



DANCING THROUGH THE DECADES

LECTURE DEMONSTRATION

2023/2024 SEASON

WELCOME!

Dear Educator,

Thank you for inviting our Charlotte Ballet team to your school for our presentation of *Dancing Through the Decades*, Pages to Stages lecture demonstration. We hope that you find our 2023/2024 Educational Guide useful as you prepare your students for the program. Please take a moment to read the information located in this guide carefully. Our vision is to inspire individuals and communities to explore the boundless potential of the imagination. We thank you for your support of our educational programs, and providing students with an opportunity for exposure to the arts. We look forward to seeing you and your students soon.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Pereira, Director of Education and Community Engagement

OUR MISSION AND VISION

Mission:

Through dance, we create authentic connections, engaging and inclusive educational opportunities, and transformative experiences.

Vision:

We inspire individuals and communities to explore the boundless potential of the imagination.

LECTURE DEMONSTRATION INFORMATION

ARRIVAL: Our production staff and dancers will arrive **ninety minutes prior** to the performance time to set up, and will need access to the performance space at that time. We provide our own sound system for the performance.

DRESSING ROOMS: The dancers will need access to two **nearby** offices or rooms to use as a **secure** dressing room for the duration of the performance.

REFUND POLICY: Cancellations made less than 4 weeks prior to the scheduled program date will incur a fee of 50% of the program cost.

CONTENT: These performances are approximately one in length. All lecture demonstration performances include either narration, a student interactive and/or a Q & A with the professional dancers. Recorded music is used for all Lecture Demonstrations. Repertoire and artists may be subject to change without notice.

CHARLOTTE BALLET BACKGROUND



ALEJANDRO CERRUDO
Artistic Director

CLICK PHOTO FOR BIO

Led by our Artistic Director Alejandro Cerrudo our professional company of 19 dancers - with an additional eight in the second company - hail from all over the world. The dancers excel at both cutting-edge contemporary works and fairytale favorites. With an international roster of choreographers, Charlotte Ballet is focused on bringing new works to Charlotte and the rest of the world.

Founded in 1970 as North Carolina Dance Theatre, Charlotte Ballet is the oldest professional ballet company in North Carolina. Today, Charlotte Ballet has established a national reputation for artistic excellence and is widely regarded as one of Charlotte's premier arts organizations. The company has an annual budget exceeding \$3.5 million and employs 27 professional dancers. Through its second company, Charlotte Ballet II, the group fosters growth of apprentice dancers while its school, Charlotte Ballet Academy, has an annual enrollment of over 350 students.

Charlotte Ballet is among the finest mid-sized dance companies in the United States and has toured extensively throughout the United States and Europe receiving the highest accolades and rave reviews for its touring performances.

Charlotte Ballet has an extensive education and community engagement program and partners with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) to provide curriculum-based programs and educational performances. Student tests clearly demonstrate a strong link between Charlotte Ballet's arts-focused school programs and higher reading and writing scores.

OVERVIEW OF *DANCING THROUGH THE DECADES*

Join Charlotte Ballet as we highlight how history, music and culture shaped the innovation of dance at its time. Students will have an opportunity to be inspired by the culture of jazz, see how a choreographer was influenced by the community who supported men like Martin Luther King Jr., and how contemporary music has pushed the boundaries of Ballet in the 21st century.

The program includes excerpts from the following ballets:

- ***Swan Lake***, choreography by Ib Anderson after Marius Petipa
- ***As We Journey Through***, choreography by Ashley Lindsey
- ***Little Mortal Jump***, choreography by Alejandro Cerrudo
- ***Who Cares?*** choreography by George Balanchine
- ***Lickity Split***, choreography by Alejandro Cerrudo

MEET THE CHOREOGRAPHER



Ashley Lindsey
Choreographer,
As We Journey Through

A choreographer is a person who creates the movement for a ballet.

