STUDIO WEST Jance Theatre

PRESENTS THE RETURN OF THE SUPERNATURAL TIME-HONORED CLASSIC,

(ISELE

May 1-3, 2025
Washington Center for the Performing Arts



Congratulations to the talented dancers at Studio West Dance Theatre on your 2025 Giselle performance! South Bay Veterinary Hospital is proud to support and cheer you on as you showcase the beauty and grace of this timeless ballet.





DIRECTORS' HOTE

We are thrilled to bring Giselle back to the stage and share this timeless ballet with you once again. Studio West Dance Theatre first performed Giselle in 2017, and it has held a special place in our hearts ever since. We are honored to present it at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts with a talented cast and a performance that promises to be every bit as moving, magical, and unforgettable as when we first debuted this ballet.

Originally performed in Paris in 1841, Giselle stands as one of the greatest romantic ballets of all time. It's a story full of love, heartbreak, and supernatural spirits that still captivates audiences today. It has been one of our artistic goals to keep this production in our rotating spring ballet repertoire, because of its uniqueness, history and the wonderful challenges it brings to our dancers, with its emotional depth and refined technique.

Performing Giselle is a true milestone in a dancer's journey, it's a demanding and rewarding experience, connecting students and professionals alike to ballet history and truly pushing them to grow as artists. One of our favorite elements of this ballet is how the music seeps into you. The powerful score by Adolphe Adam brings every moment to life; you can feel it in your soul. It is our hope you'll feel that same connection today.

We're especially proud to welcome back a former Studio West student, and now professional dancer, Cole McMason, who returns to perform the role of Hilarion. It's always a joy to have him back in the studio and on stage with us. He brings wonderful energy, playfulness, and is a true inspiration for our students to see where their dedication can lead.

Thank you for being here and supporting the arts. Enjoy the rich history embedded in this performance.

Stephanie Wood-Ennett and Mary Cecilia Piper Co-Directors

Kate Abbott and Abigail Erickson as Giselle, Aidan Hodo as Albrecht



Congratulations to the cast and crew of SWDT's 2025 performance of Giselle!



volunteers for fun months of rehearsals

Please look forward to Wili good dancing!! (Dance-dad joke, sorry)



THE STORY

ACT 1

The village of Thuringen, located in the German Rhineland during the Renaissance.

The ballet opens at the village's autumn harvest festival. Giselle, a peasant girl with a weak heart and a passion for dancing, is courted by a man known to her as Loys. He is, in fact, Albrecht, Duke of Silesia, disguised as a peasant. Loys vows eternal love for Giselle, despite being betrothed to Bathilde, the daughter of the Duke of Courtland. Local gamekeeper Hilarion is also in love with Giselle and tries to convince her that Loys cannot be trusted, but she rejects him and makes clear her feelings for Loys.

Villagers arrive with the abundant harvest, rejoicing and dancing. Berthe, Giselle's mother, admonishes her about too much activity with her weak heart. Berthe tells the villagers the legend of the Wilis who entrap faithless lovers and force the men to dance until they die. If Giselle, deceived, dies before she is married, she too will become one of these malignant spirits.

Noblemen seeking refreshment after a hunt arrive in the village. Albrecht leaves, knowing he will be recognized by Bathilde, who is in attendance. The villagers welcome the party. Bathilde is charmed with Giselle's sweet nature and offers her a necklace as a gift, before the group enters Giselle's home for some rest.

