

IDAHO *Ballet* THEATRE

PRESENTS THE

Nutcracker

ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

JONI MCDONALD, JENN TEUSCHER & ABBEY LASLEY





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IDAHO BALLET THEATRE

PRESENTS

THE NUTCRACKER



ARTISTIC DIRECTORS | **ABBEY LASLEY , JONI MCDONALD &
JENNIFER TEUSCHER**

CHOREOGRAPHY | **BRANDY JENSEN, ABBEY LASLEY,
JENNIFER TEUSCHER, JONI MCDONALD**

COMPOSER | **PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY**

COSTUMES | **KIMBERLY KERSH, HOLLIE CARTER,
HILLARY ROWE**

SET CONSTRUCTION | **STUART JENSEN**

COLONIAL THEATRE CREW

STAGE MANAGER | **TESHA HIGBEE**

RAIL | **BRAD HIGBEE**

LIGHTS | **ERIC RADEN**

SOUND | **JOSH FLORES**

VIDEO | **JOSH FLORES**

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THE STORY BEHIND THE MUSIC

The Nutcracker was first staged at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg in 1892, during the golden age of Imperial Russian ballet, by the legendary creative team of ballet masters Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov and composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, twelve years after Petipa and Tchaikovsky combined to create *The Sleeping Beauty*, and three years before they and Ivanov produced the crowning achievement of the Romantic age, the 1895 *Swan Lake*.¹ The tsar provided ample funding for the theater and regularly graced the royal box. Theater directors produced sumptuous ballets and operas reflecting the splendor of the tsar's world, and ballet stars from Russia and all over Europe enjoyed extended stays at the Mariinsky, almost royalty themselves.

The subject matter for *The Nutcracker* was adapted from an E.T.A. Hoffmann short story, "The Nutcracker and the Mouse Prince," although what finally appears on stage bears little resemblance to the source material. After Petipa had finished the libretto, Tchaikovsky was engaged to create the score. Petipa provided a detailed set of instructions outlining what was needed for each scene ("The stage is empty. 8 bars of mysterious and tender music"). At the time, ballet composers often would write music to specification, but few would produce work as sophisticated as Tchaikovsky's. "From a sentence like, "The Christmas tree becomes huge. 48 bars of fantastic music with a grandiose crescendo," came a musical passage that sends shivers up the spine and suggests that paradise actually exists somewhere."²

At the outset, the composer was less than thrilled with his commission. He wasn't inspired by the libretto, and was engrossed in his operatic work, some of which had not been well received. As he began working on the second act, he prepared to embark on an exhausting American tour. At this time, he received news of the death of his beloved sister Sasha. He wrote to his brother after learning the news, "Today, even more than yesterday, I feel the absolute impossibility of depicting in music the Sugar-plum fairy." He was also noticing the effects of his advancing age, and worried that, "the old fellow" was "growing less capable of accomplishing anything."

Once he did manage to compose, Tchaikovsky's deeply felt emotions seem to have found their way into parts of the score. "While he was still mourning for his sister, for instance, he continued work on the second act, which might explain why at the end of what has always been called a decorative children's ballet, there is the death-defyingly serious adagio music of the grand pas de deux. Musicologist Roland John Wiley has suggested that Tchaikovsky actually left a coded message in the rhythm of the adagio's principal melody, a descending scale of notes that is repeated "with prayer-like insistence." The phrase bears a close rhythmical resemblance to a line in the Russian Orthodox funeral service (which translates, "And with the saints give rest").³

In December 1944, the San Francisco Ballet produced the first ever full-length *Nutcracker* in America. The director, Mr. William Christensen, secured a copy of the full score through the Library of Congress, and asked one of his dancers to design the costumes. Being wartime, the dancers and their mothers sewed their costumes themselves from fabric the director provided. For the staging and choreography, Christensen drew on the memories of George Balanchine and Alexandra Danilova, who were passing through San Francisco on a tour with the Ballets Russes de Monte Carlo to perform at the Opera House. Christensen quickly arranged a meeting with them at his apartment, knowing both of them had danced in the

