



Sejin Bastidas was born in Caracas, Venezuela. She started her ballet training at the age of seven, at the Freddy Reyna Ballet and Music School and finished her training and graduated as a professional ballet dancer at Fundación Gustavo Franklin Ballet Arte School. She has been part of many professional ballet companies, including Ballet Contemporaneo de Caracas (2009), The Metropolitan Ballet in Minneapolis, Minnesota (2010-2011), the Nina Novak Ballet

(2011), Ballet Nuevo Mundo de Caracas (2012-2013), and the Compania de Ballet del Teatro Teresa Carreño de Caracas (2013-2016). She has also danced as a soloist dancer with the National Ballet of Ecuador (2016-2017) and The National Ballet of Peru (2017-2022).

Sejin participated in the opening gala of the 2019 PanAmerican Games, the World Ballet Competition in Orlando, Florida, and she has been featured in dance history books in her home country of Venezuela. She was involved in a social media campaign with the United Nations about arts and immigration in Latin America and also had a mini-documentary made about her story as an immigrant artist on the Ecuadorian television show "Cara a Cara con Rosalía."



Ava Elliot began her pre-professional training at the age of seven at the Joffrey Academy of Dance under the tutelage of Karin Ellis-Wentz. During her time at Joffrey, Elliot worked with Tony Award winner Christopher Wheeldon in his world premiere production of *The Nutcracker* and was selected to be in the cast for five consecutive years. In 2023, she began training in the Milwaukee ballet Pre-Professional Program under the direction of Tatiana Jouravel-Malinkine. There, she was cast in Michael Pink's world premiere of *The Nutcracker: Drosselmeyer's Imaginarium*. Other performing

highlights include corps de ballet and soloist roles in *Swan Lake*, *Le Corsaire*, *Cinderella*, *La Bayadère*, *Paquita*, *Don Quixote*, and many original neoclassical pieces. Along with ballet, Elliot has performance experience in many styles including contemporary, jazz, modern, musical theater, hip-hop, African, and flamenco. She has participated in summer programs at Joffrey Ballet, Boston Ballet, Milwaukee Ballet, Louisville Ballet, Ellison Ballet, Charlotte Ballet, and Complexions Contemporary Ballet. In 2023, Elliot placed in the Top 24 classical category at Youth America Grand Prix.



Alana Griffith began her training at the Los Angeles Ballet Academy before moving to London at 17 to train at the English National Ballet School. In her graduating year, she was selected to work with the company in Wayne Eagling's *The Nutcracker*. That same season, she toured England, performing in Matthew Hart's *The Sleeping Beauty* with English National Ballet II. Griffith joined Milwaukee Ballet II in the 2012-2013 season and was promoted to the Company in 2014.

Griffith's career highlights include dancing the title role in Septime Webre's *ALICE (in wonderland)*, Odette in Michael Pink's *Swan Lake*, Belle in Pink's *Beauty and the Beast*, and Mina in Pink's *Dracula*. She has been featured in many more of Michael Pink's ballets, including as Clara and Marie in *The Nutcracker*, Cinderella in *Cinderella*, Rapunzel in the world premiere of *Beauty and the Beast*, the leading role in *Aubade*, the Prayer in *Coppélia*, and Wendy in *Peter Pan*.

She has appeared in many additional soloist and principal roles, including Henriette in Kenneth Tindall's *Casanova*, Effie in *La Sylphide*, Helena in Bruce Well's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Romola in Timothy O'Donnell's *Sacre*, and the final Pas De Deux in Alejandro Cerrudo's *Extremely Close*. She has worked with celebrated choreographers Matthew Tusa, Trey McIntyre, George Williamson, Kenneth Tindall, Val Caniparoli, Mauro de Candia, Dani Rowe, Aleix Mañe, Tsai Hsi Hung, Penny Saunders, and Mark Godden.

In 2017, she was named one of Pointe Magazine's "Stars of the Corps." She was promoted to Leading Artist in 2023.



Amanda Lewis is a native of Akron, Ohio and trained at Natalya's Turning Pointe until the age of 15. Lewis continued her training with Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre under the direction of Marjorie Grundvig, Dennis Marshal, and Janet Popeleski. As a student there, she performed soloist and corps roles in Paquita, Napoli, The Nutcracker and Serenade.

She also attended several summer intensives, including those at American Ballet Theatre, School of American Ballet, and Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre.

In the fall of 2020, Lewis joined the Rolando Yanes Pre-Professional Program at Milwaukee Ballet under Tatiana Jouravel-Malinkine. She joined Milwaukee Ballet II in 2021, during which time she performed in several Michael Pink productions including Beauty and the Beast, Swan Lake, The Nutcracker, and Hunchback of Notre Dame. She was promoted to the Company in 2023, after which she has performed in Dracula and Cinderella as well as several contemporary works.

Amanda is an emerging choreographer who has created works on Milwaukee Ballet II and for Ballet Beat. In August 2024, she received the "People's Choice Award" in New Century's Dance Competition for her work Unspoken.



