



# AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE

**2023 IMPACT REPORT**

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Joo Won Ahn, Devon Teuscher, and  
Herman Cornejo in *Études*.

Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.

On the Cover

Susan Jaffe with the cast of *Swan Lake*  
at the Metropolitan Opera House.

Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.

# AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE

**Our Mission:** *To create, to present, to preserve, and to extend the great repertoire of classical dancing, through exciting performances and educational programming of the highest quality, presented to the widest possible audience.*



## AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE

**Susan Jaffe**

*Artistic Director*

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# AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE

This Impact Report provides a survey of American Ballet Theatre's singular and diverse achievements during 2023. As the Company continued to move forward from the consequences of the pandemic, ABT's return was marked by renewed spirit: productions of new ballets, performance of commissioned work by a range of choreographers, and increased touring, including to Asia, by the main Company and ABT Studio Company. It furthered the growth of education and training through numerous programs and partnerships at the ABT studios in New York City and beyond and demonstrated the Company's ongoing commitment to a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion.



## Company Summary

As 2023 draws to a close, a dynamic 12 months mark the first year of Susan Jaffe as the Company's Artistic Director. Her vision and determination for the Company are matched by her leadership, borne of a dedication to the art she has served, as a performer, educator, and arts administrator. Key to her resolve is the growth of repertoire by diverse creators and the fulfillment of ABT's mission to reach a broadened audience, inaugurating imaginative live and on demand programs and digital media.

After 13 years and the creation of 18 ballets for American Ballet Theatre, choreographer Alexei Ratmansky stepped down from his position as Artist in Residence in June 2023. During his tenure with the Company, Ratmansky made an exceptional contribution to ABT and the art of ballet. Kevin McKenzie, former Artistic Director of the Company, noted, "Alexei has given an immeasurable gift to ABT, creating an indelible mark on our identity. He pushed the bar of what is possible to achieve in artistic language that speaks to artists and the public with equal measure." Susan Jaffe said, "Alexei's extraordinary vision of dance has propelled ballet to heights far beyond what we thought was possible 20 years ago. As his works have brought ballet into a new era, ABT has been incredibly fortunate to have been part of that process. We will continue to perform Alexei's works and commission new works from him in the future."

In March, Stella Abrera was appointed Artistic Director of the ABT Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School, after serving as Acting Artistic Director since August 2022. In California, Susan Brooker was named Artistic Director of the ABT William J. Gillespie School at Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa. Among ABT's administration, several individuals assumed new titles and

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<sup>†</sup> *In Memoriam*

responsibilities: Kyle Pickles, General Manager; Vincent Roca, Director of Production; and Aubrey Lynch II, Dean of Students and Director of ABT Wellness and *ABT RISE*. The Company also welcomed Kira Simmons as Director of People and DEI and Pia Catton as Director of Membership.

## Performances, Commissions, and Premieres

American Ballet Theatre presented 36 performances during its 2023 Summer season at the Metropolitan Opera House, which took place from June 22 to July 22. The New York Premiere of *Like Water for Chocolate* by Tony Award®-winning choreographer Christopher Wheeldon, based on the novel of the same name by Laura Esquivel, was the centerpiece of the season. The ballet had received its North American Premiere by ABT earlier in the year at Segerstrom Center for the Arts, in Costa Mesa, California. Additional repertoire included *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. Revenue for the Summer season was \$8,099,101 based on the sale of 98,040 tickets. In the Fall, the Company returned to Lincoln Center for its season at the David H. Koch Theater, with works by Frederick Ashton, George Balanchine, Gemma Bond, Alonzo King, Jiří Kylián, Harald Lander, and Alexei Ratmansky. Over the course of 13 performances, box office revenue totaled \$1,607,637.

ABT premiered two commissions in 2023: *Depuis le Jour* by Gemma Bond and *Danzón No. 2* by Principal Dancer James Whiteside, both during the Company's Fall season at the David H. Koch Theater. *Depuis le Jour*, set to an aria from *Louise* by Gustave Charpentier, was first performed as part of the 2012 Competition for the Erik Bruhn Prize and had its New York Premiere on October 27. *Danzón No. 2*, a pas de deux set to the orchestral composition of the same name by Arturo Márquez, received its World Premiere at the Fall Gala on October 24.

In 2023, the Company had a robust touring schedule, traveling to nine cities throughout the United States. In addition, ABT traveled to China with appearances in Beijing and Shanghai, the Company's first international tour since 2018.

ABT Studio Company undertook a vigorous performing schedule, including an engagement at NYU Skirball in New York City; two regional, multiple-stop tours, in Spring and Fall, that extended from Keene, New Hampshire, to Palm Desert, California; and an appearance at the Youth Grand Prix in Córdoba, México. The troupe also performed in Hong Kong and appeared in three cities in the Philippines. Throughout 2023, ABT Studio Company dancers championed new ballets, presenting commissions by six choreographers.

## Education, Training, and Engagement

In 2023, American Ballet Theatre furthered its Education and Training programs, including classes at the ABT Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School, ABT Summer Intensives, and the ABT National Training Curriculum, the popular *ABTKids* program during the Met season, *ABTKids: Schools* programs in New York City and on tour, and the Company's robust community and engagement initiatives. Notably, the ABT JKO School Children's Division, comprising the school's youngest ballet students, returned to public performance in 2023. Although instruction returned to the Company's studios in New York City and associated institutions in California and abroad, ABT maintained various virtual programs prompted by the pandemic—including ABT National Training Curriculum Teacher Training sessions and Open Division classes—and, thereby, continued to extend the reach of the Company's initiatives by welcoming dancers and educators from around the globe.

Scene from *Swan Lake*.  
Photo: Emma Zordan.



**Dancers**

[Click to view a full listing of ABT Dancers](#)

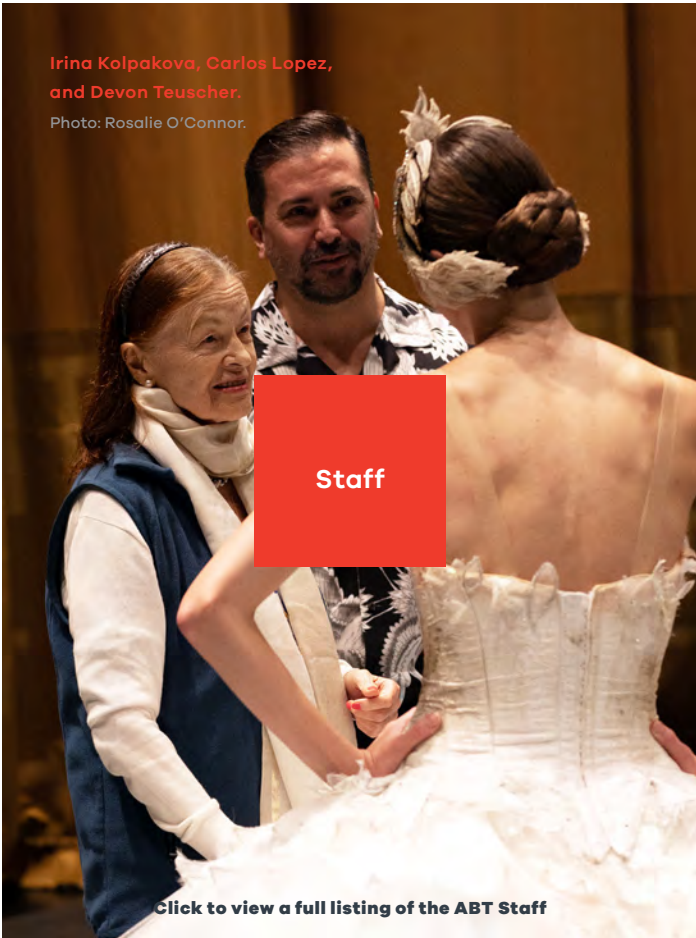
Alondra de la Parra, Guest Conductor for  
*Like Water for Chocolate*.  
Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.



