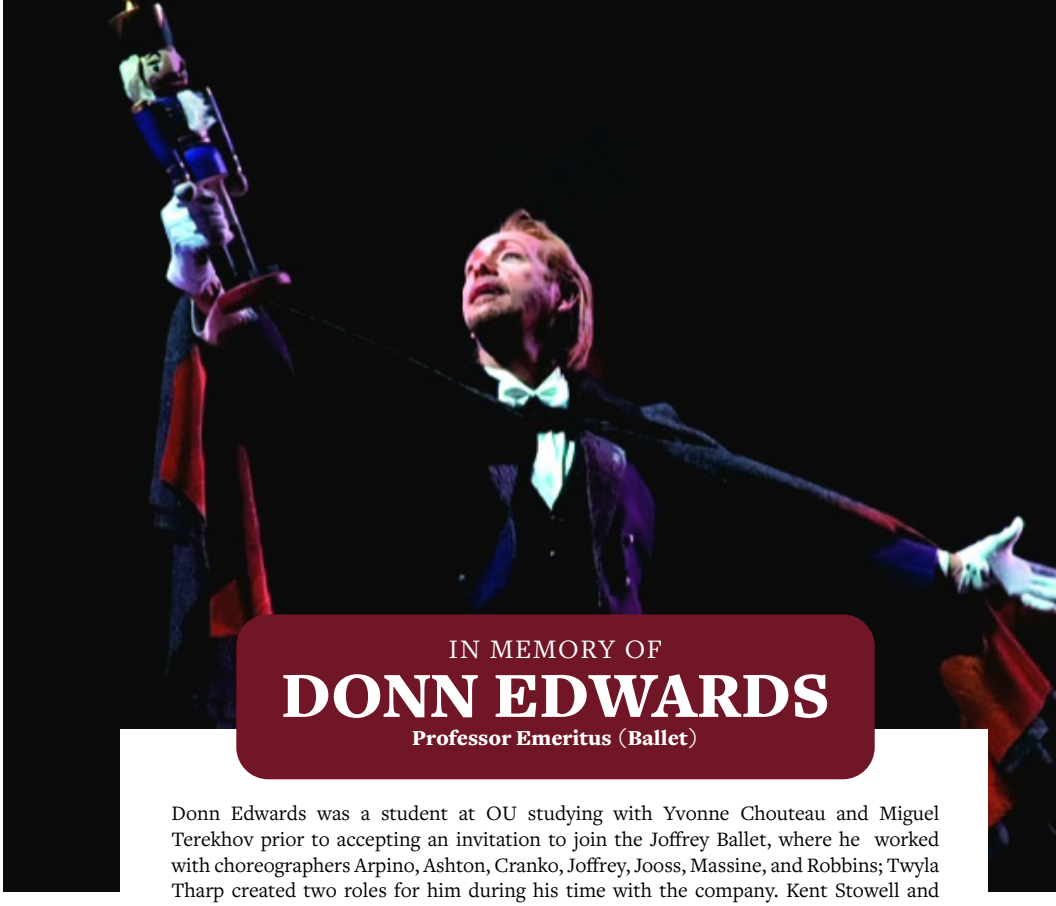
Graduating high school in Bartlesville, OK, she later attended Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma, contending with prejudiced and outdated ideas and becoming only the second woman admitted to the OU School of Dentistry. When Betsy graduated in 1978, she was the only woman in her class.

She began teaching dentistry at the University of Colorado and OU and received a master's degree in prosthodontics from the University of Iowa. Quickly becoming a leader in the field, she was soon winning awards for novel research, co-authoring an acclaimed textbook, and serving as the president of the American College of Prosthodontists.

Her significant career accomplishments notwithstanding, Betsy will also be remembered and appreciated for her immense love and support of the arts, especially the University of Oklahoma School of Dance and the Oklahoma City Ballet. In addition to generous financial support, Betsy also contributed her time and energy to both organizations, serving in board leadership positions as well as developing personal relationships with faculty and young performers. Betsy shared her passion and her wisdom, providing opportunities for young artists to reach their potential and establish successful careers. In 2024 Betsy was recognized by the Governor of Oklahoma with the distinguished Governor's Art Award.

As a patron of the arts, Betsy was always careful to lead by example, encouraging others to give and get involved to create excellence; and, she followed the University of Oklahoma's forward-thinking mantra of "Lead On" with multiple significant philanthropic endeavors including many causes such as Ground Zero, and First Americans Museum.

Although she attended and taught at multiple universities, Betsy was an OU fan, supporting women's sports as well as the School of Dance. Beginning with a phone call and lunch invitation to the director of the School of Dance in 2003, Betsy and her husband, Gregg Wadley, contributed to every aspect of the school creating exceptional opportunities through scholarships, the Brackett Visiting Artist Endowment, the Student Emergency Fund, Once Upon a Dream, the College of Fine Arts' Board of Visitors, Arts! Arts! Arts!, and the Five Moons Festival. Betsy touched the life of every student in the school from that call in 2003 forward, and her influence and generosity cannot be overstated, nor can our gratitude, respect and love.



IN MEMORY OF

DONN EDWARDS

Professor Emeritus (Ballet)

Donn Edwards was a student at OU studying with Yvonne Chouteau and Miguel Terekhov prior to accepting an invitation to join the Joffrey Ballet, where he worked with choreographers Arpino, Ashton, Cranko, Joffrey, Jooss, Massine, and Robbins; Twyla Tharp created two roles for him during his time with the company. Kent Stowell and Francia Russell invited Edwards to join the Frankfurt Ballet of Germany as a principal dancer, beginning his long association with the classical and Balanchine repertoires.

On his return to the United States, E. Virginia Williams invited Edwards to join Boston Ballet, where he danced leading roles in *Swan Lake*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Giselle* and Sleeping Beauty. Later, Rudolf Nureyev cast Edwards in the title role of *Don Quixote* in New York and in tours of North America, Mexico and Europe.

Edwards came to the University of Oklahoma as a faculty member in 1993. During his tenure, he created ballets for Oklahoma Festival Ballet such as *On Your Mark*, *Get Set*, *Go!*, *Summer Songs* and *Oklahoma Blues* (set to the music of Oklahoma Country/Western artists), which premiered in Clermont-Ferrand, France. For OU's Opera Company, Edwards also created original choreography for *Dido and Aeneas*, *Lucia Di Lamamoor* and *The Bartered Bride*. In addition, he taught master classes in New York, Boston, San Francisco and Seattle.

A devoted teacher and coach, Donn's schedule often included company class, technique, pas de deux, pantomime, and variations, and his classes were infused with his experience gained from the impressive list of teachers and choreographers with whom he had worked. Donn's students and colleagues have described him as "a beautiful soul", "caring and sensitive", another said, "my heart is broken", and still another shared, "I am certain angels welcomed him at the gates of heaven with the most beautiful adagio."

Donn Edwards will be greatly missed but more importantly, he will be remembered with warmth and love. We respectfully dedicate the performance on November 7 to the memory of Donn Edwards.

Symphony in C (1st Movement)

Choreography:	George Balanchine
Music:	Georges Bizet, Symphony No. 1 in C major (1855)
Costume Design:	Lloyd Cracknell
Lighting Design:	Ruby Ravsten
Staging:	Colleen Neary, Michele Gifford
Rehearsal Directors:	Jan Fugit, Brandye Lee

Cast for Nov. 6, 7, 8 at 8 p.m.

Sophie Brown and Andrew Parson
Taylor McCardle, John Aguirre*, Anna Zimmerly, James Klump*
D'Anise Chavez, Eve Grunenwald, Kathryn Hensley, Sophie Kanzler, Abby Pieper, Lily Potter, Melissa Quiros Diaz, Larissa Yakunovich

Cast for Nov. 7, 8 at 3 p.m.