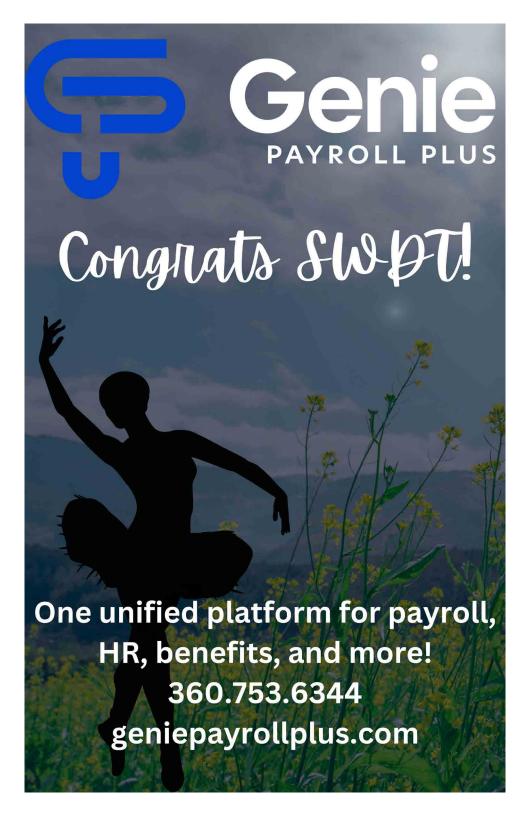
The villagers crown Giselle Queen of the Vintage. Everyone dances to celebrate, but Hilarion interrupts to denounce Loys as an impostor. Hilarion blows the hunting horn to signal the hunting party to return. Bathilde reveals that Loys is her fiancé, the nobleman Albrecht. The shock of the deceit is too great for Giselle's heart. Her mind becomes unhinged, and she dies of a broken heart—her love unrequited.

ACT 2

A forest clearing near Giselle's grave at midnight.

Hilarion comes to grieve at Giselle's grave but senses the presence of the Wilis. Myrtha, the Queen of the Wilis materializes, and summons the spirits of the dead maidens, led by her two handmaidens, Zulma and Moyna. Giselle is initiated into their sisterhood and dances at the call of her queen. The vengeful Wilis begin to pursue Hilarion. On Myrtha's orders, they make him dance until he is exhausted and then cast him into the lake.

Albrecht comes to Giselle's grave, full of remorse and sorrow. Giselle appears and brings him flowers for forgiveness. Myrtha discovers Albrecht's presence and commands that he must die. Giselle pleads for his life and begs the Wilis to help them, but Albrecht is compelled to dance. The power of Giselle's love counters the Wili's magic and spares his life. The other spirits return to their graves at daybreak, but Giselle has broken through the control of the Wilis, and is released from their powers. After bidding a tender farewell to Albrecht, Giselle returns to her grave to rest in peace.





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GISTLLE CAST

★ Friday, May 2, and Saturday, May, 3 • 7:00 PM

% Thursday, May, 1 • 7:00 PM and Saturday, May, 3 • 2:00 PM

GISELLE

★ Abigail Erickson

 ★ Kate Abbott

ALBRECHT

* * Aidan Hodo

HILARION

% % Cole McMason

BATHILDE

THE DUKE

★ Dean Crabapple
 ★ Joe de Jesus

WILFRED

BERTHE

COURTIER

★ Dustin Quinn Campbell

% Kurt Hardin

PRINCESSES

- ★ Rayen Berger-Perin, Lynn Gear, Brooklyn Sinthavong, Hanna Sondossi

PEASANT PAS DE DEUX

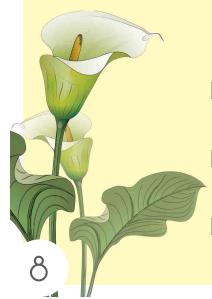
- 💥 Kabella Graves, Waylen Stevens
- X Kate Levin, Waylen Stevens

LEAD VILLAGE GIRL

- ★ Stella West

LEAD VILLAGE BOY

XX Owen Church



VILLAGE GIRLS

- Scarlett Berner, Emma Cushing, Eden George, Autumn Knight, Molly McMurdie, Cellianny Townsend
- X Vivienne Ennett, Melanie Christian Viloria, Nina Chung, Avery Church, Brooklyn McKinley, Charlotte Moss

VILLAGE BOYS

- 🔀 Agnes Crabapple, London Daley, Addie Murphy, Aspen Sebek
- 💥 Ayla Fitch, Rita Niles, Sara Shimoji, Josie Zurcher

VILLAGE LADIES

- ★ Emma Benson, Ellie Cazier, Rose Chamberlain, Olivia Leneker, Abigail Manista, Abigail Mattheis, Grace McCray, Peyton Raney, Lily Smith, Lulu Valiant
- ** Rose Chamberlain, Cruz Dandrea, Veronica Fox, Emily Haley-Pierce, Quinn LaDoux, Rilee Neils, Jensen Porter, Erica Shimoji, Malia Shoemaker, Kyleigh Young

