

 NASHVILLE
BALLET
PAUL VASTERLING, Artistic Director

NASHVILLE'S NUTCRACKER

Nashville's Nutcracker was filmed for television at
The Martin Center for Nashville Ballet in October 2020.



NewsChannel **5**

Nashville Ballet is grateful to be partnering with CBS affiliate NewsChannel 5 to present the televised premiere of *Nashville's Nutcracker* to the greater Nashville community.

NASHVILLE'S NUTCRACKER

LIVE AT TPAC IN 2021

An exclusive holiday pre-sale just for you.

Tickets on sale now through January 3.

*We can't wait to see you
back in the theater!*



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nashvilleballet.com/nashvilles-nutcracker-2021-presale



Paul Vasterling, Artistic Director

Lisa Dixon French, Executive Director

A decorative title graphic for "Nashville's Nutcracker". The word "NUTCRACKER" is written in a large, ornate, gold-colored serif font with intricate flourishes. Above it, "NASHVILLE'S" is written in a smaller, simpler gold font. The entire title is surrounded by a wreath of gold holly leaves and berries.

Written, Choreographed, and Directed By

Paul Vasterling

Music By **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**

Narration By **Eddie George**

Act II Grand Pas de Deux Choreography after **Lev Ivanov**

Costumes Designed By **Campbell Baird**

Scenery Design By **Shigeru Yaji**

Lighting Design By **Scott Leathers**

Presenting Sponsor:



Intermission Sponsor:  **PNC BANK**

Act Sponsors: **Benefits, inc.**  
Part of the HCA Healthcare Family of Hospitals

Music Recorded By: Russian National Orchestra

Vesna Children's Choir

Mikhail Pletnev, Conductor

(p) 2011 Ondine ODE 1180-2D



Children's Division

AGES 2-7



Register with confidence and **join us *your way***.
Virtual options are available as a supplement or
alternative to in-studio training.

Spring Semester Enrollment is Open. Register at
NASHVILLEBALLET.COM/SNBCCLASSES

ACT I

AT THE 1897 TENNESSEE CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION

Clara	Mollie Sansone	Russian Doll Maker	Jasmine Wheeler
Drosselmeyer	Jon Upleger	French Bonbonniere	Colette Tilinski
Spanish Vendor	Imani Sailers	Swiss Shepherdess	Jamie Kopit
Persian Snake Charmer	Truman Lemire	German Toy Maker	Aeron Buchanan
Chinese Puppeteer	Noah Miller		

ICE SKATING AT SHELBY BOTTOMS

Country Father	Truman Lemire	Businessman	Jaison McClendon
Country Mother	Julia Eisen	Businessman's Wife	Imani Sailers
Grandfather	Michael Burfield	Actress	Lily Saito
Grandmother	Jamie Kopit	Actress' Escort	Nicolas Scheuer
Drosselmeyer's Assistant	Brett Sjoblom	Children	Eli Boggs and Mariana Dominguez
Dancing Bear	Erin Williams		

AT THE STAHLBAUM HOME

Clara's Brother Fritz	Luca Sportelli	Commodore Doll	Michael Burfield
Clara's Mother	Lydia McRae	Party Boys	William Barton, Eli Boggs, Kai Carter-Sullivan, Noah Drews, Jonah Forsythe
Clara's Father	Owen Thorne		
Governess	Colette Tilinski		
Butler	Jackson Bradshaw		
University Chancellor	Noah Miller	Party Girls	Bridget Byrd, Mariana Dominguez, Carly Graham, Eva Pregont, Gwenyth Smith
Chancellor's Wife	Katie Vasilopoulos		
Cuban Ambassador	Aeron Buchanan		
Ambassador's Wife	Sarah Pierce		
Centennial Park Guard	Daniel Rodriguez		
Guard's Wife	Kennedy Brown		
Italian Ballerina Doll	Jamie Kopit		

- The Nutcracker** Noah Miller
- The Mouse King** Jackson Bradshaw
- Large Mice** Truman Lemire, Jaison McClendon
- Medium Mice** Celeste Borman, Kennedy Brown, Imani Sailers, Marissa Stark
- Baby Mice** Evelyn Clark, Emerson Rose Duke, Lily Harwell, Anne Harris Menge, Harper Perry, Laine Sharp
- American Infantry** Aeron Buchanan, Michael Burfield, Daniel Rodriguez, Luca Sportelli