Skyler Ryden and Andrew Parson
Lauren Gordon, Vithor Morais, Lucy Wagner, Thomas Brown
Anna Britt, Mackenzie Carroll, Macie Castellanos, Olivia Costello, Kathryn Hensley
Isabella Lucido, Madolyn Siela, Payton Vickey

**Courtesy of Oklahoma City Ballet, Ryan Jolicoeur-Nye, Artistic Director*

Pause

Alegría

Choreography:	Michael Bearden
Music:	Rodrigo y Gabriela and Devendra Banhart
Costume Design:	Sydney Hagen
Lighting Design:	Ruby Ravsten

Cast for Nov. 6, 7, 8 at 8 p.m.

1st Movement: Ella Backus, Danielle Bush, Ruby Peterson, Grace Petzoldt, Rhinawen Tinsley, Payton van Poppel, Lucy Vosburg, Olivia Williams
2nd Movement: Ella Backus, Anna Britt, Eliza Symonds
3rd Movement: Alexandra Byank, Vithor Morais
4th Movement: Rut Trujillo Abeyta, Kameron Bryant, Alexandra Byank , Vithor de Morais, Eve Grunenwald, Andrew Parson, Payton Vickey

Cast for Nov. 7, 8, at 3 p.m.

1st Movement: Danielle Bush, Eve Grunenwald, Ruby Peterson, Rhinawen Tinsley Payton van Poppel, Lucy Vosburg, Larissa Yakunovich, Anna Zimmerly
2nd Movement: Ella Backus, Eliza Symonds, Lucy Vosburg
3rd Movement: Kameron Bryant, Mackenzie Carroll
4th Movement: Rut Trujillo Abeyta, Thomas Brown, Kameron Bryant, Mackenzie Carroll, Eve Grunenwald, Andrew Parson, Payton Vickey

15-minute intermission.

Fantaisie-Impromptu

Choreography:	Boyko Dossev
Music:	Frédéric Chopin, Franz Liszt, Robert Schumann
Music performed by:	Igor Lipinski
Costume Design:	Lloyd Cracknell
Lighting Design:	Lucas Knapp

Cast:

Brooke Bokmuller, Abigail Brautigam, Rhubarb Brubacher, Amelia Butterfield
Lily Devine, Jennifer Firschein, Mika Hannah, Fion Hughes, Chloe Isenhart, Aminah Jones, Luisa Jorgensen, Anwyn Kiblinger, Ava Lawson, Henley Leversedge, Skylar Mills
Ava Oubre, Katherine Oubre, Taylor Pike, Isabel Saenz de Maturana, Jane Thurgood

***Fantaisie-Impromptu* (2026)**

Choreographed by Boyko Dossev, Fantaisie-Impromptu returns to Oklahoma Festival Ballet in a reimagined version featuring 20 first-year OU dance students. Set to music by Frédéric Chopin, Franz Liszt, and Robert Schumann, the work brings together live piano performance by Dr. Igor Lipinski on a Steinway Spirio provided by Oklahoma Music Co., exquisite costumes by Lloyd Cracknell, and lighting design by Lucas Knapp. This interdisciplinary collaboration celebrates the expressive connection between music, movement, and theatrical design while nurturing the artistry of emerging dancers.

Pause

Sarabande (Excerpt)

Choreography:	Jiří Kylián
Music:	Johan Sebastian Bach, Partita Nr. 2 D-moll Sarabande; BWV 1004
Costume Design:	Joke Visser
Lighting Design:	Jiří Kylián (Concept), Joop Caboort and Ruby Ravsten (Realization)
Staging:	Glenn Edgerton

Cast for Nov. 6, 8 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 7 at 3 p.m.
Vithor Morais, Thomas Brown, Kameron Bryant, James Klump*
Andrew Parson, Callum Findlay White*

Cast for Nov. 7 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 8 at 3 p.m.
John Aguirre*, Thomas Brown, Callum Findlay White*,
Kameron Bryant, James Klump*, Andrew Parson

**Courtesy of Oklahoma City Ballet, Ryan Jolicoeur-Nye, Artistic Director*

Falling Angels

Choreography:	Jiři Kylián
Music:	Steve Reich Drumming / part I (1970/71)
Music performed by:	Brian Dailey, Cory Doran, Austin Petty, Luke Everhart
Costume Design:	Joke Visser
Lighting Design:	Jiří Kylián (concept), Joop Caboort, Harrison Best, Lucas Knapp (realization)
Staging:	Glenn Edgerton, Fiona Lummis

Cast for Nov. 6, 8 at 8 p.m.; Nov. 7 at 3 p.m.
Anna Britt, , Dani Bush, Alexandra Byank, Isabella Lucido
Taylor McCardle, Melissa Quiros Diaz, Olivia Williams, Anna Zimmerly

Cast for Nov. 7 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 8 at 3 p.m.
Ella Backus, Sophie Brown, Lauren Gordon, Eve Grunenwald
Ruby Peterson, Skyler Ryden, Payton van Poppel, Larissa Yakunovich

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Notes from Jiří Kylián on *Sarabande*:

On the background of Bach's *Sarabande*, Jiří Kylián is continuing his search for basic answers to a basic question of children: 'Why?..' Simple structures, banal situations, visions of dreamlike episodes, flashbacks, fractured motoric of dance and pantomime; they all are ingredients of this choreographic 'cookery' and ensure that the question will never be answered. Kylián has conceived *Sarabande* - like a number of his later works - as 'a venture by means of choreography'. It is fundamentally related to *No More Play, Falling Angels*, and *Sweet Dreams* - as a black and white sketch to be completed and coloured in the mind and fantasy of the observer. And, although their starting point is of clear intellectual nature, the result itself is determined by emotional energies. Bach's music, with its perfect structure and divine vision, is not interpreted - does not need any interpretation.

As for this ballet, the contrast between music and dancing / sounds provides a voluptuous playground for human relations and instincts.

The first time we come across the word "Sarabanda" is in 1539 in a poem by Fernando Guzmán Mexia. It was then described as a frivolous and indecent dance. But now days we know this dance and its music from many noble and very respectable compositions of the baroque period. Amongst them are the magnificent examples of J.S. Bach, which certainly have nothing to do with their vulgar origin. I was, and I am still a great admirer of Bach's music since my early teens and in fact I played some of his piano pieces. But my admiration for Bach was such, that I didn't dare to use his music for any of my choreographies for very many years.....In fact it took me some 30 years to finally do so.

Notes from Jiří Kylián on *Falling Angels*:

Falling Angels is a work for eight women. It was conceived as a somewhat light-hearted homage to female performers. Although the music by Steve Reich creates a very strict structure, at the same time it leaves much freedom for choreographic and emotional interpretation.

Choreographically, this piece is a study of the two most opposing properties of any art work: discipline and freedom. To try and let these two contradicting elements coexist side by side, seemed to me an interesting undertaking. The eight women dance in this work from start to finish. They never leave the stage. Their interdependence, and their wish to break out is evident throughout the entire piece. The light dissects the stage into different geometric areas and so it determines where the various group dances and solos take place.

Falling Angels is a work about performers and the art of performing, with all its panache, anxiety, vulnerability, inferiority complexes and humour. It is a symbol of a strife between belonging and independence, a dilemma, which accompanies all of us from cradle to grave.

