

BYU THEATRE BALLET
PRESENTS



Giselle

BYU



THEATRE
BALLET



@BYUBALLET | @BYUTHEATREBALLET | @BYUDANCE

Director's Note

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Brigham Young University Theatre Ballet's production of *Giselle*, a timeless story of love, betrayal, forgiveness, and redemption that has enchanted audiences for nearly two centuries.

Since its premiere in Paris in 1841, *Giselle* has been celebrated as a quintessential masterpiece of French Romantic ballet and remains a cornerstone of the classical repertoire. This ballet emerged during the 19th-century Romantic Movement, which transformed literature, music, art, and dance. Romantic artists moved away from the classical ideals of order, harmony, and balance, drawing inspiration from imagination, the supernatural, and nature. Hallmarks of Romanticism include an emphasis on individualism, a reverence for nature, a prioritization of emotion over reason, and a touch of the spiritual or otherworldly. For many, this movement offered an escape into beauty and wonder.

In Act 1 of *Giselle*, we experience the innocence and heartbreak of the title character, reflecting the fragility of human emotions and the complexities of youthful love. Act 2 transitions into a haunting supernatural world, focusing on unrequited love and the profound strength of forgiveness. The striking contrast between the lively village scenes and the ethereal realm of the Willis creates a powerful and unforgettable narrative that has endured through generations.

At its core, *Giselle* is a story about the human condition and the transformative power of love and forgiveness—universal themes that resonate with us all. Whether this is your first time experiencing *Giselle* or you are revisiting a cherished favorite, we invite you to immerse yourself in the beauty of this timeless ballet and enjoy the exceptional artistry of our talented dancers.

With gratitude,

Brooke Storheim

Brooke Storheim
Artistic Director
Theatre Ballet

Ashley Parov

Ashley Parov
Artistic Director
Theatre Ballet

Mira Larsen

Mira Larsen
Assistant Director
Theatre Ballet



BYU COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS
BYU DEPARTMENT OF DANCE
BYU BALLET
PRESENT

Giselle

Restaged by **Ashley Parov & Brooke Storheim**
after the manner of Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot

Music: **Giselle** by Adolphe Adam

ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

Ashley Parov & Brooke Storheim

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Mira Larsen

DRAMATURGY

Belle Frahm Menzie

NARRATION

Daniel Summerstay

This production runs without pauses or intermissions.





CASTING

LOYS/ALBRECHT

Gordon Felesina

GISELLE

Isabella Mudrick (1/30, 2/21-22, 4/4)
Abigail Wardle (2/19, 2/20, 2/22 Mat)

HILARION

Alex Pixton

BERTHE

Faith Garlitz (1/30, 2/21-22, 4/4)
Aubrie Owen (2/19, 2/20, 2/22 Mat)

BATHILDE

Annie Openshaw (1/30, 2/21-22, 4/4)
Colette Radstone (2/19, 2/20, 2/22 Mat)

MYRTA

Colette Radstone (1/30, 2/21-22, 4/4)
Hailey Adamson (2/19, 2/20, 2/22 Mat)

PEASANT PAS DE TROIS

Edward Lambert, Sophia Ross, Rachel Stewart (1/30, 2/19-2/22)
Charlotte White (4/4)

PAS DE SIX

Haven Benson, Jaylee Box, Addy Golding, Madeline Jennejohn
Olivia Newell, Annie Openshaw (2/19, 2/20, 2/22 Mat)
Jenna Wudel (1/30, 2/21-2/22), Hailey Adamson (4/4)

ROYAL ENTOURAGE

Clara Butler (2/19, 2/20, 2/22 Mat), Ellie John (1/30, 2/21-22, 4/4), Lani Johnson (2/19, 2/20, 2/22 Mat)
Elise Jones (2/19, 2/20, 2/22 Mat), Tenley Murdock (1/30, 2/21-22, 4/4)
Abigail Summers (1/30, 2/21-22, 4/4), Alan Thompson, Charlotte White (1/30, 2/19-2/22)

WALTZ COURTIERS

***Guest Performers from Theatre Ballet Studio Company*

<i>Grace Baker **</i>	<i>Jojo McCollum **</i>
<i>Aubrey Bingham **</i>	<i>Allie Monson **</i>
<i>Emma Cramer **</i>	<i>Taya Sanches **</i>
<i>Abbie Kirk **</i>	<i>Anne Summers **</i>
<i>Sam Lish **</i>	<i>Hazel Torgerson</i>