¹ George Balanchine and Francis Mason, *101 Stories of the Great Ballets*, Anchor Books 1954

² Jennifer Fisher, *Nutcracker Nation*, Yale University Press, 2003

³ *Nutcracker Nation*

Mariinski Theater productions of The Nutcracker in St. Petersburg. Danilova kicked off her shoes and began dancing every female variation from Clara to the Sugar Plum Fairy for Christensen, but Balanchine stopped her. "No, no Choura, don't show him the steps, let Mr. Christensen do his own choreography!" The production turned out to be an astounding success, and has been performed by the company every Christmas (before COVID) except one.

Willam Christensen moved with his family back to his home state of Utah in 1952, where he would co-found Ballet West. He was affectionately known as "Mr. C" to the thousands of dancers whose lives he touched, including Brandy, who remembers him as a kind and enthusiastic teacher. He had started what he called an "epidemic of Nutcrackers" throughout North America. Former Ballet West Artistic Director Sir John Hart noted that the Nutcracker was a production Christensen himself had never seen. "What I think Mr. C did was to listen to the music, was to see the story from within, through the eyes of a child who had gentle, loving parents." One of Mr. C's principal dancers at Ballet West was Jacqueline Price Colledge, who later founded the Utah Regional Ballet, where Brandy had moved during high school to become a company member. The Nutcracker performed by Idaho Ballet Theatre owes its existence to the great legacy carried on by Ms. Colledge.

I first saw The Nutcracker in a performance by the Pajarito Regional Ballet in Santa Fe, NM, during December of 1986. I went because Brandy was performing and I suddenly had an interest in ballet. It was not nearly the scale and quality of production that Brandy delivers here, but it was nonetheless a transformative experience for me. Due to life, I was absent from ballet performances for the next several years. During years at BYU with Brandy performing, I attended countless Nutcracker performances by Utah Regional Ballet. They were grand and brilliant. They also tended to coincide with the exhaustion of finals. The repetition became a sort of meditation. I would often find myself in a trancelike state, lost in Tchaikovsky's music and Jacqui's splendor, with my subconscious noodling over what it could all be about. I eventually had my epiphany, and it revealed more meaning than I had ever imagined. I invite you to find yours.

Merry Christmas,
Stuart Jensen



THE NUTCRACKER STORY

PRELUDE

Drosselmeyer hurries to go to his relatives, the Stahlbaums', Christmas Party. The Stahlbaum family is excitedly preparing for their Christmas party.

ACT I, SCENE I: THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

The story takes place in Nuremberg, Germany in 1850. The Stahlbaum family is hosting a Christmas party. Clara's godfather, Herr Drosselmeyer, once again delights the guests and family with wondrous toys, including a life-sized animated doll & soldier. He also brought a special gift just for Clara; The Nutcracker doll. As all of the guests are leaving, Clara and her brother Fritz are sent upstairs to bed. Clara is too excited to sleep. She goes back downstairs to admire her Nutcracker doll.



ACT I, SCENE 2: THE BATTLE SCENE

All the mice have been anxiously awaiting this chance to see what the guests left behind. The little Mice devise a plan to steal the presents. The operation is nearly completed successfully, when the clock strikes 12:00 midnight. Drosselmeyer's spell causes everything to grow to gigantic proportions. The Nutcracker now grows into a life size Nutcracker soldier and rallies his squad to fend off the mice. Clara awakens to the ensuing battle. When the Nutcracker is about to be defeated, she vanquishes the Queen Rat with a well-placed ballet slipper.

ACT I: THE LAND OF THE SNOW

Clara's Nutcracker transforms into a handsome prince, thanking Clara for saving his life and offering to take her to his magical kingdom. Clara and her Prince travel through the land of the Snow, where they are dazzled by the brilliance of the Snow Queen, Snow King and Snowflakes.