Jiří Kylián - Den Haag, April 16, 2008

Oklahoma Festival Ballet

PRODUCTION STAFF

Producer	Mary Margaret Holt
Associate Producer	Kasey Allee-Foreman
Production Manager	Michael Cole
Faculty Advisor to the Costume Designer	Lloyd Cracknell
Faculty Advisor to the Lighting Designers	Renée Brode
Faculty Advisor to Stage Management	Christopher Sadler
Design and Production Area Coordinator	Renée Brode
Technical Director	Akari Harada
Scenic Charge Artist	Sydney Hagen
Scenic Undergraduate Assistants	Sydney Brooks, Jake Cook, Cadence Gates Aly Gregorek, Sami Hengstenberg, Gillian Kelley Michael Miller, Lilly Morris, Karli Parkins, Ruby Ravsten, Jalisa Reed, JJ Toly
Properties Director & Supervisor	Margot Glaser
Run Crew Head	Lily Polemis
Fly Rail Crew Head	Taylor Stephens
Run & Fly Crew	Judah Brown, Sami Hengstenberg Jae Mangan, Lilly Morris, William Thompson
Electrics Supervisor	Eric Stehl
Lighting Undergraduate Assistants	Kai Allen, Ashlyn Bode, Ava Booker Ericka Dodson, Micah Dooley, Lauren Foster, Mathieu Gay, Felix Joshi, Lucas Knapp Kenna Lane, Conner Lin, Emily Morris Carleigh Nickel, Malerie Pollock Edward Santiago-Contreras, Ruby Ravsten
Production Electrician	Carleigh Nickel
Light Board Programmer	Malerie Pollock
Light Board Operator	Kris Campbell
Deck Electricians	Brody Bork, Tanner Ray, Aubrey Stewart
Follow Spot Operators	Brody Bork, Aubrey Stewart
Audio Supervisor	Kenneth Ray Woods
Audio Undergraduate Assistants	Ava Booker, Felix Joshi, Conner Lin
Production Sound Engineer	Felix Joshi
Sound Board Operator	Sydney Sanders
Costume Studio Supervisor	Christina Draper
Cutter/Draper	Christina Draper
Lead Stitcher	Amy Kercher
Stitcher	Stephanie Cirar
First Hand	Paige Kasulis
Costume Undergraduate Assistants	Kris Campbell, Jadelan Cartwright, Sydney Coffman Taren Diaz, Paige Kasulis, Natalie Lane, Ian Lee Emily Matthews, Lila Mullins, Emily Post Tavion Smith Colbert, Taylor Stephens, Sydney Tuffnell
Wardrobe Supervisor	Amy Kercher
Wardrobe Crew Heads	Sydney Coffman, Ian Lee
Wardrobe Crew	Dean Bumgartner, Kylie Caldwell Alton Hollis, Alyssa Mullen, Emma Yankowitz
Box Office	Terrye Hudson, Sherri Morgan
House Manager	Taryn Feheley
Assistant House Managers	Gwen Deiter, Andie Gioino, Madison Hoadley Ruby Peterson, Cannon Simpson
Marketing Assistant	Aleyah Smith
Production Undergraduate Assistant	JJ Toly

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



ELLA BACKUS is a ballet performance and biology senior from Clarendon Hills, IL. Credits: OU University Theatre: Forest Nymph, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (OFB '25); *Bolero* (OFB '25); *Where the Mind Goes, Lost in Translation, Through the Keyhole* (YCS '25). Snowflakes, Waltz of the Flowers, Spanish Trio, Auntie, *The Nutcracker*. Festival Ballet San Jose: *Enough, Tres Locos*. Ballet Under the Stars: *Whereabouts Unknown*. Salt Creek Ballet: Carabaoose, *Sleeping Beauty*; Evil Stepmother, *Cinderella*.



BROOKE BOKMULLER is a ballet performance and psychology freshman from San Diego, CA. Credits: OU University Theatre: Ballet Under the Stars: *Verge Theory*.



ABIGAIL BRAUTIGAM is a ballet performance and biology freshman from Maple Valley, WA. Credits: OU University Theatre: Ballet Under the Stars: *Verge Theory*.



ANNA BRITT is a ballet performance and psychology junior from Conway, AR. Credits: OU University Theatre: Snow Crystal, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24); Forrest Nymph, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (OFB '25); *By Any Means Necessary* (YCS '25); *Lost in Translation* (YCS '26). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Snow Crystal, Maid, Flower Corps, *The Nutcracker*. @ annagbritt



SOPHIE BROWN is a ballet performance senior with a minor in art history from Greer, SC. Credits: OU University Theatre: Hermia, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (OFB '25). OU Dance France Tour 2025: *Another Doodle, Ne Me Quitte Pas, Awakening*; *Berio Suite, Whereabouts Unknown* (OFB '24). Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Marzipan, Flowers, Snow, *The Nutcracker* (2024); Dew Drop Fairy, *The Nutcracker* (2025); Ballet Under the Stars 2024: *Whereabouts Unknown*.



THOMAS BROWN is a ballet performance and mathematics junior from Suwanee, GA. Credits: OU University Theatre: Demetrius, Nick Bottom, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (OFB '25). Inspiration Point Center for the Arts, Dancer, *The Sacred Veil*.



RHUBARB BRUBACHER is a ballet performance and journalism freshman from Lawrence, KS. This is her OU University Theatre debut.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



KAMERON BRYANT is a modern dance performance senior from Ft. Worth, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Dancer (OFB '23); Dancer (OFB '24); Dancer (CDO '23, CDO '24, CDO '25, CDO '26); Dancer (YCS '24); Dancer/Choreographer (YCS '25); Choreographer (YCS '26). Five Moons Dance Festival, 2024: Featured Dancer, Ballet Under the Stars, 2024, 2025. OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Dancer, *The Nutcracker*. La Saison Du Conservatoire - Clermont, France, 2025.



DANIELLE BUSH is a modern dance performance junior from Houston, TX. Credits: OU Univerity Theatre: Contemporary Dance Oklahoma 2026; Contemporary Dance Oklahoma 2025; Young Choreographers Showcase 2025; Young Choreographers Showcase 2026. This past summer, she trained at the Alvin Ailey Summer Intensive. @Dani.i.i.i.b



AMELIA BUTTERFIELD is a ballet performance freshman from Salt Lake City, UT. This is her OU University Theatre debut.



ALEXANDRA BYANK is a ballet performance senior with a minor in marketing and psychology from Long Valley, NJ. Credits: OU University Theatre: Party Parent, Flower Corps, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '23); Spanish Pas de Trios, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24); Nymph, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (OFB '25); *We Became the Fire* (YCS '25). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Party Parent, Snow, Flower Corps, *The Nutcracker*.



MACKENZIE CARROLL is a ballet performance sophomore from Tucson, AZ. Credits: OU University Theatre: *Fantaisie-Impromptu* (OFB '25); *Pertubee, We Became the Fire* (YCS '26). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Maid, *The Nutcracker*.



KATYA CASSIDY is a ballet performance junior on a health and exercise science/pre-PT track from The Woodlands, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: *Berio Suite* (OFB '24) Flower Corps, Snow corps, Marzipan, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24) *Nantahala* (YCS '24); Nymph, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (OFB'25) OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: *The Nutcracker* ('25) *Pertubee, Lost in Translation, Human* (YCS '25); OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: The Nutcracker (2024, 2025). @Katya_cassiballet



MACIE LOVE CASTELLANOS is a ballet performance and journalism senior from San Antion, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Nymph, A Midsummer Night's Dream; Whereabouts Unknown dancer, 4)Clara, Waltz of the Snowflakes, Waltz of the Flowers, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24); Clara, Waltz of the Snowflakes, Waltz of the Flowers, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '23). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: The Nutcracker (2024, 2025)

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



D'ANISE CHAVEZ is a ballet pedagogy and biology junior from EL Paso, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Waltz of the Flowers, Flower Corps, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24); Nymphs Corps, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (OFB '25). OU School of Dance Summer Intensive Showcase, 2024. OU School of Dance: Waltz of the Flowers, Flower Corps, Mice, Marzipan, Snow Corps, *The Nutcracker Tour.*



OLIVIA COSTELLO is a ballet performance senior from Clarendon Hills, IL. Credits: OU University Theatre: Waltz of the Flowers, Ribbon Dancer, Party Parent, *The Nutcracke*r (OFB '23); Waltz of the Flowers, Ribbon Dancer, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24); Forest Nymph, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (OFB '25). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Waltz of the Flowers, Party Parent, *The Nutcracker.*



LILY DEVINE is a ballet performance freshman from Boston, MA. This is her OU University Theatre debut.



JENNIFER FIRSCHEIN is a ballet performance freshman from Washington D.C. This is her debut with OU University Theater.



