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Madison Ballet
School of Madison Ballet
160 Westgate Mall / Madison, WI 53711
608-278-7990
madisonballet.org

COMPANY DANCERS

Bri George
Kristen Hammer
Michaela King
Elisabeth Malanga
Kelanie Murphy
Shannon Quirk
Annika Reikersdorfer
Catherine Rogers
Mia Sanchez

Kaleigh Schock
Jacob Ashley
Andrew Erickson
Shea Johnson
Jackson Warring
Mary Bastian, Apprentice
Cecilia Monroy, Apprentice
Doria Worden, Apprentice
**French Suites** (2008)
Choreographed by W. Earle Smith
Music: *French Suites*, BWV 812-817 by Johann Sebastian Bach

Kristen Hammer, Jackson Warring
Mary Bastian, Michaela King, Elisabeth Malanga, Cecilia Monroy, Kelanie Murphy, Shannon Quirk, Catherine Rogers, Mia Sanchez, Kaleigh Schock, Doria Worden

**Concerto Veneto** (2008)
Choreographed by W. Earle Smith
Music: *Oboe Concerto in C Minor* by Alessandro Marcello
Performed by members of the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra:
Lydia Sewell (Violin 1), Henry Zheng (Violin 2), Nora Frisk (Viola),
Amy Harr (Cello), Naomi Bensdorf Frisch (Oboe)

Annika Reikersdorfer, Jacob Ashley
Bri George, Kristen Hammer, Michaela King,
Elisabeth Malanga, Kelanie Murphy, Kaleigh Schock

*Intermission*

**Le Spectre de la Rose***
Choreography adapted from Michel Fokine
Music: *Invitation to the Dance* by Carl Maria von Weber, Orchestrated by Hector Berlioz

On her return from a ball, a young girl breathes in the scent of a rose that a gallant partner offered her as a souvenir of the evening. She falls asleep in an armchair and dreams that the rose has changed into a handsome young Spirit covered in rose petals.

Michaela King, Shea Johnson

**Giselle, Act II Grand Pas de Deux***
Choreography adapted from Marius Ivanovich Petipa
Music: *Giselle* by Adolphe Charles Adam

Albrecht has come to pay his respects at Giselle’s grave, guilt-ridden at having brought about her death through his deception. Ensnared by the Willis (spirits of jilted women who exact revenge on any man who crosses their path) he encounters Giselle, who has become one of them. She forgives Albrecht and dances with him until dawn so he may escape the Wilis curse.

Bri George, Andrew Erickson

**Black Swan Pas de Deux***
Choreography adapted from Marius Ivanovich Petipa
Music: *Swan Lake* by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Prince Siegfried has fallen for Odette, who has been condemned by the evil spirit, Von Rothbart, to live as a swan unless someone swears to love her forever. During a ball at the palace, Von Rothbart arrives with his daughter Odile, who by magic resembles Odette. Not realizing that he is being deceived, the Prince falls under her spell.

Elisabeth Malanga, Jacob Ashley
Diana and Actaeon Pas de Deux*
Choreography adapted from Agrippina Vaganova
Music: Invitation to the Dance by Carl Maria von Weber,
Orchestrated by Hector Berlioz

In this excerpt from the ballet La Esmerelda, choreographer Agrippina Vaganova made significant changes to the tragic story of Diana, beautiful goddess of the moon and the hunt, and Actaeon, a strong, handsome, mortal youth. Here, the pas de deux is a rapturous dance for two lovers, and it has become well-known as a spectacular showpiece for a ballerina and her partner.