Kristen Marshall was born in Plantation, Florida, and began her early training in Savannah, Georgia, with Madeline Walker Ballet School under Gaye Baxley. In 2014, she began her career with Atlanta Ballet, where she danced as Rosita in Helen Pickett's Camino Real and appeared in Bruce Wells' Snow White, John McFall's The Nutcracker, David Bintley's Carmina Burana, George Balanchine's Allegro Brillante, Marius Petipa's Paquita, and Yuri Possokhov's Firebird. Her favorite role has been the title character in John McFall's The Sleeping Beauty

with Atlanta Ballet 2 in 2016.

Marshall joined Milwaukee Ballet II in 2017, where she had the opportunity to perform alongside the Company in such productions as Michael Pink's The Nutcracker and Swan Lake. In 2018, she was promoted to the Company and has since performed in Michael Pink's Dracula, Coppélia, Hunchback of Notre Dame, Peter Pan, and as Arabian and the Snow Queen in The Nutcracker. She has also been featured in contemporary works by Timothy O'Donnell, Mauro de Candia, Kenneth Tindall, Penny Saunders, and Gabrielle Lamb. She has also performed in classical works like Pas de Quatre, Raymonda, and the lead role in Michael Pink's Aubade.



Dawn Springer's choreography is celebrated for its ability to blend complex technical skill with deep emotional resonance.

Her performance career has taken her to renowned venues and international festivals, including Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, The Venice Biennale Danza, The American Dance Festival, The New York Historical Society and New York Live Arts. She has also performed at the Baryshnikov Arts Center, The

Brooklyn Museum of Art, Washington DC's Dance Place, The United States Botanic Garden, and The Banff Centre, among many others. Springer had the privilege to work with award winning choreographers Helen Simoneau, Camille A. Brown (multi-Tony nominee), Sara Hook, Sarah Skaggs, Jeff Slayton, Dahlia Nayar and Aynsley Vandenbroucke, among others.

Upon relocating to Milwaukee, she was invited to be artist-in-residence for two years with Alverno Presents. There, Springer forged a dynamic collaboration with Wisconsin-based composer and percussionist Jon Mueller. Together, their projects have been featured at the Eaux Claires Music and Arts Festival, produced by Grammy-winning artists Justin Vernon (Bon Iver) and Aaron Dessner (The National). She has choreographed for The Collection of Colonies of Bees' in their sold-out performance at the Bradley Center arenas with Bon Iver and for their tour appearances with Grammy-nominated Sylvan Esso.

She has toured nationally as an adjudicator for the American Dance Festival and was Artist-in-Residence in Dance for two years at the

Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland. Her teaching engagements have taken her to universities across the country, including The Ailey School, University of the Arts, MIT, Dickinson College, Lawrence University, and Beloit College. She has taught with the American College Dance Festival Association, and given lectures at the Congress on Research and Dance, and the Society of Dance History Scholars.

She trained on scholarship at the North Carolina School of the Arts, (UNCSA) where she graduated high school with a concentration in Ballet, and earned her BFA in Contemporary Dance. She completed her MFA in the first inaugural class of the Hollins University/American Dance Festival Program, where she studied choreography intensively with Donna Faye Burchfield (Awarded the Chevalier de L'Ordre des Arts by the French Ministry of Culture) and dance history and theory with Thomas Defrantz (consultant for the Smithsonian Museum of African American Life and Culture).

Currently, Springer is on faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Peck School of the Arts, where she teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses. She is also on faculty with The Milwaukee Ballet, working with dancers in MBII and in the Pre-Professional Program. Additionally, Springer's writing is published in the Perspectives on American Dance Anthology by the University Press of Florida. She and her husband split their time between Milwaukee and Lake Geneva. They have two children.

Designers:

Ellie Rabinowitz (lighting design) has enjoyed a varied career in lighting, working in everything from animation to dance, fine art to music, teaching and theater. In Milwaukee, productions include 6 seasons as resident lighting designer for UW-Milwaukee's Dance Department, many of The Constructivists' shows, as well as The Way She Spoke, The Island, Hoops and The Mountaintop at Milwaukee Chamber Theater. In addition, she enjoys encouraging artistic communities through her positions as one of Wisconsin's regional contacts for Burning Man and on Shorewood's Public Art Committee.

Leslie Vaglica is a costume designer and technician. She is academic staff at the University of Wisconsin Parkside where she teaches Costumeecraft and is engaged in research on the value of costume technology education. She designs for opera, theater, and dance and is most proud of her designs for performances such as Dali's Liquid Ladies (True Penny Theater), Mr. Burns (Luminous Theatre), Svadba (Milwaukee Opera Theater), Three Decembers (The Florentine Opera), and The Penelopiad (UWParkside). She has built costumes for off-broadway productions as well as regional theaters such as the Milwaukee Repertory Theater and American Players Theatre. Other creative endeavors include roller derby uniforms (2008-2014), costumes for UW Milwaukee Dance Department (2014-2024), The Milwaukee Riverkeepers Boat Parade (2020-2023), and The Clackathon (2024). She holds a BA in Art and Political Science from the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire. She trained with Elizabeth Gaston, Joann Guendel, and Alex Tecoma at Mt. Mary University where she earned a Certificate in Apparel Production and Design.