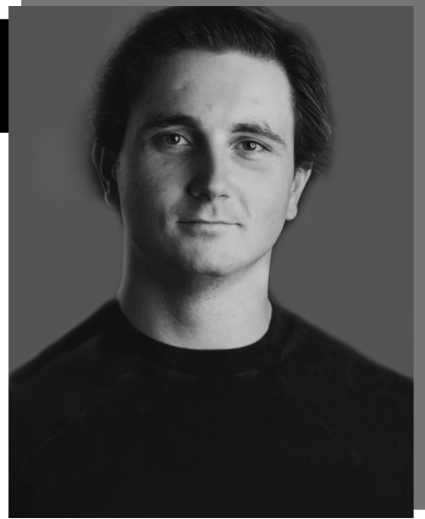
ACT II: THE KINGDOM OF THE SWEETS

Upon their arrival at the Kingdom of the Sweets, Clara and her Prince are welcomed by the Sugar Plum Fairy. They enjoy performances represented by the many wonders of the kingdom. Each showcasing dances with cultural flair, the performers, Spanish Chocolate, Arabian Coffee, French Marzipan, Russian Troika's, playful Chinese Tea, the famous Madame Ginger and her darling little mademoiselles, followed by the Rose Queen & King with their Flowers dance a waltz for Clara. The Sugar Plum Fairy and the Cavalier honor Clara with a grand pas de deux. The entire court joins in the finale. Clara knows she must return to her home & family, but she will always take with her the magic of this evening.

GUEST *artists*

NIC GILI

Nic Gili began his dance training in his mother's studio, Studio One in Idaho Falls. At the age of 17, he began training at the Kirov Academy and also trained at Ballet West and Boston Ballet, both for their summer intensive programs. Nic's professional experience includes solo and principal roles with Teatrul de Bales Sibiu in Romania for two seasons, from 2011 until 2013, New Jersey Ballet from 2013-2015. Most recently Nic danced professionally with Ballet Idaho, and he frequently performs as a guest artist throughout the Northwest. Nic's repertoire includes several roles in The Nutcracker, Tybalt in Romeo and Juliet, Esmerelda Pas de Deux and Pas de Dix, and Trilogy.



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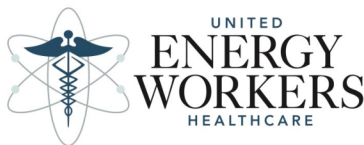


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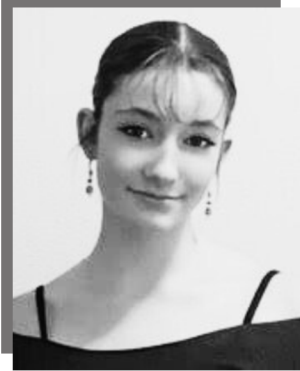
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IBT STUDENT *performers*



LILLY DRYSDALE

Lillian Drysdale, a senior at Idaho Falls High School, Has been a dancer for 15 years. She has had the opportunity to perform in numerous Ballets such as; Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella, Alice in Wonderland, Midsummers Nights Dream, Swan Lake, and more, But truly fell in love with ballet through the timeless classic The Nutcracker. After high school Lilly hopes to Attend USMA West Point and continue her career as an Officer in the US Armed Forces. Ballet will always hold a special place in her heart and she is grateful to be sharing her last performance on stage with you all.

XANDER GRGICH

Xander Grgich is a sophomore at Rigby High School. He took his first ballet class at age seven as a soccer player building strength and coordination. He has since focused solely on ballet and devotes 6 days a week to class. Xander has attended the Ballet West summer intensive program several times. He enjoys performing on stage and has had many roles in Nutcracker and IBT's spring performances.