**Orchestra**

[Click to view a full listing of the ABT Orchestra](#)

Irina Kolpakova, Carlos Lopez,  
and Devon Teuscher.  
Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.



**Staff**

[Click to view a full listing of the ABT Staff](#)

Guests at the 2023 June Gala.  
Photo: Rupert Ramsay/BFA.com



**Donors and Sponsors**

[Click to view a full listing of ABT Donors](#)



## Digital and Media Presence

In 2023, ABT further optimized digital platforms, including Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), YouTube, TikTok, and Instagram, creating a virtual stage through which to share its artistry and special brand of excitement. These platforms reached an overall audience of approximately 2.32 million through social media. In 2023, 200,000 followers joined the Company's various social media. Since the inception of the Company's TikTok channel in August 2020, it has gained a remarkable 673,500 followers. Viral hits included a *Like Water for Chocolate* post with almost 5 million views and a *Swan Lake* post with more than 14 million views.

Through the Company's YouTube channel, ABT launched several programs, including ABT's historical talk series *Behind the Ballet with Elizabeth Kaye*, *ABT Studio Company Saturdays* highlighting the next generation of talent throughout the month of August with repertory filmed at Kaatsbaan Cultural Park, and numerous campaign videos promoting the Company's New York performance seasons. On November 1, ABT joined the global ballet community for World Ballet Day with its most expansive offerings to date, including a Company class led by Artistic Director Susan Jaffe, a *Don Quixote* rehearsal with Principal Répétiteur Irina Kolpakova and Principal Dancers Catherine Hurlin and Daniel Camargo, and an ABT Studio Company performance of the *Raymonda Suite*. ABT's offerings garnered over 170,000 views, the largest viewership for the Company since the inception of this worldwide celebration.

Notably, ABT's Instagram account @ABTOfficial reached record numbers with two standout posts: highlights from *Touché* had 5.1 million views and those from *Swan Lake* gained 4.2 million views. The ABT Studio Company Instagram account, @ABTStudioCo, grew a remarkable 62 percent in 2023 with the addition of more than 63,000 followers, while @ABTSchool (the official Instagram of ABT's Education and Training Programs) increased to more than 80,000 followers.

ABT reaches an ever-expanding worldwide audience, with significant numbers in Brazil, Italy, and Mexico. As the Company continues to move beyond the post-pandemic era, ABT's expanding digital footprint engaged more than 740 million views in 2023 across its platforms—the equivalent of approximately 195,000 performances at the Metropolitan Opera House or 329,100 performances at the David H. Koch Theater. Approximately 55 percent of ABT's digital audience is from outside the United States, compelling evidence of international interest in the Company, its dancers, and its repertoire.

American Ballet Theatre has garnered an astonishing 24 billion (23,723,191,665) impressions from 1,930 placements throughout 2023. This includes mentions of American Ballet Theatre across, but not limited to, the main Company, ABT Studio Company, and the ABT Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School, as well as placements about individual ABT dancers and contributors.

In March, ABT presented the North American Premiere of *Like Water for Chocolate* at Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa, California. American Ballet Theatre secured more than 145 placements, including 11 pre-opening night placements and five reviews of the production. The total readership was 694 million (694,391,844) impressions, with one-third from Spanish-language press. For the ballet's New York Premiere during ABT's Summer season at the Metropolitan Opera House, advance coverage, feature articles, and reviews included coverage in *The New York Times*, *Associated Press* (English and Spanish-language), *Harper's Bazaar*, and *Observer*. The ballet attained print, online, and national broadcast television coverage in English and Spanish media, including interviews with the novel writer Laura Esquivel, designer Bob Crowley, and conductor Alondra de la Parra, emphasizing the value in addressing the Spanish-speaking public to promote this Mexican tale.

Joo Won Ahn, Isabella Boylston, and Fangqi Li in *Giselle*.

Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.



Throughout the Company's Summer season at the Metropolitan Opera House, ABT had 594 total placements; 248 occurring before the season opened on June 22. There were 263 Gala-related placements and 24 performance reviews. The total readership for the Summer season press was 13 billion (13,011,923,956).

ABT returned to the David H. Koch Theater for the 2023 Fall season, garnering 234 total placements, including 40 pre-opening night placements and 11 reviews of the season. ABT's Fall Gala received 172 placements with a readership of 1.8 billion. Mentions of note come from *The New York Times*, *Daily Mail*, *People*, *Bloomberg*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Vogue*. The total readership for the Fall season was 2.67 billion (2,673,094,350).

In November, ABT made its return to international travel with a two-week engagement in Shanghai and Beijing, China, performing at the Shanghai Grand Theatre and the National Center for the Performing Arts, respectively. The tour secured 199 placements for a total readership of 1.5 billion.

## Donors and Sponsors

American Ballet Theatre extends its deepest gratitude to our community of donors—individuals, foundations, corporations, and government agencies—that helped propel the Company forward and return to live performance in venues across the country and around the world. We acknowledge the stalwart leadership of ABT's Board of Governing Trustees, and the Company is further buoyed by the dedicated members of its Global Council and Chairman's Council. The year 2023 brought new opportunities for members to attend dress rehearsals, receptions, and panel discussions with artistic staff and dancers, both in New York and in tour cities. The Company also acknowledges the support of the June Gala and Fall Gala sponsors and patrons. Their optimism and generosity strengthen ABT's tenacious and resilient spirit. We proudly recognize the exceptional philanthropy and engagement that enables ABT to create, innovate, and perform, while meeting the highest standards of artistry.

Against the background outlined in this report, American Ballet Theatre is posed, in 2024, to preserve the ballets of its rich repertoire, develop new works by contemporary choreographers, and expand the Company's audiences through opportunities in New York and on tour, as well as through educational efforts and ever-evolving media and technology.

Sincerely,



**Susan Jaffe**  
Artistic Director and  
Interim Executive Director



**Andrew F. Barth**  
Chairman of the Board



**Sarah Arison**  
President of the Board

*ABT at School at PS 11 Q.*

Photo: ABT Staff.

# PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES



Soprano Maria Brea, Katherine Williams, and Jose Sebastian in *Depuis le Jour*.

Photo: Kyle Froman.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

*ABT RISE*, Representation and Inclusion Sustain Excellence, the Company's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)—on stage, in studios and classrooms, and throughout the production staff and administration—advanced a range of artistic objectives, education programs, and partnerships throughout 2023.

In 2023, American Ballet Theatre continued to offer its *ABT RISE* Workshops to students across New York City. This series of complimentary dance classes, held at ABT's studios and led by ABT faculty and Teaching Artists, aims to provide access to training for students from populations that have historically been underrepresented in classical ballet.