LAUREN GORDON is a ballet pedagogy and pre-PT health and exercise science junior from Nashville, TN. Credits: OU University Theatre: *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (OFB '25); Soloist, *Symphony in C Demi, Falling Angels* (YCS '25, '26). OU School of Dance/ Colorado Springs Philharmonic: *The Nutcracker.*



EVE GRUNENWALD is a ballet performance sophomore from Simpsonville, SC. Credits: OU University Theatre: *Fantaisie-Impromptu* (OFB '25); *Human, As Seen Through a Keyhole* (YCS '26). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Snow Crystal, Ribbon Dancer, *The Nutcracker.* An excerpt from Michael Bearden's *Allegria, Bulgaria.*



MIKA HANNAH is a ballet performance freshman from Atlanta, GA. Credits: This is her OU University Theatre debut.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



KATHRYN HENSLEY is a ballet performance junior with a minor in human resources from Roswell, GA. Credits: OU University Theatre: Snow Crystal, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24); Nymph, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (OFB '25); *By Any Means Necessary* (YCS '25); *Pertubee* (YCS '26). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Snow Crystal, Party Parent, Snow, Flower Corps, *The Nutcracker*.



FION HUGHES is a ballet performance and mechanical engineering freshman from Dallas, TX. This is her OU University Theatre debut.



CHLOE ISENHART is a ballet performance and professional writing freshman from Carthage, NC. Credits: Ballet Under the Stars: *Verge Theory*. @chloe_isenhart_dance



AMINAH JONES is a ballet performance freshman from Kennedale, TX. Credits: This is her OU University Theatre debut. Ballet Under the Stars: *Verge Theory*. @aminahballerina



LUISA JORGENSON is a ballet performance freshman from Needham, MA. This is her OU University Theatre debut. @ Luisa.jorgensen



SOPHIE KANZLER is a ballet performance and health & exercise science senior from Winston-Salem, NC. Credits: OU University Theatre: Flowers, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '23); Waltz of the Flowers, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24); *Whereabouts Unknown* (OFB '24); Nymph, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (OFB '25). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Snow Corps, Waltz of the Flowers, *The Nutcracker*.



ANWYN KIBLINGER is a ballet performance freshman from Rock Hill, SC. This is her OU University Theatre debut.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



VITHOR MORAIS is a dance pedagogy sophomore from Uberaba, MG, Brazil. Credits: School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Trepak, *The Nutcracker*. Bolshoi Theater School in Brazil: Variations in Paquita, Giselle, Coppélia. Ballets: *Don Quixote, Cinderella, Swan Lake*. @vithor_lg



AVA LAWSON is a ballet performance freshman from Little Rock, AR. Credits: Ballet Under the Stars: Dancer, *Verge Theory*.



HENLEY LEVERSEDGE is a ballet performance freshman from Seattle, WA. This is her OU University Theatre debut.



ISABELLA LUCIDO is a ballet performance junior with a biology minor in the pre-PA track from Dallas, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Forest Nymph, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (OFB '25). LINES Summer Dance Intensive, 2025. Complexions Summer Dance Intensive 2026. OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Flowers, *The Nutcracker*.



TAYLOR McCARDLE is a ballet performance senior with a minor in arts management & entrepreneurship, and honors college from Lexington, KY. Credits: OU University Theatre: Marzipan, Flowers, Snow Corps *The Nutcracker* (OFB '23); *Berio Suite, Whereabouts Unknown* (OFB '24); Marzipan, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24); Dancer (YCS '24); Helena, Nymph, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (OFB '25); Dancer (YCS '25); *Garage Fantasy, Tears of Rage* (CDO '26); Dancer (YCS '26). Ballet Under the Stars: *Whereabouts Unknown*.



SKYLAR MILLS is a ballet performance freshman from Potomac, MD. This is her OU University Theatre debut.



HOLLIS NARKIEWICZ is a ballet performance senior with a minor in communications from Monmouth, IL. Credits: OU University Theatre: Un/Natural Selections **(OFB '24);** *Whereabout's Unknown, Midsummer's Night's Dream* **(2025)**- Demetrius, Nick Bottom (YCS '25); Trepak, Butler, The Nutcracker (OFB '24); OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Party Parent, Rat King, Mother Ginger, The Nutcracker (2025, 2026). Ballet Under the Stars (2024) @hollisnark

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



AVA OUBRE is a ballet performance and aerospace engineering freshman from Port Neches, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Ballet Under the Stars: *Verge Theory*.



KATHERINE OUBRE is a ballet performance and biology pre-med freshman from Port Neches, TX. Credits: Ballet Under the Stars: *Verge Theory*.



ANDREW PARSON is a ballet performance and pre-physical therapy track junior from Little Rock, AR. Credits: OU University Theatre: *Whereabouts Unknown, Berio Suite, Tesla* (OFB '24); Spanish, Trepak, Soldier Doll, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24); Oberon, Lover, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (OFB '25). *Another Doodle, Ne Me Quitte Pas* in OU School of Dance/Clermont-Ferrand, France. *Bouquet for Yvonne*, Five Moons Dance Festival, 2024. Hot Chocolate, Nutcracker Prince, *The Nutcracker*.



RUBY PETERSON is a modern dance performance senior from Fayetteville, AR. Credits: OU University Theatre: *Retrograding* (CDO '26); YCS '26; *pluralisms, Comeback* (CDO '25); YCS '25; *Awakening* (CDO '24), YCS '24. OU School of Dance: Five Moons Dance Festival '24. American College Dance Association Screendance: *Try a little Tenderness*, Kimber Harlan. @rubyyypeterson



GRACE PETZOLDT is a modern dance performance sophomore from Cape Girardeau, MO. Credits: OU University Theatre: *Liminal Spaces* (YCS '26); *Tears of Rage* (CDO '26). @grace_petzoldt



ABBY PIEPER is a ballet performance and psychology senior from Chicago, IL. Credits: OU University Theatre: Snow Crystal, Waltz of the Flowers, Snow Corps, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '23); Clara, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24); *Whereabouts Unknown* (OFB '24); Hermia, Nymph, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (OFB '25). Ballet Under the Stars: *Whereabouts Unknown*. OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Clara, *The Nutcracker*. Oklahoma City Ballet: *Romeo and Juliet*, Cover for Citizen and Ballroom guest.



TAYLOR PIKE is a ballet performance freshman from Essex, VT. This is her OU University Theatre debut. @ taylorpike._

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



LILY POTTER is a ballet and piano performance sophomore from Surprise, AZ. Credits: OU University Theatre: *Fantaisie-Impromptu* (OFB '25); *Pertubee, We Became the Fire* (YCS '25). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Snow, Flower Corps, *The Nutcracker.* Ballet West Summit Festival: *As We Are*.



MELISSA QUIROS DIAZ is a ballet performance and economics senior from Heredia, Costa Rica. Credits: OU University Theatre: Marzipan, Snow Queen, Waltz of the Flowers, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '23); *Whereabouts Unknown, Berio Suite* (OFB '24); Forest Nymph, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (OFB '25); *Nantahala* (YCS '25); Choreographer, *We Became the Fire* (YCS '26). Ballet Under the Stars: *Whereabouts Unknown*. OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Marzipan, Snow Queen, Snow Corps de Ballet, Waltz of the Flowers, *The Nutcracker.*



KAELIA RUSSELL is a ballet performance and pre-pt track sophomore from Kirkland, WA. Credits: OU University Theatre: *Fantaisie-Impromptu* (OFB '25); *Pertubée* (YCS '25).



SKYLAR RYDEN is a ballet performance senior from Midland, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: *Another Doodle, Berio Suite* (OFB '24); Titania, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (OFB '25); *Fantaisie-Impromptu* (OFB '25). Snow Queen, Dew Drop Fairy, Marzipan, Snow, Flowers, *The Nutcracker.* OU School of Dance/Clermont-Ferrand, France - Conservatoire Danse Clermont, 2025. *Bouquet for Yvonne*, Five Moons Dance Festival, 2024. Festival Ballet San Jose, 2024. The Bolshoi School Brazil, 2025.



