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BALLETS JAZZ
MONTREAL
DANCE ME:
THE MUSIC
OF LEONARD
COHEN





BALLETS JAZZ MONTREAL

DANCE ME: THE MUSIC OF LEONARD COHEN

TEAM

Artistic and Executive Director

Alexandra Damiani

Rehearsal Director and Artistic Coordinator

Stéphanie Dalphond

Principal Artist

Yosmell Calderon Mejias

Artists

Zoey Anderson, Troy Atamanuk, Gustavo Barros, Millie Brinck-Dubuc, Kyle Davis, Jasmine Heart Cruz, Shanna Irwin Calderon, Zack Preece, Willem Sadler, Madeleine Salhany and Silje Vereide

Intern Rhapsody Stiggers

Guest Artists

Ryan Sherk and Marcel Cavaliere

Technical Director

Marco Vargas Navarro

Head Carpenter

Daniel Ranger

Head of Sound

Maxime Lambert

Head of Lighting

Claude Plante

Head of Video

Roderic Dyon

Deputy Executive Director, Development and Partnerships

Catherine Cardinal

Assistant to the Artistic and Executive Director

Camille Fabre

Tour manager

Louis Morisset



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PROGRAM

DANCE ME – MUSIC BY LEONARD COHEN

Dance Me – Music by Leonard Cohen is an exclusive creation inspired by the rich and profound work of Montréal-based poet, artist and songwriter, Leonard Cohen.

Approved by Cohen during his lifetime, this riveting homage to the famed artist evokes the grand cycles of existence, as described in Cohen's deeply reflective music and poems.

Three internationally renowned choreographers were entrusted with putting movement to Cohen's legendary songs: Andonis Foniadakis, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa and Ihsan Rustem. Their powerful and profound choreographic world reflective of Cohen's singular work is brought to life by Ballets Jazz Montréal's 14 artists and the strong, bold staging of Eric Jean.

Surrounded by a team of celebrated designers, Dance Me combines scenic, visual, musical, dramaturgical, and choreographic writing to pay tribute to Montréal's greatest ambassador. Dance, music, lighting, scenography, and videography all come together in this unforgettable show.

Songs in the show include (in program order):

Here It Is (2001)
Lover, Lover, Lover (1974)
Dance Me to the End of Love (Live in London, 2009)
Boogie Street (Live in London, 2009)
Steer Your Way (2016)
Everybody Knows (2001)
Tower of Song (1988)
So Long, Marianne (1967)
A Thousand Kisses Deep (poem)
Suzanne (1967)
Famous Blue Raincoat (1971)
Nevermind (2014)
First We Take Manhattan (1988)
It Seemed the Better Way (2016)
Hallelujah (1984)
String Reprise / Treaty (2016)

Ballets Jazz Montréal would like to thank the Marjorie and Gerald Bronfman Foundation for the support given to the creation of the show.

Dance Me was supported by the CCOV - Centre de Création O Vertigo.



CREDITS

Ideation Louis Robitaille

Stage Direction Eric Jean

Choreography Andonis Foniadakis, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Ihsan Rustem

Music Direction Martin Léon

Sound Design Alexis Dumais

Set and Prop Design Pierre-Etienne Locas

Set Technical Direction Alexandre Brunet

Lighting Design and Production Cédric Delorme-Bouchard, Simon Beetschen

Video Design HUB Studio - Gonzalo Soldi, Thomas Payette, Jeremy Fassio.

Costume Design Philippe Dubuc

Costume Production Anne-Marie Veevaete

Assistance Stage Direction Elsa Posnic

Sound Engineer Guy Fortin

Technical Director Marco Vargas Navarro

Head Carpenter Daniel Ranger

Head of Sound Maxime Lambert

Head of Lighting Claude Plante

Head of Video Roderic Dyon

Artists

Zoey Anderson, Troy Atamanuk, Gustavo Barros, Marcel Cavaliere, Millie Brinck-Dubuc
Mejias, Kyle Davis, Jasmine Heart Cruz, Shanna Irwin Calderon, Zack Preece
Willem Sadler, Madeleine Salhany, Ryan Sherk, Rhapsody Stiggers and Silje Vereide

Vocalist (So Long, Marianne): Zoey Anderson
Vocalists (Hallelujah): Willem Sadler and Zoey Anderson

Length 80 minutes (without intermission)





ABOUT BALLETS JAZZ MONTRÉAL

Founded in 1972 by Geneviève Salbaing, Eva Von Gencsy and Eddy Toussaint, Ballets Jazz Montréal is a contemporary dance repertory company which, under the general and artistic direction of Alexandra Damiani, creates, produces, and performs on local, national, and international stages.