On three dates in Spring 2023, ABT held the inaugural *ABT RISE* Boys Weekend Workshops, open to second and third grade boys enrolled in New York City public schools. In total, 30 boys attended, expanding their range of movement while learning about athleticism and storytelling within classical ballet. On May 6, as part of a new partnership with the Girls Scouts of Greater New York, ABT welcomed 25 second and third grade Brownies to a special one-day Workshop where participants worked toward their Brownie Dancer Badge. All of these 2023 *ABT RISE* Workshop attendees were invited to the inaugural *ABT RISE* Camp in August, a weeklong experience that gave students the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of ballet, modern, and character dance while meeting new friends and having fun. In addition to these opportunities for younger students, ABT Engagement introduced the *ABT RISE* Selective High School Audition Preparation Workshop, held on November 11. This two-hour Workshop was created to support eighth grade students in New York City who were auditioning for selective performing arts high schools, offering guidance for the audition process, as well as access to coaching and feedback.



Through the ABT Women's Movement and other commissions, women and BIPOC creators gained prominence in the creation of new works for American Ballet Theatre, ABT Studio Company, and *ABT Incubator*. At the David H. Koch Theater in October 2023, American Ballet Theatre gave the New York Premiere of *Depuis le Jour* by Gemma Bond, set to an aria from *Louise* by Gustave Charpentier. Works by Alonzo King (*Single Eye*), Christopher Rudd (*Touché*), and Jessica Lang (*ZigZag*), which had premiered in 2021 and 2022, returned to ABT's repertory: *Single Eye* was performed during the 2023 Fall season, while *Touché* and *ZigZag* were presented by the Company on tour in 2023.

At NYU Skirball in May, ABT Studio Company presented the New York City Premieres of several works commissioned in Fall 2022: *The Go Between* by Gemma Bond, set to music by Domenico Scarlatti; *...if it ain't BA-ROQUE* by Hope Boykin, with music by Agostino Steffani, G.F. Handel, and Antonio Vivaldi; *Knife's Edge* by Houston Thomas, featuring original music by Johannes Goldbach; and *Do You Care?* by ABT apprentice and ABT Studio Company, ABT JKO School, and ABT Summer Intensive alumna Aleisha Walker, set to music by Johannes Bornlöf. Walker's ballet won one of two prestigious Young Creation Awards at the 2023 Prix de Lausanne, where it was performed by then ABT Studio Company member and current apprentice Madison Brown.

Leah Baylin, Anabel Katsnelson, and Melvin Lawovi in Eva Alt's *Glass and Guitar* at the 2023 ABT Incubator performance.

Photo: Kyle Froman.



Host James Whiteside and ASL interpreter Rick Rubin introduce the cast of the 2023 ABTKids performance.

Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.



Claire Davison, Duncan Lyle, Wendy Perron, and Susan Jaffe at Works & Process.

Photo: Works & Process / Diego Quintanar.

On its Fall tour, ABT Studio Company gave the World Premieres of *Within the Sunset* by Amy Hall Garner, with music by Rodrigo y Gabriela, at the Youth Grand Prix Gala on October 30 in Córdoba, Mexico, and *In the Face of Darkness* by Jamar Roberts, set to music by Franz Schubert, on November 12 in Columbus, Georgia.

*ABT Incubator*, the Company's innovative choreographic lab, gave its fifth workshop presentation on January 13, 2023, at Pace University's Schimmel Center. Five choreographers were chosen to create new works for ABT during an intense two-week residency, with the results presented in a public showcase for the first time. ABT dancer Jose Sebastian, director of the program, oversees the initiative which nurtures new works from selected Company dancers and emerging choreographers.

This year, ABT Soloist Luciana Paris, who made *Nunanu* for the 2021 workshop, created *Then and Now*, a piece for three dancers, while corps de ballet member Tyler Maloney choreographed the pas de deux *Embers in the Sky*, his first work for *ABT Incubator*. Additional choreographers included Eva Alt, a graduate of the Boston Ballet School, who produces multidisciplinary work encompassing new media across a range of dance forms; Mark Caserta, recipient of the 2023 Princess Grace Award in choreography and founder of Big Kid Dance; and Roderick George, a graduate of the Houston Ballet Academy and Alvin Ailey School and a former member of Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet. Following the performance, the creators joined *ABT Incubator* Director Jose Sebastian and choreography consultant Gregory Dolbashian for a panel discussion about their participation in the initiative. Since its inception in 2018, *ABT Incubator* has been a pipeline to further creative endeavors and partnerships with ABT. Previous participants have been invited to create works for ABT's main Company, ABT Studio Company, and the ABT Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School.



## Audience Development and Outreach

In 2023, American Ballet Theatre expanded its audience outreach through programs that encouraged new and larger audiences to experience ballet. The Company provided more than 13,000 discounted and complimentary or subsidized tickets to organizations and community groups, some for the first time, that aligned with its mission and diversity, equity, and inclusion goals. These organizations included Lincoln Center Accessibility Program Members, Theater Development Fund Accessibility Program Members, New York Public Libraries, Brooklyn Public Libraries, Entertainment Community Fund, Mount Sinai Hospital Doctors and Staff, International Institute of Education scholars programs, New York City Public Schools, Girl Scouts of Greater New York, Boys & Girls Club, families through Women in Need, students through Opportunitix, and local Latino, Hispanic, and Spanish cultural organizations. ABT's student ticket distribution program provided approximately 1,200 complimentary tickets to more than 30 NYC public schools for the 2023 Fall season at the David H. Koch Theater.

### WORKS & PROCESS

On October 8, 2023, the Guggenheim's Works & Process series presented *American Ballet Theatre: The Art of Storytelling with Susan Jaffe* on October 8, 2023, at the Solomon R.

Richard Toda with participants at the *ABT RISE* Camp.

Photo: Amanda Tomera.



Guggenheim Museum in New York. Examining the creative process from studio to stage, Susan Jaffe, Artistic Director of ABT, led a discussion moderated by dance writer and historian Wendy Perron that considered the narrative dimensions of dance. ABT dancers Thomas Forster, Roman Zhurbin, Chloe Misseldine, Claire Davison, Duncan Lyle, and Courtney Shealy performed excerpts from the full-length *Swan Lake* and one-act story ballet *The Dream*.

#### **ABTKIDS**

On June 24, 2023, ABT presented its annual *ABTKids* hour-long performance at the Metropolitan Opera House as part of its Summer season. Principal Dancer James Whiteside hosted the program, introducing children and their families to the magic of ballet by pulling back—in literal terms—the stage curtain. Whiteside interviewed fellow Principal Dancer Gillian Murphy, showcased how a stage manager calls a cue, and demonstrated the tuning of the orchestra by ABT Conductor David LaMarche. The program featured highlights from the Company's season, including *Swan Lake*, *Giselle*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. The performance closed with the exhilarating pas de deux from *Flames of Paris*, performed by then ABT Studio Company dancers and current apprentices Madison Brown and Takumi Miyake, who both made their Met stage debuts.

#### **IN THE SCHOOLS**

On April 27, American Ballet Theatre was honored at the 2023 Nassau BOCES Education Partner Award ceremony for making a substantial impact on public education in Nassau County, New York. For more than 20 years, the Company has partnered with the Port Washington School District and served more than 10,000 students throughout the program history. The award was received by Richard Toda, Artistic Manager, ABT Engagement. In 2018, ABT Engagement began a partnership with Long Island High School for the Arts in Syosset, New York, serving as the school's lead cultural dance partner.

