



CONTEMPORARY
DANCE THEATRE

BYU BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY



Oh,
The
Drama!

Repertoire

RAPTURE (2014)

MUSIC: “Hallelujah” and “Welcome to the Black Parade,” performed by Vitamin String Quartet

CHOREOGRAPHER: Nathan Balsler

DANCERS: Makinley Butterfield, Sylvie Randall, Morgan Williams, Spencer Waddell, Mo Crump, Maddie Edwards, Lucy Garrett, Katie Williams, Cristina Solano, Brooklyn Belnap, Brae Anderson, Anson Bagley

E PLURIBUS UNUM (2021)

MUSIC: “In the Hall of the Mountain King,” by Edvard Grieg

CHOREOGRAPHER: Liz Dibble

DANCERS: Makinley Butterfield, Mo Crump, Sylvie Randall, Cristina Solano, Baylee Van Patten, Spencer Waddell, Katie Williams, Kara Williams, Maddie Edwards

INTIMATE INFINITE INTRICATE: THE VELOCITY OF SNOWFLAKES

(PREMIERE)

MUSIC: “Snowflake,” by Kate Bush

CHOREOGRAPHER: Keith Johnson

DANCERS: Spencer Waddell, Cassidy Schroyer

Keith would like to acknowledge and thank Bahareh Ebrahimzadeh and Spencer Jensen for their creative contributions to this dance. Special thanks to Cassidy Schroyer, Brinnli Wosnjuk, Spencer Waddell, and Kate Monson for their amazing talents and hard work. This dance is for Robert Wells.

IKIGAI (PREMIERE)

MUSIC: “Night Run,” by René Aubry; “Baião Destemperado,” by Barbatuques; “Arriving,” by Jojo Mayer

CHOREOGRAPHER: Vanessa Cook

DANCERS: Sylvie Randall, Alexa Payne, Brinnli Wosnjuk, Morgan Williams, Brooklyn Belnap, Maddie Edwards, Lucy Garrett



OPPORTUNITY (2019)

MUSIC: "Opportunity," original composition by Jarom Hansen

CHOREOGRAPHER: Jesse Obremski

DANCERS: Gia Fosson, Megan Haymore, Kylee Jackman, Brinnli Wosnjuk, Cassidy Schroyer

MI (2020)

MUSIC: "MI," by Nils Frahm

CHOREOGRAPHER: Tristan Gray

DANCERS: Makinley Butterfield, Mo Crump, Megan Haymore, Gia Fosson, Alexa Payne, Baylee Van Patten, Kara Williams, Cristina Solano, Jewel Hatch-Killpack, Katie Williams

THOUGHT OF YOU (2010)

MUSIC: "World Spins Madly On," by The Weepies

CHOREOGRAPHER: Kori Wakamatsu

ANIMATION: Ryan Woodward

DANCERS: Jewel Hatch-Killpack, Spencer Waddell

This work is made possible by Ryan Woodward's vision and quest for collaboration.

VIVALDI BY CHANCE (PREMIERE)

MUSIC: “Vivaldi Spring,” recomposed by Max Richter;
“When She Came Back,” by Max Richter

CHOREOGRAPHER: Adam Dyer

DANCERS: Brinnli Wosnjuk, Cassidy Schroyer,
Brooklyn Belnap, Kylee Jackman, Lucy Garrett,
Maddie Edwards, Morgan Williams, Spencer Waddell,
Brae Anderson, Anson Bagley

THE ACCUSERS (2018)

MUSIC: “Replicate, Pt. 2,” by Daniel Wohl

CHOREOGRAPHER: Kate Monson

This piece is a character study on the accusers from The Crucible by playwright Arthur Miller. It is part of a full-length work, Bind, Burn, Whisper, Press: Crucible Lessons, in which elements of The Crucible are used to explore whose voices get heard and why.