Among the artistic directors of the company who have greatly marked its evolution, company founder Geneviève Salbaing, driven by her visceral love of dance, led Ballets Jazz Montréal with passion and determination for over 20 years. Upon his appointment as artistic director in 1998, Louis Robitaille, reoriented the company towards an audience curious to discover new choreographic forms. In June 2021, Alexandra Damiani took over the artistic direction of Ballets Jazz Montréal and will carry out the company's mission and vision into the future.

The company recruits internationally renowned choreographers to develop their own research in line with its identity and generates a repertoire that is both exclusive to the company and accessible to all audiences. The company's impressive roster of talented and influential choreographers includes Crystal Pite, Aszure Barton, Mauro Bigonzetti, Andonis Foniadakis, Itzik Galili, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Barak Marshall, Benjamin Millepied, Ihsan Rustem, Anne Plamondon and Juliano Nunes, to name a few. As an ambassador of Quebec dance to the world, Ballets Jazz Montréal offers an artistic product that is explosive, original, accessible, and noted for its performance's excellence.

All of Ballet Jazz's work brings an element of humanity, fearlessness, and emotion in addition to the highly technical skill that each dance requires. Additionally, each piece is nuanced, multilayered and often multidisciplinary – combining other artistic disciplines such as theater, video, and music. With accessibility and quality as key values, the company successfully integrates pleasure and humanity into their strong, expressive, and demanding pieces. Moreover, the distinct personalities and high caliber of its performers further add to the quality that is expected from the company and play a key role in maintaining the company's reputation and influence in the dance world.

Through their productions, performances, and educational activities, Ballets Jazz Montréal encourages discovery, stimulates imagination, and shares their passion for this discipline to all its audiences – both local and abroad. With more than 3,250 performances in 60 countries and an audience of nearly 3 million, Ballets Jazz Montréal is considered one of the world's leading ambassadors of Quebec dance and artistic vitality.

In 2016, the Prix Rideau Hommage was awarded to the company and its artistic director at the time, Louis Robitaille, in recognition of BJM's impact and continued presence on Quebec stages.

In 2020, the company received the Prix de la danse de Montréal for the category of international dissemination presented by CINARS.

In 2022, the company celebrated 50 years of creating, exploring, and connecting with its audiences.



BIOGRAPHIES



ALEXANDRA DAMIANI (GENERAL AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR)

(she/her) Appointed Artistic Director of Ballets Jazz Montréal the spring of 2021, then General and Artistic Director in 2025, Alexandra Damiani has been a major player in the dance community for over two decades. During her 10 years with New York's Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet (2005-2015), first as Ballet Mistress and then as Artistic Director, Damiani had the opportunity to work with and present a wide selection of contemporary dance choreographic languages by such internationally renowned choreographers as Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Crystal Pite and Hofesh Schechter. She also showcased the company in major cities and international festivals, including at the Lyon Biennale in France and Sadler's Wells in London.

Originally from France, Damiani is a multidisciplinary artist who has been lending her expertise to the world of film, television, and advertising for many years. Her credits include playing the ballet mistress in Darren Aronofsky's cult film *Black Swan* and working alongside Tanisha Scott on Cardi B's performance for the 2019 BET Awards. She is also passionate about training the young dancers of tomorrow and has excellent connections with highly regarded institutions like Jacob's Pillow and The Juilliard School.

Damiani trained in classical dance at the Geneva Dance Center, and later in the French capital with teachers from the Paris Opera Ballet. After winning the Bayonne competition in France, she received a scholarship to the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in the US. She began her career as a dancer-performer in New York where she danced as a soloist with Donald Byrd/The Group and with the company Complexions, directed by Dwight Rhoden and Desmond Richardson. Her career continued in Montréal with the RUBBERBANDance Company and later with Ballets Jazz Montréal, under the direction of Louis Robitaille (2002-2005).