Shannon Quirk, Shea Johnson

Intermission

Capricious (Premiere)
Choreographed by General Hambrick
Music: The 24 Caprices for Violin by Pierre Rode

Bri George, Michaela King, Kelanie Murphy, Shannon Quirk, Annika Reikersdorfer, Andrew Erickson, Shea Johnson, Jackson Warring

*Costumes courtesy of Colorado Ballet

W. Earle Smith, Artistic Director
Now entering his 18th season as Artistic Director for Madison Ballet, W. Earle Smith has over 30 years of professional experience choreographing, teaching and performing. As a dancer, D Magazine called Mr. Smith “meticulously chosen and prepared … who knows Balanchine.” The Wisconsin State Journal hails his choreography as “imaginative and … rhythmically smooth and lively.” Principal and soloist credits with Texas Ballet Theater include Balanchine’s Western Symphony, Four Temperaments and Who Cares, and Meija’s Sonata, Eight by Adler, Sarasate, Seasons, The Nutcracker and Cinderella. His choreography credits in New York, New Orleans, Hawaii, Seattle, Texas and Madison include Cinderella, The Nutcracker, Night Dances, La Luce d’Amore, Peter Pan, and Dracula. Mr. Smith’s preparation for his role as Artistic Director goes beyond the traditional—he has worked as a program counselor for inner-city youth in New York City, as a financial and business analyst, and as director of special projects for a national membership association. Smith has long believed that collaborating with other performing arts organizations not only expands his own personal artistic growth, but strengthens the performing arts community as a whole. His passion is sharing his love for ballet with young people and an important part of his artistic vision is to develop and expand education and outreach programs, making ballet affordable and accessible to all.
Bri Taylor George
Bri trained with Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, School of American Ballet, Boston Ballet, and Orlando Ballet. At 18 she joined Orlando Ballet’s second company with Bruce Marks. At 19, Ms George joined the company under Robert Hill. During her 6 seasons with Orlando Ballet her highlights were Odette in Swan Lake, Sugar Plum, Snow Queen, and Dew Drop in The Nutcracker, Zulma from Giselle, Diane and Acteon, George Balanchine’s Valse Fantasie, Robert Hill’s Carmina Burana, Fernando Bujones’s Bolero, performing with Mariah Carey, and choreographing with Cirque Du Soleil. In 2015 she joined Ballet Arizona under Ib Anderson. where she performed Balanchine’s Rubies, Symphony in 3, and original works by Mr. Anderson. This is Ms. George’s first season with Madison Ballet.

Michaela King
A Virginia native, Michaela King attended summer intensives with Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Chautauqua Institution, Rock School, Carolina Ballet, and Exploring Ballet with Suzanne Farrell. As a high school student, Michaela had the opportunity to perform Serenade with Suzanne Farrell’s company at the Kennedy Center. Upon graduating, she studied in the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre Grad Program and joined the company after two years. King spent two seasons in the corps de ballet and her repertoire includes La Bayadere, Swan Lake, Don Quixote, Cinderella, Le Corsaire, Jerome Robbins’ The Concert, and Mark Morris’s Sandpaper. With Madison Ballet, Michaela danced the role of Arabian in The Nutcracker and is thrilled to be a part of the company. She is excited for her second season.

Kristen Hammer
Kristen Hammer began her training in Bloomfield Hills, MI, at Geiger Classical Ballet Academy and Michigan Classic Ballet Company. Her training continued at Boston Ballet, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, and Cincinnati Ballet. Ms. Hammer was awarded scholarship at Butler University and graduated with her B.S. in Dance Arts Administration. She was then invited to join Nevada Ballet Theatre. During her time at Madison Ballet, Ms. Hammer has been featured as the Spring Fairy in Cinderella, the Ballerina Doll in The Nutcracker, a Gypsy in Dracula, and in Elegie by George Balanchine. Ms. Hammer has additionally performed in Swan Lake, Giselle, The Rite of Spring, and Balanchine’s Serenade and Raymonda Variations. This is Ms. Hammer’s fourth season with Madison Ballet.

Elizabeth Malanga
Elisabeth Malanga trained at the Pacific Northwest Ballet school for 10 years in Seattle, WA. Ms. Malanga performed many children’s roles in main company productions, as well as the principal Russian Girl in Balanchine’s Serenade for the school workshop. After graduation, she went on to perform with The Pennsylvania Ballet under the direction of Roy Kaiser, and later Angel Corella in works by George Balanchine and Christopher Wheeldon. During this time Ms. Malanga also had the honor of working as a trainee with The Suzanne Farrell Ballet. This is Ms. Malanga’s first season with Madison Ballet.
Kelanie Murphy