WILLIS DEMI-SOLOISTS

Faith Garlitz, Aubrey Owen

WILLIS CORPS

Hailey Adamson, Haven Benson, Jaylee Box, Clara Butler, Addy Golding, Madeline Jennejohn, Ellie John, Lani Johnson, Elise Jones, Tenley Murdock, Olivia Newell, Annie Openshaw, Sophia Ross, Rachel Stewart, Abigail Summers, Hazel Torgerson, Charlotte White, Jenna Wudel

SHOW ORDER

ACT 1: THE VILLAGE

HARVEST FESTIVAL

ROYAL ENTOURAGE ENTRANCE

PEASANT PAS DE TROIS

PAS DE SIX

FINALE

ACT 2: THE FOREST & REALM OF THE WILLIS

WILLIS GATHERING

APPARITION OF GISELLE

HILARION'S DEMISE

GRAND PAS DE DEUX

FINALE



CHOREOGRAPHERS

JEAN CORALLI & JULES PERROT

1841 ORIGINAL GISELLE PRODUCTION:

The choreography for the original 1841 production of *Giselle* was a collaboration between Jean Coralli (1779–1854) and Jules Perrot (1810–1892). Combining dramatic expressiveness with innovative and technically demanding choreography, Coralli and Perrot crafted a masterpiece that was instantly celebrated as a sensational triumph. *Giselle* debuted at the Paris Opéra, with Carlotta Grisi and Lucien Petipa performing the lead roles of Giselle and Albrecht. The ballet's popularity was evident, as it was performed in Paris for eight consecutive years, with Grisi consistently dancing the title role. Its appeal quickly extended beyond Paris, with ballet companies worldwide staging productions of *Giselle*. The work has since become a cornerstone of the ballet repertoire. Théophile Gautier, the librettist of *Giselle*, beautifully described the art form: *"The dance speaks, it is poetry with arms and legs; it is matter, graceful and terrible, animated and embellished by movement."*

COMPOSER

ADOLPHE ADAM

Adolphe Adam (1803–1856), a prolific French composer renowned for his operas, ballets, and the cherished Christmas carol "O Holy Night," completed the original score for *Giselle* in an astonishing two months. His work is widely regarded as some of the greatest ballet music ever composed. Adam masterfully employed motifs—short musical phrases—throughout the ballet to represent specific characters, events, or ideas. These recurring motifs create continuity and enhance the storytelling. Adam's primary goal was not only to narrate the story through his music but also to convey the emotional depth of the characters. Over a decade after its premiere, choreographer George Balanchine praised Adam's contribution, stating, *"The music of Giselle is as much a character in the ballet as the dancers themselves—its haunting beauty and delicate harmonies elevate the entire work."*