EMERY MONSON

Emery, age 14, has been dancing with Idaho Ballet Theatre for 7 years. She fell in love with ballet when she saw the Sugarplum Fairy. Some of the favorite roles she has performed are: Clara; Little Red Riding Hood; and both the Snow Queen, and the Rose Queen. She is excited to be the Snow Queen again this year. In the future she dreams of dancing with a professional company. Emery is particularly grateful for the influence Brandy had on her. She misses her, but is grateful for the amazing teachers at Idaho Ballet Theatre that have kept the studio open.

AUTUMN DANIELS

As a little girl she watched her first Nutcracker being performed and was entranced watching the Sugar Plum Fairy. Autumn was inspired to perform that role on stage one day, and shortly thereafter she started ballet at the age of five. Ten years later, she is still as passionate as the first day when Brandy - to whom Autumn credits her success - welcomed her to IBT. She is excited to continue dancing and learning from Abbey, Joni, and Jenn. Autumn's favorite roles have been Swanhilda, Arabian Soloist, Snow Corps, and Waltz Queen.



KATELYNN TAYLOR

Katelynn Taylor is a senior at Firth High School. She has been dancing for 15 years. She has been with Idaho Ballet Theatre since she was 9, and is going to miss performing with them. Katelynn is going to graduate with an Associates Degree from CEI and attend BYU-I in the fall. After getting her Bachelors Degree in Nursing, Katelynn plans to go to Utah State to get a Masters Degree as a NICU Nurse Practitioner. That's when she'll meet her hot hubby, get married, and have four perfect children. Katelynn is going to miss ballet but is grateful for everything that ballet has given her.



THE NUTCRACKER CAST

ACT ONE - PARTY SCENE

Drosselmeyer	Nic Gili
Hostess	Bella Horsburgh
Dr. Staulbaum	Joseph Raymant
Parents	Lilly Drysdale, Isabel Scheunemann, Katelynn Taylor, Ava Carter, Kate Bentley, Audrey Ziel, Xander Grgich, Tiler Shelly, Tayson Jones, John Scheunemann, Jack Boyer, Mitchell Syphus
Clara	Miriam Currie (TH, S) , Victoria Parker (F)
Fritz	Asher Harris
Party Girls	Morgan Anderson, Lucy Shelly, Imagine Jensen, Rowe Salveson, Holly Stavynskyy, Lydia Chunn (TH, S) Ashley Driscoll, Lucy Traynor, Kennedy Jensen, Jadee Mercado, Faith Bray, Isabella Curtis (F)
Party Boys	Ashley Driscoll, Lucy Traynor, Kennedy Jensen, Jadee Mercado, Faith Bray, Isabella Curtis (TH, S) Morgan Anderson, Lucy Shelly, Imagine Jensen, Rowe Salvesen, Holly Stavynskyy, Lydia Chunn (F)
Little Party Girls	Olivia Aston, Klaire Cao, Hailey Jin, Kathleen McGrath, Kezlynn Taylor
Maids	Lisa Slater, Audrey Jensen
Little Maid	Brooklyn Mickelsen
Nephew	Ethan Jenkins
Doll	Sophia Carter (TH, S) Aleah Parker (F)
Toy Soldier	Leah Smith (TH, S) Madelyn Wilcox (F)

ACT ONE - BATTLE SCENE

Little Mice:	Lily	Adaleigh Carroll, Emma Estrada, Vibiana Martinez, Isabella Whipple (F) Colette Keister-Sacco, Lorraine Shelly, Aubrey Villa (Th, S)
	Lilac	Adeline Anderson, Sloane Bailey, Indie Curtis, Harriet Davis, Emily Hall, Laura Hall, Gid Irwin, Elizabeth Kersh, Selena Saldate, Lizzy Shisso-Evans, Freya Zhao (F) Indie Curtis, Bristol Grimes, Eden Hanks, Mercy Hanks, Charlotte Kerr, Elizabeth Kersh, Kamilla Leon, Freya Hard, Kaidence Motloch, Anaiah Scott, Chelsea Wu (Th, S)
	Daisy	Eliana Chavez, Vera Cook, Annabelle Core, Sophie Erickson, Mia Estrada, Emery Jensen, Indie McDonald (F) Sidon Baxter, Vera Cook, Pemberly Grimes, Holland Kammeraad, Eliza Kezele, Adelynn Lee, Indie McDonald, Alice Perry, Lydia Ray, Lila Jane Short (Th, S)
Rat Queen		Anarah Grgich
Giant Rats		Ava Carter, Leah Smith, Madelyn Wilcox, Audrey Jensen, Aleah Parker, Lisa Slater
Nutcracker Soldier		Tiler Shelly