As part of ABT's performances of *Giselle* at the Durham Performing Arts Center, the Company presented a special *ABTKids: Schools* program on March 17. ABT Associate Artistic Manager Clinton Lockett and members of the Company provided an introduction to ballet with demonstrations of barre exercises, including pointe work, and the expressive and narrative purpose of mime. The audience was also treated to performance excerpts from the first act of *Giselle*.

In September, ABT inaugurated a year-long residency at the Frank Sinatra School for the Arts. As part of the partnership,



ABT Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School faculty members teach weekly ballet classes to more than 90 high school dance majors. The residency represents the culmination of an 18-year relationship initiated in 2006 through ABT's *Make a Ballet* program, one of the Company's signature educational initiatives.

On October 26 and 27, ABT Studio Company presented two *ABTKids: Schools* programs at the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts for more than 1,400 New York City public school students. ABT Studio Company Artistic Director Sascha Radetsky hosted the performances, which represented the first time ABT Studio Company dancers took the stage during the 2023-2024 season just prior to their Fall Tour.

#### ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS IN NEW YORK CITY

New York City is American Ballet Theatre's home base for its dancers, musicians, teachers, and staff, as well as performances and engagement with its audiences. In Summer 2023, the Company's continued its partnerships with the New York City Parks Department and Lincoln Center's Summer for the City programs to bring ABT Teaching Artists into the community for a series of ballet workshops.

In conjunction with the Company's participation in the BAAND Together Dance Festival, ABT offered a free hour-long workshop for families on July 26. ABT Teaching Artists were joined by Soloist SunMi Park and ABT Studio Company dancer Lilia Greyeyes for an *ABTKids* Story Ballet Family Workshop.

In addition to the BAAND Together workshop, ABT Engagement was proud to lead a *Waltzing with Flowers* storytelling and pantomime workshop as part of the Big Umbrella Day on July 1, Lincoln Center's annual day of free performances and workshops for neurodivergent audiences.

For the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, ABT served as the lead Cultural Partner for Dance during the 2023 Summer Arts Institute, a free, four-week arts program for New York City Department of Education students in grades 8-12, hosted by the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts in Queens.



## Internships

American Ballet Theatre's internship program was established in Fall 2010 to provide nonprofit work experience for university students, recent graduates, and participants in varied arts administration programs. Each year, approximately 40 interns become members of the ABT family, where they join a department, partner with a mentor, and gain valuable experience in areas of interest. In addition, interns participate in weekly cohort meetings that promote professional development and provide opportunities to learn from leaders within the organization. Interns also have the opportunity to assist with a range of special events and gain exposure to important figures in the New York arts community. Since the program began 13 years ago, 42 interns have been hired full-time by the Company; 13 former interns are currently on staff at ABT.

## Digital Initiatives

#### BEHIND THE BALLET WITH ELIZABETH KAYE

In June 2023, Artistic Director Susan Jaffe launched the new video series *Behind the Ballet*, hosted by noted dance historian Elizabeth Kaye, to provide audiences with an understanding of the background and expressive language of ballet. Four video programs initiated *Behind the Ballet*, three on the classics *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, and *Romeo and Juliet*, and another on Christopher Wheeldon's full-length ballet,

*Like Water for Chocolate*. The four-part series formed a complement to the 2023 ABT Met season, as well as an essential, ongoing resource for dance enthusiasts. Installments provided a unique, compelling combination of historical background, cultural context, ballet synopses, musical discussion, and interviews with dancers. For the Fall, one program explored the unique choreographic styles on display in Alexei Ratmansky's *Piano Concerto No. 1*, Jiří Kylián's *Petite Mort*, and Harald Lander's *Études*, while another compared two emblematic works of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, George Balanchine's *Ballet Imperial* and Frederick Ashton's *The Dream*. In the third program, Kaye considered the work of contemporary choreographers: Alonzo King's *Single Eye* and Alexei Ratmansky's narrative ballet *On the Dnipro*, set in Ukraine, the country of his upbringing. Rounding out 2023, Kaye delved into *The Nutcracker*, recalling the birth of this holiday tradition and its development over the years.

#### BOOK CLUBS

In 2023, ABT introduced two Pop-Up Book Club discussions that offered ABT Members and YouTube subscribers exclusive access to discussions of *Like Water for Chocolate* and *The Boy from Kyiv: Alexei Ratmansky's Life in Ballet*. On June 12, ABT hosted a Pop-Up Book Club session via Zoom that featured Laura Esquivel, author of the novel *Like Water for Chocolate*, choreographer Christopher Wheeldon, and ABT dancers Cassandra Trenary, Herman Cornejo, and Courtney Lavine in a discussion of the acclaimed and much-loved book and its adaptation into a ballet. Lavine and Amy Brandt, Editor-in-Chief of *Pointe* magazine, moderated the discussion. On October 12, *The Boy from Kyiv: Alexei Ratmansky's Life in Ballet*, was the focus of the Pop-up Book Club discussion that featured special guests Marina Harss, author of this recently published biography, and Alexei Ratmansky, choreographer and former ABT Artist in Residence. Ukrainian-born ABT Principal Dancer Christine Shevchenko provided insight into ABT's 2023 Fall season that included Ratmansky's *Piano Concerto No. 1* and *On the Dnipro*. ABT Associate Artistic Director Clinton Luckett moderated the panel through a Zoom webinar.

ABT JKO School Children's Division students at the *Gloria's Promise* reading.

Photo: Lee Wade.



## Partnerships and Collaborators

#### RANDOM HOUSE CHILDREN'S BOOKS

The book *Gloria's Promise* is the fifth title in the series from American Ballet Theatre and Random House Children's Books. ABT hosted a book reading and signing of *Gloria's Promise* at ABT's 890 Broadway studios for students from the ABT JKO School Children's Division. Author Jacqueline Preiss Weitzman and illustrator Robin Preiss Glasser shared their story of young ballet dancer, Gloria, whose boundless determination drives her dream of acceptance to the renowned ABT Summer Intensive training program. The picture book takes the reader through a behind-the-scenes look at American Ballet Theatre, featuring some recognizable depictions of ABT dancers and staff, as it follows the story of Gloria's big audition. The book provides insight into the discipline of ballet and reflects the heart of the partnership's mission to educate children and foster a love of dance.

#### EQUINOX

In celebration of Black History Month 2023, American Ballet Theatre partnered with Equinox fitness clubs on a campaign that championed Black excellence in ballet. The collaboration featured Christopher Rudd's *Lifted*, which received its World Premiere during the Company's 2022 Fall season. Throughout February, Equinox showcased ABT dancers Calvin Royal III, Madison Brown, Kyra Coco, and Melvin Lawovi and choreographer Christopher Rudd on the Equinox social media

Melvin Lawovi, photographed for Equinox.

Photo: Myesha Evon.



platforms, sharing their sources of inspiration and motivation. Equinox also continued its relationship as ABT's Lead Fitness Club Partner. The specially designed workout *Ballet by Equinox x ABT* class is offered eight times per week at select New York City, Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles clubs. In addition, Equinox provides complimentary membership to ABT dancers.