Ashley Lindsey is a choreographer, director, and educator. Originally from Raleigh, North Carolina, he is a graduate of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA). His professional career began in 2007 when Artistic Director Carla Maxwell invited him to join the Limón Dance Company. During his time with the company, he performed in theaters across five continents in featured roles in works by José Limón, Anna Sokolow, Clay Taliaferro, Jonathan Fredrickson, and Donald McKayle. He joined the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company in 2011 and later worked with choreographers Helen Simoneau, Celia Rowson-Hall, and three-time Tony Award winner Hinton Battle.

As a choreographer, his work has been commissioned by Limón II, Houston Met Too Dance Co, University of North Carolina Greensboro, Elon University, and four commissions for UNCSA. His work has been presented at Reverb International Dance Festival, Capezio Ace Awards, and the White Wave International Dance Festival. Other choreography credits include Greensboro Opera's *Porgy and Bess*. The Miss North Carolina Pageant, movement direction for supermodel Miranda Kerr. And the dance films, "NEXT," "Volant Matter," Better' and "Triune."

He is currently on faculty at The University of North Carolina School of the Arts as a visiting guest professor and the artistic director of UNCSA's Summer Dance Intensive and Professional Studies Workshop.

MEET THE CHOREOGRAPHER



George Balanchine
Choreographer,
Who Cares?

George Balanchine is known as “The father of American ballet.”

George Balanchine (1904–83) was one of the leading dance figures of the 20th century. He created a new style of ballet with his company New York City Ballet and reinvigorated the US ballet scene. His innate musicality is evident in all his works, and led to a rich partnership with composer Igor Stravinsky. Of his estimated 425 works many are in the core repertoires of companies around the world.

Balanchine was born Georgi Melitonovich Balanchivadze in St Petersburg. He trained at the Imperial State Ballet and from the age of 11 danced on the stage of the Mariinsky Theatre, entering the company in 1921. Three years later he auditioned for Sergey Diaghilev in Paris and spent five years as ballet master with the Ballets Russes. After Diaghilev’s death he worked as a choreographer and ballet master around Europe before being invited by impresario Lincoln Kirstein to move to the USA in 1933. Balanchine began creating a new school and repertory of American ballet and in 1948 founded NYCB. Balanchine’s style of dance favoured tall ballerinas, and his muses included Maria Tallchief, Tanaquil Le Clercq and Suzanne Farrell. He remained hugely prolific throughout his life, creating his last work four months before his death of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

Balanchine’s style, a fresh and uniquely musical interpretation of classical ballet, is one of the most distinctive and influential languages in ballet, and has led to the choreographer being widely acknowledged as the father of American ballet.

MEET THE COMPOSER



George Gershwin
Composer,
Who Cares?

George Gershwin is an American composer and pianist whose compositions spanned both popular and classical genres.

Among his best-known works are the orchestral compositions *Rhapsody in Blue* (1924) and *An American in Paris* (1928), the songs *Swanee* (1919) and *Fascinating Rhythm* (1924), the jazz standard *I Got Rhythm* (1930), and the opera *Porgy and Bess* (1935) which spawned the hit *Summertime*.

Gershwin studied piano under Charles Hambitzer and composition with Rubin Goldmark, [Henry Cowell](#), and [Joseph Brody](#). He began his career as a song plugger, but soon started composing Broadway theater works with his brother [Ira Gershwin](#) and with [Buddy G. DeSylva](#). He composed *An American in Paris*, then returned to New York City and wrote *Porgy and Bess* with Ira and [DuBose Heyward](#). Initially a commercial failure, it came to be considered one of the most important American operas of the twentieth century and an American cultural classic.

Gershwin moved to Hollywood and composed numerous film scores. His compositions have been adapted for use in film and television, with several becoming jazz standards recorded and covered in many variations.

Click on each photo to read
the dancer's full bio!



