



RECITAL 2023
Foellinger Auditorium
May 26 and 27, 6:00 PM

URBANA FINE ARTS CENTER

Dance Recital 2023:

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Luciana Rezende

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Bill Bagby

STAGE MANAGER

Aaron O'Connor

VIDEO

Greg Pluta

SOUND

John Tubbs and Mitchell Ryba

LIGHTING

Zoe Mihevic

PROGRAM ART WORK

Caroline Thies – [Life Still Is](#)

URBANA FINE ARTS CENTER 2022/23 STAFF:

Program Director: Luciana Rezende

Executive Director: Bill Bagby

Tech Assistant: Aaron O'Connor

Tap Director: Tanya Picard

Teachers: Donica Basica, Catrina Choate-Heretoiu, Olivia Drane, Amelia Gimbel, Alexis Miller,, Jade O'Connor Katch, Jasmine O'Connor, Sienna O'Connor, Tanya Picard, Corbin Philips, Luciana Rezende and Caroline Thies.

Teacher in Training: Anna Ginsburg-Sullivan.

INTRODUCING



- UFAC Youth Ensemble

We are proud to announce the formation of our very special ensemble group. The UFAC Youth Ensemble is a group of advanced ballet students with outstanding achievements. This group will represent our studio at outreach performances and other events, such as international ballet competitions.

Participation in the UFAC Ensemble is by invitation only and requires cross training.

The group is performing two pieces in this program: *GRAVITY* and *THE RECKONING* and we look forward to continue with new pieces throughout the year.

Congratulations to our students VICTORIA BAGBY, ANNA GINSBURG-SULLIVAN, CLAIRE HOBSON, NATALIE POCIASK and JANET SAAVEDRA for all the success during the semester and for being part of the premier of our UFAC Youth Ensemble.

A Message from the Directors

Thank you all for coming to our recital.

These kids are amazing! As our students pursue excellence of their skills, they are overcoming many challenges. They have fought it all to favor positivity and success, in creating their beautiful artistic expressions.

They are successful in their endeavor and we are so proud of them. It is our inspiration to watch them persevere through to better their art.

None of this would be possible without the support, commitment (and driving) from our wonderful parents.

Thank you again for entrusting us to do our small part.

Special Thanks

To our staff, for their dedication and great work.

To all parents and friends who volunteered to make this performance possible.

And to:

Sasha Kozadayev

Joe Reichlin

Greg Pluta

John Tubbs, Sr.

Catherine Prendergast

PART ONE



MIXED PROGRAM

GRAVITY - UFAC Youth Ensemble

MUSIC: Steven Price

CHOREOGRAPHY: Jasmine O'Connor

CREATION: Bill Bagby

Performed by the UFAC Youth Ensemble:

Victoria Bagby, Anna Ginsburg-Sullivan, Claire Hobson, Natalie Pociask, and Janet Saavedra.

AT BUDDY'S PLACE - Tap Ages 6-8 and 9-12

MUSIC: Buddy Guy

CHOREOGRAPHY: Tanya Picard

Madison Anderson, Abby Coppess, Tate Ghazimoradi, Ruth Ionin, Meira Kaplan Flaherty, Sofia Ladino, Grace McGill, Milo Schubach, Evi Sotiropoulos, Fernanda Tenango, Christopher (C.J.) Wang and Telma Wilson.

A MERRY BALLET MARCH - Ballet Purple Ages 3 & 4

MUSIC: F. Lehár

CHOREOGRAPHY: Jasmine O'Connor

Allianah Alexander, Julia Barnes, Maggie Gailey, Leah Garrett, Sawyer Goslin, Andrea Huang, Harriet Hutchens, Mei-Yi Lu, Dorothy Maher, Manon Nuku and Anaiyah Thornton.

RAINBOW - Contemporary Ages 7-10

MUSIC: Kacey Musgraves

CHOREOGRAPHY: Sienna O'Connor

Kira Blocher, Tate Ghazimoradi, Nina Lokshin, Finley McCormick, Daria Raginsky, Addy Thomann and April Yu.

IN THE HALL OF THE FOELLINGER QUEENS - Ballet Dark Blue/Silver

MUSIC: E. Grieg, performed and altered by Mingchi.

CHOREOGRAPHY: Jade O'Connor

Leyla Aguiar Cohen, Madison Anderson, Grace Bailey, Ruby Ballesteros, Josie Duran, Emma Elmore, Simone Feist, Vanessa Nguyen, Maggie Ruggieri, Lucia Stefanski.