STÉPHANIE DALPHOND (REHEARSAL DIRECTOR & ARTISTIC COORDINATOR) (she/her)

Born in Montréal, Stéphanie Dalphond trained at École Supérieure de Danse du Québec and at the Paris Opera School. At the age of 16, she joined Les Grands Ballets Canadiens. She danced with the company for 6 years before becoming a ballet mistress for a year. Yearning to dance again, Stéphanie went to Europe to pursue her career where she danced with Kevin O'Day in Mannheim and Serge Campardon with Compagnie Nomades. She finished her career of 20 years with world-reknowned Nacho Duato's Compañía Nacional de Danza. She is a certified ballet teacher and has been teaching at various professional institutions such as École Supérieure de Ballet du Québec, Cas Public and Ballets Jazz Montréal. She joined the company as rehearsal director for the season 2024-2025, before also taking on the role of Artistic Coordinator for the 2025-2026 season.

ERIC JEAN (STAGE DIRECTOR) (he/him)

Eric Jean is a stage director and creator recognized for his distinctive artistic approach, which he describes as "living writing"—a collaborative creative process grounded in improvisation, close work with playwrights, and exploration of the scenic environment. His work is marked by a sustained commitment to contemporary dramaturgy, emerging artists, and cross-disciplinary dialogue.

In 2004, he was appointed Artistic and General Director of Théâtre de Quat'Sous, where he led the institution through a period of significant success and artistic vitality. His tenure is noted for its strong focus on artistic emergence and diversity, as well as for establishing a major programming platform presenting works by other companies and artists from dance, music, and poetry. He also contributed to the reconstruction of the theatre in collaboration with architect firm FABG.



After stepping down from Quat'Sous in 2016 to devote more time to creation, he developed an acclaimed practice in both theatre and dance, including large-scale productions such as Dance Me for Ballets Jazz Montréal and Vanishing Mélodies, both of which were widely presented.

From 2021 to 2025, he served as Director of Programming (theatre, dance, circus, and youth programming) and Artistic Director at Théâtre de la Ville in Longueuil. In parallel, he was appointed Artistic Director and Co-General Director of the company Les 2 Mondes in 2023. Since 2025, he has continued his collaboration with Théâtre de la Ville as Theatre Commissioner and Artistic Development lead, while maintaining an active career as a stage director and creator.

ANDONIS FONIADAKIS (CHOREOGRAPHER) (he/him)

Andonis Foniadakis grew up in city of Ierapetra, in the south part of the island of Crete, in Greece. He began his dance training with Niki Papadaki at the local dance school, in his hometown. From 1990 to 1992, he studied at the State Dance School of Athens and before his graduation he received the prestigious Maria Callas scholarship to continue his studies in Rudra Bejart Lausanne, in Switzerland until 1994.

As a dancer Andonis has collaborated with Bejart Ballet Lausanne (1994-1996) under the direction of Maurice Bejart, Lyon Opera Ballet (1996-2002) under the direction of Yorgos Loukos, Saburo Teshigawara / Karas Co. (2004) under the direction of Saburo Teshigawara, as well as, with his own dance company "Apotosoma-Andonis Foniadakis". During the years of his professional engagement with these companies he has performed choreographic works of Maguy Marin, Jiri Kilian, William Forsythe, Dominique Boivin, Nacho Duato, Mats Ek, Maurice Bejart, Ohad Naharin, Frederic Flamand, Bill T Jones, Herve Robbe, Tero Saarinen, Lionel Hoche, Joachim Schlomer, John Jasperse, Saburo Teshigawara etc.

As a freelance choreographer he has collaborated with The Royal New Zealand Ballet, Geneva Ballet (Switzerland), Lyon Opera Ballet (France), Bern Ballet (Switzerland), Ballet de Lorraine (France) Luzern Ballet (Switzerland) Gauthier Dance Company (Germany), Martha Graham Dance Company (USA) Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet (USA), Aterballetto (Italy), Ballet du Rhin (France), Sydney Dance Company (Australia), Florence Ballet (Italy), National Dance Company of Wales (England), Dansgroep Amsterdam (Netherlands), Cia Sociedade Masculina Brazil Bale da Cidade of Sao Paulo (Brazil), Helsinki Dance Company (Finland), National Ballet of Greece, National Theater of Northern Greece, Greek National Theater (Greece), Codarts (Netherlands), Benjamin Millepied Dance Company (USA), Washington Ballet (USA), Bejart Ballet Lausanne (Switzerland), Ballet Junior Geneva (Switzerland), Hellenic Dance Company (Greece), CNSMD Lyon (France), Copenhagen International Dance Festival (Denmark).