ACT ONE - BATTLE SCENE CONTINUED

Soldiers on Pointe Eden Carter, Sophia Carter, Ivy Curtis, Naveyah Rowe, Kennedy Taylor, Sarah Bentley, Jane Gillespie, Meredith Lee, Sadie Lee, Melissa Schuck, Maddie Winegardner, Miriam Currie **(F)**, Victoria Parker **(Th, S)**

Little Soldiers Ivy Cao, Ashley Driscoll, Asher Harris, Lili Jin, Jadee Mercado, Brooklyn Mickelsen, Rowe Salvesen, Lucy Shelly, Lucy Traynor, Morgan Anderson, Olivia Aston, Faith Bray, Klaire Cao, Lydia Chunn, Isabella Curtis, Briana Gregory, Giuliana Gregory, Imagine Jensen, Kennedy Jensen, Hailey Jin, Kathleen McGrath, Holly Stavynskyy, Kezlynn Taylor,

ACT ONE - LAND OF THE SNOW

Prince Tiler Shelly

Snow Queen Emery Monson

Snow King Xander Grgich

Snow Demi Soloists Kate Bentley, Hannah Driscoll, Leah Smith, Katelynn Taylor, Madelyn Wilcox, Audrey Ziel

Snow Corps Ava Carter, Lilly Drysdale, Anarah Grgich, Bella Horsburgh, Isabel Scheunemann, Eden Carter, Sophia Carter, Ivy Curtis, Audrey Jensen, Aleah Parker, Naveyah Rowe, Lisa Slater, Kennedy Taylor, Victoria Parker **(Th, S)**, Miriam Currie **(F)**

20 MIN INTERMISSION

ACT TWO - KINGDOM OF THE SWEETS

Sugar Plum Fairy Lilly Drysdale

Cavalier Nic Gili

Page Asher Harris

Princesses Sarah Bentley, Jane Gillespie, Meredith Lee, Sadie Lee, Melissa Schuck, Maddie Winegardner, Ivy Cao, Ashley Driscoll, Lili Jin, Jadee Mercado, Rowe Salvesen, Lucy Shelly, Lucy Traynor

Little Princesses Lily Adaleigh Carroll, Emma Estrada, Vibiana Martinez, Isabella Whipple **(F)** Colette Keister-Sacco, Lorraine Shelly, Aubrey Villa **(Th, S)**

Lilac Adeline Anderson, Sloane Bailey, Indie Curtis, Harriet Davis, Emily Hall, Laura Hall, Gid Irwin, Elizabeth Kersh, Selena Saldate, Lizzy Shisso-Evans, Freya Zhao **(F)** Indie Curtis, Bristol Grimes, Eden Hanks, Mercy Hanks, Charlotte Kerr, Elizabeth Kersh, Kamilla Leon, Freya Hard, Kaidence Motloch, Anaiah Scott, Chelsea Wu **(Th, S)**

ACT TWO - KINGDOM OF THE SWEETS CONTINUED

Princessess Daisy Eliana Chavez, Vera Cook, Annabelle Core, Sophie Erickson, Mia Estrada, Emery Jensen, Indie McDonald **(F)** Sidon Baxter, Vera Cook, Pemberly Grimes, Holland Kammeraad, Eliza Kezele, Adelynn Lee Indie McDonald, Alice Perry, Lydia Ray, Lila Jane Short **(Th, S)**