ISABEL SAENZ de MATURANA is a ballet performance freshman from Pasadena, CA. Credits: OU University Theatre: Ballet Under the Stars: *Verge Theory*.



MADOLYN SIELA is a ballet performance and art history sophomore from Austin, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Performer, *Fantaisie-Impromptu* (OFB '25); *Pertubee* (YCS '26). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Snow Crystal, *The Nutcracker.*



ELIZA SYMONDS is a ballet performance senior with a minor in arts management and entrepreneurship from Wooster, OH. Credits: OU University Theatre: *Spite and Basslines, We Became the Fire* (YCS '26); Nymph, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (OFB '25); *Nantahala* (YCS '25); Waltz of the Flowers, Ribbons, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24); Party Mom, Snow, Snow Crystal, Waltz of the Flowers, Ribbons, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '23); School of Dance/ Colorado Springs Philharmonic: *The Nutcracker ('24,'25).* @emssymonds

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



JANE THURGOOD is a ballet performance and psychology freshman from Coppell, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Ballet Under the Stars: Dancer, *Verge Theory*. @jane.t.twirls



RHIANWEN TINSLEY is a ballet pedagogy sophomore from Raleigh, NC. Credits: OU University Theatre: *Fantaisie-Impromptu* (OFB '25); *The Nutcracker* (OFB '25). Ballet West's Choreographic Workshop: *Original Piece*.



RUT TRUJILLO ABEYTA is a is a ballet performance sophomore from Lakewood, CO. Credits: OU University Theatre: *Fantaisie-Impromptu* (OFB '25). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: *The Nutcracker*. Unbound: A Mother's Love.



PAYTON VAN POPPEL is a ballet performance and business management senior from Frisco, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Snowflake, Ribbon Dance, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24); *Berio Suite* (OFB '24); *Whereabouts Unknown* (OFB '24); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (OFB '25); *Lost in Translation, Human* (YCS '26). Ballet Under the Stars: *Whereabouts Unknown*. OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: *The Nutcracker*. @payton_pop15



PAYTON VICKEY is a ballet performance and pre-physicians assistant track sophomore from Wilmore, KY. Credits: OU University Theatre: *Fantaisie-Impromptu* (OFB '25); *Pertubée, Liminal Spaces* (YCS '25). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: *The Nutcracker*.



LUCY VOSBURG is a ballet performance senior with a minor in marketing from Greenwood Village, CO. Credits: OU University Theatre: Governess, Snow, Flowers, Ribbon, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '23); *Whereabouts Unknown* (OFB '24); Forest Nymph, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (OFB '25). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Clown Doll, Snow, Ribbon, Flower Corps, *The Nutcracker*. @lucyvosburg



LUCY WAGNER is a is a ballet performance and business marketing sophomore from Pittsburgh, PA. Credits: OU University Theatre: *Fantaisie-Impromptu* (OFB '25); *Pertubee, Stardust* (YCS '26). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Snow, Flowers, *The Nutcracker*.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



OLIVIA WILLIAMS is a modern dance performance senior from Edmond, OK. Credits: OU University Theatre: Dancer (CDO '24, CDO '25, CDO '26); Dancer (YCS '24, YCS '25, YCS '26). Dancer, Fort Worth Dance Festival, 2025. Dancer, Ballet Under the Stars 2024, 2025. Five Moons Dance Festival, 2024. Netherlands Study Abroad, 2026.



LARISSA YAKUNOVICH is a ballet performance and biology pre-med senior from Houston, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Flowers, Snow Corps/Spanish, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '23); *Berio Suite* (OFB '24); *Whereabouts Unknown* (OFB '24); Flowers/Spanish Corps, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24); *Irreguieta* (YCS '25); Helena, Nymph, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (OFB '25); *Pertubée, We Become the Fire, Human* (YCS '26). Ballet Under the Stars: *Whereabouts Unknown*. OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Governess, Snow/Spanish Corps, *The Nutcracker.*



ANNA ZIMMERLY is a ballet performance and psychology junior from Cincinnati, OH. Credits: OU University Theatre: Forest Nymph, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (OFB '25); Flower, Snow Crystal, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24); *As Seen Through a Keyhole, Lotus Land, Very, Very, Human* (YCS '24). School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Flower Demi Soloist, Snowflake, Snow Crystal, *The Nutcracker*. Dancer, *The Sacred Veil*.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST: SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS



JOHN AGUIRRE was born in Wellesley, Massachusetts but started training in Columbia, South Carolina at Columbia Ballet School before attending the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities. He then attended Kansas City Ballet School before moving to Salt Lake City to join Ballet West's trainee program. He joined Oklahoma City Ballet's Studio Company during the 2024/25 season.



JAMES KLUMP, originally from Lake Charles, LA, began his training with Sarah Quinn Jones before continuing with Colleen Benoit and the Lake Charles Dance Academy. During his time there, Klump danced with the pre-professional company performing roles in *Swan Lake, La Fille Mal Gardee, Coppelia, Etudes,* and *The Nutcracker.*

In 2020, Klump joined Oklahoma City Ballet as a trainee following participation in the summer intensive and was promoted to apprentice in 2021. During his three seasons with Oklahoma City Ballet, Klump has performed in Robert Mills' *The Nutcracker* and *The Little Mermaid*, Septime Webre's ALICE (in wonderland), Sarah Tallman's *Love in a Jukebox*, and Ryan Jolicoeur-Nye's *The Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella*, and *The Nutcracker,* and Val Caniparoli's *Lady of the Camellias*, and George Balanchine's *Western Symphony.*

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST: SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS



CALLUM FINDLAY WHITE was born and raised in Toronto, Callum Findlay-White attended the National Ballet School of Canada before moving to London, UK to join the Royal Ballet School. After graduating in 2018, he joined the Birmingham Royal Ballet. Throughout his time there, Callum has performed in numerous classical ballets such as The Sleeping Beauty, Swan Lake, Coppelia and The Nutcracker by Sir Peter Wright, La Fille mal gardee by Sir Frederic Ashton, Cinderella, Beauty and the Beast, and Hobson's Choice by Sir David Bintley, Romeo and Juliet by Kenneth MacMillan, as well as contemporary works such as Forgotten Lands by Jĭr Kylian. He has also appeared in exciting new works such Don Quixote by BRB's artistic director, Carlos Acosta, and Black Sabbath by Pontus Lidberg, Raul Reinoso and Cassi Abranches. Callum then joined Oklahoma City Ballet in 2025.

WHO'S WHO BEHIND THE SCENES



KASEY ALLEE-FOREMAN (Associate Producer) has designed and managed productions in the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts at the University of Oklahoma for over 20 years. She is currently the President of USITT and is proud to have served on the Board of Directors for 15 years in various roles: the VP for Conferences, the VP for Education and Training and as a Director. She has served USITT on the Conference Committee as chair and member, IDEAS Committee as chair and member, is the co-founder of the Gateway Program, and has been the Co-chair of the Women in Theatre Network. A short listing of her professional theatre credits include: SphinxCON, a conference promoting Diversity in the Arts; Canterbury Choral: Bernstein's Mass; Houston Grand Opera: Renée Fleming's premiere La Traviata (world premiere); Stages Repertory Theatre (Houston); Houston Shakespeare Festival; Shakespeare Festival at Tulane (New Orleans); Theatre West (Los Angeles). Professional film credits include: Mystery, Alaska, Lost and Found; Austin Powers: The Spy who Shagged Me. Kasey received her MFA in Costume Design and Technology and Lighting Design and Technology from the University of New Orleans and her BA in Theatre Arts from Furman University.



