

LOUISVILLE BALLET

A male dancer with dark, curly hair and a serious expression is the central figure. He is wearing a dark green, long-sleeved shirt with a high collar. His arms are crossed over his chest, with his hands resting on his upper arms. The background is a vibrant green with a soft, ethereal light effect that resembles a waterfall or a misty forest scene. The overall mood is dramatic and artistic.

SWAN LAKE

ÉTOILE



LOVE OR LIFE – CHOOSE.

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Louisville Ballet Friends,

I'll admit it. I almost don't know where to begin. But, that I am overwhelmed, thrilled, and incredibly grateful to be here now, seems like an important place to start.

This production of Swan Lake marks our first time in the theater since February 2020. The world feels like a radically different place – and not just for all of us at Louisville Ballet. I know I have changed, that our artists have changed, and that the construct and cadence of our world has been redefined in so many ways.

But today I am here. And I am so grateful.

I am especially grateful to you for being here with us, in the beautiful space, as we celebrate the start of our 70th Anniversary Season. Louisville Ballet is one of the oldest continuously operating ballet companies in the country, and I feel fortunate to be part of its recent past, and its present, as we move our gaze toward the future.

And now I invite you into an idea of the future – my adaptation of Swan Lake. We first premiered this interpretation of the ballet classic in 2016, diving head first into a futuristic world generated by laser scenic design on an otherwise empty stage. In the performance you'll experience now, our Swans have been transformed from all white or black, and now wear beautifully redesigned costumes that reflect each dancer's individual skin tone – embracing our classical past but acknowledging that some constructs can be left behind. The present can be more equitable and beautiful. Our future can be even brighter.

But with all of these changes, the classical choreography and the timeless themes of Swan Lake remain. The story has always been one of reality vs fantasy, confronting ideas of perception and conformity, and overall, the power of love. Our interpretation truly captures the heart of the story – just in a modern way.

I hope you will be surprised, transported, and moved by the distinctly human struggles of Swan Lake – love, oppression, and redemption.

Welcome back!

Robert Curran
Artistic Director + Choreographer

ÉTOILE STAFF

NATALIE HARRIS
Editor

ANDY PEREZ
Designer

SAM ENGLISH
Resident Photographer

**MERRICK PRINTING
COMPANY**
Printer

SWAN LAKE

NOVEMBER 11–13, 2021

THE BROWN THEATRE

CHOREOGRAPHY BY

ROBERT CURRAN AFTER MARIUS PETIPA AND LEV IVANOV

MUSIC BY

PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY

SCENIC DESIGN BY

GARRETT CRABTREE + RYAN DALY

LIGHTING DESIGN BY

JESSE ALFORD

COSTUME DESIGN BY

TIFFANY WOODARD

PROLOGUE

Off Earth, sometime far into the future, we find a community at rest. Siegfried, in a waking dream, witnesses his mother, the Queen, in battle with Rothbart, an evil force that plagues the realm, preys on the weak of mind, and holds a growing influence over Siegfried. In the aftermath of the battle, Siegfried becomes mesmerized by the ghostly figure of a woman, swan-like, haunting his dreams.

ACT ONE

The public arrive in anticipation of Siegfried's birthday celebrations. When the Queen and Siegfried join them, and as the celebrations continue, Siegfried is disappointed to find that his mother is intent on his marrying for the betterment of the realm. The Queen introduces three Ambassadors from other realms, representing potential alliances, and fiancés for the Prince, but Siegfried dismisses them. Siegfried's friends and the public distract him from his disappointment as best they can, but ultimately they leave, allowing him to return to his waking dream.