DANCERS: Baylee Van Patten (Abigail Williams),
Mo Crump (Betty Parris), Makinley Butterfield (Mary Warren),
Gia Fosson, Jewel Hatch-Killpack, Cassidy Schroyer,
Kara Williams, Brae Anderson, Anson Bagley,
Megan Haymore, Kylee Jackman, Spencer Waddell,
Katie Williams



TENSILE INVOLVEMENT (1955)

MUSIC: “Tensile Involvement,” by Alwin Nikolais

CHOREOGRAPHER: Alwin Nikolais

SCENE, LIGHTING, AND COSTUME DESIGNER:
Alwin Nikolais; costumes recreated by Dawn Maughan

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: Alberto del Saz; assisted by
Kate Monson and Keely Song

“Tensile Involvement” premiered at the Henry Street Playhouse in New York City on February 13, 1955. The licensing and performance of this work has been granted through the exclusive rights of the Nikolais/Louis Foundation for Dance Inc.

DANCERS: Cassidy Schroyer, Brinnli Wosnjuk,
Jewel Hatch-Killpack, Kara Williams, Baylee Van Patten,
Gia Fosson, Alexa Payne, Megan Haymore;
Soloist: Kylee Jackman



Dancers

Brae Anderson

Music Dance Theatre
Chantilly, VA

Gia Fosson

Art
Rocklin, CA

Anson Bagley

Music Dance Theatre
Riverton, UT

Lucy Garrett

Dance (BFA)
Camarillo, CA

Brooklyn Belnap

Exercise Science
Grand Junction, CO

Jewel Hatch-Killpack

Dance (BA)
Highland Park, NJ

Makinley Butterfield

Dance (BFA)
Elk Ridge, UT

Megan Haymore

Dance (BA)
Spanish Fork, UT

Mo Crump

Dance (BA)
Phoenix, AZ

Kylee Jackman

International Relations
Syracuse, UT

Maddie Edwards

Exercise and Wellness
Heber City, UT

Alexa Payne

Dance Education
Eagle, ID



Dancers

Sylvie Randall

Dance (BFA)
Boulder City, NV

Kara Williams

Dance (BFA)
Las Vegas, NV

Cassidy Schroyer

Dance (BFA)
Concord, NH

Katie Williams

Dance Education
Salem, UT

Cristina Solano

Dance (BA)
Santa Ana, CA

Morgan Williams

Psychology
Pleasant Grove, UT

Baylee Van Patten

Dance (BFA)
Riverton, UT

Brinnli Wosnjuk

Dance (BA)
Eagle Mountain, UT

Spencer Waddell

Dance (BFA)
Oregon City, OR



Creative Team

ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

Kate Monson

Adam Dyer

COLLABORATORS

Ed Adams, Dean of the BYU
College of Fine Arts and Communications

Shayla Bott,
Chair of the Department of Dance

Benjamin Sanders,
Director of Production and Design

Karson Denney, Artist Manager

Dawn Maughan, Resident Costumer

John Shurtleff, Technical Director

Crysta Powell, Production Stage Manager

Erin Bjorn, Production Designer

Jocelyn Southam, Production Assistant

Brenda Critchfield,
Director, Dance Medicine

Mariah Dawe-Johnson, Athletic Trainer

Terri White, Music Accompanist

Ryan Biddulph, Accountant

J'Lene Willes, Department Secretary

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Nathan Balser, Area Administrator

Marin Roper

Keely Song Glenn

Kori Wakamatsu

Kate Monson

Liz Dibble

Adam Dyer

Karen Jensen

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Spencer Waddell, Vice President

Sylvie Randall,
Devotional Coordinator

Mo Crump,
Spotlight and Belonging Coordinator

Gia Fosson, Art Designer

Katie Williams,
Social Media Specialist

CFAC MARKETING & PRODUCTION

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Director, Audio Manager

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Jared Patching,
Stage Operations Manager

Mark Ohran, Lighting Manager

Mckenzie Wise,
Assistant Lighting Manager

Tiffany Parker,
Audio Production Specialist

Troy Sales, Audio Content Producer

Rex Kocherhans,
Marketing Services Manager

Marin Barney,
Creative Services Manager

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Nathan and Suzie Balsler

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John and Kim Green

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Lamar J. Hansen

Evelyn Hoover

Nathan Kempton

Kara and Andrew Mann

Quin and Kate Monson

Shantal and Derek Moody

Holly and Bradley Petty

Scott and Rhonda Rooker

Susan and Ralph Ryser

Spencer Smith

Megan Taylor

Kori Wakamatsu

Thank You!