GISELLE'S FRIENDS

- ★ Campbell Baldwin, Ilsa Beardsley, Trinity Dang, Kate Lim, Aahana Lohan, Lexi Shelley
- ※ Nico Anderson, Abigail Byrd, Kabella Graves, Locy Hamblet, Sophia Solano, Nai'a Wright

Garland Villagers

- 🔀 Ada Bergvall, Addison Cady, River Cohn, Teagan Sirotak
- 🔀 Aspen Butler, Audrey Esslinger-Dotson, Eme Ferrara, Sophia Skillings

MYRTHA

★ Gianna Zabolio

 ★ Emma Ehrlander

MOYNA

★ Locy Hamblet

 ★ Kate Lim

ZULMA

WILIS

- ✗ Nico Anderson, Ilsa Beardsley, Astoria Eberly, Emma Ehrlander, Kabella Graves, Willow Hood, Clare Lanese, Kate Levin, Kate Lim, Alexis Shelton, Sophia Solano, Verite Yanasak
- ※ Nico Anderson, Ilsa Beardsley, Rosalie Cushman, Kabella Graves, Locy Hamblet, Willow Hood, Clare Lanese, Aahana Lohan, Macy Manista, Nora Saylors-Olson, Sophia Solano, Gianna Zabolio













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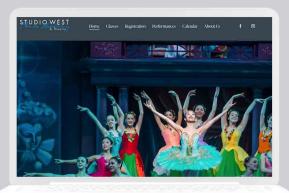
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(ISELLE PRODUCTION STAFF & STAGE (REW

DIRECTORS

Mary Cecelia Piper, Stephanie Wood-Ennett

ORIGINAL CHOREOGRAPHY

Maurice Petipas (1841), Stephanie Wood-Ennett (2017 and 2025)

STAGED BY

Cole McMason, Elizabeth Piper, Marianna Ramsour, Monica Sieling, Stephanie Wood-Ennett

resident lighting designer & production stage manager

Scott Leathers

assistant to lighting designer & production stage mgr.

7ac Andersen

STAGE & STUDIO MANAGER

Rachel Zeigler

technical director / assistant techni<u>cal director</u>

Eric Russell / Satoshi Shimoji

COSTUME DIRECTOR / COSTUME SHOP MANAGER

Trish Hall / Michelle Rubbert

Costume seamstresses & assistants

Rhonda Beardsley, Jeri Globe, Hannah Hall, Cookie Harn

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Ann Staley

marketing director

Pam Abbott

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Kevin Jessee

STUDIO WEST STAGE CREW

Joe Cushman, Don Duncan, Autumn George, Eric Russell, Satoshi Shimoji

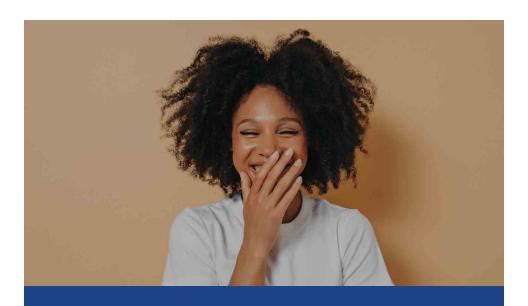
WASHINGTON CENTER PRODUCTION CREW

Aeryk Bjork, Chris Gaston, Ken Glidden, Kirsten Johnston, Owen Yates

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Heather Chard, Stephanie Wood-Ennett





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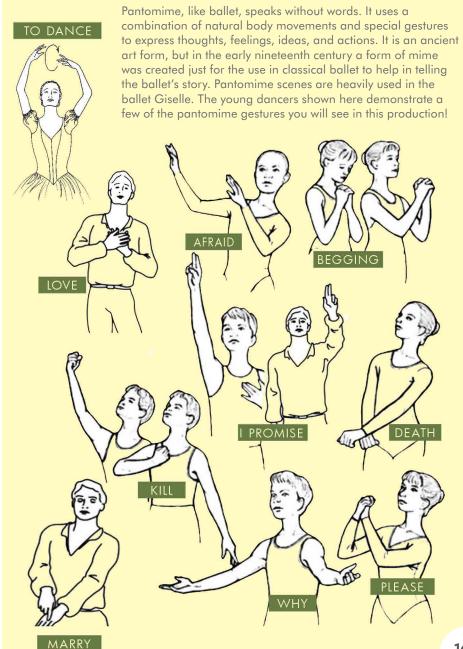
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QUEST ARTIST