He has been director of the Greek National Ballet for the season 2016- 2017 and has programmed the seasons 2016-17 and 2017-18. He is currently the resident choreographer of the Greek National Ballet. Foniadakis has been commissioned to choreograph for 3 operas: The Theatre des Champs Elysees - Castor et Pollux, Opera National du Rhin - Les boreades by Rameau GRAME, Lyon - Il canto della pelle by Claudio Ambrosini.

He has collaborated as moving coordinator for the film NOAH by Darren Aronofsky. In 2012 he received the Danza and Danza Award for the "Best Choreographer 2012" in Italy, for the creation Les Noces in Maggio Danza - Florence Ballet.

As well he has collaborated with Palais de Tokyo as Choreographic Curator for the exhibition Prec(ar)ious Collectives that took place in Athens Greece as parallel event of the Documenta 14, in 2017. In addition to creating and performing, Andonis is teaching seminars based on his personal dance technique. He has been teaching in the State Dance School of Greece, DAN.C.CE studios and Baile de Barrio in Athens, DOCK11 in Berlin, CND and CNSMD in Lyon, Dansgroep, as well as at Henny Jurriens, in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

**ANNABELLE LOPEZ OCHOA (CHOREOGRAPHER) (she/her)**

Colombian-Belgian Annabelle Lopez Ochoa (1973) completed her dance education at the Royal Ballet School of Flanders in Belgium. In 2003, after a 12-year dance career, where she danced as a soloist with the Scapino Ballet, she decided to focus her energy solely on choreography. In that same year, she was hailed “rising star of the Dutch dance scene” (NRC newspaper) and only 7 years later the Temecula Performing Arts Examiner wrote: “Ochoa is truly a masterful choreographer with an edge for what dance can and should be in this constantly changing industry”.

Annabelle is an award-winning and sought-after choreographer who has created works for more than 40 companies around the world such as the Scapino Ballet Rotterdam, Dutch National Ballet, Djazzex, Ballet de Genève, Royal Ballet of Flanders, Gothenburg Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, BalletX, Ballets Jazz Montréal, Luna Negra Dance Theater, Ballet National de Marseille, Saarbrücken Ballet, Jacoby & Pronk, Chemnitzer Ballet, Ballet Hispanico, Morphoses Wheeldon Company, Whim W’Him, IncolBallet de Colombia, Finnish National Ballet, Compania Nacional de Danza Madrid, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Scottish Ballet, The Washington Ballet, Ballet Nacional Dominicano, Ballet Saarbrücken, Augsburg Ballet, Ballet Austin, Atlanta Ballet, Grand Rapids Ballet, Ballet Moscow, Ballet Nacional de Cuba, West Australian Ballet, Danza Contemporanea de Cuba, Ballet Nacional Chileno, Ballet Staatstheater am Gartnerplatz München, Ballet Manila, Daniil Simkin Intensio Project, Cincinnati Ballet, Silicon Valley Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, English National Ballet, Ballet Black, and New York City Ballet.

Ms. Lopez Ochoa is a versatile choreographer who also creates for theatre, opera, musical theatre, and fashion events, such as the celebrated Dutch fashion designers Viktor & Rolf’s project in the Van Gogh Museum.

She belongs to the theatre-dance collective “De Fantasten” for whom she successfully co-directed five full-length productions that have been performed in numerous theaters and festivals throughout the Netherlands.

In 2009, she created Zip Zap Zoom for BJM, which was included in the “10 best dance moments of the year” by the Pittsburgh Gazette, The Boston Globe and the Montréal Gazette and was cited as one of the 10 best dance highlights of the year in San Diego and Chicago.