BATTLE SCENE

- Commodore Cavalry** Adri Cottingham, Lennon Elkins, Catherine Graves, Sophia Hill, Amelia Johnson, Ella Wescott
- Frontier Soldiers** Jordan Hamm, Anna Caroline Henry, Eléonore Ness, Margaret Rick, Madilyn Rigsby, Anna Sloan
- Dancing Bear Cavalry** Anneliese Guerin, Lydia McRae, Sarah Pierce, Jasmine Wheeler

SNOW SCENE

- Snow Queen** Katie Vasilopoulos
- Snow King** Owen Thorne
- Snowflakes** Celeste Borman, Kennedy Brown, Alyssa Guerin, Emily Ireland-Buczek, Lydia McRae, Sarah Pierce, Imani Sailers, Marissa Stark, Farin Taft, Colette Tilinski, Jasmine Wheeler, Erin Williams, Autumn Tierney

INTERMISSION

Featuring an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the filming of *Nashville's Nutcracker*.

YOU CAN
GET A
NUTCRACKER
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LIKE CLARA'S!



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Nashville Ballet
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studio essentials
and more!



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ACT II

THE PARTHENON GARDEN

Clara/Dew Drop Fairy Mollie Sansone
Nutcracker Prince Brett Sjoblom
Flower Demi Soloists Colette Tilinski,
Emily Ireland-Buczek

Flower Corps Celeste Borman, Kennedy Brown,
Anneliese Guerin, Lydia McRae,
Marissa Stark, Farin Taft,
Jasmine Wheeler, Erin Williams

Parthenon Court Emily Bolar, Melanie Eilenstein,
Chloe Marias, Kyra Piper, Dargan
Swearingen, Sofia Williams

THE KINGDOM OF THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY

Sugar Plum Fairy Lily Saito
Sugar Plum Cavalier Nicolas Scheuer
Sugar Plum Court Felicia Alva, Emily Bailey, Sophia
Bonacorso, Isabella Davila,
Polina Meyers, Diana Paredes
Spanish Dance Michael Burfield, Sarah Pierce,
Imani Sailers
Chinese Dance Noah Miller
Dragon Bearers James Lankford, Felicia Alva,
Emily Bailey, Sophia Bonacorso,
Isabella Davila, Katherine
Kuckoff, Polina Myers
Snake and Snake Charmer Julia Eisen and Truman Lemire

Russian Dance Luca Sportelli

Russian Nesting Dolls Freya Heard, Lillian Pyatt,
Alyssa Shave, Sophia Shi,
Mackenzie Wade

**Swiss Shepherdess
and Shepherd** Jamie Kopit and
Jaison McClendon

Lambs Bailey Rose Crowwell, Lottie
Heard, Victoria "Winnie" Jones,
Kennedy Lamar, Madeleine
Stillwell, Elizabeth Tongate

Madame Bonbonniere Kennedy Brown

Her Bon Bons Celeste Borman, Anneliese Guerin,
Emily Ireland-Buczek, Marissa
Stark, Farin Taft, Colette Tilinski,
Jasmine Wheeler, Erin Williams

UPCOMING VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE

ATTITUDE

UNDER THE LIGHTS

FEATURING THE
Music of Johnny Cash

MARCH 2021



 NASHVILLE
BALLET
PAUL VASTERLING, Artistic Director

“You’ll walk into the theatre expecting to see a typical ballet show and walk out with an **entirely new perspective** on the art and what exactly can be accomplished with it.”

– *Broadway World*, Cillea Houghton
(for *Under the Lights*)

TICKETS AT [NASHVILLEBALLET.COM/ATTITUDE-2021](https://www.nashvilleballet.com/attitude-2021)