SPACE JAM - Hip Hop

MUSIC: Quad City DJ'

CHOREOGRAPHY: Donica Basica

Elaina Beatty, Talia Berkson, Eleanor Geist, Zoey Hagerstrom, Phoenix Keenan, and Evi Sotiropoulos.

TAPestry - Tap Ages 13 & Older

Paying homage to some of the great tap masters who have come before us, Tapestry Part 1 features the technical expertise of our most advanced tap students, as well as their improvisational ability. Each solo was created by the dancer who is performing it. Also, from the initial tableau throughout the dance, you will see flashes of the ballet technique the students study at Urbana Fine Arts.

Tapestry Part 2 addresses the ever-present human experience of change and growth. In his modern dance choreography, Corbin Phillips explores the interplay between gravity and transformation; and the accompanying tap score punctuates that process of "becoming."

MUSIC:

Part 1: *The Art of the Bumper*, Jon Batiste & Stay Human

Part 2: *Sounds of Earth*, Apollo 13; *Into the Light*, District 78

CHOREOGRAPHY: Tanya Picard and Corbin Phillips

Leyla Aguiar Cohen, File Dunbar, Claire Hobson, Eleanor Klein, Kendall Kuka, Evani Pluta, and Tode Wilson.

SNOW WHITE - Ballet Light Blue Ages 7 & 8

MUSIC: MOZART

CHOREOGRAPHY: Luciana Rezende, staged by Caroline Thies

Talia Berkson, Maggie Bowman, Maximilian Cajavilca, Piper Fenton, Eleanor Geist, Rita Haggin, Ariana Herman, Azmi Kranich-Fetterer, Dominic Lee, Nina Lokshin, Claire Magers, Athena Pascoe, Daria Raginsky, Abilene Ruhter, Fernanda Tenango, Addy Thomann, Ellie Wang, and Telma Wilson.

SPRING - Contemporary Ages 10-12 and 13 & Older

MUSIC: Vivaldi, rearranged by Max Richard

CHOREOGRAPHY: Corbin Philips

Anna Ginsburg-Sullivan, Kendall Kuka, Evi Sotiropoulos, Julianne (J.J.) Wang, Jalisa White, Gianna Wilson, and Tode Wilson.

MUSICAL THEATRE MEDLEY - Musical Theatre

MUSIC: Garry Barlow & Elliot Kennedy; Marc Shaiman; Sara Bareilles; Chris Miller.

CHOREOGRAPHY: Caroline Thies

Madison Anderson, Evie Gasyna, Ariana Herman, Nur Karam, Azmi Kranich-Fetterer, Nina Lokshin, Lydia Ruud, Addy Thomann, and Pippy York.

PASSION - Jazz

MUSIC: Kreesha Turner

CHOREOGRAPHY: Alexis Miller

Ruby Ballesteros, Liliane Chemla, Lana Cooper, File Dunbar, Anna Ginsburg-Sullivan, Claire Hobson, Evani Pluta, Natalie Pociask, and Janet Saavedra.

VOICES OF SPRING - Ballet Pink Ages 5 & 6

MUSIC: Mozart

CHOREOGRAPHY: Jasmine O'Connor

Kostadina Anderson, Iris Ballesteros, Emmeline Bassford, Isla Brown, Sarah Chen, Cordelia England, Madeleine Franks, Sofia Ladino, Joelle Lee, Amaya Melvin, Shay Morley-Cunningham, Julia Morrissey, Margaret Oakley, Ella Penner, Coraline Ruud, Iris Scarlett, Zamirah Tilley, and Juniper Westerman.

THE RECKONING - UFAC Youth Ensemble

This piece received the 3rd place award at the YAGP (Youth America Grand Prix) in Chicago Regional, January 2023.

MUSIC: Max Richter.

CHOREOGRAPHY: Jade O'Connor Katch

Victoria Bagby, Anna Ginsburg-Sullivan, Claire Hobson, Natalie Pociask, and Janet Saavedra.

INTERMISSION – 15 MINUTES

PART TWO



La Fille Mal Gardée Excerpts

LA FILLE MAL GARDÉE

THE UNCHAPERONED DAUGHTER

Synopsis:

The story takes place in France in the 18th century.

Lise and her mother, the widow Simone, live on a prosperous farm.

Lise is in love with Colas, a handsome farmhand, but Simone does not approve their courtship. She has arranged for Lise to marry Alain, the son of a rich farmer.

One day at the farm, the dawn is heralded by the cock and his attendant hens. Lise leaves a ribbon tied outside, as a sign of her love for Colas. Colas finds it and binds it to his farm tool.