ACT TWO

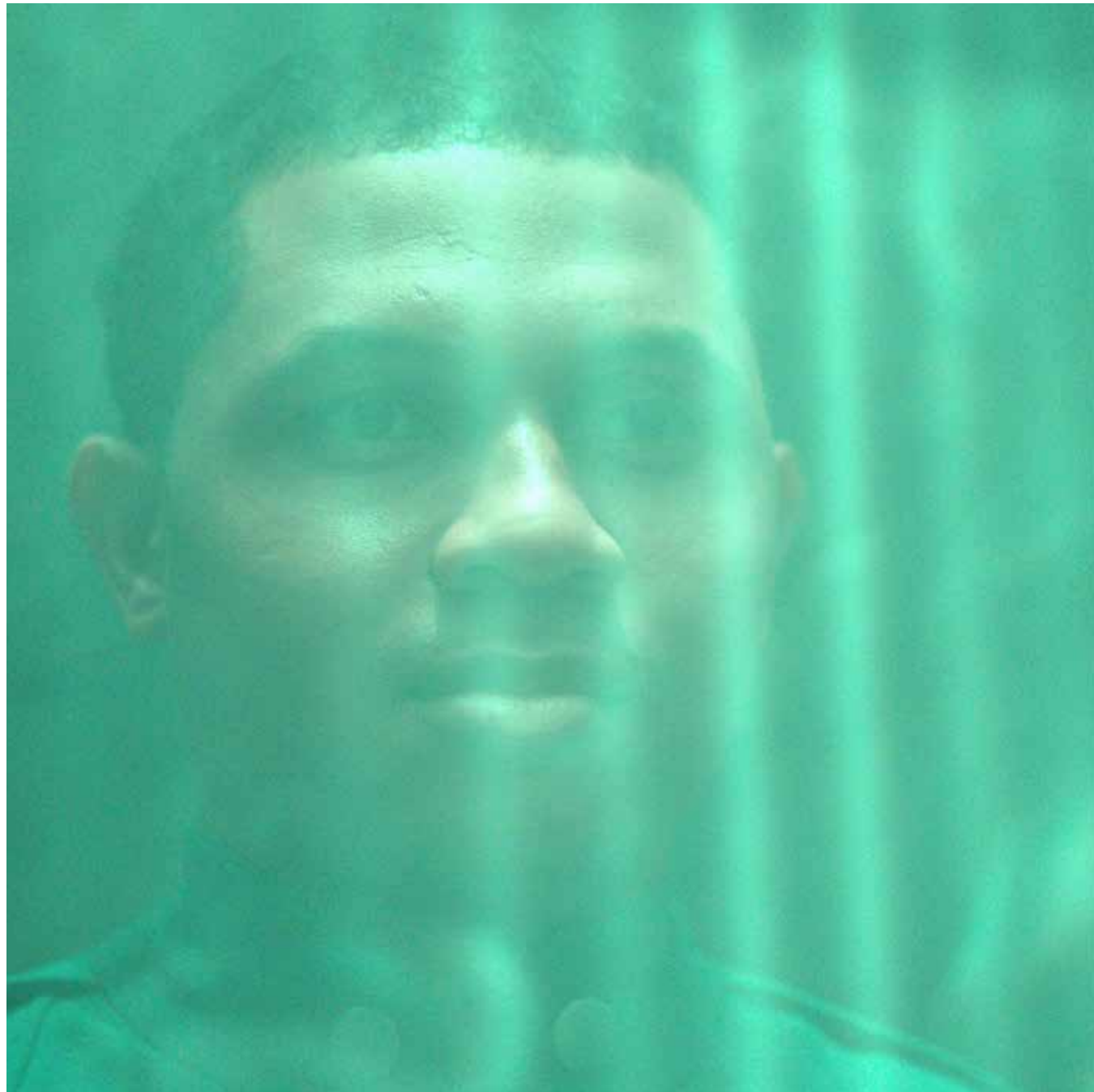
Siegfried moves between reality and fantasy. The swan-like woman of his dreams, his perfect partner Odette, appears to him with a power and vulnerability that makes him fall deeply in love. As his fantasy explodes, with fragments of Odette filling his world, his love grows and not even the creeping presence of Rothbart can diminish it. As his fantasy ends Siegfried is left with his love for Odette, but without a resolution for his reality...

ACT THREE

Siegfried's birthday celebrations continue. Still intent on his marriage, the Queen has the three Ambassadors present their potential fiancés. Siegfried is unmoved, and escapes to his waking dream refuge to be with Odette. Siegfried's distraction troubles the Queen. Confusing his dreams and his reality Siegfried swears his love for Odette, but in doing so unleashes the power of Rothbart. When Siegfried realizes his fate, his mind and his heart break, and he flees his reality to seek redemption and a final resolution.