NASHVILLE'S NUTCRACKER
FILM PRODUCTION AND DESIGN

Producer, Camera, Editor **Chad Driver**
Director of Photography **Randy Hale**
Jib Operator **Dan Grimes**
Camera **Weston Hefflin**
Camera, Location Audio **James Southard**
Steadicam **Tim Yoder**
Assistant Camera **CK Cates**
Colorist **Perry Trest**
Producer and Assistant to the Director **Nick Mullikin**
Technical Production Manager **Edward Curington**
Assistant Director and Stage Manager **Deborah Climo**
Rehearsal Directors and
Company Stagers **Jon Upleger,
Allison Zamorski**
Second Company Stager **Kate Crews Linsley**
Youth Cast Stagers **Claire Anderson, Kate
Kastelnik, Kate Crews
Linsley, Shabaz Ujima,
Aven Weikert**
Principal Coach **Anaïs Chalendar**
Youth Cast Coordinator **Bernadette Boggs**
COVID-19 Compliance **Sharyn Mahoney, Timothy
OConnell, Edward Curington**
Graphic Designer **Jenni Ohnstad**
Behind-the-Scenes Camera **Kip Kubin**
Behind-the-Scenes Editor **Teddy Berger**

Under continued consultation with a team of trusted medical advisors, close collaboration with the Metro Nashville Public Health Department, and guidance from the CDC and Tennessee Department of Health, Nashville Ballet instituted numerous policies to ensure filming for this production was completed in the safest way possible. For more information on Nashville Ballet's ongoing COVID-19 health and safety regulations, visit nashvilleballet.com/reopening-and-safety-protocols/.

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Drosselmeyer's Magic Consultation by Drew Thomas Productions, Inc.



Virtual Training Series

AGES 8–18

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NASHVILLE
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Act I

During the autumn of 1897, Clara Stahlbaum and her favorite Uncle Drosselmeyer visit the Tennessee Centennial Exposition at the Parthenon. Clara is entranced by the magic of the fair and inspired by the many cultures she encounters there. Drosselmeyer, who is a magician, entertains Clara with tricks. He presents her with a beautiful Nutcracker from a German toymaker, but then makes it disappear! Two months later, several families pass through Shelby Bottoms on their way to a holiday party at the Stahlbaums' home. The area has frozen over and ice skaters move gracefully (and not so gracefully) across the ice. Drosselmeyer appears carrying many gifts for Clara and the other children at the party. His handsome young assistant, who is visiting for the holidays, assists him. At the Stahlbaum home, Clara and her brother, Fritz, eagerly wait outside the parlor door for their first view of the beautifully lit Christmas tree. Just before their governess opens the door to let them in, Fritz surprises Clara with a mouse! Guests arrive at the party, give gifts, and dance to celebrate the holiday season. When Drosselmeyer and his assistant arrive, Drosselmeyer performs his magic tricks and presents his life-sized dolls for the guests. Drosselmeyer saves the best gift of all for Clara—the Nutcracker doll that she saw at the Centennial Exposition! In a jealous fit, Fritz grabs the Nutcracker and breaks it, but Drosselmeyer uses his magic to repair the Nutcracker. After an evening of holiday festivities, the

guests bid farewell and the Stahlbaums go to bed, leaving the Nutcracker by the fireplace. The Stahlbaum parlor is dim and quiet. The peace is suddenly disturbed by several baby mice, followed by medium mice, and large mice. Clara gets out of bed and goes downstairs looking for her new gift. She takes the Nutcracker to the couch and falls asleep. She is startled awake by the Mouse King, who steals the Nutcracker from her. Drosselmeyer appears and Clara tearfully explains to him what happened. Drosselmeyer reassures her and begins to perform his magic. Suddenly the parlor disappears, and the Christmas tree begins to grow. The Nutcracker appears and he, too, has grown! His army of frontiersmen, cavalry, and toy soldiers fight a fierce battle against the mice while the Nutcracker duels with the Mouse King. Just as it appears the Mouse King will get the better of the Nutcracker, Clara distracts him by hitting him with her shoe. Thanks to her help, the Nutcracker is able to win the battle! Frightened by Drosselmeyer's powers, the mice scurry away and the Nutcracker reappears as a handsome prince. Clara, The Nutcracker Prince, and Drosselmeyer journey through the snow filled night to the Kingdom of the Sugar Plum Fairy. As they travel through the sparkling snow, they come upon the Snow Queen and King. Beautiful snowflakes dance around the forest until the Snow Queen and King send Clara and the Prince onto their next adventure.

