



# **SEVENTEEN STEPS: SOLO SHOW PRESENTED BY AU TOUR DANCE COMPANY**

Dancers in their final year of the Arts Umbrella Post Secondary Program collaborate with established and emerging choreographers to create solos that offer a diverse range of choreographic perspectives, highlighting the breadth of contemporary dance.

## **Elizabeth Louie**

Choreographer: Luca Afflitto

Music: Loscil

## **Brooke Corrales**

Choreographer: Brandon Lee Alley

Music: Brandon Lee Alley

## **Nina Masciarelli**

Choreographer: Christoph von Riedemann

Music: Little Dragon

## **Ainsley Nivens**

Choreographer: Kaylin Sturtevant

Music: Jòhann Jòhannsson

## **Aaron St. Hilaire**

Choreographer: Jacob Williams

## **Zoe Jameson**

Choreographer: Livona Ellis

Music: Nicholas Britell

## **Dante Gonzalez**

Choreographer: Orlando Harbutt

Music: Kaeshani

## **Emma Kuusela**

Choreographer: Luca Afflitto

Music: Loscil

## **Jennifer Cramer**

Choreographer: Sidney Chuckas

Music: Nils Frahm

## **Stan Tonin**

Choreographer: Brandon Lee Alley

Music: Brandon Lee Alley

## **Louis Gonzalez**

Choreographer: Christoph von Riedemann

Music: MK.gee

## **Elina Lucky**

Choreographer: Brandon Lee Alley

Music: Brandon Lee Alley

## **Troy Atamanuk**

Choreographer: Jacalyn Tatro

Music: Julia Kent

## **Estelle McGuinness**

Choreographer: Fernando Magadan

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach

## **Kaiya Lee**

Choreographer: Jacob Williams

Music: Frédéric Chopin

# CHOREOGRAPHER BIOS

## Sidney Chuckas

Sidney Chuckas (he/they) creates, advocates, and educates through their art spanning the fields of dance, architecture, music, and technology. Born in Chicago, IL, Chuckas' life experiences, professional dance career, and experience in visual arts have led them to dive deeply into their larger mission to restore, amplify, and preserve the voices of the individuals he creates with. As a current dancer with Ballet BC they have performed works by Sharon Eyal, Marco Goecke, Crystal Pite and Medhi Walewski, premiered roles in works by Dorotea Saykaly, Shay Keubler, Johan Inger, Roy Assaf, and Out Innerspace and commercially danced for Brandy, Chance the Rapper, and Paris Jackson. Chuckas' works often explore concepts related to the human condition: our connections, conflicts, and dreams. Chuckas aims to utilize movement, soundscape, dramaturgy, and stage design to call people to action: to dream boldly, act bravely, and love deeply.

# Brandon Lee Alley

Born and raised in North Carolina, Brandon Lee Alley is a multi-hyphenate artist based on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish Peoples: Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō, Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh), and x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyə m (Musqueam) Nations. He began his career with Hubbard Street 2 and BODYTRAFFIC before spending five seasons with Ballet BC. Since then, Brandon has collaborated with Vancouver-based companies like Company 605 and Kidd Pivot, performing in the internationally acclaimed Revisor and contributing to the creation of Assembly Hall. As co-founder and director of Dance//Novella, alongside his creative partner and wife, Racheal Prince, he has developed numerous works in collaboration with underserved communities. Recently, Brandon was commissioned to create new works with SALT and SALT 2, set to premiere in spring 2025. With a diploma in Audio Engineering from SAE North Vancouver, Brandon is also an emerging sound designer, exploring the intersection of sound, text, and movement to craft visceral, immersive experiences.

# Jacalyn Tatro

Jacalyn Tatro, a Naperville, Illinois native, began her dance training at Inspire School of Dance and graduated with a BFA in Dance from The Juilliard School in May 2022. At Juilliard, she worked closely with renowned choreographers, including Bobbi Jene Smith, Ohad Naharin, Azure Barton, and Justin Peck. Notably, she performed Terese Capucilli's recreation of Martha Graham's *Deep Song*, becoming the first dancer since Graham to perform it with the original Henry Cowell score. Since joining Ballet BC, Jacalyn has explored repertoire by Medhi Walewski, Crystal Pite, Johan Inger, William Forsythe, Sharon Eyal, Roy Assaf, and others. Her dedication to growth led her to participate in Springboard Danse Montreal, the Gaga Lab, and intensives with Hubbard Street Dance, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, and more, studying works by leading contemporary choreographers. Jacalyn is honoured to return for her third season as a company artist with Ballet BC.

# Luca Afflitto

Luca Afflitto is originally from Genova, Italy where he started dancing at the age of 11. In 2014, he was admitted to the Academie de Danse Princesse Grace in Monte Carlo under the direction of Luca Masala where he graduated three years later. In 2017, he joined Ballett Zurich under the direction of Christian Spuck and after two seasons in the Junior Ballet, joined the main company. While in Zurich Luca had the opportunity to dance works by choreographers such as Crystal Pite, William Forsythe, Ohad Naharin, Jiri Kylian, Marco Goecke, Goyo Montero, Edward Clug, Johan Inger and Cayetano Soto. In 2019 he was awarded the “Dance Prize of the Friends of Ballett Zurich.” In 2022, Luca joined Ballet BC under the direction of Medhi Walewski, where he has the opportunity to explore, create and perform works of internationally renowned choreographers for Canadian audiences and around the world.