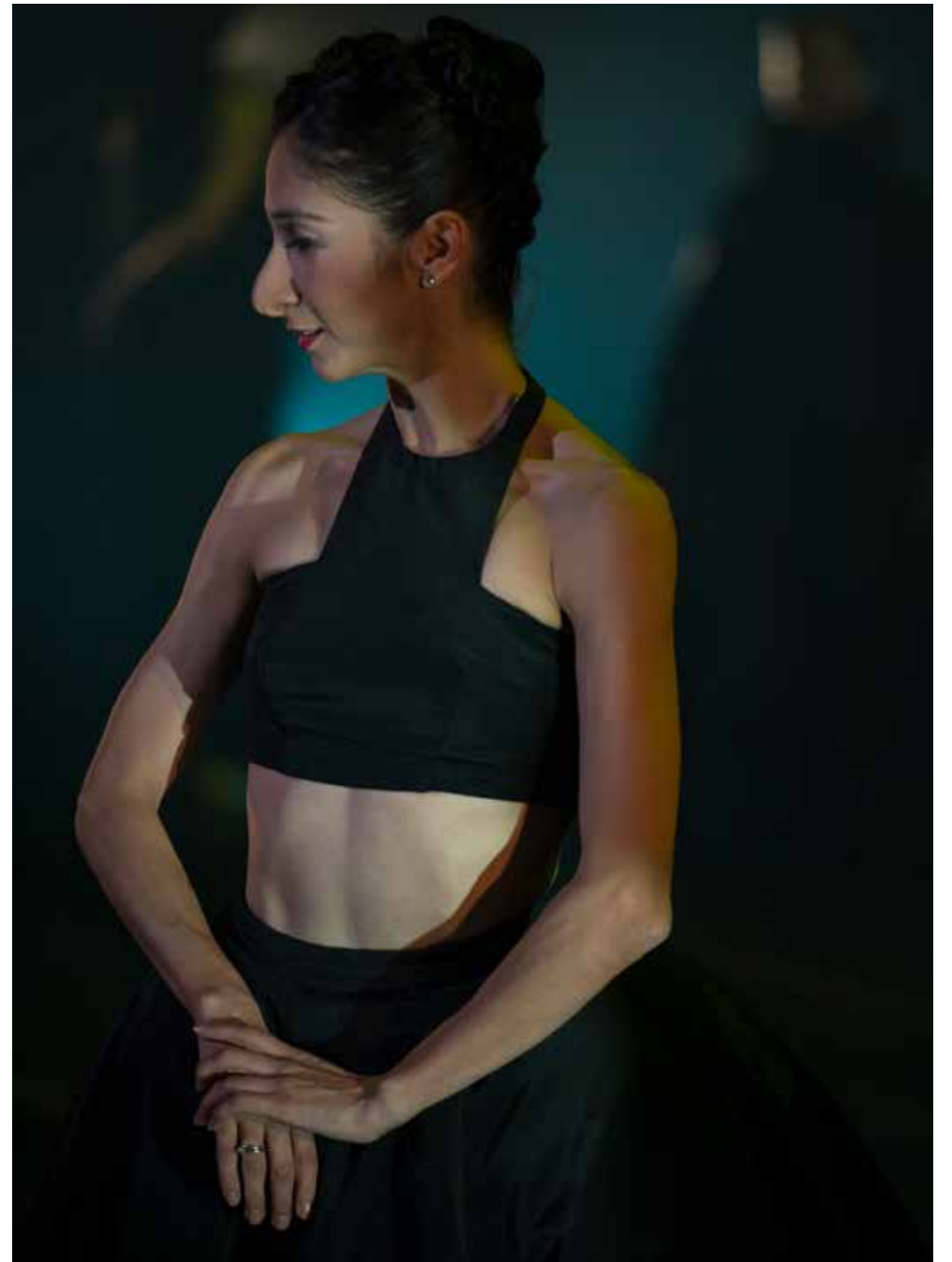
ACT FOUR

Faced with the consequences of his actions, Siegfried must confront the evil force Rothbart, and battle for his redemption. His fantasy with Odette, or his painful and oppressive reality, are his only options for resolution. He is forced to choose.



Left: Company Artist
Brandon Ragland as
Siegfried / *Swan Lake* /
Photo by Sam English 2021

Right: Company Artist Erica
De La O / *Swan Lake* / Photo
by Sam English 2016





Company Artist Ashley Thursby / *Swan Lake* / Photo by Sam English 2016



Company Artist Mark Krieger / *Swan Lake* / Photo by Sam English 2021



Robert Curran's *Swan Lake* /
Photo by Sam English 2016

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SWAN LAKE

November 11-13, 2021 | The Brown Theatre
Choreography by Robert Curran | Music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

THE BROWN-FORMAN NUTCRACKER

December 11-23, 2021 | Whitney Hall, Kentucky Center
Choreography by Val Caniparoli | Music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

#CHORSHOW

January 12-16, 2022 | Louisville Ballet Studios

SPOTLIGHT SERIES: IMPRESSIONISM TO JAZZ

March 3-5, 2022 | The Brown Theatre

A mixed-repertory evening featuring:

Emeralds

Choreography by George Balanchine
Music: "Pelléas et Mélisande" + "Shylock" by Gabriel Fauré