Choreographers



NATHAN BALSER Originally from Springville, Utah, and a graduate of Brigham Young University (BS) and the University of Utah (MFA), Nathan Balsler is an associate professor of contemporary dance and musical theatre at BYU. Currently, he is the artistic director of the BYU Young Ambassadors. He teaches all levels of contemporary modern dance plus various levels of jazz and musical theatre dance. His performance career includes the Broadway shows *Promises, Promises* (with Kristin Chenoweth), *Legally Blonde*, *9 to 5: The Musical*, and *Damn Yankees* as well as national tours of *Mamma Mia!*, *Peter Pan* (with Cathy Rigby), and *Minsky's*. He has performed concert dance with Repertory Dance Theatre, John Malashock and Dancers, Molissa Fenley, Contemporary Dance Works, and Odyssey Dance Theatre. Nathan enjoys researching choreography and artistic direction. You may have seen his work in previous performances of BYU's Contemporary Dance Theatre and dancEnsemble, as well as Sundance Summer Theatre, Hale Center Theater Orem, and Utah Conservatory of the Performing Arts. He loves making bread, camping, and throwing around weights at the gym. He thanks his wife and four enthusiastic children for their support!



VANESSA COOK Vanessa Cook is a dancer, choreographer, aerialist, and dance teacher. Her first dance training was in classical ballet. After graduating with honors from Leeds University with a BA in philosophy and English, she trained at the UK's Northern School of Contemporary Dance. Since then she has performed with major UK dance companies Motionhouse, Phoenix Dance Theatre, and 2Faced Dance Company. During this time, Vanessa delved into the form of contact improvisation and taught in universities, prisons, and schools worldwide, including in Brazil, Israel and the Palestinian Territories, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, and Ukraine. The next stage of Vanessa's professional trajectory was working with aerial dance companies such as Wired Aerial Theatre, Dream Engine Heliosphere, Gravity & Levity, and Öff Öff. She also worked on the London 2012 Olympic Ceremonies. In addition to performing, Vanessa also worked as a movement director for numerous theatre companies. In 2014, Vanessa relocated to Switzerland and founded her own dance company, vanessacookdance.com, which receives regular funding to create and tour new work. Another strand of Vanessa's vocation is working with integrated casts consisting of dancers with and without disabilities. Vanessa is now codirector of the Bern BETA Stage Festival.



ALBERTO DEL SAZ Alberto del Saz is the artistic director of the Nikolais/Louis Foundation for Dance. Mr. del Saz is a vital and important link in keeping the Nikolais/Louis repertory active and alive.

Mr. del Saz was born in Bilbao, Spain. At an early age he studied ice skating, which later led to his performing career. In 1980, Mr. del Saz became the Spanish national champion in figure skating and soon made his debut with *Holiday on Ice International*. His early dance training was received at the Nikolais/Louis Dance Lab from the great teachers of the technique: Hanya Holm, Alwin Nikolais, Murray Louis, Claudia Gitelman, Tandy Beal, Beverly Blossom, and others.

In 1985, Mr. del Saz made his debut as a lead soloist with the Nikolais Dance Theatre, later renamed the Murray Louis and Nikolais Dance Company. As a member of this internationally acclaimed company, he has toured to virtually every continent of the globe.

Mr. del Saz has appeared for President Ronald Reagan at the Kennedy Center Honors in a CBS telecast featuring the Nikolais Dance Theatre as well as on a PBS *American Masters* series in *Nik and Murray*, an award-winning documentary film by Christian Blackwood. He has also represented the United States State Department on a tour of India, appeared at the Paris Opéra Garnier in a homage to Alwin Nikolais, and at the Next Wave festival with Bill T. Jones and Arnie Zane Dance Company.

In 1990 he went to Japan, where he appeared as a guest artist in "V," a project by Mr. Ushio Amagatsu, artistic director of Sankai Juku. He has also performed at Men Brazil. Mr. del Saz has appeared as a solo artist in works by Hanya Holm, Maureen Fleming, Sara Pearson, Cleo Parker Robinson, and others.