Kelanie Murphy is from Crystal Lake, Illinois, where she began her formal training at Judith Svalander School of Ballet. She continued her training at the University of Missouri Kansas City’s Conservatory of Music and Dance. While at UMKC, she danced with Wylliams/Henry Contemporary Dance Company and performed with the Kansas City Ballet. After graduating magna cum laude with a BFA in dance, Ms. Murphy joined the Minnesota Ballet where she danced for four seasons before joining Madison Ballet. She has also enjoyed working for New York State Summer School of the Arts and for Summer Dance Company. Additional training includes summer programs at Kansas City Ballet and Alonzo King’s LINES Ballet. This is Ms. Murphy’s third season with Madison Ballet.

Annika Reikersdorfer

Annika Reikersdorfer began her ballet training at The School of Madison Ballet in 2005. She continued through the school’s Pre-Professional Division and joined Madison Ballet’s company as an apprentice in 2014. Over the course of her training, she has studied at summer programs with numerous ballet schools including: Ballet Chicago, Milwaukee Ballet, Joffrey Ballet in Chicago, and most recently Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre. She has been honored to perform leading roles in W. Earle Smith’s The Nutcracker and Cinderella, as well as in George Balanchine’s Four Temperaments, and in the company’s various repertory programs. In addition to dancing professionally, she is pursuing her Bachelors of Communication and Public Relations. This is Ms. Reikersdorfer’s fourth season with Madison Ballet.

Shannon Quirk

A California native, Shannon Quirk began her training with Orange County Regional Ballet and continued her studies at University of California, Irvine earning a BFA in Dance Performance. She worked with distinguished faculty members David Allen, Evelyn Cisneros, Jodie Gates, and Molly Lynch and performed works by William Forsythe, Jodie Gates, and Molly Lynch. After graduating, she joined Pasadena Dance Theatre under the direction of Cynthia Young and Laurence Blake. During her time with Madison Ballet, Ms. Quirk has been honored to perform lead roles in George Balanchine’s Elegie, Four Temperaments, Tchaikovsky Pas De Deux, Who Cares? and W. Earle Smith’s Cinderella, Dracula: A Rock Ballet and The Nutcracker. This is Ms. Quirk’s sixth season with Madison Ballet.

Catherine Rogers

Catherine Rogers began dancing in St. Louis, Missouri where she performed works by Trey McIntyre, Antony Tudor, Michael Uhtoff and Antonio and Kirven Douthit-Boyd. In 2012, Ms. Rogers moved to New York to attend the Joffrey Ballet School and toured internationally with the Joffrey Ballet Concert Group under the direction of Davis Robertson. During that time, Ms. Rogers had the honor of performing works by George Balanchine, Gerald Arpino, and Robert Battle. In her first season with Madison Ballet, she danced in works by W. Earle Smith, Jin-Wen Yu, Cindy Severt, and Jacqueline Stewart. This is Ms. Rogers’ second season with Madison Ballet and she is grateful for the opportunity to create beauty with the company again.
Mia Sanchez
From Chicago, IL, Ms. Sanchez trained at Ballet Chicago under the direction of Dan Duell and Patricia Blair. She performed in the corps and as a soloist in Ballet Chicago’s production of Balanchine’s Serenade, Rubies, Who Cares?, and The Nutcracker. In 2014 Ms. Sanchez joined BalletMet’s trainee program under the direction of Timothy Lynch. In addition, she is pursuing a degree at The Ohio State University’s Fisher School of Business. Ms. Sanchez joined Madison Ballet as an apprentice in 2016. In her first season, Ms. Sanchez had the opportunity to work with choreographers such as Artistic Director W. Earle Smith, Jin-Wen Yu, and Cynthia Severt. This is her second season with Madison Ballet.