Her work has received numerous awards. In 2016, Broken Wings, created for the English National Ballet was nominated for a National UK Dance Award in the category of Best Classical Premiere. In 2015, Sombrerísimo, created for Ballet Hispanico, was given the Villanueva Award in Cuba. In 2012, A Streetcar Named Desire was nominated for the prestigious Olivier Award (UK), named Best Classical Choreography by the Circle of Critics of the National Dance Award (UK), and was awarded Best Dance Production 2012 by the South-Bank Sky Arts Awards. In 2007, Annabelle was elected to participate in the New York City Ballet Choreographic Institute. In 2002, Replay received first prize the audience prize at the Borne Choreographers Competition, and in 2001, Clair/Obscur received third prize at the Hannover Choreographic Competition.



IHSAN RUSTEM (CHOREOGRAPHER) (he/him)

British-Swiss choreographer, Ihsan Rustem was born in London, where he trained at the Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance. Ihsan is the Artistic Director of the Swiss dance company Cie. La Ronde, founded in 2020 with choreographer Cathy Marston, and the Resident Choreographer of the NW Dance Project in Portland, Oregon, where he has created 12 works to date.

His other collaborations include Nederlands Dans Theater 2, Ballets Jazz Montréal, São Paulo City Ballet, Chilean National Ballet, Moscow Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago 2, Istanbul State Ballet MDT, Tanz Luzerner Theater, Bern Ballet, Konzert Theater St. Gallen, Whim W'Him Seattle, Ballare Carmel, Ballett Augsburg, Thüringer Staatsballett, Staatstheater Braunschweig, Tanztheater, Kazan State Opera and Ballet, Koblenz Ballet, Ballet Regensburg, Würzburg Ballet, Siberian State Ballet, Salt Contemporary Dance USA, Arts Umbrella Dance Company Vancouver, Moving Arts Cincinnati, National Youth Dance Company, Palucca Hochschule Dresden, Codarts, ZHdK, Tanzwerk101, Taipei National University of the Arts, and the Rambert School. He is also one of the featured choreographers on the popular Russian television show The Bolshoi Ballet.

The Nederlands Dans Theater included Ihsan Rustem in its “Choreographers of Tomorrow” program for the 2018–2019 season.

His work for the NW Dance Project has received numerous awards. State of Matter won the Sadler’s Wells Global Dance Contest in 2012, as well as the Audience Award at the 25th International Choreographic Competition in Hanover, and Carmen received the 2017 Dance Magazine Readers’ Choice Award for Best Collaboration. Rustem was also the 2014 recipient of the Hubbard Street Dance Chicago International Commissioning Project.

Rustem is the former director of the Ballettschule Luzern and, in 2021, joined the jury of the prestigious Prix de Lausanne.

From 2000 to 2014, Ihsan Rustem danced with Ballet Theater Munich, Introdans, Bern Ballet, Tanz Luzerner Theater, and Adventures in Motion Pictures. He performed roles in creations by Wayne McGregor, Hofesh Shechter, Alexander Ekman, Matthew Bourne, Stijn Celis, Patrick Delcroix, Cayetano Soto, Felix Landerer, and Cathy Marston. He has also worked with choreographers such as Mats Ek, Jiri Kylián, Paul Lightfoot & Sol Leon, Hans van Manen, and William Forsythe, among others. He currently lives in Zurich, Switzerland.

LEONARD COHEN

Leonard Norman Cohen, poet, novelist, singer, songwriter (born 21 September 1934 in Montréal, QC; died 7 November 2016 in Los Angeles, California). Leonard Cohen was one of the most iconic Canadian artists of the 20th century. A sage, mystic, bohemian and romantic, he built an acclaimed body of literary work and a revered career in pop music. In his poetry, novels, and music, he constantly probed the human condition, exploring themes of love, loss, death and his commitment to his art. As a poetic and unlikely pop star, his narrow-ranged, gruff voice, which deepened and darkened with age, and his reliance on simple, singsong melodies were complimented by the intense imagery and depth of his lyrics. A Companion of the Order of Canada, he was inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame, the Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame, the US Songwriters Hall of Fame, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Folk Music Walk of Fame. He also received the Glenn Gould Prize, the Prince of Asturias Award for Literature, eight Juno Awards, a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, and numerous other honours.