Mr. del Saz is the reconstruction director of the Nikolais/Louis repertory and has staged the repertory on university and professional dance companies around the world.

In 1997 he danced Rudolph Nureyev's role in *Moments*, a work created by Mr. Murray Louis.

Mr. del Saz's work has been funded by NYSCA in collaboration with Ice Theatre of New York. His skating work has appeared on *Ice Wars*, *Grand Slam*, and the World Professional Figure Skating Championships televised on CBS, FOX, and ABC networks as well as the official openings of Rockefeller Center and Bryant Park.

Mr. del Saz has been with the Nikolais/Louis Foundation for 40 years. At the moment his focus is in preserving the Nikolais/Louis technique, repertory, and legacy through his teaching and directing.



LIZ DIBBLE Liz Dibble is a native of San Francisco, California, where she began her dance training as a scholarship student at the San Francisco Ballet School. She graduated cum laude from Brigham Young University with a BA in composite dance with emphases in ballet and modern. Liz performed in Utah with Brittany Reese and taught at the Clytie Adams School of Ballet. Liz then continued her studies at the Purchase College Conservatory of Dance, where she received an MFA. At Purchase, Liz was the 2010 MFA Excellence Award recipient and performed works choreographed by José Limón, Charlotte Boye-Christensen, Doug Varone, Helen Pickett, Anna Sokolow, Joyce Trisler, Sophie Maslow, and Mark Morris. After graduation, she performed with Trio Dance Collective in New York and taught at Peridance Center and at BalletHispánico. Her choreography has been presented at BYU, Sheridan College, DNA, On Site Mobile Dance Series, WHITE WAVE SoloDuo Festival, Utah Dance Film Festival, and the Mark Morris Dance Center. She is currently an adjunct professor of dance at BYU and the assistant director of Contemporary Dance Theatre.



ADAM DYER Adam Dyer believes every door opened in his career has been the result of Heavenly help magnifying effort and enthusiasm. He currently serves as associate chair and assistant professor of contemporary dance at BYU. He teaches course work in various levels of contemporary technique, conditioning and injury prevention in dance (infusing a high priority on the spiritual and mental aspects of this discipline), aerial dance technique and composition, contemporary partnering, and musical theatre scene study, and he has led seminars on performance and choreography and career trajectory. His choreography has been featured by BYU performing groups Kinnect, Contemporary Dance Theatre, and the Young Ambassadors and by mainstage productions such as *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Godspell*. He was invited to choreograph and develop the original musical *1820*, based on the life of Emma and Joseph Smith. Adam has also choreographed *Footloose* and *Cinderella* for the iconic Sundance Summer Theatre and choreographed an innovative revival of *Newsies* at Hale Center Theatre in Sandy, Utah.

Before joining the faculty at BYU, Adam danced in the Broadway national tour of *Contact*, the Tony Award-winning musical by Susan Stroman; contributed to three different projects for Walt Disney Entertainment; performed on Broadway in *Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark*; and performed as an acrobat, aerialist, and dancer in the in large-scale, water-based cirque shows *Le Rêve* and *The House*

Choreographers

ADAM DYER CONTINUED

of *Dancing Water*. Drawing on his performing experience, Adam created and directed a groundbreaking aquatic theatre show for Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines titled *HiRO*. Adam also performed Crystal Pite's epic work *Polaris* for her contribution to Lincoln Center's White Light Festival. He also served on the faculty at Broadway Dance Center in New York City, where he proposed and created a unique dance class titled Interactive Performance/Contemporary Duets. Adam holds a BFA from Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater/Fordham University and an MFA from NYU Tisch School of the Arts specializing in dance and new media. See his highlights at adamraydyer.com.



TRISTAN GRAY Beginning at the young age of five, Tristan Gray trained in several genres, with a lifelong emphasis in hip-hop. Former crews include Furious Styles Crew in Phoenix, Breaking Point Dance Company in Seattle, Ensoul Collaboration in Salt Lake City, and Utah Urban Dance Organization. As a young dancer, he traveled across the country competing and performing on stages as big

as HHI USA and Worlds in 2008-09. Currently he spends most of his time teaching hip-hop styles, creating choreography, and even expanding into contemporary styles. He currently resides at American Expression of Dance in Draper and The HERC in South Salt Lake. His passion for educating has also led him to teach at many colleges and organizations across the country including BYU, Ballet West, and Cornell University. He hopes to inspire, teach, and dance with this great community for as long as he can.