Poppy Eleanor Anderson, Leah Anderson, Carolyn Berner, Arabella Gregory, Silver Isom, Hannah Monson, Ella Shisso-Evans **(F)** Margaret Currie, Irena Curtis, Maizy Salmon, Katana Scott, Alaina Taylor, Anna Taylor, Beth Taylor, Claire Taylor, Ashlynn Troshynski, Catherine Xu **(Th, S)**

Spanish Soloist Katelynn Taylor

Spanish Corps Aleah Parker, Kennedy Taylor, Ivy Curtis, Audrey Jensen, Naveyah Rowe, Lisa Slater

Arabian Pas de Deux Hannah Driscoll and Xander Grgich

Arabian Corps Sarah Bentley, Ashley Driscoll, Jane Gillespie, Meredith Lee, Sadie Lee, Melissa Schuck, Lucy Shelly, Maddie Winegardner

French Soloist Kate Bentley **(Th,S)** and Audrey Ziel **(F)**

French Corps Sophia Carter, Victoria Parker, Emery Monson, Eden Carter, Kate Bentley **(F)**, Audrey Ziel **(Th, S)**

Russian Nick Gili, Xander Grgich, Tiler Shelly, Ava Carter, Bella Horsborough, Anarah Grgich, Isabel Scheunemann, Leah Smith, Madelyn Wilcox

Chinese Dresses Sarah Bentley, Ivy Cao, Ashley Driscoll, Lili Jin, Jadee Mercado, Meredith Lee, Sadie Lee, Lucy Traynor, Jane Gillespie, Mellisa Schuck, Maddie Winegardner,

Leader Asher Harris

Big Dragon Morgan Anderson, Faith Bray, Kennedy Jensen, Brooklyn Mickelsen, Giuliana Gregory, Lucy Shelly, Holly Stavynskyy

Small Dragon Olivia Aston, Klaire Cao, Klaire Cao, Isabella Curtis, Imagine Jensen, Hailey Jin, Kathleen McGrath, Kezlynn Taylor

Madame Ginger Andilyn Jenkins

Mademoiselles Eleanor Anderson, Leah Anderson, Carolyn Berner, Arabella Gregory, Silver Isom, Hannah Monson, Ella Shisso-Evans **(F)** Margaret Currie, Irena Curtis, Maizy Salmon, Katana Scott, Alaina Taylor, Anna Taylor, Beth Taylor, Claire Taylor, Ashlynn Troshynski, Catherine Xu **(Th, S)**

ACT TWO - WALTZ OF THE FLOWERS

Rose Queen Autumn Daniels

Rose King Xander Grgich

ACT TWO - KINGDOM OF THE SWEETS CONTINUED

Demi Soloists Ava Carter, Anarah Grgich, Bella Horsburgh, Emery Monson, Isabel Scheunemann, Katelynn Taylor

Waltz Corps Kate Bentley, Hannah Driscoll, Leah Smith, Madelyn Wilcox, Audrey Ziel, Eden Carter, Sophia Carter, Ivy Curtis, Audrey Jensen, Aleah Parker, Naveyah Rowe, Lisa Slater, Kennedy Taylor, Miriam Currie **(F)**, Victoria Parker **(Th, S)**,

ACT TWO - GRAND PAS DE DEUX

Cavalier Nic Gili

Sugar Plum Fairy Lilly Drysdale

Coda

Finale



A message from Brandy



“Ballet is a continual challenge for self-mastery. There exists a standard of perfection to inspire us and we can always improve towards that standard. Though you strive for perfection, you will be less than perfect; however you will be the best you can be at that moment in time and you will feel it.