ARTISTS



ZOEY ANDERSON

(she/her)

Originally from Utah, Zoey Anderson trained at Center Stage Studio before graduating cum laude with a BFA from Marymount Manhattan College. After her studies, she danced with Parsons Dance Company, touring the world and performing for over ten years in iconic works such as *Caught and Balance of Power* by David Parsons, and *Takedeme* by Robert Battle. She was a soloist at the Titas Gala, Stars of American Ballet in Santa Fe, and the Berliner Bar Gala in Germany. Zoey appeared in the Academy Award-winning film *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* and in web episodes of *Dancing with the Stars*. She has graced the cover and been featured multiple times in *Dance Spirit* and *Dance Magazine*. Zoey was nominated for the 2018 Bessie Award in the “Outstanding Performer” category and received the prestigious Clive Barnes Dance Artist Award in 2019. She was then a guest artist with Ballets Jazz Montréal for the 2025-2026 season and is very excited to start his second season with the company for the 2026-27 season.



TROY ATAMANUK

(he/him)

Troy Atamanuk began his dance training in Markham, ON, where he danced competitively before joining Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre in 2021. In 2022, he moved to Vancouver to attend Arts Umbrella’s Post-Secondary Graduate Program under the direction of Artemis Gordon. During his time there, he performed works by Crystal Pite, Aszure Barton, Marco Goecke, William Forsythe, Mats Ek, Roy Assaf, Fernando Hernando Magadan, among many others. While at Arts Umbrella, Troy had the opportunity to choreograph in the Young Choreographers Mentorship Project directed by Crystal Pite. Troy also had the opportunity to perform alongside Ballet BC as a guest in Shahar Binyamini’s *Bolero X* in various cities, including Vancouver, Ottawa, and Montreal. Troy is very excited and grateful to be dancing with Ballets Jazz Montréal this year.



GUSTAVO BARROS

(he/him)

Born in Brazil, Gustavo began his professional path as a dancer in his hometown, Goiânia. He then joined some of the best contemporary dance companies in the country such as Deborah Colker cia and Balé da Cidade de São Paulo. He continued his career in Germany, where he danced for Ballethagen and Staatstheater Augsburg. Over the course of his career, Gustavo has performed the work of many renowned choreographers including Alexander Ekman, Mauro Bigonzetti, Crystal Pite, Cayetano Soto, Marco Goecke, and Peter Chu. He joined Ballets Jazz Montréal in 2020.



MILLIE BRINCK-DUBUC

(she/her)

Millie Brinck-Dubuc is a movement artist from Montreal, Canada. She began her journey in a competitive dance studio, where she trained in jazz, tap, ballet and contemporary. At the age of twelve years old, Millie joined l'École Supérieure de Ballet du Québec, where she graduated in the spring of 2022 from the professional program in classical and contemporary dance. After graduation, Millie took part in the 10th edition of the Big Bang program and worked with various choreographers through summer intensives such as Propulsion, TransFormation, Rubberband, Arts-Umbrella and Orsolina28. She is excited to start her third season with Ballets Jazz Montréal.



MARCEL CAVALIERE
(he/him)

Marcel Cavaliere was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana where he danced competitively and trained in various styles at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA). He continued his studies at the USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance, obtaining a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance with a concentration in Choreography for the Stage and Cinematic Arts. Throughout his training, Marcel has had the privilege to perform works by Jiří Kylián, Hope Boykin, Bret Easterling, Paul Taylor, Dwight Rhoden and Justin Peck. He has also collaborated and performed with renowned companies such as A.I.M. by Kyle Abraham and Doug Varone and Dancers. Marcel joined Ballets Jazz Montréal in August 2024.



KLYE DAVIS
(he/him)

Kyle Davis, a Chicago native, began his training at the Sammy Dyer School of Theater before continuing at Pacific Northwest Ballet. He began his professional career as a corps artist with Ballet West, where he performed soloist roles, and was nominated for The Princess Grace Award in 2019. He joined The Saarländisches Staatstheater in Saarbrücken, Germany, as a solo dancer in 2021. He has performed principal roles in works by Jiří Kylián, David Dawson, Marco Goecke, Nacho Duato, Mauro Bigozetti, and George Balanchine. He was the recipient of the Deutschland 2023 Sponsorship Club Prize for his outstanding performance in the role of “Death” in Kurt Jooss’ The Green Table. Kyle joined Ballets Jazz Montréal in August 2024.