KEITH JOHNSON Keith Johnson is originally from Tempe, Arizona. He was team captain of Brigham Young University's men's gymnastics team before he began his dance training. He received his MFA in dance with an emphasis in choreography in 1991 from the University of Utah, where he received the Dee R. Winterton

Award for Excellence in Dance. While in Salt Lake City, Keith danced in the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company working with such choreographers as Alwin Nikolais, Murray Louis, Shapiro and Smith, Kei Takei, and Loa Clawson. In New York City, he joined the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, touring the widely acclaimed work *Still/Here* both nationally and internationally. He also danced in the companies of Creach/Koester and Doug Varone and Dancers. He has also done pick-up work dancing in the companies of Spencer/Colton in Boston and Janis Brenner in California. As part of Doug Varone and Dancers, Keith performed with the Denver

KEITH JOHNSON CONTINUED

Opera and in a site-specific work *Neither*, which took place in the Lower East Side Tenement Museum in New York City. Keith has also performed with Colleen Thomas Dance, Bill Young/Colleen Thomas and Dancers, Stephanie Liapis, and Victoria Marks and in The Pod Project by choreographer Nancy Bannon. He has performed in major festivals and concert halls worldwide including the Joyce Theater, Jacob's Pillow, the REDCAT, Tokyo International Festival, the Melbourne Festival, and Queen Elizabeth Hall in England.

In 1998, Keith formed Keith Johnson/Dancers. The company has performed in California, North Carolina, Utah, Minnesota, New York, and Arizona and has received favorable reviews from the *Los Angeles Times*. Keith Johnson/Dancers is preparing for upcoming shows at El Camino College and Rutgers University and is working on a full evening work to be premiered in 2025.

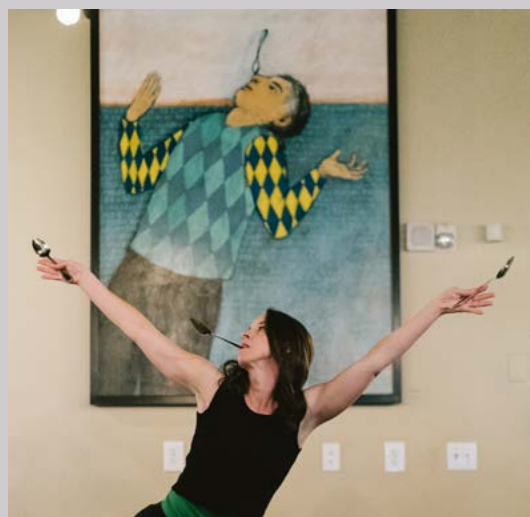
Keith is currently on the faculty at California State University, Long Beach. He is a full professor who teaches improvisation, composition, and contemporary dance techniques. He is an advisor to the MFA candidates and the BFA students. In addition, Keith has been a guest teacher at dozen of institutions across the country and overseas.

Keith is the recipient of two Lester Horton Awards (2007 and 2008). He received the Choo San Goh Award in 2002 for emerging choreographers and has had support from the Dance/USA Foundation. His work has been shown in various venues including the University of Utah (with Stephen Koester), the LIT Series, Joyce Soho (with Colleen Thomas), the Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center in Salt Lake City, the Center Stage Theatre (with Stephanie Nugent), Commuter Festival (CalArts), Breaking Ground Festival, ADF, Highways, Stomping Ground, Sugar Space, the Garage Theatre, Taliesin West, and the Diavolo Space. His work has been commissioned by the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, d9 Collective, CONDER|dance, Contemporary Danceworks, various solo artists, and universities. In 2012, Keith had two works represented at the National ACDFFA conference at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. The performers from Loyola Marymount University were chosen as the Outstanding Student Performer Award for their work in *Unscripted/Riptide Into Me*.