#### SILENT DISCOS AT LINCOLN CENTER

On June 25, American Ballet Theatre hosted a free Silent Disco evening as part of Lincoln Center's Summer for the City programming. Coinciding with the Company's season at the Metropolitan Opera House, the exuberant dance party took place at the Dance Floor at Josie Robertson Plaza, transformed with a stage, 10-foot disco ball, and one of the world's largest, outdoor dance floors. ABT dancer Tyler Maloney hosted the event, celebrating Pride Month alongside DJ Remeice. Revelers included ABT dancers, staff, New Yorkers, and visitors alike.

#### TIKTOK

American Ballet Theatre invited 10 highly visible TikTok influencers and their guests to Opening Night of the 2023 Fall season at the David H. Koch Theater. The TikTok Creators received VIP treatment, including a pre-performance toast, photos in front of the ABT ballet barre and mirror, and premium seats to the *Classics Old and New* program. In addition, the influencers were provided with special ABT discount ticket codes to include on their social media posts.

Tyler Maloney at the ABT Silent Disco at Lincoln Center.

Photo: Brittany Heier.



#### WÖLFFER WINES

In 2023, Wölffer Estate Vineyard, one of the finest producers of premium wines, ciders, and spirits on the East Coast, initiated a partnership with American Ballet Theatre, serving as the Company's Official Wine Partner. Wölffer generously donates cases of wine for ABT's special events. In addition, Wölffer Estate Vineyard has supplied cases for ABT to auction as prizes to support fundraising initiatives.

#### NEIMAN MARCUS

This holiday season, American Ballet Theatre is featured as a one-of-a kind 2023 Fantasy Gift in the Neiman Marcus *Christmas Book*. One of eight exclusive gifts from the legendary retailer, the package offers the recipient special behind-the-scenes entrée during the 2024 Summer season at the Metropolitan Opera House. The "Star Performer with American Ballet Theatre" comprises a two-performance experience, including observation of a Company class, rehearsals, a private backstage tour, premier tickets to a performance, receptions, and a debut walk-on role on the Met stage, as well as a one-year ABT membership. The exceptional gift is available during productions of *Swan Lake* or *Romeo and Juliet*.

Students of the ABT Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School in the *Pièce d'Occasion* at the 2023 Fall Gala.

Photo: Emma Zordan.



A large group of ballet dancers, including men and women, are posed on a stage. They are wearing white leotards and tutus. The background is a deep blue curtain. The dancers are in various poses, some standing, some kneeling, and some lying on the floor. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the dancers against the blue background.

# EDUCATION & TRAINING



## ABT Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School

In March 2023, Stella Abrera was named Artistic Director of the ABT Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School, having served as Acting Artistic Director since August 2022. In this position, Abrera oversees all artistic aspects of the ABT JKO School's Children's Division and Pre-Professional Division, as well as the ABT National Training Curriculum. A former dancer with ABT, Abrera joined American Ballet Theatre as a member of the corps de ballet in 1996, was promoted to Soloist in 2001, and was named Principal Dancer in August 2015. She retired as a dancer with the Company in 2020.

The ABT JKO School currently serves more than 350 students and encompasses a Pre-Professional Division for dancers ages 12 to 18, as well as a Children's Division for dancers ages 3-12. ABT's National Training Curriculum guides the ABT JKO School and provides age- and skill-appropriate classes in classical ballet technique, pointe, and pas de deux. Training is supplemented with classes in character dance, modern, contemporary, choreography, Pilates, strength training, and music. The Education

and Training divisions are key to the viability, evolution, and growth of the main Company, ABT Studio Company, and the dance profession overall. Of the dancers in the present Company, 88% attended an ABT Training Program: ABT Studio Company, ABT JKO School, or ABT Summer Intensive. Graduates of ABT's training pipeline go on to join ballet and dance companies throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia.

In May 2023, the ABT Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School Children's Division returned to the stage for the first time in four years. The celebratory performance took place at the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts in Astoria, Queens, and featured children, ages 8 to 12, in a range of dances, set to music by Tchaikovsky. The performance closed with excerpts from *Paquita* danced by students from the Pre-Professional Division, staged by Yan Chen and Rubén Martín, after Marius Petipa.

The Pre-Professional Division, dedicated to the training of advanced young adult dancers, admitted by audition, returned to NYU Skirball for performances on May 18 and 20. The program included excerpts



from *Paquita*, staged by Yan Chen and Rubén Martín after Petipa; *Seven Sonatas: A Study*, staged by Stella Abrera after Alexei Ratmansky; *Giselle* Act I excerpts, choreographed by Caridad Martínez; and Antony Tudor's *The Leaves Are Fading*, staged by Amanda McKerrow and John Gardner. The performance of *Seven Sonatas: A Study* included ABT JKO School Upper 2 and Upper 3 level students, along with ABT Soloist SunMi Park and then ABT Studio Company member and current apprentice Finnian Carmeci, who is also an alumnus of the ABT JKO School. It also featured a collaboration with students from the Bronx School for Music.

As part of the ABT JKO School Pre-Professional Division's engagement at NYU Skirball, students participated in class demonstrations highlighting the diverse ABT JKO School curriculum. Faculty members involved in staging the demonstrations and excerpts, as well as contributing original choreography, included Gemma Bond, Yan Chen, Marianne dello Joio, Elizabeth Ferrell, Carmela Gallace, Robert La Fosse, Rubén Martín, Caridad Martínez, and select Upper 3 students.

## ABT William J. Gillespie School

In August 2023, Susan Brooker was named Artistic Director of the ABT William J. Gillespie School at Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa, California. Brooker oversees all levels of the ABT Gillespie Children's Division (Pre-Primary to Level 3) and Pre-Professional Division (Level 4 and above), as well as Segerstrom's master class series and summer dance programs. She also serves as Artistic Coordinator of the ABT *Young Dancer Summer Workshop* in Orange County, held in partnership with Segerstrom Center for the Arts. Brooker has a longstanding relationship with American Ballet Theatre, the official Dance Company of Segerstrom Center for the Arts. For the past 15 years, she has served as an Artistic Advisor, Teacher, and Examiner for the Company's National Training Curriculum, as well as on the ABT Summer Intensive Faculty.

Alejandro Valera Outlaw in *The Go Between*.

Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.



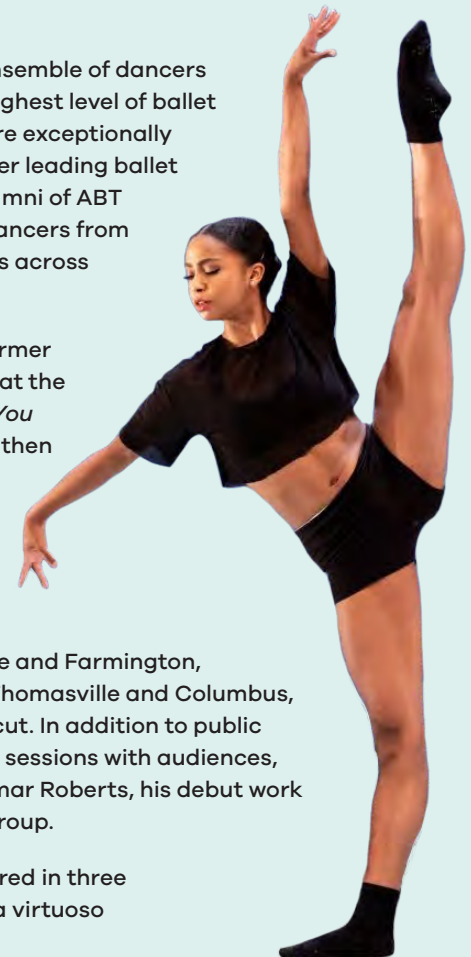
## ABT Studio Company

ABT Studio Company, led by Artistic Director Sascha Radetsky, is an ensemble of dancers (ages 17-21) of outstanding potential that forms a bridge between the highest level of ballet training and professional performance. Its primary purpose is to prepare exceptionally promising dancers for American Ballet Theatre's main Company or other leading ballet companies throughout the world. Currently, 82% of ABT dancers are alumni of ABT Studio Company. As of Fall 2023, the diverse roster is comprised of 10 dancers from Brazil, Canada, Japan, the Philippines, and South Korea, as well as cities across the United States.