Cole McMason

Guest Performer

Cole McMason began dancing at the age of seven at Studio West Dance Academy and trained there until he was accepted into the Professional Division program at Pacific Northwest Ballet at age 18. After graduating from the Professional Division program in 2021 he moved to San Antonio, Texas to train at DeCruz Ballet under Lindsi Dec and Karel Cruz for the 2021/22 school year. During that time, he was hired by Ballet Tucson as a corps member for the 2022/23 season before being promoted to soloist for the 2024/25 season. While at Studio West he performed as Fritz in



the first production of the Nutcracker, as well as leading roles as the Cavalier and the Nutcracker in "The Nutcracker", Franz in "Coppelia", and the principal couple in Joshua Grant's "False Sense of Security" and "Abundant Chaos". While at PNB he had the chance to perform alongside the company in Kent Stowell's "Carmina Burana" and "Cinderella", and George Balanchine's "The Nutcracker".

Throughout his three seasons with Ballet Tucson, he has performed soloist and principal roles in Justin Peck's "In Creases" and "Pulcinella Variations"; George Balanchine's "Divertimento No. 15", "Serenade", and "Rubies"; Price Suddarth's "Borderland" and "First Light"; Andrea Schermoly's "Klein Perspectives" and "Swivet"; and Margaret Mullin's "The Nutcracker", "Felicity Found", and "Lost in Light".

Cole loves returning to his home studio to perform alongside all of Studio West's talented students.

THANK YOU

We want to thank our many dedicated Studio West volunteers and staff. You help make this production possible and amazing! A BIG THANK YOU to Harbor Foods for providing the trucks and drivers to get our props, costumes and merchandise to and from the theatre; PNW Rhuhou Kan Dojo for making sure our dancers arrive safely to their cars after rehearsals and shows this week; and to the Washington Center staff for their support and dedication to the arts in our community.

Scenery and most costumes provided by Eugene Ballet, Eugene, Oregon.

Giselle's Friends' costumes are courtesy of Ballet Memphis.















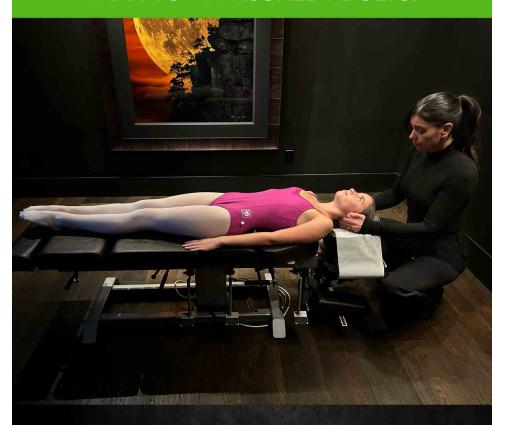
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GUEST ARTIST

Scott Leathers

Resident Lighting Designer & Production Stage Manager

Scott Leathers is the Resident Lighting Designer for Nashville Children's Theatre (since Sep. 2003), Studio West Dance Theatre (Mainstage, since 2009), and has previously served as R.L.D. for Nashville Ballet ('87-'22), New Dialect (Contemporary Dance, 2014-2019), Chattanooga Symphony and Opera ('02-'07, & 2011-2020), Kentucky Repertory Theatre ('05-''08), Ryman Auditorium's Musical Theatre Series ('99-'01), and Ballet TN ('97-'01). He periodically serves as interim Lighting



Director for the Ryman Auditorium. After his long tenure at Nashville Ballet from 1987-2022 he decided it was time to step away and explore new opportunities. He was immediately named Resident Scenic and Lighting Designer at Nashville Children's Theatre, and happily became a part of Emma Sendall's team for An Ambivalent Woman of 37 and subsequently Dominic Moore Dunson's team for The Remember Balloons which has a national tour planned for the 25-26 seaon.