INTERMISSION

Act II

On their journey, Clara and the Nutcracker Prince stop in the Parthenon Garden, where they encounter beautiful dancing flowers. Clara, using magic Drosselmeyer taught her during the journey, transforms herself into a beautiful Dew Drop Fairy and she and the Nutcracker Prince, along with the flowers, dance a beautiful waltz. After leaving the Parthenon Garden, Clara and the Nutcracker Prince arrive in a land of magic, the Kingdom of the Sugar Plum Fairy. The Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier welcome Clara and introduce visitors from other lands, who look like those Clara saw at the Centennial Exposition. The Spanish, Chinese, Persian, and Russian visitors each greet Clara with a dance. She also meets a Shepherdess and Shepherd, as well as Madame Bonbonniere and her colorful bon bons. The Sugar Plum Fairy and the Cavalier dance for Clara, who then boards a magical flower carriage for her trip home. Drosselmeyer appears and transforms the Nutcracker Prince back into the Nutcracker doll and places the doll into Clara's arms. As the curtain falls, the magical flower carriage is transformed, and Clara is fast asleep on the couch in her parlor.

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WITH NASHVILLE BALLET



Did you know you could join Nashville Ballet
for virtual story time learning?

COMING IN SPRING 2021

A Midsummer
Midsummer
Night's Dream

Perfect for children ages 3–6.

NASHVILLE
BALLET
PAUL VASTERLING, Artistic Director

MORE INFORMATION AT
nashvilleballet.com/story-time-with-nashville-ballet

NASHVILLE BALLET LEADERSHIP, ARTISTIC STAFF, AND GUESTS

PAUL VASTERLING, Artistic Director

Paul Vasterling's artistic career began at age 10 when he started studying piano, then expanded at age 16 when he started dancing. From this start, Mr. Vasterling landed at Nashville Ballet where he became a company dancer, teacher, ballet master, and choreographer. He stepped into the role of Artistic Director of Nashville Ballet in 1998, 10 years after he began his association with the organization. A choreographer with a deep affinity for music, Mr. Vasterling has created over 40 works, ranging from classical, full-length story ballets to contemporary one-acts. With a special focus on highlighting the wealth of artistry and rich history of Nashville, Mr. Vasterling's connection to music and passion for community have led to collaborations with numerous nationally and internationally renowned musicians and institutions, including The Bluebird Cafe, Ben Folds, Rhiannon Giddens, and more; Nashville Ballet has commissioned 22 original scores for brand-new ballets under his direction. Mr. Vasterling is also a gifted storyteller with a penchant for creating vivid narratives such as *Peter Pan*, *Layla and the Majnun*, *Lizzie Borden*, *Cinderella*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Nashville's favorite holiday tradition, *Nashville's Nutcracker*. Mr. Vasterling's choreographic credits extend beyond ballet to the recent Nashville Children's Theatre production *Dragons Love Tacos*. Beyond his own choreography, Mr. Vasterling has expanded the company's repertoire to include works by Salvatore Aiello, George Balanchine, James Canfield, Lew Christensen, Jirí Kylián, Twyla Tharp, and Christopher Wheeldon, among many others. He has also edited and updated the classic productions *Giselle*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and *Swan Lake*, and has grown the company from a troupe of 12 to 25 professional dancers. With a commitment to cultivating an organization high on artistry and dramatic power, Mr. Vasterling has taken Nashville Ballet across the country and beyond—Nashville Ballet's company made its Kennedy Center debut in 2017 and has toured throughout the U.S., including performances in St. Louis, Charleston, and a debut at the Chautauqua Institution in August 2018. The

company has also toured internationally in South America and Europe, and many of Mr. Vasterling's original works have been staged by companies nationally and internationally. Mr. Vasterling graduated Magna Cum Laude from Loyola University. He is a Fulbright Scholar and has been awarded many prestigious fellowships—Mr. Vasterling is a Virginia Center for the Creative Arts Fellow and was selected as one of the Fellows in residence for the 2017-2018 academic year at The Center for Ballet and the Arts at New York University.

LISA DIXON FRENCH, Executive Director

Lisa Dixon French moved to Nashville following a successful tenure as Executive Director of the Portland (Maine) Symphony Orchestra. While in Portland, Mrs. French led a highly inclusive strategic planning process that focused the organization on service to the community by enriching lives through music. Mrs. French also strengthened the orchestra's financial stability, with increased contributed and earned income, increased endowment funds, and five years of balanced operating budgets that grew from \$2.5 million to \$3.3 million from 2010–2015. Originally from Edina, Minnesota, Mrs. French went to Portland from her role as the Chief Operating Officer of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. Mrs. French is also a graduate of an executive level orchestra leadership program through the League of American Orchestras. This intensive one-year fellowship program included residencies with the Boston Symphony, North Carolina Symphony, Memphis Symphony, and the Aspen Music Festival and School. Mrs. French graduated from the Eastman School of Music (Rochester, N.Y.) in clarinet performance and music education, and received an Arts Leadership Program Certificate. She currently serves on the Board of the Nashville Arts Coalition and has previously served on the Board of the Maine Association of Nonprofits and the Board of Visitors for the University of Southern Maine. Mrs. French completed her Executive MBA at Vanderbilt's Owen Graduate School of Management in spring of 2020.