In February, Aleisha Walker, a member of ABT's corps de ballet and a former ABT Studio Company dancer, won a prestigious Young Creation Award at the 2023 Prix de Lausanne 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Competition. Walker's solo *Do You Care?*, set to "Nocturnal Waltz" by Johannes Bornlöf, was performed by then ABT Studio Company member and current apprentice Madison Brown. Walker was one of two winners named by the Prix de Lausanne jury.

In 2023, ABT Studio Company toured throughout the United States and abroad, with a repertoire showcasing works by emerging and established choreographers alongside classical and neoclassical favorites. American cities included Keene, New Hampshire; Albuquerque and Farmington, New Mexico; Sedona, Arizona; Escondido and Palm Desert, California; Thomasville and Columbus, Georgia; Metairie, Louisiana; Lynchburg, Virginia; and Storrs, Connecticut. In addition to public performances, ABT Studio Company offered programs at schools, Q&A sessions with audiences, and master classes. Fall repertoire included new commissions from Jamar Roberts, his debut work for ABT Studio Company, and Amy Hall Garner, her third piece for the group.

In April 2023, ABT Studio Company performed in Hong Kong and appeared in three cities in the Philippines, where they were joined by the renowned Filipina virtuoso pianist Cecile Licad, who accompanied several ballets.



Madison Brown in *Do You Care?*

Photo: Gregory Batardon.



Kyra Coco and Finnian Carmeci in the *Raymonda* pas de deux.

Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.



ABT Studio Company with Global Council member Sofia Elizalde in Manila, Philippines.

Photo courtesy of Ayala Foundation.



At NYU Skirball on May 19 and 20, in a program entitled *Spring Moves*, the troupe performed repertory by George Balanchine, Kenneth MacMillan, Marius Petipa, Daniel Ulbricht, and Vasily Vainonen, in addition to the New York City Premieres of works by Gemma Boyd, Hope Boykin, Houston Thomas, and Aleisha Walker. The 2022-2023 season concluded with two outdoor performances during the Kaatsbaan Spring Festival in Tivoli, New York.

In August, ABT's YouTube channel presented *ABT Studio Company Saturdays*, with a different video premiering each week throughout the month. This digital series, designed to showcase the versatile talent of ABT Studio Company dancers, featured repertory filmed at Kaatsbaan Cultural Park.

In October, ABT Studio Company took part in the opening gala of the Youth Grand Prix México in Córdoba, Veracruz in Mexico. The Youth Grand Prix is the largest global network of dance whose mission is to provide training at the highest level through the support and development of dancers ages 9 through 19, regardless of background or economic status. It provides scholarships to 28 of the world's most important dance schools.

On November 20, ABT Studio Company appeared at New York City Center as part of Studio 5, the venue's popular series of up-close conversation and performance. ABT Studio Company Artistic Director Sascha Radetsky introduced the program and was joined by Susan Jaffe, ABT Artistic Director, Stella Abrera, ABT JKO School Artistic Director, and choreographer Amy Hall Garner to discuss ballet, repertoire, and the training of the next generation of dancers. ABT Studio Company dancers performed excerpts from *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Don Quixote*, and *The Seasons*, alongside Garner's *Within the Sunset*, a new commission for 2023.

To round out the year, ABT Studio Company traveled to Costa Mesa, California, with the main Company in December to participate in performances of *The Nutcracker* at Segerstrom Center for the Arts.

## 2023 Summer Intensive Final Performance.

Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.



## Summer Programs

Over the course of nine weeks, American Ballet Theatre welcomed and trained more than 600 young dancers in five Summer Programs, including the ABT Summer Intensive, *Young Dancer Summer Workshop*, for serious dance students aged 9-12, and Collegiate Summer Intensive, designed for college-age students to develop their artistic talent in a challenging and professional environment. Kate Lydon, Artistic Director, ABT Summer Intensives, oversees the programs and curriculum. Acceptance is by audition only, either in person at one of 19 sites on the 2023 National Audition Tour or by video audition.

Renowned faculty led an extensive curriculum that encompasses ballet technique, pointe, variations, and men's technique, as well as mime, modern, and jazz. These classes are supplemented by yoga, Pilates, injury prevention, and nutrition. This Summer marked the return of the New York Summer Intensive Final Performance, held at the Frank Sinatra School for the Arts. The year 2023 also brought the return of ABT's Summer Programs to California, with an ABT Summer Intensive and *Young Dancer Summer Workshop* hosted at Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa.



**National Training Scholars Mikaela Cameron and Eric Poor.**

Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.

## Open Division

American Ballet Theatre's Open Division classes were developed during the pandemic, utilizing digital platforms to expand the offerings of ABT's Training Programs. ABT has maintained these classes to address a widened worldwide community of adults interested in studying ballet. These Adult Ballet Classes, for students ages 16 and older, offered via Zoom, are taught by ABT JKO School faculty and Company dancers—an enviable opportunity for those interested in dance, whether in Boston or Berlin. Instruction is provided at the beginner, intermediate, and intermediate/advanced levels. In 2023, more than 275 individuals participated in the Open Division.



## Teacher Training

Designed for the development and training of students, ABT's National Training Curriculum (NTC) incorporates elements of French, Italian, and Russian schools of dance training. It aims to provide students with detailed knowledge of classical ballet technique and the ability to adapt to diverse dance styles. Its syllabus enables teachers to incorporate best practices such as pedagogy, child development, anatomy, dance psychology, and technique into their instruction.

In 2023, nine Teacher Training Intensives were offered as part of the ABT National Training Curriculum. Seven took place in person, five at ABT's Studios in New York, one in Gothenburg, Sweden, and one in Monterrey, Mexico. Two Teacher Training Intensives were offered online.

Teacher evaluations are an essential aspect of the ABT National Training Curriculum. In 2023, 149 individuals from 81 schools were recognized as ABT Affiliate Teachers through the ABT Affiliate Examinations process. The ABT Certified Teachers presented more than 3,022 students for ABT Affiliate Examinations from 13 states and 18 countries. Student examinations form a graded evaluation system for ABT Affiliate Teachers to receive assessments of their teaching, based on ABT NTC standards. They also provide valuable critiques for participating students regarding technique and artistic development. To date, there are 1,587 active ABT Certified Teachers representing 49 states and 46 countries.