Kaleigh Schock
Kaleigh was born and raised in the suburbs of Chicago. She started training for her professional career at the age of 15 at Faubourg Ballet School in Hanover Park. In 2005 at the age of 16, Kaleigh moved to NYC to train at Ellison Ballet-Professional Ballet School. She continued to train at Ellison Ballet for three years. In 2007 she was a supplemental dancer with Cincinnati Ballet, she then joined Ballet West II in Salt Lake City in 2008. After 2 years with Ballet West, Kaleigh went to school at the University of Cincinnati, where she attained a BFA in Dance and a minor in Communications, along with joining Nevada Ballet Theatre her Junior year in 2012. In 2016 Kaleigh joined Elements Contemporary Ballet in Chicago. This is Kaleigh’s first season with Madison Ballet.

Cecilia Monroy
Apprentice
Cecilia Monroy was born and raised in Madison, Wisconsin and has been training with the School of Madison Ballet since the age of seven. She was invited into the pre-professional level of the school last year and got the opportunity to dance with the company. This year she is honored to be an apprentice with the company. This is Ms. Monroy’s first year with Madison Ballet.

Mary Elizabeth Bastian,
Apprentice
Mary Elizabeth Bastian, a native of Rochester, New York, began her training at the Draper Center for Dance Education and the Rochester City Ballet under artistic director Jamey Leverett. In 2013, Ms. Bastian was awarded scholarship to continue her studies at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University where she earned two Bachelor of Science degrees in Ballet and Exercise Science; Kinesiology. Some of her favorite roles include Snow Queen in Michael Vernon’s The Nutcracker, Balanchine’s Rubies, Twyla Tharp’s As Time Goes By, and Marius Petipa’s Myrtha in Giselle. This is Ms. Bastian’s first season with Madison Ballet.

Doria Worden
Apprentice
Doria Worden began her training with Betsy Walker at Burlington Dance Center and continued at the Raleigh School of Ballet under the direction of Mary LeGere. She joined Richmond Ballet as a trainee after graduating in 2015. While at Richmond Ballet Ms. Worden had the opportunity to perform in company works such as Bill Soleau’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Malcolm Burn’s Romeo and Juliet, and artistic director Stoner Winslett’s Windows and
The Nutcracker. She also had the chance to perform in George Balanchine's works The Four Temperaments and Divertimento No. 15. This is Ms. Worden's first season with Madison Ballet.

Jacob Ashley

Jacob Ashley is a Chicago native who began his dance training in 2002 at the Chicago Academy for the Arts under the instruction of Randy Duncan, Guillermo Leyva, Sandra Kaufmann, and the late Anna Paskevska. In 2006, he attended Columbia College Chicago's modern dance program under the direction of Margi Cole, Natalie Rast, Carrie Hanson, and Emily Stein. He later became an apprentice for Luna Negra Dance Theater. He also attended Ballet Chicago's summer program under the intense training of Daniel Duell and Patricia Blair. Mr. Ashley has been a guest artist for companies such as, the West Indian Folk Dance Company, Momenta, Ballet Chicago, Chicago Festival Ballet, Dallas Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Madison Ballet, the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago, and San Diego Opera.

Andrew Erickson

Since joining Madison Ballet, Mr. Erickson has appeared in many productions including Cinderella, The Nutcracker, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Grand Pas Classique, and Dracula. Erickson has also performed with Minnesota Ballet where he appeared as the Russian Soloist in The Nutcracker, as the dancing master and a courtier in Cinderella. He originated roles in two ballets created for the New York Choreographic Institute of New York City Ballet. He has been featured in productions with Haymarket Opera, Chicago Folks Operetta, and has also performed with Chamber Opera Chicago in their production of Persuasion where he has been featured on two tours of the United Kingdom. This is Mr. Erickson's fourth season with Madison Ballet.

Shea Johnson

Originally from Dallas, Texas, Shea Johnson began his training at age nine with a small school in Mesquite, Texas. He later attended the Dallas Metropolitan Ballet school. In 2005 he joined the Metropolitan Classical Ballet under the direction of Paul Mejea and Alexander Vetrov, where he became principal dancer. In the fall of 2008, Mr. Johnson was hired as a principal dancer with Ballet Arizona by director Ib Anderson, performing lead roles in Swan Lake and Don Quixote, as well as George Balanchine’s Theme and Variations and Violin Concerto. He has also worked with the Suzanne Farrell Ballet and most recently the Halle Statts Theater In Halle, Germany. This is his third season with Madison Ballet.