MICHAEL BEARDEN (Director, School of Dance/Choreographer) is the third Director of the University of Oklahoma School of Dance which was founded in 1963 by Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo dancers Miguel Terekhovand Yvonne Chouteau. Prior to joining OU he was the Artistic Director of Ballet Arkansas and an Assistant Professor at the University of Utah. He was a Principal Dancer with Ballet West in Salt Lake City and had a 14-year career with the company touring across the United States and the world. Michael performed leading roles in works by some of the world's greatest choreographers including Balanchine, Ashton,Tudor, Forsythe, Stevenson, Welch, Dove, Tetley, Tharp, Kylian and Christopher Bruce. As a choreographer, Mr. Bearden has created or staged his works for Ballet West, University of Utah, Brigham Young University, University of Cincinnati, Belhaven University, Texas Christian University and Bucknell University.

WHO'S WHO BEHIND THE SCENES



LLOYD CRACKNELL (Costume Designer) originally from Cambridge England, is the associate professor of Costume Design and resident Costume Designer at the University of Oklahoma. Lloyd's career includes both costume and fashion design, working for prestigious design houses including The Emanuels and Versace. Lloyd's designs have been seen in London, New York, Paris, Milan, and South America. He was invited to exhibit his costume designs at the World Creativity Forum in Cardiff, Wales in 2010. Lloyd has costume designed in all genres of the performing arts, including drama, opera, classical ballet, modern dance and musical theatre. He has designed costumes for over a hundred productions, including over forty for OU's University Theatre.

Cracknell's regional design credits include Regional premieres of *Heisenberg; The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time; Let The Right One In*, World premieres: Haydn's *The Seasons at Haydntage,* Austria. Film and Television: P.B.S. Special Early Music Program; and Film Distance Vision, Francis Ford Coppola, Director.

Awards for Professor Cracknell include the USITT-SW Oscar Brockett Teaching Award (2023), the Irene and Julian. J Rothbaum Professor of Excellence in the Arts Award (2020), and the USITT-SW Mildred and Glen Martin Jr. Award for Outstanding Service. Other awards and nominations include: DFW Theatre Critics Forum Award-Best Design Team for a Season (2015, 2017); Theatre Jones Best Costume Design Runner-up Award (2015); Kennedy Center American College Theater Award (2010), Region VI National Partners in American Theatre KCACTF Award (2010). In 2021, Lloyd received the Broadway World Oklahoma Award for Best Costume Design of a Play or Musical (Professional) for *Pride and Prejudice* (Oklahoma Shakespeare).



BRIAN DAILEY (Musician) is a musician, composer, and music educator based in Norman, Oklahoma. A graduate of the University of Oklahoma, he earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Percussion Performance in 2012, receiving the Outstanding Undergraduate Award that same year. In 2010, he toured nationally with The Boston Crusaders Drum and Bugle Corps as Quad Captain. After college, Brian toured Mexico, Central America, and South America as a drummer in the main stage production band aboard the Carnival Splendor. In 2024, he completed a Master's Degree in Arts Management and Entrepreneurship from the University of Oklahoma.

Currently, Brian is an Adjunct Faculty member at the University of Oklahoma School of Dance, where he teaches Music for Dancers, a required course for all undergraduate dance students. He has been the Director of Percussion at Norman North High School since 2013, leading the drumline and percussion ensembles. Additionally, he runs a private studio offering lessons in drums, percussion, piano, music theory, and composition to students of all ages and skill levels.

An active performer and composer, Brian is a fixture in the Oklahoma City metro. He accompanies dance classes at the University of Oklahoma, plays drum set and percussion for the OU School of Musical Theatre and Sooner Theater, and performs with Boyd Street Brass, a local New Orleans-style brass band. A staple of the Oklahoma jazz scene, Brian also regularly gigs across a variety of musical genres.



ERICKA DODSON (Stage Manager) is a is a drama senior with an emphasis in stage management from Pryor, OK. Credits: OU University Theatre: Co-Stage Manager (CDO '25); Associate Stage Manager, *Crazy for You*. Associate Stage Manager, *As You Like It*. Stage Manager, *A Christmas Carol*. Stage Manager, *Company*. Stage Manager, *Bright Star*. Stagedoor Manor: Stage Manager, *110 in the Shade*; Stage Manager, *The Nerd*; Stage Manager, *Waitress*. OU School of Dance: Associate Stage Manager, *The Nutcracker*.

WHO'S WHO BEHIND THE SCENES



CORY DORAN (Musician) originally from Columbus, OH, is an Instructor of Percussion and Percussion Coordinator for University Bands at the University of Oklahoma. An active performer, educator, and composer, he has commissioned and premiered numerous works for percussion and regularly presents clinics on electronics in percussion and the marching arts worldwide. Previously, he served as Assistant Director of Percussion at Texas A&M University–Commerce and Interim Professor of Percussion at Kent State University. Dr. Doran earned his Doctor of Musical Arts in Percussion Performance from Michigan State University. Cory endorses Majestic Percussion, Mapex Drums, Innovative Percussion, REMO Drumheads, and Sabian Cymbals.



BOYKO DOSSEV (Choreographer) is an internationally acclaimed ballet dancer, choreographer, educator, and Associate Professor of Dance at the University of Oklahoma. A Gold Medalist and First Prize recipient at the prestigious Varna International Ballet Competition, he enjoyed a distinguished performing career with Boston Ballet, Hamburg Ballet, Semperoper Dresden, and other leading companies.

As former Artistic Director of Oklahoma Festival Ballet (2020–2025), Dossev has championed artistic excellence, interdisciplinary collaboration, and student professional development. His original choreography has been presented nationally and internationally, integrating musicality, creative research, and innovative approaches to dance education.

Holding advanced degrees in choreography and organizational communication, Dossev is certified in the American Ballet Theatre National Training Curriculum and Ailey Horton Technique, as a member of the inaugural certification cohort, bridging professional artistry, academic mentorship, and international cultural exchange.



GLENN EDGERTON (Choreographer) has had an international career as a dancer, teacher, and director. His sixteen-year dancing career was with The Joffrey Ballet and The Netherlands Dance Theater. At The Joffrey Ballet, he performed leading roles, classical and contemporary for 11 years under the mentorship of Robert Joffrey and Gerald Arpino. He danced principal roles in the classics of John Cranko and Sir Fredrick Ashton along with innovative choreographers like Twyla Tharp, Jiří Kylián, William Forsythe, Paul Taylor and Laura Dean. In 1989, Edgerton joined the acclaimed Nederlands Dans Theater (NDT), where he was immersed in the diverse repertory of master choreographers and emerging choreographers for five years. After retiring from performing, he became the Executive Artistic Director of NDT 1, mentored by Jiří Kylián, leading the company for a decade and presenting the works of Jiří Kylián, Hans van Manen, William Forsythe, Ohad Naharin, Mats Ek, Nacho Duato, Jorma Elo, Johan Inger, Paul Lightfoot and Sol León, among many others. From 2006 to 2008, he directed the Colburn Dance Institute at the Colburn School of Performing Arts in Los Angeles, CA while teaching at UCLA, Loyola Marymount and CalArts. Edgerton joined Hubbard Street as Associate Artistic Director in 2008. From 2009-2020 served as Hubbard Street's Artistic Director bringing the company to perform worldwide while fostering the next generation of dancers and choreographers.

Many of those dancers turned choreographers are leading the dance field today, like Alejandro Cerrudo, Rena Butler, Robyn Mineko Williams, Penny Saunders, Emilie Leriche, Alice Klock and Florian Lochner (FLOCK) among others. In 2017, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of the Arts Degree from California Institute of the Arts in Valencia, CA (CalArts). As of the fall of 2020, Glenn joined the faculty as an Instructor at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma teaching ballet and choreographing with an emphasis on the prolific repertory of Jiří Kylián and Gerald Arpino. Edgerton set the work, Sinfonietta by Jiří Kylián for American Ballet Theater in the fall of 2022 along with teaching for ABT. During the summer of 2025 Glenn was chosen to choreograph for the National Choreographic Initiative at UCIrvine. Other responsibilities at OU have been directing the OU Summer Intensive and as of 2025, directing Oklahoma Festival Ballet. Edgerton continues on faculty at OU as an Associate Professor.