CHARLOTTE BALLET II DANCERS



Izonna Chaires

Hometown: Scotia, New York



Pierce Gallagher

Hometown: Waxhaw, North Carolina



Karsen Gresham

Hometown: Charlotte, North Carolina



Liam Colclough

Hometown: Duluth, Minnesota



Elaina Da Fonte

Hometown: Roxbury, Connecticut



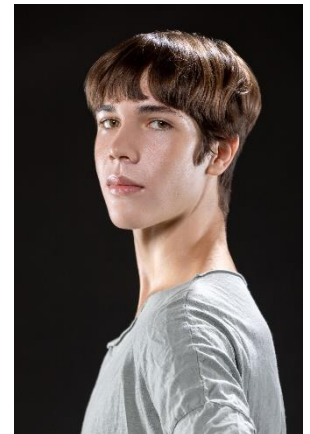
Clay Houston

Hometown: Charlotte, North Carolina



Bridget Fox

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois



Roan Zaragoza

Hometown: Southern California

DANCER SPOTLIGHT



Elaina da Fonte

Hometown: Roxbury, Connecticut

Dancing since: Age 3

What inspires you as an artist? Art has an incredible ability to evoke powerful emotions both from the audience and the artist themselves. Some of my favorite artistic experiences are when I leave the stage feeling an overwhelming sense of joy. In these instances, a large part of what contributes to my own joy is knowing that the audience feels the same way. Whether it be through the energy the audience gives during bows, through personal conversations with audience members after a performance is done, or through watching children dance as they leave the theater, it's so moving as an artist to know that you contributed to someone else's feelings of happiness. So for me, one of the things that inspires me most as an artist is helping to create joy through my work!

What are you doing when you're not dancing? When I'm not dancing I love to spend time outside, whether this be through hiking, taking a walk around my neighborhood, or reading a book on the porch. I also love to bake (lately I've been making a lot of biscotti) and experiment with new dinner recipes. And of course, I spend as much time as possible doing these things with my family and friends!

DANCER SPOTLIGHT



Roan Zaragoza

Hometown: Southern California

Dancing since: Age 15

Do you remember a moment when you realized you wanted to dance professionally? Yes, watching a dress rehearsal of Snow from *The Nutcracker*. It gave me such strong chills I knew I wanted to dance for the rest of my life.

Favorite way to de-stress and unwind: Watch a movie and listen to Mazzy Star.

Describe a meaningful or memorable dance moment: My most memorable moment in the dance world was getting to be an extra in Mariinsky Theater's production of *La Bayadere*. I have never seen so many talented artists in my life.

What is your pre-show ritual? I take a couple deep breaths and touch my lucky rock that I found on the floor when I was six.

What are you doing when you are not dancing? Swimming, thrifting, or eating.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A DANCER



9:30 AM-11 AM Company ballet class

11 AM-2 PM Rehearsals

2 PM-3 PM Lunch

3 PM-6 PM Rehearsals

*Costume fittings, physical therapy sessions, and photo shoots are also part of a dancer's day!

CONTEMPORARY BALLET



What is Contemporary Ballet?

Contemporary Ballet is a combination of different forms of dance, including classical ballet, modern, lyrical, and jazz. While it does not have a certain, defined “technique,” contemporary ballet has been developed from classical ballet styles, with a greater range of movement and work on the floor. While parallel or turned-in positions are rarely found in classical ballet, they are frequently utilized in contemporary. Contemporary ballet is more innovative and free, and it allows a dancer to manipulate ballet concepts into more modern pieces.

POINTE SHOES



Pointe shoes provide the necessary support for a dancer to dance “on their toes.” A professional dancer will have shoes customized for the perfect fit. The toe area of the shoe, which is made of fabric, cardboard, and paste, must be extremely sturdy. Before the shoes can be used, a dancer must sew on ribbons and elastic. A dancer will then “break in” the shoes by bending and manipulating different parts of the shoe. This will ensure the pointe shoes form perfectly to the dancer’s feet

BEHIND THE SCENES

Charlotte Ballet Production Staff:

KERRI MARTINSEN, Costume Shop Manager

TATYANA YARBOROUGH, Wardrobe Supervisor

ROSIBEL HERNANDEZ, First Hand

AARON MUHL, Production Manager

OLIVIA RAMOS, Stage Manager

JAMIE OWEN, Production Assistant

Click on the photo to learn about the creation of costumes at Charlotte Ballet!