The true joy of ballet is overcoming one’s physical and mental limitations, striving to be better than the day before. It is rewarding to perform on stage, perfectly with the music, remembering all the choreography knowing you have done your best; however, the real beauty is not the costumes, the sets, the lights, the choreography or the music. The real beauty is the person you are becoming.”

Brandy K. Jensen,
Founder,
Idaho Ballet Theatre

ARTISTIC *directors*

JENN TEUSCHER

Jennifer Teuscher began her dance training at Jacqueline's School of Ballet under the direction of Jacqueline P. Colledge. Later she danced professionally with Utah Metropolitan Ballet for three years. During her time there Jennifer performed in many full-length ballets including "Coppelia", "Cinderella", "Legend of Timpanogos", and "The Nutcracker". Jennifer has been teaching ballet for over 20 years. For the past 5 years she has been teaching ballet at Brigham Young University-Idaho and has worked to grow the Ballet program, developing new courses and creating performance opportunities for the dancers there. Jennifer loves to teach, choreograph, and direct.



ABBEY LASLEY

Abbey Jensen Lasley began her ballet training with Idaho Ballet Theatre under the direction of Brandy K. Jensen. As a student, Abbey attended American Ballet Theatre's New York City summer intensives for five consecutive summers, and from 2011 to 2013 she was awarded the American Ballet Theatre National Training Scholar award. In 2013, Abbey performed George Balanchine's Serenade with Ballet Idaho, in Boise, ID. Abbey competed in the Youth American Grand Prix competition for multiple years and placed in the top twelve in both Classical and Contemporary categories. Abbey then moved to Salt Lake City, UT, to dance with Ballet West as a Trainee. Abbey has been involved with IBT since its creation.



JONI MCDONALD

Joni McDonald began her ballet training under the direction of Jacqueline's School of Classical Ballet. Upon graduating from High School, Joni joined Utah Metropolitan Ballet and danced professionally for seven seasons performing principal roles such as Sugar Plum, Snow Queen, Swanhilda, Ucanogos in College's original ballet Legend of Timpanogos, and many others. She has been on faculty as a teacher at Brigham Young University, San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, Utah Valley University, Jacqueline School of Classical Ballet, and many more. After moving back to Utah, Joni helped created SALT in 2019 as Artistic Director and continues to choreograph and direct.



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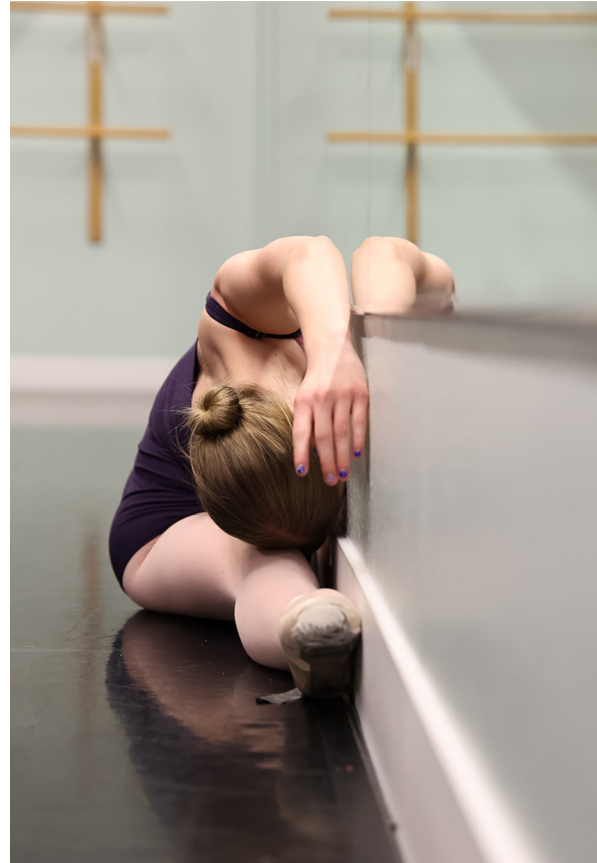
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