JASMINE HEART CRUZ

(she/her)

Born and raised in San Francisco, California, Jasmine Heart Cruz began her competitive dance training at the Westlake School for the Performing Arts. She has received numerous awards at the regional and international level from organizations such as ADCIBC, NYCDA, Tanzolymp, and the Youth America Grand Prix. After being accepted into the Gloria Kaufman School of Dance, she completed one year of study at the University of Southern California before moving to New York to begin her professional career, where she danced for three seasons with Complexions Contemporary Ballet. As an independent artist in New York, Jasmine has collaborated with choreographers such as Roderick George, Rena Butler, Loughlan Prior, and Houston Thomas. She also trains closely with Preston Miller and Jacqueline Green Miller at The Dance Artist Prep in Chicago. Additionally, Jasmine is regularly invited to teach and choreograph at various schools in the Philippines. She was then a guest artist with Ballets Jazz Montréal for the 2025-2026 season and is very excited to start his second season with the company for the 2026-27 season.



SHANNA IRWIN CALDERON

(she/her)

Shanna Irwin grew up in New Jersey, where she began training as a competitive dancer. She later switched her focus to ballet when she was accepted into The New Jersey Dance Theatre Ensemble under the direction of Nancy Turano. Shanna went on to continue her studies at Marymount Manhattan College and began touring with Complexions Contemporary Ballet during her senior year. She graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance in May 2014. Shanna completed five seasons with Complexions and joined Ballets Jazz Montréal in 2019. Her career has led her to perform in opera houses across five continents, where she has danced the works of Crystal Pite, Dwight Rhoden, Aszure Barton, Itzik Galili, Andonis Foniadakis, and Juliano Nunes, among others. This is her eighth season with Ballets Jazz Montréal.



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ZACK PREECE

(he/him)

Zack Preece was born in Vancouver, British Columbia. He did most of his training at Arts Umbrella under the direction of Artemis Gordon, where he had the opportunity to work with various world-renowned choreographers. He has performed works by Crystal Pite, Mats Ek, Sharon Eyal, Medhi Walerski and many more. He graduated the Arts Umbrella Post Secondary program in 2021. He then joined Ballet BC as an emerging artist for the 2021-2022 season, under the direction of Medhi Walerski. Following that, Zack joined Cas Public productions for one season. He was then a guest artist with Ballets Jazz Montréal for the 2023 season and is very excited to start his third full season with the company for the 2026-27 season.



WILLEM SADLER

(he/him)

Willem Sadler, born and raised in Toronto, Canada, began his artistic journey in street styles, working as a young dancer in Toronto's commercial industry. At 17, he joined the youth company Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre (CCDT), where he transitioned into contemporary dance. Since then, he has successfully freelanced within the Toronto industry, performing and collaborating with Toronto's top companies such as ProArteDanza, Zata Omm Dance Projects, Dusk Dances, and Côté Danse. Throughout his career, he has performed on internationally renowned stages for prestigious festivals including Fall for Dance (NYC), Battery Dance Festival (NYC), Colours International Dance Festival (GER), Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur (CAN), and the Baku International Dance Festival (AZE). Throughout this time, he has performed choreographies by Guillaume Côté, Robert Lepage, William Yong, Colin Connor, Roderick George, and Jennifer Archibald, while collaborating with major institutions like the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Mirvish. Willem looks forward to this new chapter of his career in Montreal with Ballets Jazz Montréal, and he is grateful to have joined the company for the 2026/27 season.