NASHVILLE BALLET LEADERSHIP, ARTISTIC STAFF, AND GUESTS

NICK MULLIKIN, Associate Artistic Director

Nick Mullikin began his training at the Wisconsin Dance Ensemble in Madison, Wisconsin under the direction of JoJean Retrum. He continued at the Virginia School of the Arts, and Houston Ballet Academy, training with Petrus Bosman, David Keener, Steve Brule, Clara Cravey, and Claudio Munoz. Upon his completion of training with Houston Ballet Academy, he was invited to join Houston Ballet with Artistic Director Ben Stevenson and subsequently joined Ballet West under the direction of Jonas Kage. During that time, he performed works by William Forsythe, George Balanchine, Ben Stevenson, Anthony Tudor, Bruce Marks, David Parsons, Ronald Hynd, Dominic Walsh, Timothy O'Keefe, Glen Tetley, and Trey McIntyre. He has toured nationally and internationally, including at the Edinburgh International Festival in 2004, as well as performing as a guest artist for Ballet Arizona and regional companies throughout the country. During his time at Ballet West, as an artist, he was an elected union representative for the American Guild of Musical Artists before joining the administrative staff as the Company/Tour Manager and Assistant to the Artistic Director in 2006. In addition to handling all collective bargaining and regional touring for the company, he oversaw and managed the company's return to the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. as part of the inaugural Ballet Across America series. Since that time, he has worked as Company Manager for The Washington Ballet and as Assistant Manager at the Dance Institute in Austin, Texas. Mr. Mullikin has guest taught at summer programs and schools across the country, coached students for competition at the Youth America Grand Prix, taught in after school programs in the Washington, D.C. area, and consulted on the creation and setup of Honolulu Classical Ballet in Honolulu, Hawaii. Currently, in addition to his responsibilities at Nashville Ballet, he acts as a consultant to the Kansas City Dance Festival.

SHARYN MAHONEY, Company Manager

Sharyn Mahoney joined Nashville Ballet as a company dancer in 1989. Since her retirement from performing, she has continued to work with the organization as School of Nashville Ballet faculty, Artistic Associate, Director of Education and Outreach, Ballet Master, and currently, Company Manager. During her nine years as Director of Education and Outreach, Ms. Mahoney worked closely with Artistic Director Paul Vasterling to develop and fine tune NB2, Nashville Ballet's official second company. While in that same position, she initiated the ballet's educational outreach program, which proudly reaches 40,000 children and families each year. Appointed to Ballet Master in 1998, Ms. Mahoney returned to the studio full time to lend her talents to staging and rehearsing the Company's ballets. She continues to oversee the dancers of NB2's Performance Division and all Nashville Ballet youth casts. In 2010 Mr. Vasterling charged her with creating a program that concentrated on strengthening and preparing dancers over 18 for a professional career. The Training Division of NB2 was launched in the fall of 2010 with the focus of giving dancers the tools to become healthier and stronger artists. As Company Manager, she works closely with Mr. Vasterling to supervise the company's artistic endeavors and conducts auditions and guest teaching across the country. She has also staged Mr. Vasterling's ballets on other companies in the United States and Argentina. Ms. Mahoney has previously served on the board of Book 'Em, a children's literacy organization, and she continues to adjudicate dance grants for the Tennessee Arts Commission.