In G Major

Choreography by Jerome Robbins
Music: "Piano Concerto in G Major" by Maurice Ravel

World Premiere Work

With Music by Louisville-based Jazz Composer and Musician, Dick Sisto

SLEEPING BEAUTY

March 31- April 2, 2022 | The Brown Theatre

World Premiere

Choreography by Adam Hougland | Music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

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Company Artists
Natalia Ashikhmina +
Mark Krieger / *Swan Lake* /
Photo by Sam English 2021



Company Artists Erica De La O
+ Brandon Ragland / *Swan Lake* /
Photo by Sam English 2021



ROBERT CURRAN

Choreographer / Artistic Director

Trained at The Australian Ballet School and having enjoyed a thrilling and fulfilling career with The Australian Ballet as a Principal Artist, Robert Curran took the passion and discipline he developed as a dancer and set his sights on diversifying his knowledge, skills, and abilities. Education and experience continually expanded his ability to move his own body on stage and, through this, move an audience through a wide range of emotions. Beyond his dancing career he strives to continue to move people towards a satisfying encounter with dance. Mr. Curran is motivated by the form that a dancer gains from training in the traditions of classical ballet, where respect and discipline can facilitate breathtaking strength and freedom. He is also inspired by the innovation that forms the function of any artist, that being, to bravely and boldly express oneself through art for the greater good of a community. As Artistic + Executive Director of Louisville Ballet, Mr. Curran continues to contribute to the global arts community, enriching his knowledge of the art form to which he has devoted his life. He is excited by, and committed to, the Louisville community with its abundant respect for the arts and its exciting perspective on the future.

Proudly supported by the Augusta Brown Holland Philanthropic Foundation.



PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY

Composer

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky was a Russian composer of the Romantic period. He was the first Russian composer whose music made a lasting impression internationally, bolstered by his appearances as a guest conductor in Europe and the United States. Tchaikovsky is most celebrated for his ballets, specifically *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty* and *The Nutcracker*.



GARRETT CRABTREE

Scenic Designer

Louisville Kentucky native Garrett Crabtree Jr is a lighting designer, laserist, musician and DJ. He studied audio production at Full Sail University and justice administration at the University of Louisville.

In 2009, Crabtree formed GLITTERTITZ with musician Jamey See Tai. A frequent recipient of Best of Louisville and Readers' Choice Awards, GLITTERTITZ is a staple within the Louisville arts and music communities.

In 2014, along with partner Ryan Daly, Crabtree founded Lapis Laser Display. In 2018, Lapis Laser Display opened the Holiday Laser Dome, a 36-foot geodesic dome featuring eight lasers synchronized to holiday music. In 2019, Lapis Laser Display installed a six-city block, four laser design for the light-based art festival BLINK Cincinnati. Crabtree's approach to music and light coalesced in 2019, when he was awarded first place Laser Jockey at 2019 ILDA Awards, for live show laser programming.

Crabtree is excited to return to the stage with the Louisville Ballet, updating and adding to their previous collaboration.



RYAN DALY

Scenic Designer

Having studied experimental filmmaking at Pittsburgh Filmmakers, Louisville Kentucky native Ryan Daly is passionate about film, video and new media design and implementation. Currently,

Daly serves as the lead audio / video installer for Speed Art Museum, having provided audio video solutions for recent exhibitions including Promise Witness Remembrance and Supernatural America.

In 2014, along with partner Garrett Crabtree, Daly founded Lapis Laser Display. In 2018, Lapis Laser Display opened the Holiday Laser Dome, a 36-foot geodesic dome featuring eight lasers synchronized to holiday music, which received international recognition as award winning planetarium show by ILDA, the governing body of laser designers. In 2019, Lapis Laser Display installed a six-city block, four laser design for the light-based art festival BLINK Cincinnati.

Daly is thrilled to be working with Louisville Ballet again, adding 15 new lasers and complimentary designs to 2021 Swan Lake.



JESSE ALFORD

Lighting Designer

Jesse is a freelance Lighting Designer and Circus Coach based here in Louisville. His previous designs with Louisville Ballet include *Rite of Spring*, *Kentucky Volume 1*, *Odyssey*, *Tonal*, *15 Minutes of Fame*, *At High*, *Force Flux* and សុំនាមប្តីឡើងវិញ. His work can also be seen with The Big Apple Circus, Theatre [502], Circus Flora, Pandora Productions, Stage One, Kentucky Shakespeare, The Louisville Orchestra, The Va Va Vixens, and more. He is the Head Coach at My Nose Turns Red Youth Circus, and previously served as the Board Chair for the American Youth Circus Organization and the American Circus Educators.