THEATRE BALLET



Hailey Adamson



Haven Benson



Jaylee Box



Clara Butler



Gordon Felesina



Faith Garlitz



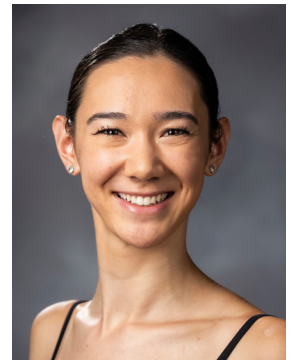
Addy Golding



Madeline Jennejohn



Ellie John



Lani Johnson



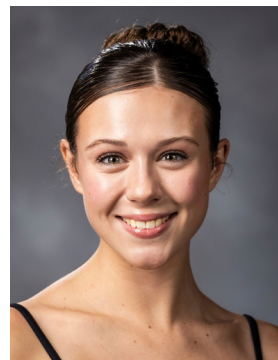
Elise Jones



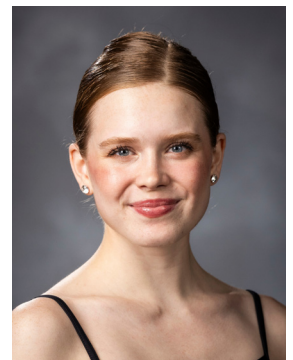
Edward Lambert



Isabella Mudrick

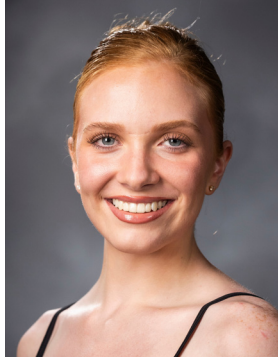


Tenley Murdock



Olivia Newell

THEATRE BALLET



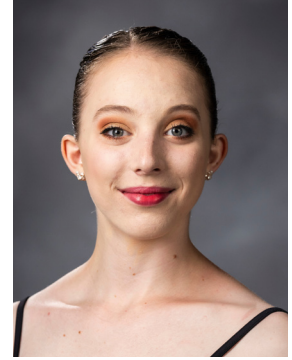
Annie Openshaw



Aubrie Owen



Alex Pixton



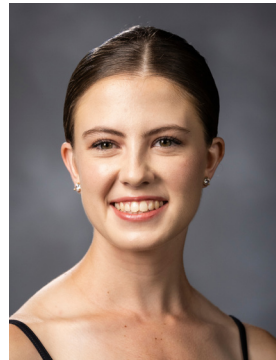
Colette Radstone



Sophia Ross



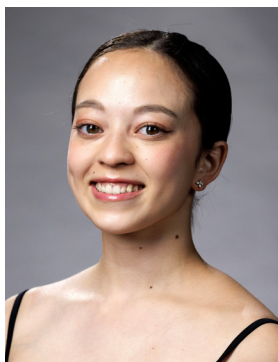
Rachel Stewart



Abigail Summers



Alan Thompson



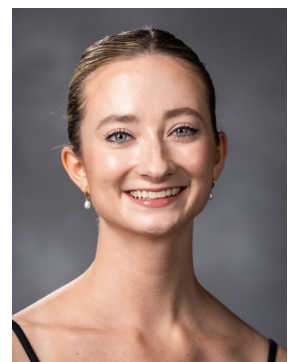
Hazel Torgerson



Abigail Wardle



Charlotte White



Jenna Wudel

BIOGRAPHIES



Ashley Parov

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR THEATRE BALLET
RESTAGER, CHOREOGRAPHER

Ashley Parov began her early ballet training with Zola Dishong and Richard Cammack at the Contra Costa Ballet Centre in Walnut Creek, California. At the age of 13, Ms. Parov was accepted as a full scholarship student at the San Francisco Ballet School (SFBS) where she trained under the direction of Lola DeAvila, Gloria Govrin, Sandra Jennings, Pascale LeRoy, Shannon Breshnahan, Jocelyn Vollmar, and Irina Jacobson. While at SFBS, she performed extensively with the San Francisco Ballet in supernumerary, apprentice, and corps de ballet roles. At the age of 16, she was invited to join the company on their summer tour to London and Spain. While on tour, Ms. Parov performed in Helgi Tommasson's *Swan Lake*. Upon returning from tour, she was invited to join the company as an apprentice, eventually transitioning to the corps de ballet. After receiving her BA in Dance from Brigham Young University, she returned to the San Francisco Bay Area to dance for Charles Anderson's Company C Contemporary Ballet. While at Company C, Ms. Parov danced lead roles in works by Twyla Tharp, David Parsons, Charles Anderson, Val Caniparoli, Michael Smuin, Lar Lubovitch, and Amy Seiwert. In 2016 she graduated with her MFA in Dance from Saint Mary's College of California with honors. Ms. Parov is a certified Pilates instructor and holds teaching certifications in the Bolshoi Ballet Academy and American Ballet Theatre curriculums. She has also received training in the 4Pointe and Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet methods. With colleagues Professor Shayla Bott and Brenda Critchfield, Ms. Parov's academic research has been presented at the International Dance Medicine and Sciences (IADMS) and CORPS de Ballet International.



Brooke Storheim

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR THEATRE BALLET
RESTAGER, CHOREOGRAPHER

Brooke Storheim began her early ballet training with Michelle Armstrong, Willam Christensen, and Antonio Grazulis in Salt Lake City, Utah. She attended Brigham Young University, studying with Jan Dijkwel and Edward Truit, dancing and touring with Theatre Ballet Company, and majoring in history. She then attended the University of Utah, studying with Attila Ficzere, Conrad Ludlow, Sharee Lane, Tong Wang, and Jane Smith, graduating with honors with her MFA (emphasis in Teaching & Choreography) in ballet. While at the University of Utah, Brooke performed with Utah Ballet and Ballet Ensemble, choreographed for Ballet Showcase, and served as a teaching assistant. In addition, Brooke has studied with Ohio Ballet, Cleveland Chamber Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, and Ballet West. Brooke danced professionally with Hale Centre Theatre, Utah Regional Ballet, Utah Ballet, Theatre Ballet, Ohio Ballet, and has also been a guest soloist with the Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square. Brooke has taught at many institutions, including Utah Valley University, The University of Utah, and various private academies in the Salt Lake and Cleveland areas. She is currently an assistant professor faculty member at Brigham Young University, holding pedagogy certifications from ABT, CPYB, and 4Pointe. Brooke's choreography has been presented at BYU, The University of Utah, and Mountain West Ballet.