Keith also makes dance films with collaborator Gregory R. R. Crosby, and together they have formed Fistbomb Films. Their film, *Life in Security*, has been screened at the Breaking Ground Festival and FilmBar (both in Arizona), WestFest and Conversations at the Flea (both in New York), Dance for the Camera Festival (California), and American Dance Festival's International Screendance Festival. Keith appears in Daniel Cartier's music video "1234 Rock Out." He was awarded the 2012-13 Distinguished

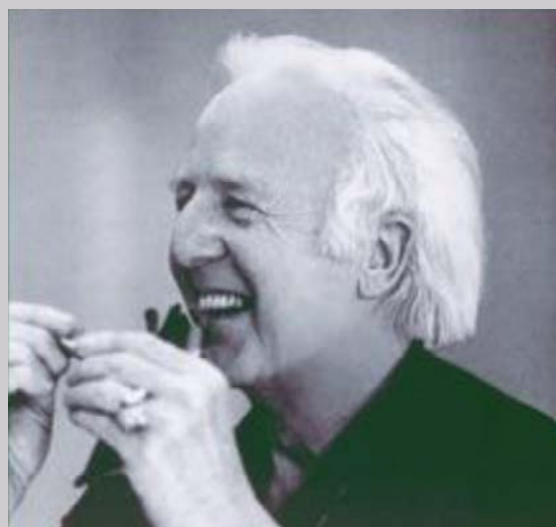
KEITH JOHNSON CONTINUED

Alumni Award from the Department of Modern Dance at the University of Utah and is a Djerassi Resident Artist for 2024. In addition, Keith has explored visual arts in areas of printmaking, art installations, sculpture, neon art, minimalist watercolors, and costuming, and he hopes to further his studies in the visual arts. Currently, he enjoys creating found object sculptures, refurbished glass chandeliers and lamps, and abstract paintings.



KATE MONSON Kate Monson, associate professor of dance and faculty affiliate of gerontology at Brigham Young University, holds an MFA in choreography from the Ohio State University and is a Laban/Bartenieff certified movement analyst. Dance has taken her around a million corners of surprise, interest, play, and change, including

cocreating a conditioning program specifically for collegiate contemporary modern dancers that attempts to balance virtuosity and longevity, choreographing dance works for multigenerational casts, coproducing a site-specific dance series, conceiving and producing a music video, and codirecting a full-length interdisciplinary work based on *The Crucible*. Not one of these things could she have done on her own, which leads to her favorite thing: collaborating with friends and students who unabashedly love to create—and sometimes snort-laugh as they do it. Other loves include the desert sun, unusual pants, her four children, and her down-to-earth husband.



ALWIN NIKOLAIS (1910-1993)

Choreographer, composer, and scenic, lighting, and costume designer, Alwin Nikolais blended his talents into a single aesthetic force. In a career that spanned five decades, he left his imprint on every theatrical medium, from Broadway to television. His innovative lighting designs, sound scores, choreography, and costumes have influenced the contemporary stage and a generation of choreographers. Mr. Nikolais was the creator of the internationally acclaimed Nikolais Dance Theatre and the genius responsible for dozens of visual masterpieces.

Mr. Nikolais had been lauded for his accomplishments and contributions many times over. In 1987 he was awarded the US's highest cultural honors: the National Medal of Arts, bestowed by President Ronald Reagan and the Kennedy Center Honors.

ALWIN NIKOLAIS CONTINUED

Alwin Nikolais was born in 1910 in Southington, Connecticut. He studied piano at an early age and began his performing career as an organist accompanying silent films. As a young artist he gained skills in scene design, acting, puppetry and music composition. It was after attending a performance by the illustrious German dancer Mary Wigman that he was inspired to study dance. His early dance training was received at Bennington College from the great figures of the modern dance world: Hanya Holm, Martha Graham, Doris Humphrey, Charles Weidman, Louis Horst, and others.