NASHVILLE BALLET LEADERSHIP, ARTISTIC STAFF, AND GUESTS

JON UPLEGER, Rehearsal Director

Jon Upleger began his formal training in 1997 under the direction of Petrus Bosman and David Keener at the Virginia School of the Arts. Upon graduation, he received the school's prestigious Dean's Award and then joined Nashville Ballet as an apprentice in 2000. During his time at Nashville Ballet, Mr. Upleger has performed roles from such varied repertoire as Romeo in Nashville Ballet Artistic Director Paul Vasterling's *Romeo and Juliet*, the Sugar Plum Cavalier in *Nashville's Nutcracker*, Prince Siegfried in *Swan Lake*, and Albrecht in *Giselle*. Other leading roles include Salvatore Aiello's *Satto*, Sarah Slipper's *Ploughing the Dark*, Twyla Tharp's *Sinatra Suite*, and Paul Vasterling's *Awaiting Redemption*, *Firebird*, *Cinderella*, *Carmina Burana*, *Peter Pan*, and *The Ben Folds Project: Concerto*. In addition to performing with Nashville Ballet's Company, Mr. Upleger has performed with Configurations Dance Theater in New York, Missouri Ballet Theater, and Terpsicorps Theater of Dance in Asheville, N.C. He also teaches men's class and pas de deux to students from across the country at School of Nashville Ballet's Summer Intensive. Mr. Upleger helped create Nashville Ballet's new Young Men's Scholarship Program, which provides tuition-free ballet training for males age 6–18, and serves as a principal instructor.

ALLISON ZAMORSKI, Rehearsal Director

Originally from Virginia, Allison Zamorski began her formal dance training with the Virginia Ballet Theatre. She was an honors graduate from the Virginia Governor's School for the Arts High School Dance Program, majoring in both ballet and modern dance. In 1999, after being awarded a scholarship with School of Nashville Ballet, Ms. Zamorski relocated to Nashville to train under the direction of Adam Sage. She danced in NB2, Nashville Ballet's second company, developing her skills as an apprentice, and was promoted to full company member in 2002 under Artistic Director Paul Vasterling. Ms. Zamorski danced professionally with Nashville Ballet for four years and had multiple ballets set on her, including Vasterling's *Cinderella*, *Romeo and Juliet*,

Giselle, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and *Swan Lake*. After retiring as a dancer in 2006, Ms. Zamorski continued her expression of dance as a faculty member with School of Nashville Ballet, teaching a variety of dance classes to children and adults including ballet, pointe, modern, character, improvisation, and repertory. She has worked extensively with the Community Engagement program, exposing approximately 35,000 Middle Tennessee residents to the art of dance. Now, as Ballet Master with Nashville Ballet, Ms. Zamorski assists in the staging and rehearsals of various main Company performances. She also oversees all NB2 performances, rehearsals, and schedules, as well as youth casts in Nashville Ballet productions. Also, Ms. Zamorski has the distinct honor of being entrusted to set the works of Paul Vasterling in Nashville and throughout the country.

SCOTT LEATHERS, Resident Lighting Designer

Scott Leathers has served as the Resident Lighting Designer for Nashville Ballet since 1987. He has also served as the Resident Lighting Designer for Nashville Children's Theatre since 2003, Kentucky Repertory Theatre ('04–'08), Chattanooga Symphony and Opera, and Ballet Tennessee. He periodically serves as interim Lighting Director for the Ryman Auditorium. Mr. Leathers has designed lighting for theatre, opera, ballet, and modern dance since 1981 to critical acclaim. His design experience includes work with the Nashville Repertory Theatre, Opera Omaha, Studio West Dance Theatre, Milwaukee Ballet, Theatre Craft, Stage One, American Negro Playwrights Theatre, Amun Ra Theatre, Musical Theatre Louisville, Karen Steele Dance Quintet, Ballet Omaha, Ballet Austin, Cumberland County Playhouse, and Dollywood. He has also worked internationally with performing arts organizations such as Tanz Ensemble Cathy Sharp (TECS-Switzerland) and Ballet Manila (Philippines). He has also designed scenery for numerous productions including Nashville Ballet's productions of *Robin Hood*, *Postcards from the Boys*, *The Bell Witch*, *Harvest Home*, *Western Stars*, and *Fête Champêtre*.