BIOGRAPHIES



Mira Larsen

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR THEATRE BALLET
RETAGER, CHOREOGRAPHER

Mira Larsen is from Southern California and began her ballet training with Dana Nelson and José Chavez at the Academy of Ballet Arts. While training there she received scholarships to several summer intensive programs including at Ellison Ballet and San Francisco Ballet. Mira also participated in several international ballet competitions, receiving the gold medal at the Vienna International Ballet Experience and Top Twelve at the New York Finals for Youth America Grand Prix. At YAGP, Mira also received an offer to study at the Royal Ballet School in England where she spent two years. While there, Mira had the opportunity to perform with the Royal Ballet Company in their annual Nutcracker performances as well as performing core and soloist roles in the annual school performances. After training at Royal, Mira received her B.S. in Statistics from BYU, with minors in both Ballet and Mathematics. While at BYU, Mira danced with Theatre Ballet all four years she was there, performing many soloist and lead roles. Mira also acted as a student rehearsal assistant for Theatre Ballet and taught classes in the ballet area, including pas de deux and intermediate/advanced technique classes. Mira is now adjunct faculty and continues teaching partnering, along with pointe and other advanced ballet classes. Mira is an ABT® National Training Curriculum certified teacher for Pre-Primary to Level 3, a certified Progressing Ballet Technique instructor, and is working towards becoming a certified Stott Pilates instructor. Mira is also an MFA candidate at St. Mary's College of California with research emphasizing somatic informed pedagogy and choreography through fascial intervention.





CREATIVE TEAM

THEATRE BALLET ARTISTIC DIRECTORS
ASHLEY PAROV & BROOKE STORHEIM

THEATRE BALLET ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
MIRA LARSEN

THEATRE BALLET STUDIO COMPANY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
HILARY WOLFLEY

THEATRE BALLET STUDIO COMPANY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
MAILE JOHNSON

PRODUCTION MANAGER
BENJAMIN SANDERS

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER
CRYSTA LAMB

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
JOHN SHURTLEFF

PRODUCTION & PROJECTION DESIGNER
ERIN BJORN

LIGHTING DESIGNER
BENJAMIN SANDERS

SOUND DESIGNER & MUSIC EDITOR
TROY SALES

COSTUME DESIGN & PRODUCTION
MARIANNE THOMPSON
WITH
ALLISON FARNSWORTH
PRISCILLA HAO, DAWN MAUGHAN

ADDITIONAL THANKS
CORY CROPPER, MYRNA LAYTON



**BYU COLLEGE OF
FINE ARTS AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

DEAN
ED ADAMS

ASSOCIATE DEANS
AMY PETERSEN JENSEN
JEREMY GRIMSHAW
RORY SCANLON

ASSISTANT DEANS
MELINDA SEMADENI
THAYLENE ROGERS
DON POWELL

**DANCE MEDICINE
& WELLNESS**

DIRECTOR
BRENDA CRITCHFIELD

**ASSISTANT ATHLETIC
TRAINER**
ANNIE CHRISTOFFERSON
KYRA COX

**DEPARTMENT
OF DANCE**

ADMINISTRATION
SHAYLA BOTT, CHAIR
AMY JEX, ASSOS. CHAIR
ADAM DYER, ASSOS. CHAIR

FULL-TIME FACULTY

NATHAN BALSER
SHAYLA BOTT
LIZ DIBBLE
ADAM DYER
JEANETTE GESLISON
KEELY SONG GLENN
CURT HOLMAN
KAREN JENSEN
AMY JEX
BRENT KECK
KATE MONSON
ASHLEY PAROV
MARIN ROPER
BROOKE STORHEIM
KORI WAKAMATSU
HILARY WOLFLEY

ACCOUNTANT
RYAN BIDDULPH

DANCE SECRETARY
J'LENE WILES

BALLET FACULTY

FULL-TIME FACULTY

SHAYLA BOTT
ASHLEY PAROV
BROOKE STORHEIM
HILARY WOLFLEY

ADJUNCT FACULTY

ELISABETH EISENHUT
KALLIE HATCH
RYAN HATCH
HANNAH HURD
MAILE JOHNSON
MICHELLE LAPIOLI
MIRA LARSEN
JESSICA SANDERS
MADYSON WURTZBACHER

BALLET ACCOMPANISTS

AMALIE SIMPER, COORDINATOR
SADIE ARMSTRONG
PATRICK BEAL
JOYANNE BILLS
NATHAN FENWICK
THYS HANSON
EVAN JENSEN
CHRISTIAN LITSTER
CALLIE MADSON
LENORA MOHLMAN
CARSON PETRIE
HEIDI SNYDER