RYAN SHERK

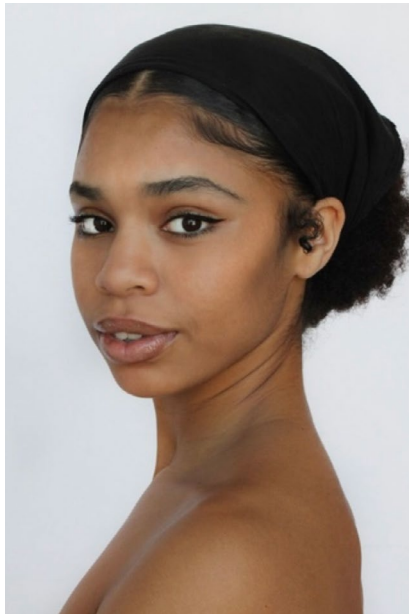
Born and raised in St.Catharines, Ontario, Ryan began dancing at the age of five. He is currently a student of The Juilliard School in New York City, under the direction of Melissa Toogood, as part of their BFA Dance Program in the Class of 2027. During his time at Juilliard, he has performed in works by William Forsythe, Alvin Ailey, Lauren Lovette, Jamar Roberts, My'kal Stromile, and Jenn Freeman. Ryan has trained in prestigious programs with Ballet BC, Ballets Jazz Montréal, and also Orsolina 28 in Italy where he has studied the repertoire of Crystal Pite, Marco Goecke, and also worked closely with Johan Inger and Medhi Walerski. Ryan is a New York City Dance Alliance Foundation Scholar, led by Joe Lanteri, and performed in the organization's 'Destiny Rising Concert ' at The Joyce Theater. Other performance credits include Buglisi Dance Theatre's (Project 9/11) Memorial Performance in Lincoln Center Plaza, and the FIFA World Cup Opening Ceremony 2026. Ryan is grateful and excited to be joining the Company as a Guest Artist this Fall, while continuing his studies at The Juilliard School through their Curricular Practical Training program.



MADELEINE SALHANY

(she/her)

Madeleine Salhany, born and raised in Ottawa, Canada, received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance at the Conservatory of Dance at SUNY Purchase (New York). While at SUNY Purchase, she has had the pleasure of performing works by Sidra Bell, Ana Maria Lucaciu, Ohad Naharin and Loni Landon. She went on to begin her dance career as an apprentice with Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal and since has been dancing in Germany at Stadttheater Gießen, under the direction of Tarek Assam and is currently with Ballett Theater Trier under the direction of Roberto Scafati. Throughout these years she's performed works by Fernando Melo, Gustavo Remírez Sansano, Andonis Foniadakis, Mauro Astolfi, Georg Reischl, Itzik Galili, Liam Francis and Vittoria Girelli among others. She has also attended the NDT Summer Intensive, Arts Umbrella's International Summer Dance Intensive and has performed at several dance festivals/galas across Europe. Madeleine rejoined Ballets Jazz Montréal in August 2024.



RHAPSODY STIGGERS (INTERN)

(she/her)

Born and raised in Minnesota, Rhapsody Stiggers began her dance journey at the Minnesota Dance Theater, and continued studying at TU Dance Center under the direction of Toni Pierce Sands. She received her BFA in contemporary dance from The Boston Conservatory at Berklee. Over the years, Rhapsody had the opportunity of performing works by Ronald K. Brown, Juliano Nunes, Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, Doug Varone, Gregory Dawson and many more. Additionally, she has expanded her dance knowledge through various intensive programs and workshops including: Ballet Nacional de Cuba, Alonzo King Lines Ballet, and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Since graduating from The Boston Conservatory, Rhapsody has been a guest artist in Tony Williams' Urban Nutcracker, and performed on stages in The Netherlands and South Africa with Anderson Carvalho Dance and Choreography. The 2026–2027 season will mark her first season with the company.



SILJE VEREIDE

(she/her)

Born in Texas and raised in Norway, Silje Vereide began dancing at the age of three. She initially focused on gymnastics before deciding to dedicate herself to a career in dance. She pursued professional studies at Oslo National Academy of the Arts, earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Jazz Dance. After graduation, Silje joined Valencia Dancing Forward, performing in works by Gustavo Ramirez Sansano, Philip Taylor, Alba Castillo, Bryan Arias, and Jose Carlos Blanco. As a freelance artist, she has collaborated with companies such as the Norwegian National Ballet, Company Snorkel Rabbit, Show de Vida, Dans5, Oslo Jazzdans Festival, and På Tå Hev. In 2023, she joined Ballet Ireland for their spring season and later performed in the Electric Picnic Festival with them. Silje has had the honor of working with and performing pieces by renowned choreographers like Aszure Barton, Ohad Naharin, Jo Strømngren, Samantha Lynch, Douwe Dekkers, Brandon Collwes, Simone Charete Grøtte, Paul Blackman, Knut Arild Flatner, Karl-Erik Nedregard, Christopher Arouni, Masja Abrahamsen, Tine E. Aspaas, Christer Tornell and Inés Belli among others. Silje joined Ballets Jazz Montréal in August 2024.