Mr. Nikolais served in active duty with the US Army during World War II, and following the war he relocated to New York City, where in 1948 he was appointed director of the Henry Street Playhouse and formed the Playhouse Dance Company, which later became known as the Nikolais Dance Theatre. It was at Henry Street that Mr. Nikolais began to develop his own world of abstract dance theatres, portraying the human being as part of a total environment. His unique choreographic works, visions, techniques, and philosophy placed him in a realm previously untouched by other choreographers. Mr. Nikolais redefined dance as “the art of motion which left on its own merits becomes the message as well as the medium.” It was also at Henry Street that Mr. Nikolais was joined by Murray Louis, who was to become a driving force in the young Playhouse company and Mr. Nikolais’s leading dancer and longtime collaborator.

Alwin Nikolais has a long association with dance in Utah. In 1962 the University of Utah was given a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation for Mr. Nikolais to mount his work *Totem* for department dance majors. He also taught university summer courses between the years of 1963 and 1968, thereby establishing a basis for his philosophy and pedagogical approach. In 1987 the University of Utah honored Nikolais with an honorary doctorate degree.

Ten years after Nikolais’s death, his longtime partner Murray Louis identified the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company as the only professional dance company in the world to perform full evenings of the Nikolais repertory. We are extremely grateful to Murray Louis and Alberto del Saz, artistic directors of the Nikolais/Louis Foundation for Dance in New York City, for giving us the honor of preserving the legacy of Alwin Nikolais and his works as a part of our mission.



JESSE OBREMSKI Jesse Obremski is a native of New York City. He began his studies at the Ailey School, studied at Jacob's Pillow and Springboard Danse Montreal, and graduated from Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School and the Juilliard School. He joined the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company at the age of 19 and has since worked with Helen Simoneau

Danse, Peter Stathas Dance, WHITE WAVE, Kate Weare Company, Brian Brooks Moving Company, and the Limón Dance Company (soloist and principal), and he is currently an artistic associate with Gibney Company (since 2018), among others. He is a sought-after educator and speaker, and he has restaged José Limón's work at MOVE|NYC|, the University of Wyoming, and the Juilliard School (2015–2018). He is the movement director and choreographer for the musical duo the Sound of Aja and a collaborator with the BringAbout.

Jesse has received the Asian American Arts Alliance's 2016 Jadin Wong Award and the ranking of Eagle Scout, and he was named *Dance Magazine's* March 2019 "Dancer on the Rise." From 2022 to 2023, Jesse was the associate executive director of Earl Mosley's Diversity of Dance (EMDOD) after serving on its board for four years. In 2018, he founded Obremski/Works, which has been presented internationally with an emphasis on dance films and AAPI Support Fellowships. Jesse's choreographic works have been presented across the United States, Canada, China, Czechia, Germany, Japan, Malaysia, and Turkey by Gibney Company, Buglisi Dance Theatre, Brigham Young University, EMDOD, and Obremski/Works and has been produced by Gibney Company and Fall for Dance North, among others. See highlights from Jesse at jesseobremski.com.



KORI WAKAMATSU Kori Wakamatsu is a teaching professor of dance at Brigham Young University. Before entering higher education, she taught junior high and high school in the Utah public school system. She has had many opportunities to work on collaborative projects, such as the "Thought of You" animation with Ryan Woodward, *The Nightingale* play with Julia Ashworth, On Site Mobile Dance Series with Kate

Monson, and Theatre Engine/Dance Engine with Alison Dobbins and Michael Kraczek. She has published in the *Journal of Dance Education* and the *Arts Education Policy Review*, and she contributed to the book *Ethical Dilemmas in Dance Education: Case Studies on Humanizing Dance Pedagogy*. She is married and a mother to three fantastic young human beings.