TIFFANY WOODARD

Costume Designer

Tiffany Woodard (b 1983, Yukon, Canada) is a multi-disciplined designer living and working in Louisville, Kentucky. Woodard uses traditional sewing techniques, paint, power tools, and a variety of unusual materials to challenge a conventional approach to space and fashion. Intrigued by the relationship between craft and style, Woodard began creating fascinators, costumes, and clothing in 2008. More recently, she has ventured into interiors with small scale murals, upholstery, unexpected headboards, and custom drapery. Woodard has been featured in The Voice Tribune, Louisville Magazine, Garden and Gun Magazine, Tops Magazine, KMAC Couture runway show, Woman's Today Magazine, and most recent work can be seen at the Bellwether Hotel in the heart of the Highlands.



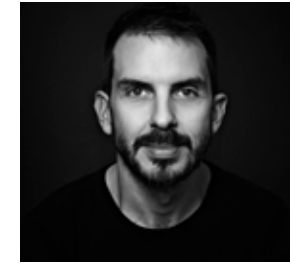
ADAM HOUGLAND

Resident Choreographer

Adam Houglan grew up in Dallas, Texas, and trained at the Dallas Conservatory of Ballet, the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, and The Juilliard School. Mr. Houglan has created works for American Ballet Theatre Studio Company, Introdans in Holland, The Limon Dance Company, Cincinnati Ballet, Tulsa Ballet, and Ballet X.

He has won the Hector Zaraspe Prize for Choreography, the Princess Grace Award for Choreography, the Choo-San Goh Award for Choreography, and was one of *Pointe Magazine's* VIPs of 2006 and one of *Dance Magazine's* 25 To Watch For 2011.

Sponsored in part by Myroslava Romach & Edward M. Sellers.



LUCAS JERVIES

Resident Choreographer

Lucas Jervies is an Australian choreographer and director, working across ballet, contemporary dance, cabaret, opera, and theatre. In Australia, Lucas has created dance for companies such as The Australian Ballet, Sydney Dance Company, Queensland Ballet, West Australian Ballet, and Opera Australia. Internationally, Lucas has created dance for Scapino Ballet Rotterdam, Louisville Ballet, Milwaukee Ballet, Korzo Theatre Den Haag, Noverre Society Stuttgart Ballet, and CoDarts Rotterdam University for the Arts. In 2018, Lucas choreographed *Spartacus*, a new ballet in three acts for The Australian Ballet. This new piece will be Lucas' fifth work for Louisville Ballet, following *What Light is to Their Eyes*, *Plain Jane*, *Human Abstract* and *Firebird*.



ANDREA SCHERMOLY

Resident Choreographer

Andrea Giselle Schermoly was born in South Africa. She trained at the National School of the Arts, on full scholarship at both Rambert Ballet and Contemporary School and The Royal Ballet School, London. She competed internationally as a member of The South African National Rhythmic Gymnastics Team. She danced professionally for Boston Ballet and the Netherlands Dance Theater.

She has choreographed nationally and internationally for companies such as Royal New Zealand Ballet and Kansas City Ballet amongst others and has created for movies, music videos, and commercials in Los Angeles.


HARALD UWE KERN
Senior Ballet Master

Harald Uwe Kern joined Louisville Ballet in 2005. His awards include the Rudolf Nureyev Scholarship Award, the Paris International Dance Competition — prix d'interpretation, and an Award for Artistic Achievement from the New York International Ballet Competition.

Mr. Kern has performed as a soloist and principal dancer with the Vienna State Opera Ballet, Basel Ballet, the Joffrey Ballet, Ballet Internationale, and Charleston Ballet Theater. He has danced leading roles in most major classical ballets and won critical acclaim for his roles in ballets by Sir Frederick Ashton, Cranko, Massine, Nureyev, Neumeier, Spörli, Balanchine, Kilian, and more. Under the guidance of Irina Kolpakova and Vladilen Semyonov, he became a teacher and coach. He has been the associate artistic director of the Channel Islands Ballet (California) and a guest instructor around the world.


MIKELLE BRUZINA
Senior Ballet Mistress

Born in Lexington, Kentucky, Mikelle Bruzina is a graduate of The Royal Winnipeg Ballet. In over 20 year at Louisville Ballet, she has had the privilege of working with choreographers such as Caniparoli, Godden, Hougland, Jervies, Jones, Parsons, Pickett, Prokovsky, Reiter-Soffer, Riley, Schermoly, and Stevenson. As a choreographer, Ms. Bruzina has created works for Louisville Ballet, Memphis Ballet, Boca Ballet Theatre and Ballet Under the Stars in Lexington. Most recently she presented a piece, created with the Studio Company dancers, for The Louisville Ballet School Spring Dance Festival in April 2019.