Jackson Warring

Madison native Jackson Warring received his early training at West Side Performing Arts, under owner Sharon Butler. After graduating high school he attended Milwaukee Ballet School’s Summer Intensive and joined the School, under director Rolando Yanes. Mr. Warring attended the Joffrey Ballet School in New York for two years as a member of the Joffrey Concert Group, under Artistic Director Davis Robertson, performing in a variety of Classical and Contemporary works, working with choreographers such as Africa Guzman and Brian McSweeney. He spent the one season with Ballet Quad Cities, under Director Courtney Lyon. His favorite role to date has been Renfield in W. Earle Smith’s Dracula. This is Mr. Warring’s fifth season with Madison Ballet.
GENERAL HAMBRICK, Choreographer. General McArthur Hambrick is a native of Fort Worth, Texas. He is a graduate of Texas Christian University, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Dance. General also studied dance at American Ballet Theatre, Dance Theatre of Harlem, and the Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre. School. He was a soloist with the Fort Worth Ballet, and Hartford Ballet Companies, Dancers Unlimited in Dallas Texas and Minnesota Dance Theatre in Minneapolis, under the artistic direction of Lise Houlton, where he was awarded the 1999 McKnight Fellowship for his achievements in the dance community. He was also the recipient of the 2001 Natalie Skelton Achievement Award and the 2001 Wyoming Arts Council Performing Arts Fellowship. His musical theatre credits include both the Broadway and National touring companies of Cats, Miss Saigon, and Andrew Lloyd Weber’s Phantom of the Opera. Off-Broadway he appeared in the revival of Martha Clarke’s critically acclaimed, Garden of Earthly Delights. General also toured with 25th Anniversary Tour of A Chorus Line. Regional credits include Swing, Once On This Island, Jesus Christ Superstar, The King and I and many others. He appeared as guest vocalist along with Della Reese on the PBS special “With Ozzie and Ruby: Life Is.” Mr. Hambrick served as director and choreographer of the former Centennial Singers, a musical theatre touring group, from the University of Wyoming. He is also the founder and director of the Joyful Noise Choral Ensemble of Fort Worth, Texas. Most recently he received his Master of Fine Arts in Dance from the University of Washington. He is currently Assistant Professor of Dance at West Virginia University. (Website: generalhambrick.com)

SARAH MELLI, Ballet Master/School Director. Born in Madison, Ms. Melli began her ballet training at the Wisconsin School of Ballet with Tibor Zana. She began her professional dance career with the Boston Ballet, and has danced with Chicago City Ballet (Director, Maria Tallchief), Joffrey II (Director, Sally Bliss), San Antonio Ballet (Director, Vladimir Marek) and Dayton Ohio Ballet (Director, Stuart Sebastian). She has performed leading roles in Concerto Barocco, Serenade, Jewels, Stars and Stripes, Apollo, Coppelia, Swan Lake, Tarantella, Tchaikovsky Pas De Deux, Sleeping Beauty, Nutcracker, and Graduation Ball and was awarded scholarships and danced with Ballet West, Burklyn Ballet Theatre, Joffrey Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet, Houston Ballet, Cleveland Ohio Ballet, and Cincinnati Ballet. Ms. Melli served as Choreography Assistant for Jillana, one of George Balanchine’s first Prima Ballerinas, for her summer programs in Taos, NM. She has taught Master Classes at California State Fullerton, Mt. Sac College, Malibu by the Sea, Huntington Academy, Tustin Ballet Academy, Bare Dance Company, and Inland Pacific Ballet.

RACHELLE BUTLER, Assistant Ballet Master. A Madison native, Ms. Butler’s professional training began with Madison Ballet’s Artistic Director, W. Earle Smith in 1999. She was later accepted on full scholarship to The Rock School of the Pennsylvania Ballet where she trained for two years. Ms. Butler continued her training with Ballet Chicago and Miami City Ballet School. While at Ballet Chicago she performed a large repertoire of Balanchine ballets as a soloist and principal dancer. Her professional career began with Sacramento Ballet and continued with Madison Ballet until she retired from performing in 2015. Favorite roles include Mina in W. Earle Smith’s Dracula as well as many other roles created on her by the Artistic Director. Ms. Butler began her teaching career as a student
with Ballet Chicago and honed her style while performing with Sacramento Ballet and Madison Ballet. She also worked in the Chicago, Sacramento, and Madison communities in outreach and education throughout her career.