Choreographers



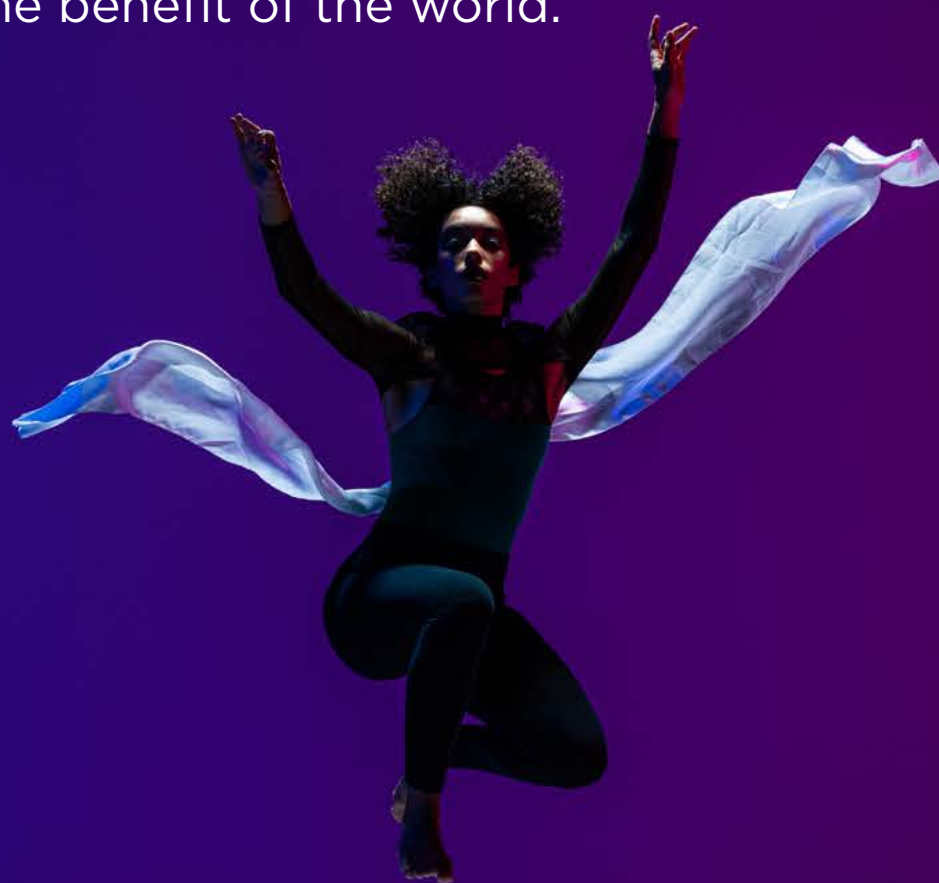
RYAN WOODWARD Ryan Woodward has been involved in the film, animation, and gaming industries under various roles such as animator, storyboard artist, concept artist, writer, and director. He began his career in 1995 as an EFX animator on the Warner Bro's films *Space Jam*, *Quest for Camelot*, *The Iron Giant*, and *Osmosis Jones*. In 2002 he transitioned his career to story teams and contributed to the films *Spider-Man 2*, *Spider-Man 3*, *Cowboys and Aliens*, *Where the Wild Things Are*, *Iron Man 2*, *Snow White and the Huntsman*, *Thor 2*, *Captain America 2*, and *The Avengers*. Some of Ryan's passion projects include the short film *Thought of You* and the animated graphic novel app *Bottom of the Ninth*. Ryan shared his skills and experience as an associate professor of animation at BYU for 10 years. In games, Ryan held a variety of creative roles at Riot Games, Lightspeed Games, and Naughty Dog Games. He also created *Zed: Death Mark*, a solo-effort, 2D-animated short film. At Paramount Animation, Ryan held the unique title of dynamic sequence artist, due to his unique touch with action-oriented scenes. Ryan continues to develop his own intellectual property and enjoys giving related lectures around the world.

CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE

A repertory-based company at Brigham Young University, Contemporary Dance Theatre focuses on giving technically advanced students an opportunity to work closely with faculty and guest choreographers to develop works that espouse current aesthetics in the discipline. While performing the works is a wonderful outgrowth of the company's efforts, equal focus is given to daily rigorous studio practice that requires collaborative communication and a high degree of physical, spiritual, and mental resiliency.

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

Nestled between Utah Lake and the Rocky Mountains, Brigham Young University seeks to develop students of faith, intellect, and character who are committed to learning and serving throughout their lives. Both highly ranked and highly affordable, BYU is a major research institution that offers global opportunities for experiential learning. The university is home to about 35,000 students who come from more than 100 countries. Founded by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, BYU strives to be an exceptional university for the benefit of the world.



BYU



CONTEMPORARY
DANCE THEATRE

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