Ms. Bruzina began teaching in 1991 and has extensive experience teaching ballet and pointe technique as well as rehearsing and coaching. She is thrilled to continue being an integral part of the Louisville Ballet Studio Company along with Christy Corbitt Krieger as Co-Associate Directors, to share the knowledge and love of making moving art.


HELEN DAIGLE
Ballet Mistress

Originally from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Helen Daigle received her training at Decatur School of Ballet, Decatur Georgia, Dancer's Workshop, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Joffrey Ballet School, and School of American Ballet, New York. She started performing with Baton Rouge Ballet Theatre and danced professionally with Feld Ballets / New York, Ballet Hispanico, and Miami City Ballet. Mrs. Daigle joined Louisville Ballet in 1998 and has performed principal and soloist roles throughout her 20-year career.

She is also Children's Cast Manager for *The Brown-Forman Nutcracker* and a member of Louisville Ballet School's Faculty. She is thrilled to continue working for Louisville Ballet as ballet mistress.


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COSTUME RENDERINGS



Designs by
Tiffany Woodard



SWAN SONG

This production of Swan Lake marks another important milestone in Louisville Ballet's 70th Anniversary Season – a final performance by long-time Company Artist, Erica De La O.

A native of East Los Angeles, California, Erica first joined Louisville Ballet in 2003, under the tutelage of Bruce Simpson and Helen Starr, and has since performed in a number of principal roles including: La Sylphide (Sylph), Giselle (Giselle), (Odette/Odile) Swan Lake, Alun Jones' Romeo and Juliet (Juliet) and Cinderella (Cinderella), Don Quixote (Kitri), Robert Curran's Coppélia (Swanhilda), Val Caniparoli's Marie and Sugar Plum Fairy in The Brown-Forman Nutcracker, George Balanchine's Theme and Variations, Rubies, Concerto Baroque, Square Dance – and so many others.

Chances are if you've been part of a Louisville Ballet audience in the past 18 years, you've seen Erica perform with the heart, energy, commitment, and extraordinary artistry that she brings to the studio every day. Her love for ballet is palpable, whether you are her partner on stage or seated in the back of the house. We will miss her laugh, presence, generosity, and drive and wish her the best in this next phase of her journey in Westmont, Illinois as Salt Creek Ballet's Artistic Director, alongside Kristopher Wojtera, her husband, long-time artistic partner, and former Louisville Ballet Company Artist, who will serve as Associate Artistic Director.

Erica De La O will dance her final role as a Louisville Ballet Artist – Odette/Odile – on Saturday, November 11, 2021.

Robert Curran, Louisville Ballet's Artistic Director and choreographer for this Swan Lake production, spoke with Erica about her history and connection with Swan Lake, her experience as an artist and new mother during the COVID shutdown, her decision to retire, and what it feels like to leave Louisville Ballet.

Here are some excerpts from that conversation, edited for clarity:

Robert Curran: What do you think it is about the story [of *Swan Lake*] that makes it last?

Erica De La O: I think the music leads it. Like Helen [Starr] always says – it's always in the music. The music allows you to have different interpretations – it may be just the sound of one violin, but you can interpret it in five different ways.

RC: Yeah, we were talking about that in rehearsal.

ED: I think that – for me – is a classic. It's just interchangeable – it can read to all at the same time. That's what makes some scores brilliant. That it can touch the soul of five different individuals, five different places, and five different mindsets. And five different backgrounds, cultures, politics...



Photo by Andrew Kung

RC: ...in five different parts of the score. The elements and the variety in the score are also incredible when you go from act to act, and key to key, and major to minor. And going from the Swan theme, to the Rothbart theme, to Spanish, to Hungarian – there’s so much variety in it.

ED: And then maybe the fact that you can, as a dancer, have your own interpretation or lend, you know, an interpretation within the interpretation. There’s always space. With some scores it just feels like there’s always space to grow. There’s always space to rethink it. Or to be reborn. It’s really interesting. Maybe I keep loving these things...because we’re in the profession.

RC: I think it’s the storytelling possibility, too. There are so many ways to work with the music, to tell your interpretation of the story and that’s, you know, different dancers within the one production, let alone different productions. There are so many ways that you can breathe in between each note, in a way that helps you with your authentic telling of the story. And also, even though it’s such a rich music, there’s so much room for you to be awash with it on stage. There’s room for you to get in it, in the music, which I love.