NTC's innovative *Raising the Barre Weekend Workshops*, created to enhance teacher education and student training, featured choreographer Twyla Tharp and her work on October 28 and 29, 2023. Stella Abrera served as host and welcomed Twyla Tharp, Stacy Caddell, a former member of Twyla Tharp Dance who regularly stages Tharp's works and served as Dance Supervisor for the choreographer's Tony Award®-winning Broadway show *Movin' Out*, and former ABT dancer John Selya, also a featured performer in *Movin' Out*. Teachers and students had an opportunity to learn about Tharp's most beloved ballets, including *Push Comes to Shove*, *The Brahms-Haydn Variations*, and *In the Upper Room*, as well as the curriculum and lessons she uses to educate dancers through her choreography.

ABT continued its partnership with New York University through the ABT/NYU Master's Degree in Ballet Pedagogy, which had six graduates in 2023. Established in 2008, the program combines ballet pedagogy, research, and arts management course work with master classes in ballet technique. Graduates receive an MA in Teaching Dance in the Professions: ABT Pedagogy as well as certification in the National Training Curriculum. Pamela Levy serves as Director of the ABT/NYU Master's Program. A dance educator for more than two decades, Levy has been a faculty member for the ABT JKO School and ABT Summer Intensives and is currently a member of the ABT NTC Artistic Board of Examiners and was previously the Director of Youth Programs at Steps on Broadway. She received her BFA in Dance from Mason Gross School of the Arts and was a charter graduate of the ABT/NYU Master's Program.

PERFORMANCES





Christine Shevchenko in *Like Water for Chocolate*.

Photo: Kyle Froman.

Hee Seo and Aran Bell in *Swan Lake*.

Photo: Kyle Froman.



Catherine Hurlin and Calvin Royal III in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.



Breanne Granlund and Carlos Gonzalez in *Giselle*.

Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.



## 2023 Summer Season

The highly anticipated New York Premiere of *Like Water for Chocolate* by Tony Award®-winning choreographer Christopher Wheeldon opened the Company's Summer season at the Metropolitan Opera House, June 22–July 22, 2023. Inspired by Laura Esquivel's novel of the same name, the three-act ballet and centerpiece of the Met season is set to a commissioned score by Joby Talbot. Bob Crowley designed the sets and costumes, with lighting by Natasha Katz and video design by Luke Halls. The work is a co-production with The Royal Ballet. Guest conductor Alondra de la Parra led several performances of Talbot's evocative score, performed by the ABT Orchestra augmented by an ensemble of percussion and indigenous instruments.

The Summer repertoire also included three full-length classics, *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. The season was marked by special occasions, including a performance of *Giselle* on July 8, given in honor of the late Lupe Serrano, a former ABT Principal Dancer from 1953 to 1971, who, after retiring from the stage, taught classes for the ABT main Company, ABT Studio Company, ABT JKO School, and ABT Summer Intensives. On July 21, the performance of *Swan Lake* celebrated Susan Jaffe's first Met season as Artistic Director, a homecoming for the former ABT dancer of 22 years.

## June Gala

The opening night Gala on June 22 marked a festive start to American Ballet Theatre's 2023 Summer season at the Metropolitan Opera House. The event honored Yolanda Santos, Founding Member of ABT's Global Council and Founder of Mexico's Ballet de Monterrey, for her championing of classical ballet and contemporary visual arts, nationally and internationally. Patrons attended the New York Premiere of *Like Water for Chocolate* led by Cassandra Trenary and Herman Cornejo. After the ballet, guests attended a dinner and dancing on the promenade at David Geffen Hall. Honorary June Gala Chair Laura Esquivel was joined by June Gala Chairs Alfonso Arau, Sarah Arison, Lizzie Asher, Avery and Andy Barth, Emily Blavatnik, Malcolm Carfrae, Lumi Cavazos, Susan and Leonard Feinstein, Melanie Hamrick and Mick Jagger, and Sutton Stracke, along with Junior Chairs Casey Kohlberg and Emily Reifel.



Mick Jagger and Melanie Hamrick.



Honoree Yolanda Santos.



Malcolm Carfrae and Katie Holmes.

Photos: Darian DiCianno and Rupert Ramsay, BFA.

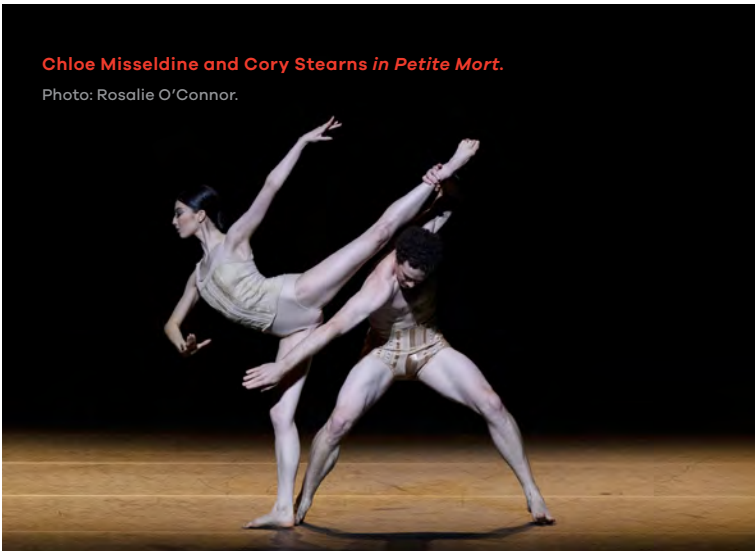
Betsy McBride, Skylar Brandt, and Erica Lall in *Ballet Imperial*. © The George Balanchine Trust.

Photo: Kyle Froman.



Chloe Misseldine and Cory Stearns in *Petite Mort*.

Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.



SunMi Park and Thomas Forster in *On the Dnipro*.

Photo: Kyle Froman.



Daniel Camargo and Jake Roxander in *The Dream*.

Photo: Kyle Froman.





## 2023 Fall Season

ABT's Fall season at the David H. Koch Theater, October 18-29, featured three programs that showcased the range of the Company's classical and contemporary repertoire. The program *Classics Old and New* included Alexei Ratmansky's *Piano Concerto No. 1*, set to Shostakovich's orchestral work of the same name, Jiří Kylian's *Petite Mort*, and Harald Lander's *Études*. George Balanchine's *Ballet Imperial* and Frederick Ashton's *The Dream* formed a complementary pair of ballets in *20<sup>th</sup> Century Works: Balanchine and Ashton*. The season concluded with the program *21<sup>st</sup> Century Works: King, Ratmansky, and Bond* that comprised Alonzo King's *Single Eye*, Ratmansky's *On the Dnipro*, and the New York Premiere of Gemma Bond's pas de deux *Depuis le Jour*.

## Fall Gala

The Fall Gala on Tuesday evening, October 24, featured a one-night-only mixed repertory program performed by ABT's roster of Principal Dancers, as well as representatives from ABT's Training Programs. ABT apprentices, ABT Studio Company dancers, and more than 130 students from the ABT JKO School, including 60 students from the Children's Division and 75 students in the Pre-Professional Division, performed a *pièce d'occasion* set to excerpts from Camille Saint-Saëns's *Carnival of the Animals*, choreographed by Lauren Lovette and Rubén Martín. The evening's repertory was also highlighted by Principal Dancers Isabella Boylston and Aran Bell performing the World Premiere of *Danzón No. 2*, a new work choreographed by ABT Principal Dancer James Whiteside, set to music by Arturo Márquez, and transcribed for solo piano by Leticia Gómez-Tagle.