## **Livona Ellis**

Livona Ellis was born on the unceded territories of the xwməθkwəy̓m (Musqueam), Skwxw̓ú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. She has performed with Ballet BC (11 seasons), Buhnen Bern, and many others. Livona has created works for Dances for a Small Stage, Dance Deck, Public Salon 2019, CAG Gala 2018, Arts Umbrella Season Finale, Ballet BC Take Form, and most recently City Opera of Vancouver. In 2017 she received the Vancouver Mayor's Arts Award for Emerging Artist and in 2023 received the inaugural Louise Bentall Award for Emerging Choreographer. Livona joined Kidd Pivot in June 2023 and is currently on faculty at Arts Umbrella.

## **Fernando Hernando Magadan**

Fernando Hernando Magadan is a freelance choreographer, teacher, and stager with a background in professional gymnastics. He spent 15 seasons as a performer with the Nederlands Dans Theater, collaborating with renowned



choreographers like Jiří Kylián, Ohad Naharin, and Crystal Pite. His impressive career includes performing at the Benois de la Danse Gala at the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow. From 2018 to 2021, he served as rehearsal director and Artistic Leader of NDT2. As a choreographer, Fernando is recognized for his highly physical, inventive, and musical movement vocabulary, making a significant impact in the dance community.

## **Orlando Harbutt**

Orlando Harbutt (he/him/his) is an accomplished dancer, collaborator, and choreographer. Originally from New York City, with a portion of his early childhood spent in Italy, Orlando embarked on his dance journey at the age of 10. After relocating to the US in 2011, Orlando pursued formal training in Ballet, while also exploring other forms such as Hip Hop. His passion for dance eventually led him to NYC, where he honed his skills at Manhattan Youth Ballet, earning the first Men of Merit Scholarship Award. Orlando had the privilege of studying and

performing works by renowned ballet masters like George Balanchine. At just 16 years old, Orlando's love for dance earned him a coveted spot at The Juilliard School for Dance. This invaluable experience provided him with a comprehensive education in dance and numerous opportunities to collaborate with other divisions. Amidst the challenges posed by the pandemic, Orlando dedicated a year to training with Arts Umbrella before returning to Juilliard for his junior year. Shortly thereafter, he embarked on his professional career with Ballet BC in Vancouver, while pursuing his BFA at Juilliard.

## **Jacob Williams**

Jacob Williams (he/him) is originally from Vancouver, Washington. For many years, he performed in musical theater until he found a love for dance at the age of 16. After high school, Jacob furthered his education at Alonzo King Lines Ballet going on to dance with dawsondancesf and Oregon Ballet Theatre 2 (OBT2). In 2018, he joined the Arts

Umbrella Graduate Program under the direction of Artemis Gordon, graduating in 2020. During his summers, Jacob trained at Springboard Danse Montreal, AU International Summer Intensive, and Northwest Dance Project. He has had the honor of performing works by Nacho Duato, Mats Ek, Sharon Eyal, Marco Goecke, Johan Inger, and Crystal Pite. As a choreographer, Jacob's quintet, Semble, which premiered as a part of TAKE FORM, was selected as a finalist in the International Choreographic Competition Hannover. He recently collaborated with Canadian folk music group The Fugitives on Over the Ridge. Jacob joined Ballet BC as an Emerging Artist in the 2020-2021 season.

## **Christoph von Riedemann**

Christoph von Riedemann was born in New Westminster on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomen speaking peoples on the ancestral lands of the Qay'qayt and Musqueam First Nations, Canada. He grew up dancing at Arts Umbrella under the instruction and mentorship of

Artemis Gordon, Lynn Sheppard, Marquita Lester, Emily Molnar, Justine Chambers and Lina Fitzner. After graduating from the school's graduate program he joined Ballet BC where he danced for 4 years. He worked there with several reputed artists such as Crystal Pite, Sharon Eyal, Johan Inger and Company 605. He has also worked in Vancouver with Karissa Barry, Rachel Meyer, Jenifer Mascall, Stephanie Cyr and Lexi Vajda while also building solo material that was presented at Vancouver's Contemporary Art Gallery (CAG). Christoph then joined GöteborgsOperan Danskompani in 2019, performing works by Yoann Bourgeois, Sharon Eyal, Damien Jalet, Maxine Doyle, Alexander Ekman and Kenneth Kvarnstrom. He is currently focusing on deepening his understanding of functional anatomy and movement at Vancouver College of Massage Therapy.

# **Kaylin Sturtevant**

Kaylin Sturtevant (she/her) is originally from Plano, Texas and grew up training at Dance Industry Performing Arts Center and Booker T Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. She achieved her BFA in Dance in 2020 from the USC Kaufman School of Dance in Los Angeles under the leadership of Jodie Gates. At USC, Kaylin had the opportunity to work closely with and perform works by artists such as William Forsythe, Barak Marshall, Aszure Barton, and Jodie Gates. In 2016, Kaylin was named a U.S. Presidential Scholar of the Arts and National YoungArts Winner in Modern Dance, where she performed at the Kennedy Center in a multi-faceted arts show directed by Debbie Allen. Kaylin has worked professionally with The DASH Ensemble directed by Gregory Dolbashian and is a certified Pilates instructor through the BASI Comprehensive Program. This is Kaylin's 4th season as a company member at Ballet BC

# **CREDITS:**

## **Artistic Director, Arts Umbrella Dance:**

Artemis Gordon

## **Arts Umbrella Grad Core Faculty:**

Artemis Gordon, Livona Ellis, Sabra Perry,  
Lynn Sheppard

## **Stage Manager:**

Theo Tegg

## **Arts Umbrella Dance Administration:**

Brynne Harper, Samantha Tawaststjerna, Shari  
Mountain