Mr. Leathers has designed lighting for theatre, opera, ballet, and modern dance since 1981 to critical acclaim. Many of his designs have been for original works. Mr. Leathers design experience includes work with the following performing arts organizations: the Kennedy Center (Concert Hall, Opera House & Family Theater), StudioTENN, Opera Omaha, Nashville Opera, TN Repertory Theatre, Milwaukee Ballet, American Negro Playwrights Theatre, Theatre Craft, Stage One, Amun Ra Theatre, Musical Theatre Louisville, Karen Steele Dance Quintet, Ballet Omaha, Ballet Austin, Cumberland County Playhouse, Dollywood, and internationally with Tanz Ensemble Cathy Sharp (TECS-Switzerland) and Ballet Manila (Philippines). In Dec. 2015 he designed lighting for Ben Fold's Piano Concerto with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center. He has taught Lighting Design at the college level as well as leading over 30 workshops. He has also designed scenery for many productions.

Mr. Leathers graduated from the College of Santa Fe with a BFA in technical theatre and is a member of United Scenic Artists 829 in the Lighting and Scenic Categories.

4111D 4CKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is important to take a moment to acknowledge that the Washington Center and downtown Olympia sits on the traditional lands of the Steh-Chass band of the Squaxin Island Tribe. We also recognize the Medicine Creek Treaty Tribes, and the Nisqually People of this region. As an arts organization, we encourage you to look around our community at the innumerable contributions that native artists have made, whose histories and cultures are woven into the fabric of our communities and our collective identities.



Giselle cast giving a mini-preview performance at the Hands on Children's Museum



Congratulations Emma on a fabulous Giselle performance!

Love, Mom & Dad





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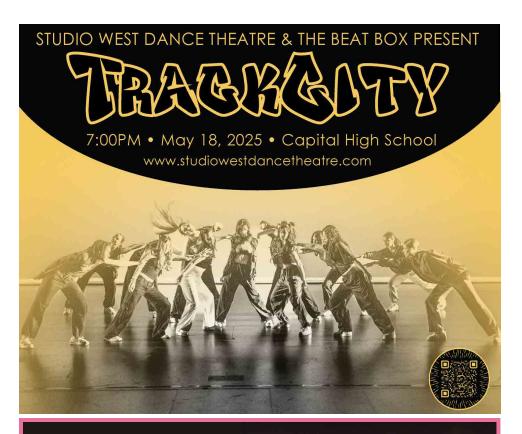
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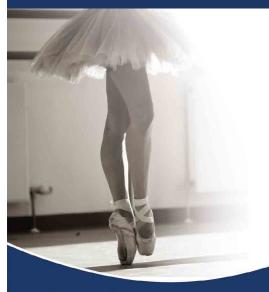
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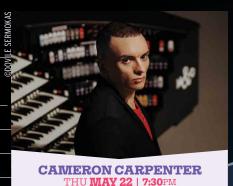
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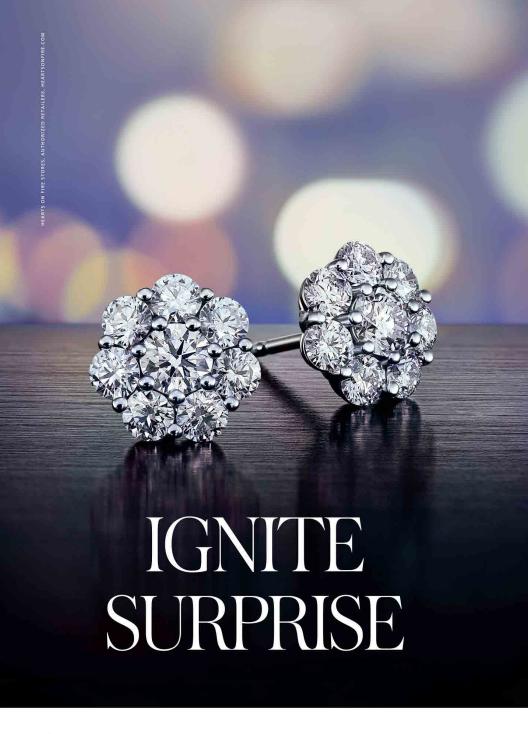
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