NASHVILLE BALLET LEADERSHIP, ARTISTIC STAFF, AND GUESTS

EDDIE GEORGE, Narrator

Known as one of the NFL's premier running backs, Eddie spent 9 years in the National Football League where he won Offensive Rookie of the Year and led the Tennessee Titans to the Super Bowl in 2000. Eddie attended The Ohio State University where he won the Heisman Trophy, Doak Walker Award, and Maxwell Award. In 2005, Eddie hung up the football cleats and joined Fox Sports as a broadcast analyst for NFL pre-game and college football. Over the years, Eddie was working on his acting skills. In 2012, he starred as Julius Caesar (Nashville Shakespeare Festival), in 2013 as Othello (Nashville Shakespeare Festival), in 2015 as Simon in *The Whipping Man* (Nashville Repertory Theatre), and in 2016 as Billy Flynn in *Chicago* (Broadway Debut). Eddie is married to Tamara "Taj" Johnson-George, a Grammy-nominated singer with the soul group SWV ("Sisters With Voices") which sold more than six million records. Taj was also featured on the *Survivor* television show in 2009 and voted one of the fan favorites. Eddie also made a guest appearance on *Survivor*. Eddie is blessed to join the 2020 production of Nashville Ballet's *Nashville's Nutcracker*.

CAMPBELL BAIRD, Costume Designer

Campbell Baird designed costumes for Nashville Ballet's productions of *Nashville's Nutcracker* and scenery and costumes for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Peter Pan*, all choreographed by Paul Vasterling. He has designed for dance companies around the world, including Oregon Ballet Theatre, Texas Ballet Theatre and Joffrey Ballet (resident designer for eight years in New York City). He designs

for musical theatre, opera and drama, including recent productions of *Happy Birthday for TACT* in New York and *The Music Man* and *Crazy For You* at Muhlenberg Summer Music Theatre. He was principal design assistant to Oliver Smith, a co-director of American Ballet Theatre for 11 years, supervising productions around the world. For 15 years, he was a scenic artist for the Metropolitan Opera in New York. He is currently an Associate Arts Professor at NYU Tisch School of the Arts, teaching there since 1991. Originally from Wilmington, N.C., he now lives with his partner John McKernon and their Pembroke Welsh corgis in Phillipsburg, N.J. and New York City.

SHIGERU YAJI, Scenery Designer

A freelance costume and scenic designer for over 30 years, Shigeru Yaji has created costume designs for more than 150 productions in regional theatres, ballet and entertainment fields across the nation and overseas. His recent work includes projects at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Getty Villa, the Lincoln Center Theatre, Yale Repertory Theatre, South Coast Repertory and at the San Jose Repertory Theatre. He has also worked as a consulting costume designer for such companies as Tokyo DisneySea in Japan, Disneyland, DreamWorks Animation, Universal Studios Tour and Spectra F/X. Mr. Yaji is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, including seven Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards and a Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award. He also received an Emmy Award nomination for the A&E Broadcasting of the Broadway/national tour production of *Peter Pan* starring Cathy Rigby.

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Nashville Ballet, Tennessee's largest professional ballet company, is accepting auditions for Summer Intensive 2021. Middle Tennessee pre-professional dancers have the unique opportunity to train with Nashville Ballet Artistic Director Paul Vasterling and world-class instructors right from their own backyards.

Use promo code MUSICCITY for an exclusive \$15 off your audition video. Visit nashvilleballet.com/siinfo for more details.

SCHOOL OF

NASHVILLE
BALLET

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NASHVILLE BALLET 2020-2021 COMPANY ARTISTS



JACKSON BRADSHAW

From Los Angeles, California
With Nashville Ballet since 2017

Training and Education

Boston Ballet Pre-Professional Program,
Colburn Dance Academy

Previously

Boston Ballet Trainee



KENNEDY BROWN

From Chesterton, Indiana
With Nashville Ballet since 2017

Training and Education

Eclipse Performing Arts, Phoenix Ballet, A&A
Ballet

Previously

NB2



MICHAEL BURFIELD

From Lubbock, Texas
With Nashville Ballet since 2018

Training and Education

Lone Star Ballet, Ballet Lubbock, Pacific
Northwest Ballet, Ballet Austin II

Previously

Ballet Austin, Sarasota Ballet



JULIA EISEN

From Chapel Hill, North Carolina
With Nashville Ballet since 2010

Training and Education

The Ballet School of Chapel Hill, North
Carolina School of the Arts, Richmond Ballet,
Terpsicorps Theatre of Dance, National
Choreographer's Initiative