The Gala performance opened with a video highlighting ABT's Training Programs, featuring one of the evening's honorees, journalist Katie Couric. The Company recognized Couric for her dedication and enthusiastic support of ABT's programs and initiatives. ABT was also proud to honor The Shubert Foundation, the nation's largest funder of unrestricted grants to not-for-profit dance and theatre companies. The Foundation's unstinting commitment and magnanimous philanthropy have sustained and advanced live performing arts in the United States, including ABT, for nearly 50 years. Alongside peer organizations, also supported by The Shubert Foundation, ABT extends its heartfelt gratitude. Honorary Chairs for the 2023 Fall Gala were Amy Astley and Blaine Trump, with Chairs Sarah Arison, Avery and Andy Barth, Emily Blavatnik, Melanie Hamrick and Mick Jagger, Stewart R. Smith and Robin A. Ferracone, Sutton Stracke, and Chai Vasarhelyi.



Honoree Katie Couric and John Molner.



Pamela Newkirk, Richard J. Poccia, and Diana Phillips from honoree The Shubert Foundation.



Sarah Hoover.

Photos: Bennett Raglin/Getty Images.

### ABT dancers at the Great Wall of China.

Photo: Cy Doherty.



### Gillian Murphy and Aran Bell in *Other Dances* at the BAAND Together Dance Festival.

Photo: Richard Termine.



## Touring

Throughout 2023, ABT toured widely across the United States in performances of full-length classics and mixed repertory programs. The Company appeared at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., February 15-19; Staller Center for the Arts, Stony Brook, New York, March 4; Durham Performing Arts Center, Durham, North Carolina, March 16-19; Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Costa Mesa, California, March 29-April 2; Auditorium Theatre, Chicago, Illinois, April 14-16; Charleston Gaillard Center, Charleston, South Carolina, April 21-22; Lied Center for the Performing Arts, Lincoln, Nebraska, May 2-3; Hancher Auditorium, Iowa City, Iowa, May 6; Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Vienna, Virginia, July 27-28; and returning to Segerstrom Center for the Arts for performances of *The Nutcracker*, December 8-17.

American Ballet Theatre embarked on its first international tour since 2018 with two engagements in China during the period November 2-12, 2023. The Company presented two evenings of mixed repertory, including *Piano Concerto No. 1*, *Petite Mort*, and *Études*, followed by three performances of the Romantic classic *Giselle* at the Shanghai Grand Theatre, November 2-5. ABT traveled north and appeared in Beijing, China's capital, for five performances of *Giselle* at the National Centre for the Performing Arts, November 9-12.

## BAAND Together

For the third summer, American Ballet Theatre joined four acclaimed New York dance companies to perform as part of BAAND Together Festival at Lincoln Center, July 25-29. Presented by Lincoln Center's Summer for the City programs, BAAND Together is named for the participating dance companies—Ballet Hispánico, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, and Dance Theatre of Harlem. The festival is a vibrant showcase of dance genres, styles, choreography, and music, with the troupes appearing on a mixed bill at the outdoor stage at the Damrosch Park amphitheater. ABT was represented by performances of Jerome Robbins's *Other Dances* by Principal Dancers Gillian Murphy and Aran Bell and Isabella Boylston and Joo Won Ahn. The festival is made possible by CHANEL.

## Segerstrom Center for the Arts

On March 29, American Ballet Theatre gave the North American Premiere of Christopher Wheeldon's *Like Water for Chocolate* at Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa, California, as part of the multi-year partnership between ABT and the West Coast presenter. Several events marked the premiere, including a cocktail reception at the residence of Sutton Stracke, member of the ABT Board of Governing Trustees, a dinner hosted by Elizabeth Segerstrom,

Cassandra Trenary and Herman Cornejo in  
*Like Water for Chocolate*.

Photo: Marty Sohl.



Scene from *The Nutcracker*.

Photo: Marty Sohl.



philanthropist and member of the Segerstrom Center for the Arts board of directors, and a post-performance opening night celebration. The reception, dinner, and opening night party were organized for ABT Trustees, Chairman's Council, and Global Council.

American Ballet Theatre returned to Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa, California for 12 performances of *The Nutcracker*, December 8-17. The Company presented the critically acclaimed production of the holiday favorite with choreography by Alexei Ratmansky. The ballet features dazzling scenery and vibrant costumes designed by Richard Hudson, lighting by Jennifer Tipton, and Tchaikovsky's enduring score. In addition to the main Company, the dancers of ABT Studio Company and three students from the ABT Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School Pre-Professional Division traveled to California to round out the ensemble. They were joined onstage by over 40 students from the ABT William J. Gillespie School, performing a variety of children's roles in the production.

As part of the continued relationship between ABT and Segerstrom Center for the Arts, the Company will present the North American Premiere of Wayne McGregor's *Wolf Works* at the venue in April 2024. Premiered by The Royal Ballet in 2015, *Wolf Works* is inspired by the writings of 20<sup>th</sup>-century modernist author Virginia Woolf, with an original score by Max Richter.

## Holiday Benefit

For the first time in four years, ABT's Holiday Benefit returned to mark the season on December 11, 2023, at the Beverly Hilton in Los Angeles, California. The fundraising fête took place during the run of performances of *The Nutcracker* at Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa, expanding the Company's West Coast presence. The celebratory evening featured a special one-night-only program performed by ABT dancers, including the Los Angeles Premiere of James Whiteside's *Danzón No. 2* and scenes from *The Nutcracker*.



ABT Trustee Sutton Stracke (center) with Principal Dancers Hee Seo and Christine Shevchenko at the 2023 Holiday Benefit.

Photo: Phillip Faraone/Getty Images.

Catherine Hurlin and Jarod Curley in  
*Piano Concerto No. 1.*

Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.



BALLET THEATRE FOUNDATION, INC.

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY** (\$M)

	2022 <sup>(1)</sup>	2021	2020
<b>OPERATING RESULTS</b>			
<b>REVENUE</b>			
EARNED REVENUE	15.5	8.6	6.0
OPERATING SUPPORT	26.2 <sup>(2)</sup>	34.6 <sup>(3)</sup>	17.9
ENDOWMENT APPROPRIATION FOR OPERATIONS	1.7	0.0	1.1
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>43.4</b>	<b>43.2</b>	<b>25.0</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
PROGRAMMING ACTIVITIES	38.5	24.0	24.9
SUPPORTING SERVICES	6.7	5.4	4.5
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>29.4</b>	<b>29.4</b>
<b>NET INCREASE / (DECREASE) FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>(1.8)</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>(4.4)</b>
NON OPERATING ACTIVITIES	0.4	0.8	0.3
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN RELEASES (OPERATING)	1.2	0.5	0.2
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN EXPENSES (OPERATING)	(1.2)	(0.5)	(0.2)
<b>TOTAL INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>	<b>(1.4)</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>(4.1)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
<b>BEGINNING TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>75.8</b>	<b>46.5</b>	<b>45.9</b>
NET INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	(1.4)	14.6	(4.1)
NET INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN DONOR RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	(11.5)	14.7	4.7
<b>ENDING TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>62.9</b>	<b>75.8</b>	<b>46.5</b>

(1) unaudited

(2) Includes Federal Covid Relief Funding of \$2.0M

(3) Includes Federal Covid Relief Funding of \$15.8M

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Léa Fleytoux in *Études*.

Photo: Emma Zordan.