RC: You have had such an incredible impact on Louisville and Louisville Ballet, and I know a lot of people are going to be at that show, absolutely soaking it up. You’re definitely a fixture here and we are going to be very sad to see you so far away. But of course, you will be welcome back at any time.

ED: Yeah...I mean...I grew up here. A bunch. I came here as a kid – really, really green. And now looking back, the audiences just nurtured every phase that I’ve gone through, you know, I really think about it now. And the staff...and that’s why I came here. Just because I knew I could – for my background or who I was – I think I knew here is where I can really grow, to find the artist that I can be. Where I have the space, the time, the resources, the teachers – where I can kind of just whittle away, towards my dream. And so looking back – I always knew what I wanted to have an opportunity to do as an artist, and they’re not big things. They’re just really... things that made me stay interested in my career. And it happened here. And I’m really, really happy for that.



BONUS CONTENT

Robert Curran also had the opportunity to sit down with Helen Starr, former principal artist and Associate Artistic Director, and Bruce Simpson, former Artistic Director, about their history, experiences, and artistic connections with this iconic ballet. Just scan the QR code below to listen to these conversations, as well as his full interview with Erica De La O.

**FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR’S OFFICE:
SWAN LAKE CONVERSATIONS WITH BRUCE SIMPSON,
HELEN STARR, AND ERICA DE LA O**



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LEIGH ANNE ALBREHTA
Joined Company: 2009
Hometown: Fremont, OH



JUSTIN MICHAEL HOGAN
Joined Company: 2012
Hometown: Cincinnati, OH



NATALIA ASHIKHMINA
Joined Company: 2006
Hometown: Bratsk, Russia



CAITLIN KOWALSKI
Joined Company: 2021
Hometown: Radcliff, KY



EMMAROSE ATWOOD
Joined Company: 2018
Hometown: Carlisle, PA



MARK KRIEGER
Joined Company: 2012
Hometown: Alexandria, VA



LEXA DANIELS
Joined Company: 2016
Hometown: Stoneham, MA



SIMONE MUHAMMAD
Joined Company: 2021
Hometown: St. Louis, MO



ERICA DE LA O
Joined Company: 2003
Hometown: Los Angeles, CA



MINH-TUAN NGUYEN
Joined Company: 2018
Hometown: Cupertino, CA

COMPANY DANCERS



BRANDON RAGLAND
Joined Company: 2010
Hometown: Birmingham, AL



SHELBY SHENKMAN
Joined Company: 2016
Hometown: Boca Raton, FL



SANJAY SAVERIMUTTU
Joined Company: 2012
Hometown: Boca Raton, FL



RYO SUZUKI
Joined Company: 2018
Hometown: Saitama, Japan



ALEKSANDR SCHROEDER
Joined Company: 2019
Hometown: Anderson, IN



ASHLEY THURSBY
Joined Company: 2008
Hometown: Richmond, MO



KATERYNA SELLERS
Joined Company: 2005
Hometown: Toronto, Canada



PHILLIP VELINOV
Joined Company: 2006
Hometown: Sofia, Bulgaria



DAVID SENTI
Joined Company: 2021
Hometown: Holland, MI



BRIENNE WILTSIE
Joined Company: 2018
Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA

STUDIO COMPANY DANCERS



OWEN BAKULA
Hometown: Los Angeles, CA
Level 10



NICHOLAS BENTZ
Hometown: St. Louis, MO
Level 10



SARAH BRADLEY
Hometown: Cincinnati, OH
Level 10



REECE CONRAD
Hometown: Danville, CA
Level 10



VERONICA HIGGINS
Hometown: Fergus, Canada
Level 10



CELESTE LOPEZ-KERANEN
Hometown: Grand Rapids, MI
Level 10



JAKE MINGUS
Hometown: Tipp City, OH
Level 10



DANIEL SCOFIELD
Hometown: Louisville, KY
Level 10



RYAN STROBLE
Hometown: Senatobia, MS
Level 10



AMBER WICKEY
Hometown: Tenafly, NJ
Level 10



CHRISTIAN CHESTER
Hometown: Sunbury, OH
Level 9



KELSEY CORDER
Hometown: Alma, AR
Level 9

STUDIO COMPANY DANCERS



ANNA FORD
Hometown: Lilburn, GA
Level 9



ISABELLE HILTON
Hometown: Lafayette, LA
Level 9



JONMARIE JOHNSON
Hometown: Louisville, KY
Level 9



TARIQUE LOGAN
Hometown: Richmond, VA
Level 9



JORDAN NOBLETT
Hometown: Gastonia, NC
Level 9



SARAH RAY
Hometown: Parker, CO
Level 9



MADELINE SKAGGS
Hometown: Reston, VA
Level 9



CHARLOTTE VAN ERMEN
Hometown: Oak Park, IL
Level 9



ANTHONY CEFALU
Hometown: St. Louis, MO.
Level 8



GRIFFIN GREENE
Hometown: Birmingham, AL
Level 8



DAGNY INGLE
Hometown: Macon, GA
Level 8



ADDISON MATHES
Hometown: Corydon, IN
Level 8

STUDIO COMPANY DANCERS



OWEN MATERNE
Hometown: Dayton, OH
Level 7



PAIGE RIFFER
Hometown: Springfield, VA
Level 7



ALINA NOVIKOVA
Hometown: Dnipro, Ukraine
Level 7



ANNA SAWYER
Hometown: Hattiesburg, MS
Level 7



CHLOE PUFFER
Hometown: Louisville, KY
Level 7

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Louisville Ballet created Bound Bound to provide young dancers from across Greater Louisville the opportunity to study classical ballet, free of charge, in a professional setting. Designed to build diversity in the world of ballet, Ballet Bound also serves as a pathway to The Louisville Ballet School, Louisville Ballet Studio Company, and a career with Louisville Ballet. Ballet Bound Scholarship recipients are identified through their participation in Louisville Ballet Community Engagement programs that operate throughout the city – like schools or community centers – during the school year and summer months.

Ballet Bound launched during the 2020-21 school year with 15 students attending class once weekly at Louisville Ballet's Downtown Studios. Led by the Community Engagement Team, and with support from Artistic Director, Robert Curran, and several company dancers, this program has been a great success. We're proud to announce that five students from the 2020-21 cohort were awarded continuing scholarships to officially enter The Louisville Ballet School during the 2021-22 school year.

Madison Jerman-Vaughn is one of those students. Her experience with Louisville Ballet began when Madison participated in our Lincoln Performing Arts School after-school programs, starting in kindergarten, and immediately caught the attention of her ballet teacher, Elizabeth Matthews. Madison has always demonstrated a love for ballet and a commitment to working hard, so when the opportunity arose to begin the Ballet Bound Scholarship Program, she was an excellent candidate. Madison's passion has helped her succeed in the world of dance, and Louisville Ballet is honored to have her as a part of our ballet family.

As a parent of Madison explains, "Being a part of the Ballet Bound family has helped to bring our family together in a way that lets us celebrate Madison, and her talents, independently from her siblings in our household. This program has helped to instill values in Madison that we can not financially afford to do so on our own. This scholarship will help Madison to continue to blossom into a creative and talented young lady."

The 2021-22 Ballet Bound Class continues this season in our downtown studios with 21 students, ages 7-10. These dancers were identified through a summer audition tour created in partnership with The Olmsted Parks Conservancy. Louisville Ballet is thrilled to be a part of these young dancers' lives and excited to see what the future holds for all of them. Our Ballet Bound families play a huge role in the success of their students, and Louisville Ballet would like to thank them for their support and trust in allowing us to work with their children. We celebrate them all and hope to make a positive lasting impact on their lives.

PARTICIPATING IN THE BALLET BOUND PROGRAM HAS MEANT A LOT TO ME AND MY FAMILY, AND IT HAS GIVEN US NEW EXPERIENCES. I LOVE DOING BALLET. THIS PROGRAM HAS LED ME TO CONNECT MORE WITH MY AUNT, COUSINS, AND GRANDMOTHER. THROUGHOUT MY EXPERIENCE IN BALLET BOUND, I HAVE LEARNED TO LENGTHEN MY SPINE AND HAVE BETTER POSTURE. I'VE ALSO LEARNED NEW TERMS IN BALLET IN FRENCH.

Madison Jerman Vaughn, Ballet Bound 2020-21 participant + continuing Ballet Bound Scholar at The Louisville Ballet School



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The Starr Society was created to honor and celebrate the achievements of Helen Starr, who is a true gift to the dance world and a legend to Louisville Ballet. Membership is reserved for donors who contribute at least \$10,000*. We are grateful to the following benefactors who pay tribute to the tradition of excellence she helped establish within our Company. For more information, please contact Farrah Ferriell at ffarriell@louisvilleballet.org.

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The Arabesque Society is a group of dedicated benefactors who have made arrangements in their estate plans to support Louisville Ballet in the future. For more information on how to include Louisville Ballet in your estate plans, please contact kbonner@louisvilleballet.org.

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