Previously

NB2



JAMIE KOPIT

From Huntington Beach, California
With Nashville Ballet since 2018

Training and Education

Southland Ballet Academy, The Royal Ballet
Upper School

Previously

American Ballet Theatre



TRUMAN LEMIRE

From Huntsville, Alabama
With Nashville Ballet since 2019

Training and Education

Huntsville Ballet Company, Ballet Austin, School
of American Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet,
Paris Opera Ballet, Forsythe/Pite at Orsolina 28

Previously

Nashville Ballet Apprentice

NASHVILLE BALLET 2020-2021 COMPANY ARTISTS



LYDIA MCRAE

From Kernersville, North Carolina
With Nashville Ballet since 2019

Training and Education

North Carolina School of the Arts, Richmond Ballet, Complexions Contemporary Ballet

Previously

Richmond Ballet, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Greensboro Ballet, Oakland Ballet, Ballet Memphis



SARAH PIERCE

From Cambridge, Massachusetts
With Nashville Ballet since 2016

Training and Education

Boston Ballet Pre-Professional Program, School of American Ballet, Chautauqua School of Dance

Previously

NB2



DANIEL RODRIGUEZ

From New York, New York
With Nashville Ballet since 2019

Training and Education

Manhattan Youth Ballet, Laguardia High School of Music and Art & Performing Arts

Previously

Charlotte Ballet, Sarasota Ballet, Dayton Ballet, Kansas City Ballet



IMANI SAILERS

From Chicago, Illinois
With Nashville Ballet since 2017

Training and Education

Chicago Multi-Cultural Dance Center, Indiana University Jacobs School of Music

Previously

NB2



LILY SAITO

From New York, New York
With Nashville Ballet since 2018

Training and Education

School of American Ballet, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School, Ellison Ballet, Washington Ballet

Previously

American Repertory Ballet



MOLLIE SANSONE

From Jacksonville, North Carolina
With Nashville Ballet since 2004

Training and Education

The Joffrey Midwest Workshop, the Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory, Atlanta Ballet

Also With Piedmont Dance Theater, Quixotic Fusion and MOTION Dance + Theater

Previously

NB2

NASHVILLE BALLET 2020-2021 COMPANY ARTISTS



NICOLAS SCHEUER

From Joinville, Brazil
With Nashville Ballet since 2012

Training and Education

Bolshoi Theatre School of Brazil, Boston Ballet School, New English Ballet Theatre London

Competitor in

2016 Varna International Ballet Competition

Previously

Nashville Ballet Apprentice



BRETT SJOBLUM

From Columbia, Missouri
With Nashville Ballet since 2012

Training and Education

Columbia Performing Arts Center, Virginia School of the Arts, The Boston Conservatory

Previously

NB2



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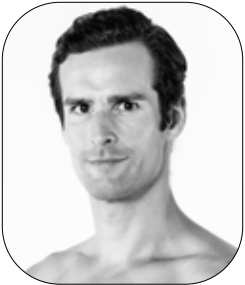
From Noci (BARI), Italy
With Nashville Ballet since 2018

Training and Education

San Carlo Theater Ballet School, San Francisco Ballet School

Previously

Columbia Classical Ballet



OWEN THORNE

From New Orleans, Louisiana
With Nashville Ballet since 2018

Training and Education

School of Nashville Ballet, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, San Francisco Ballet

Previously

Houston Ballet, Scottish Ballet, Joburg Ballet, Royal Opera, DeNada Dance, Boca Ballet Theatre, The Peter Schaufuss Company, Antonia Franceschi Dance, Nashville Ballet as a Guest Artist



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From Atlanta, Georgia
With Nashville Ballet since 2017

Training and Education

Metropolitan Ballet Theatre

Previously

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KATIE VASILOPOULOS

From Rockville Centre, New York
With Nashville Ballet since 2008

Training and Education

Maple Avenue Dance in Rockville Centre, Ballet Academy East

Previously

NB2

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AERON BUCHANAN

From Hyattsville, Maryland
With Nashville Ballet since 2020

Training and Education

Maryland Youth Ballet, The Washington Ballet, Baltimore School for the Arts, Boston Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet II



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From Los Angeles, California
With Nashville Ballet since 2017

Training and Education

The School of American Ballet, NB2



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Training and Education

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With Nashville Ballet since 2018

Training and Education

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From Chicago, Illinois
With Nashville Ballet since 2020

Training and Education

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From Franklin, Tennessee
With Nashville Ballet since 2017

Training and Education

School of Nashville Ballet

Previously

NB2

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