WHO'S WHO BEHIND THE SCENES



MARY MARGARET HOLT (Producer) began her early ballet training in Austin, Texas at Austin Civic Ballet, receiving a Ford Foundation scholarship for study with the San Francisco Ballet at the age of 15. Subsequently, she received a Ford Foundation scholarship for study at the School of American Ballet, also appearing with the New York City Ballet. Holt accepted a soloist contract with Houston Ballet upon completing her BFA in Ballet Performance. While a member of Houston Ballet, she danced a wide variety of solo and principal roles in the classical and contemporary repertoire by choreographers including Stevenson, Van Manen, Van Danzig, Petipa, Balanchine, Taras, Dolin, Boris, Clouser, Franklin, Ivanov, de Mille, and O'Donnell. She also performed principal roles in Terekhov's *The Firebird*, *The Snow Maiden*, and *Don Quixote*. She has performed as a guest artist, teacher, and choreographer with ballet and opera companies across the United States.

Holt joined the dance faculty of the University of Oklahoma School of Dance as an assistant professor, following Miguel Terekhov as chair in 1991, and an appointment as director in 1998. As director of Oklahoma Festival Ballet, Holt has choreographed over forty ballets and operas and led Oklahoma Festival Ballet on tours to France (six), the Internationale Haydntage in Austria (2), Mexico (3), Taiwan, China, and Ecuador. Holt choreography includes the music of Franck, Haydn, The Beatles, Porter, Weill, Mozart, Ginastera, Ikard, Holley, Satie, Bartok, Orff, and Debussy and her ballets have been seen across the U.S. as well as in South America, the United Kingdom, and Europe. Under Holt's leadership, Oklahoma Festival Ballet performed works from the national repertoire by Joffrey and Balanchine as well as de Mille's, *Rodeo*. Her students have performed with Miami City Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Ballet Arizona, Ballet Austin, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Orlando Ballet, Oklahoma City Ballet, and Tulsa Ballet, and as finalists and semifinalists in the International Ballet Competition. At the University of Oklahoma, Holt taught every course in the ballet curriculum and her continuing studies in ballet pedagogy include studying Bournonville Technique with Tage Wendt; and Vaganove Technique at the Bolshoi Academy at Vail; and in St. Petersburg and Minsk, Russia.

Holt was an honoree at the second national RDA Festival in Pittsburgh in 2007, and she received the CORPS de Ballet International Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020. She has served on the Dance Panel of the National Endowment for the Arts and been a panelist on Women in the Academy at Oxford. She is the recipient of the Governor's Arts Award, the Presidential Professorship, and the Regents' Professorship at OU where she also holds the John and Mary Nichols' Chair in Dance.



LUCAS KNAPP (**Lighting Designer)** is a lighting design senior from Kansas City, MO. Credits: University Theatre: Lighting Designer, *The Nutcracker*; Lighting Designer, *Lost* (YCS), Lighting Designer, *pluralisms* (YCS);, Lighting Designer, *Berio Suite*; Lighting Designer, *Omne Trium Perfectum*; Projections Designer, *Waiting For Lefty*; Lighting Designer, *Go Forth and Conque*r, and Lighting Designer, *Welder.*



IGOR LIPINSKI (Musician) is a Polish pianist and an Associate Professor of Piano at the University of Oklahoma School of Music. A graduate of Eastman School of Music and Northwestern University, Lipinski maintains an active concert career since his orchestral debut with the Buffalo Philharmonic on NPR's Performance Today. Since joining OU in 2017, Lipinski has attracted a vibrant and international studio of pianists who have won numerous competitions including the Oklahoma MTNA Young Artist and the OU Concerto Competition. Recognized for his creative programming, Lipinski reimagined the traditional format of a piano recital with his "Piano Illusions," a hybrid recital of music and magic, featured internationally by major concert series and festivals, including the Gina Bachauer International Piano Foundation in Salt Lake City, the Musica del Cuore Concert Series in Hong Kong, and the largest performing arts festival in the world, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Edinburgh, Scotland.

WHO'S WHO BEHIND THE SCENES



EMMA MCGIRR (Rehearsal Assistant, *Falling Angels* & *Sarabande*) received her BFA in ballet from the University of Cincinnati, graduating magna cum laude. She danced with the Louisville Ballet and Eugene Ballet prior to joining Nevada Ballet Theatre in 2014, where she danced as a leading artist for 11 seasons. She performed principal roles in ballets by Webre, McIntyre, Stevenson, Fonte, Taylor, Weeldon, Balanchine, Christensen, and Canfield, among others. For 6 years Emma performed in A Choreographers' Showcase, NBT's joint production with Cirque du Soleil, performing at the Mystère Theatre. @emcgirr



AUSTIN PETTY (Musician) lives in Norman, Oklahoma, and holds a Master's degree in Music Performance from the University of Oklahoma as well as a Bachelor's degree in Music Education. He has taught throughout Oklahoma and Texas with programs including Westmoore, Southmoore, Purcell, Norman, Altus, Ponca City, Hutto ISD, Resistance Indoor Percussion, the University of Oklahoma, and TMALA. Austin's marching experience includes playing tenors at Resistance Indoor Percussion, the OU drumline, and Blue Knights Drum and Bugle Corps. Austin currently plays with the band Blue Kaiju.



RUBY RAVSTEN (Lighting Designer) is a lighting and scenic design senior from Keller, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Scenic Designer, *The Pajama Game*; Lighting Designer, *Garage Fantasy*, *Tears of Rage*, *Retrograding* (CDO '26); Assistant Lighting Designer, *A Christmas Carol*; Associate Lighting Designer, *Young Frankenstein*. Scenic Designer, *The Turn of The Screw*; Lighting Designer, *As You Like It;* Assistant Lighting Designer, *Life is a Dream*. Lighting Designer, *Weaponized Fragility* (YCS '24); Lighting Designer, *Myosotis* (YCS '25). OU Drama: Lighting & Scenic Designer, *The Maids*; Lighting Designer, *Proof* . Houston Shakespeare Festival: Assistant Scenic Designer, *The Comedy of Errors*; Assistant Scenic Designer, *The Tempest*; Assistant Scenic Designer, Romeo and Juliet; Assistant Scenic Designer, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Shepard School of Music: Associate Scenic Designer, *The Ghosts of Versailles*. Off-Broadway: Assistant to the Lighting Designer, *Saturday Church*.



CHRISTOPHER SADLER (Stage Manager) is a Professor in the Helmerich School of Drama, leading the stage management emphasis since 2005. He holds an MFA in Stage Management from UCSD, and a BFA in Theatre Arts Management from Ithaca College. For OU University and Lab Theatre: Stage Manager for *A Turn of the Screw*; CDO '25; OFB '24; OFB '23; OFB '22; CDO '22; CDO '21; OFB '21; CDO '19; OFB '17; CDO '14; OFB '13; CDO '12; *A Chorus Line*; CDO '09; OFB '09; *Lend Me a Tenor; Great Expectations;* and Pal Joey. Assistant Stage Manager on *The Nutcracker* (2023 & 2015); OFB '18; OFB '16; *Julius Caesar*; OFB '12; *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*; and *9 Parts of Desire*. OU School of Dance: Stage Manager, *Haydn's Creation and The Seasons*. Chris is a contributor and co-editor of Off Headset: Essays on Stage Management Life, Work, and Career, released January 2022 by Focal Press & USITT. He is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association, USITT, and the Stage Managers' Association.



JJ TOLY (Stage Manager) is a stage management junior from Tyler, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Associate Stage Manager, *The Pajama Game;* Associate Stage Manager, Mel Brooks' *Young Frankenstein*; Stage Manager, *La Clemenza Di Tito*; *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*. Co.Arts: Stage Manager, *Mr. Sandman*. Magill Musical Theatre Studio: Assistant Stage Manager, *For All We Know*; Run Crew Head, *That Was Then*; Scenic Designer, *Good Luck With Your Ending*.