The couple meet but are soon interrupted by Simone who orders Colas to leave and orders Lise to stir the butter.

Townpeople arrive to purchase eggs and fruit from the farm. Simone forgets about Lise and Colas as she busies herself with the selling of products.

As the day goes by, the townspeople have a picnic. Colas and Lise manage to spend some time together, and friends come over to dance.

An unexpected storm forces everyone to leave the picnic. Simone goes back home without Lise. Colas and Lise exchange ribbons as a sign of their commitment to each other.

Lise goes back home and soon after, with the help of the farmhands, finds Colas. The couple hides from everyone.

Thomas and Alain arrive to proceed with the wedding. All friends and farmhands are invited for the occasion and are surprised to discover Colas with Lise.

Lise and Colas beg Simone to allow them to get married. After realizing how important this is to them, Simone gives in and blesses their love.

ABOUT

LA FILLE MAL GARDÉE

Original Choreography:
Jean Dauberval

Music:
Ferdinand Herold

First Performed:
Paris, 1789

LA FILLE MAL GARDÉE



Staged by Luciana Rezende

Performed by the Pre-Professional Ballet Program Students and Guest Artists

CAST:

Lise Ashley Thopiah, Courtesy of Oakland Ballet Company

Colas Richard Smith

Simone Joe Reichlin

Thoma William Kanter

Alain Jordan Rinkenberger

Lise's Friends: Victoria Bagby, Anna Ginsburg-Sullivan, Claire Hobson and Natalie Pociask.

Towns People: Liliane Chemla, Jimin Kim, Kendall Kuka and Janet Saavedra.

Farmhands: File Dunbar, Evi Sotiropoulos, Jalisa White, Gianna Wilson and Tode Wilson.

Children: Maximilian Cajavilca, Dominic Lee, Nina Lokshin, Addy Thomann, Julianne (J.J.) Wang and April Yu.

Chickens: Maximilian Cajavilca, Dominic Lee, Nina Lokshin, Addy Thomann and April Yu.

GUEST ARTISTS



Ashley Thopiah

- Lise

Ashley Thopiah has a BFA in Dance Performance from Butler University. She began her dance training at the Christine Rich Dance Academy and furthered her training in summer programs at State Street Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Ashley has performed corps, soloist, and principal roles in *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker*, *Giselle*, *La Bayadere*, *Cinderella*, and George Balanchine's *The Four Temperaments*. Joining Oakland Ballet in 2019, she has performed *Luna Mexicana*, *The Nutcracker*, and *Borderlines* by Graham Lustig. Ashley was featured in various new works created by several choreographers, including Caili Quan, Elaine Kudo, and Phil Chan.

Richard Smith

- Colas

Richard began his training at the age of 18 in Peoria, IL. While in Peoria, he was able to perform soloist and principal roles during and after his training was completed. Such credits include: the Prince from *Cinderella*, Prince Ivan from *The Firebird*, and a recording of the Sugar Plum adagio from *The Nutcracker*. Richard spent time training at The Rock School under Bo and Stephanie Spashoff among others.

Richard has performed as a guest artist in Chicago, New York, and Florida; and currently is a freelance artist in Minneapolis, MN. He most recently was a member of Minnesota Dance Theatre where he performed in *Loyce Houlton's Nutcracker Fantasy* and performed with Continental Ballet Company in the spring of 2023.

In addition to his dancing, Richard is an accomplished teacher, having taught for UFAC for the past 5 years. He currently teaches at North Ballet Academy in Otsego, MN and has been coaching their full length production of *The Sleeping Beauty*. Richard is very happy to return to his roots in Champaign/Urbana for this production!

GUEST ARTISTS



Joe Reichlin

- Simone

Joe Reichlin studied theater and dance at the University of Kansas before running away from school with the Royal Lichtenstein Circus. He currently teaches circus skills and variety theater with young people, and works full time as a union stagehand. He performs as the Roving Troubadour of the Fairy Tale Ball at the Urbana Free Library, and in addition to previously playing the role of Sancho Panza in the ballet Don Quixote for the UFAC, has recently played The Musician in Borderline and The Sleazy Husband in The Good Woman of Setzuan at the Station Theater.

William Kanter

- Thomas

William Kanter is a 2020 graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University. He plans on returning to DePaul in the fall for an MFA in comedy screenwriting. He is deeply grateful to his family and friends, his girlfriend Julia, and his roommate Corbin.

Enjoy the show!

THANK YOU



Urbana Fine Arts Center

(217) 979-7721



info@urbanafineartscenter.com



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