**CHRIS BARKER**, Lighting Designer. For over thirty years, Chris Barker has designed lighting for performing arts companies (including dance, opera, dramatic work, comedy, and musical theater) in the Southern Wisconsin region, as well as in Chicago and San Francisco. He earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree at the University of Wisconsin—Madison, majoring in Theatre & Drama with an emphasis in Lighting Design. There, he had the privilege to study under the world-renowned Gilbert Hemsley.

**BRIAN WEINKAUF**, Production Manager. Mr. Wienkauf has been working professionally as a production manager for over 17 years. A native of Wausau, WI, he primarily works for productions held in the Capitol Theater at the Overture Center, for Madison Ballet, and at American Players Theatre in Spring Green, Wisconsin. Some of his favorite productions include Madison Ballet’s Dracula: A Rock Ballet and touring with Phantom of the Opera – 3rd National Tour for 6 years. Brian is a member of IATSE Local 251.

**TONY REITANO**, Stage Manager. Mr. Reitano is delighted to work with the talented Earle Smith and the dancers of Madison Ballet. Locally, he has Stage Managed Gypsy and Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar & Grill, both at the Overture Center. He started as a NY actor, then moved to Los Angeles and ultimately saved thousands of lives as Vince the Crash Dummy in the award-winning Safety Belt campaign. Longtime Production Manager for Pat Hazell’s The Wonder Bread Years and Cocktails with Larry Miller, he was also Stage Manager for Bunk Bed Brothers at the Marcus Center, Theatre Lila’s Suitcase Dreams and Four Season’s Follies. He is the author of the Live Radio Plays Young St. Nick, Sleepy Hollow & Other Headless Tales and Legends of the Leprechauns. Mr. Reitano and his wife, Leslie Esser-Reitano, are founders of the production company Heartline Theatricals. Tony is a proud member of Actors Equity Association.

**ARTISTIC & PRODUCTION STAFF**

MADISON BALLET 2017-18

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Photo Darren Lee
DANCER KRISTIN HAMMER
Madison Ballet, celebrating its 36th year, presents world-class ballet to the greater Madison area annually. Best known for its dazzling production of the holiday classic, *The Nutcracker*, the company’s season is filled with breathtaking performances featuring the dynamic choreography of Artistic Director, W. Earle Smith, alongside works by other well-known choreographers.

Madison Ballet’s repertory offers something for audiences of all ages, from timeless stories like Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and the high-flying *Peter Pan*, to contemporary works such as *Expressions* and the all-new *Dracula: A Rock Ballet*, which premiered in March 2013.

The School of Madison Ballet provides professional ballet instruction for dancers from birth through adult and is the official training institute for Madison Ballet. SMB is designed to take students from their very first steps through a comprehensive curriculum of classical ballet and related studies. Through generous community support, SMB’s scholarship fund provides $35,000 in financial assistance annually to aspiring students in the Madison area.

“Discover Dance,” Madison Ballet’s education and outreach program, engages the young—and young at heart—with its fun and informative presentations. Whether it’s an “Offstage & Personal” look at the life of a ballet dancer, or its “Movement in Your World,” creative movement workshops for the city’s Head Start students, every program helps to further the organization’s mission to promote appreciation of and access to ballet.
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Madison Ballet would like to thank Forsythia Group, Leah Jesberger, Darren Lee, Becky McKenzie and Kat Stiennon for their special contributions to the 2017/18 Season.
We are proud to acknowledge the wonderful generosity of the individuals, corporations, foundations and government agencies who support Madison Ballet. Every gift plays an important part in allowing Madison Ballet to continue offering world-class performances and excellent education and outreach activities. We gratefully recognize the gifts received to our Annual Fund between January 1, 2017 and September 1, 2017.

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