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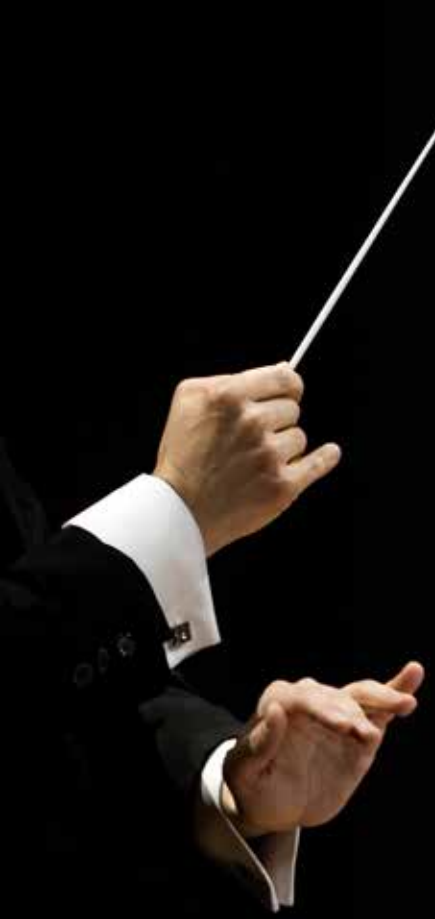

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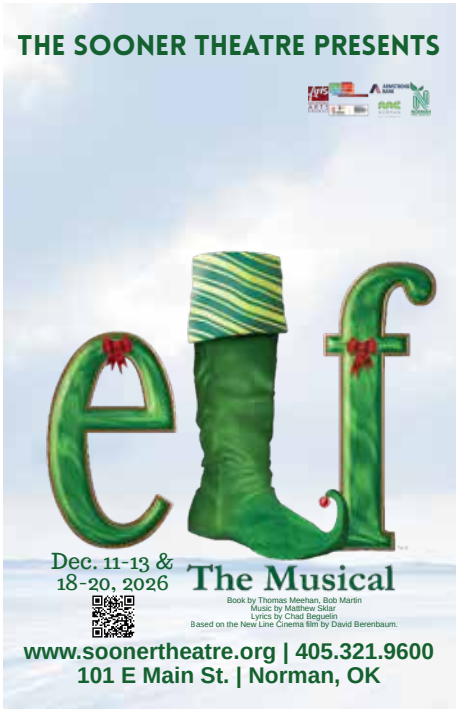
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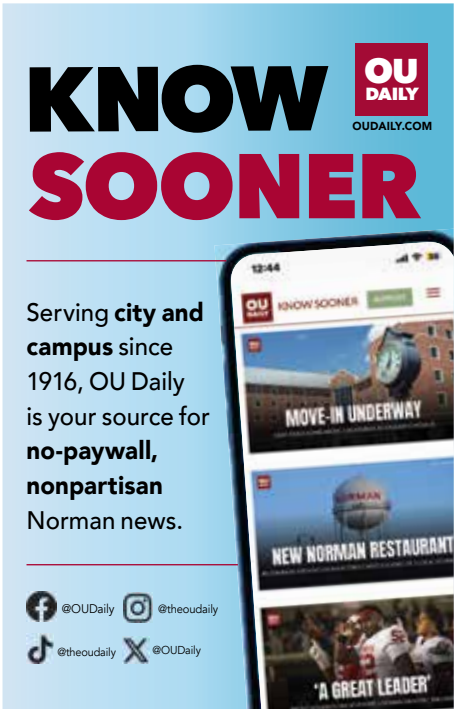
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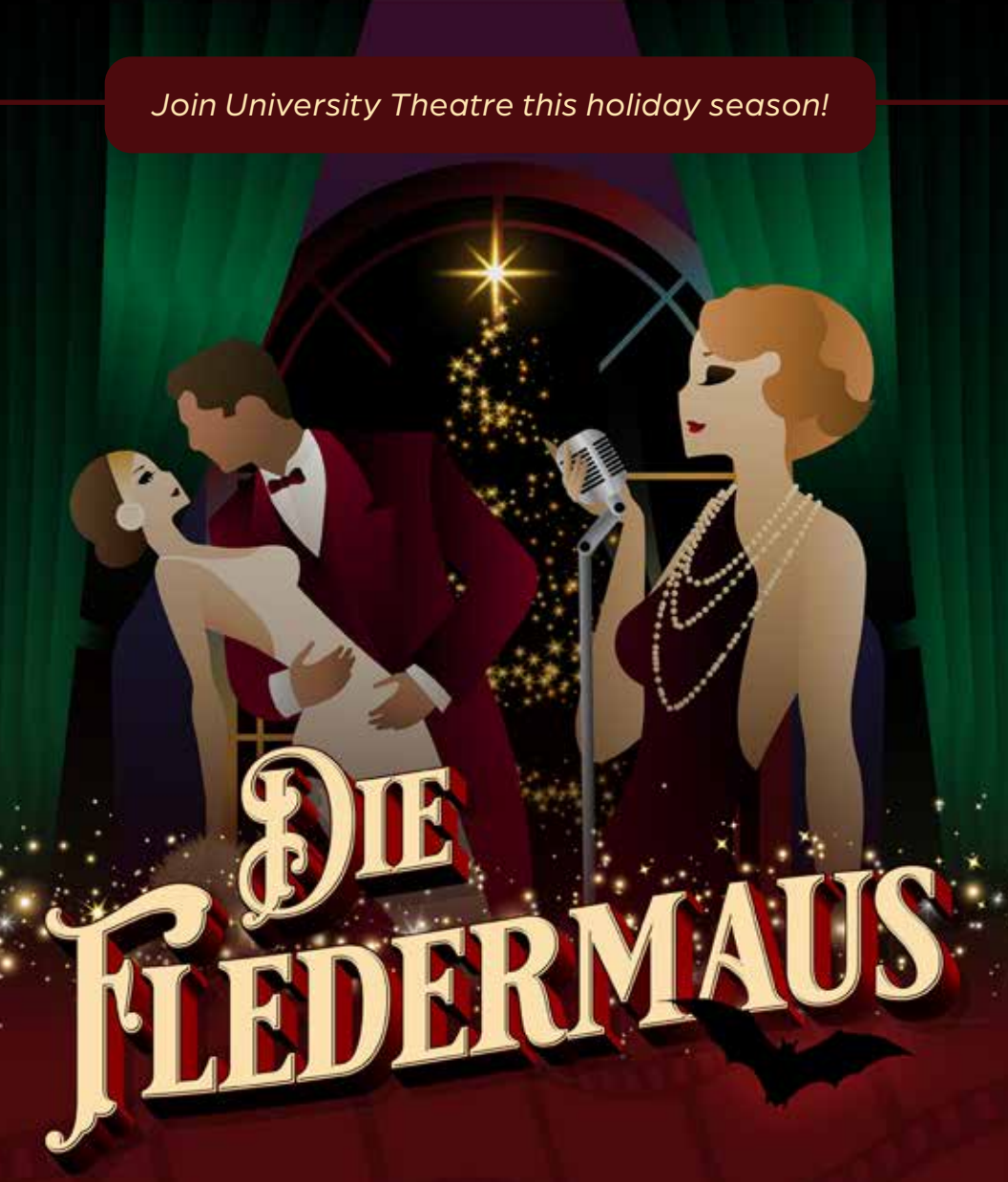

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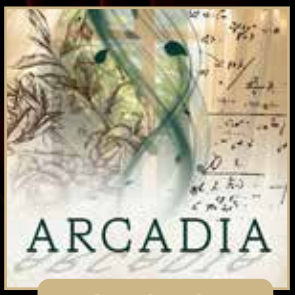

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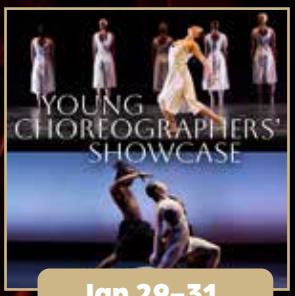

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