Costumes play a significant role in conveying the artistic vision of a production. For each ballet, costumes are designed to reflect the time-period, mood, style, and idea of the choreography. Costumes are then built and fitted to each dancer's body.

CAREERS IN DANCE

PROFESSIONAL DANCER

Ballet students often aim to gain positions performing for a professional company. When hiring new dancers, directors look for excellent technique, physique and stage presence. Once a contract has been obtained, classes, shoes, tights and costumes are additionally provided. A professional dancer's hours are regulated, but the day can be long and tiring. Promotion through the ranks of the corps de ballet, soloist, to principal dancer can happen over the course of a dancer's career but are not guaranteed.

CHOREOGRAPHER

Those who have a talent for creating dances may wish to become choreographers. Training for a choreographer is less structured than training for other careers in ballet. Many would-be choreographers join companies as dancers and then hope to obtain a creative opportunity within that company. Others may form their own company with a group of committed dancers. They will then fundraise in order to advertise and perform their work to the public.

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

Social media managers are responsible for all internal and external marketing materials, ensuring brand consistency across the organization and communications. The position serves as an organizations storyteller. The role creates content for social media feeds, to include videos, posts, hashtags, e-mail campaigns and more. Creativity is key in this position. They manage the creation of design concepts and implement them through communication campaigns.

SET DESIGNER

A set designer designs the scenery for a performance in the theater. They must work to take the concept of a production and develop those ideas into physical surroundings in which the dancing will take place.. Scenery, especially in a large production such as *The Nutcracker*, must often be changed as the show progresses. A set designer needs to take this into consideration to create sets that are movable throughout the duration of a show.

COSTUME DESIGNER

A costume designer creates new costumes for the dancers. They must not only have an eye for design, but also an understanding of creating dancewear which allows for freedom of movement. A costume designer must work closely with the choreographer to determine their vision of the piece and produce costumes that compliment their ideas. They need strong artistic skills as well as technical skills such as pattern making, sewing, and garment construction.

STAGE MANAGER

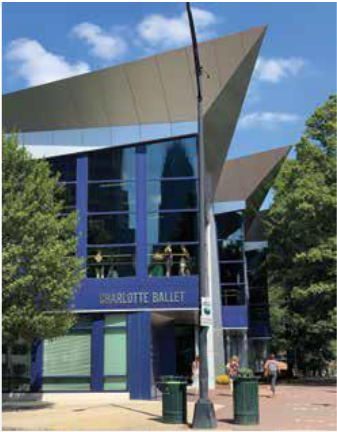
Most theater and dance companies have a full-time stage manager. The stage manager is responsible for creating cue sheets and calling all cues (lights, audio, rail, automation). They are also responsible for preparing rehearsal and performance reports. In addition to performance needs, stage managers may also manage the dancer's needs such as schedules, working conditions, special events, and monitoring contract adherence. Time management, organization, and the ability to oversee multiple projects at once are very important skills for a stage manager.

BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS



Designed for small groups (10-30) who are studying dance or are interested in preparations before a performance.

- Tour Charlotte Ballet's magnificent Center for Dance location uptown
- See the costume shop and learn about the costuming process from wardrobe staff
- Take a sneak peek at rehearsals with professional dancers and choreographers



Behind the Scenes Tours last one hour and cost \$10 per person + tax for a minimum of 10 people. For CMS Title 1 schools, the cost is \$7 per person + tax. Tours can be booked in the weeks leading up to each of Charlotte Ballet's performances:

COME TO LIFE | February 20-23, 2024

SWAN LAKE | April 22-26, 2024

BOOK YOUR TOUR TODAY!

For reservations, contact Jennifer Domini, Education Manager

jdomini@charlotteballet.org

704.414.2767

