

JEUNESSE CLASSIQUE BALLET SOCIETY

# GISELLE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: JACIEL GOMEZ



MARTHA COHEN THEATRE  
CALGARY, AB

JUNE 6TH 2025 - 7:30PM  
JUNE 7TH 2025 - 2:30PM & 7:30PM  
JUNE 8TH 2025 - 2:30PM

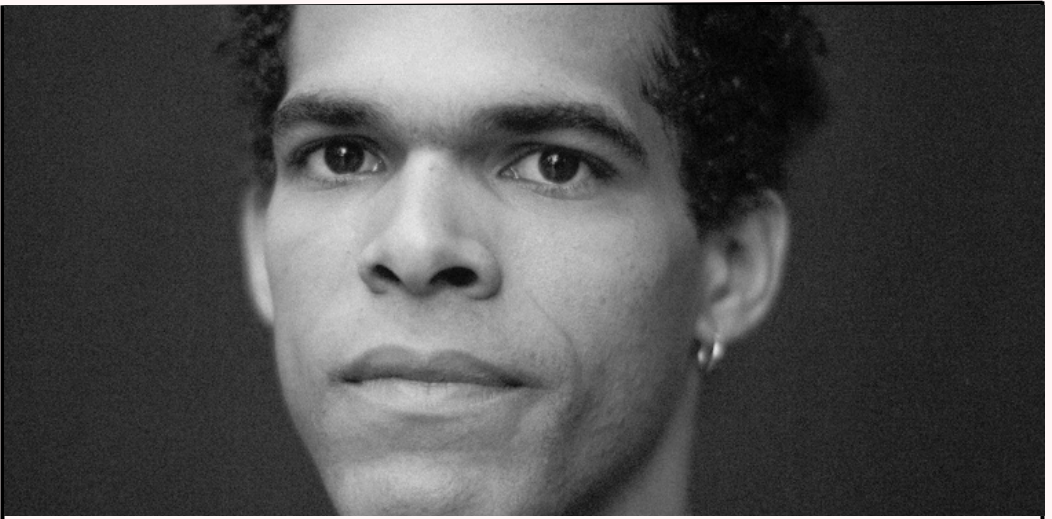


THE CITY OF  
CALGARY



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## Ballet begins with a dream.

A young dancer imagines the moment they will tell stories through movement, grace, and heart. At Jeunesse Classique Ballet, our mission is to nurture that dream and help bring it to life.

We do this not for recognition, but out of love — for the art, for the dancers, and for the future of classical ballet. This passion unites everyone involved, from teachers and families to volunteers and supporters.

Giselle is a story of love that endures beyond betrayal. It reflects the values we believe in: patience, discipline, compassion, and the transformative power of dance.

None of this is possible without a community working together, giving selflessly to create something greater than any one of us.

Tonight, you are not just watching a ballet. You are witnessing a dream come true.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Artistic Director.

Jeunesse Classique Ballet Society.



# Jeunesse Classique Ballet Society.

A Legacy of Beauty, Built Together

At Jeunesse Classique Ballet Society, ballet is more than movement — it is a living tradition. A discipline of the body and soul. A language that speaks without words, evoking beauty, truth, and human connection.

Our mission is simple yet profound:

To preserve and share the heritage of classical ballet through full-length productions that inspire, awaken imagination, and bring communities together.

Founded with passion by Umran Sumen, JCBS was never created for fame or commercial gain. It was born from a deep reverence for classical ballet and a dream to share this art form with audiences of all ages — with care, integrity, and love.

We are a society.

A community of dancers, artists, families, volunteers, and supporters who believe that beauty, discipline, and storytelling have lasting value.

Every production is a collective effort:

Volunteers sewing costumes with dedication. Technicians creating magic behind the scenes. Dancers pouring their hearts into every step. This is the true spirit of JCBS — a shared journey built on love, passion, and purpose.

Through beloved works like *La Fille Mal Gardée*, *The Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Giselle*, and many others, we celebrate the strength of tradition and the timeless power of ballet to move and inspire.

At Jeunesse Classique Ballet Society, we dream of a future where classical ballet continues to be a source of inspiration, education, and connection.

Together, we are building that future — one performance at a time.





# The Story of Giselle

A Romantic Ballet in Two Acts

## Introduction

Giselle is one of the most beloved works in classical ballet — a timeless story of love, betrayal, heartbreak, and forgiveness. First performed in Paris in 1841, its haunting beauty and emotional depth continue to captivate audiences around the world.

More than a tale of romance, Giselle explores themes of innocence, deception, and the redemptive power of love beyond death. Through ethereal choreography and poignant storytelling, it reminds us of both the fragility and the strength of the human heart.

## Act I – The Village of Giselle

In a peaceful village, Giselle, a young peasant girl with a gentle spirit and fragile heart, falls in love with a charming stranger named Albrecht. Unbeknownst to her, Albrecht is a nobleman in disguise, hiding his engagement to another.

Hilarion, a village hunter who also loves Giselle, grows suspicious and reveals Albrecht's true identity. Heartbroken and overwhelmed, Giselle's fragile heart gives way, and she collapses, dying of grief.

The joyous harvest festival turns to mourning, as Giselle's innocent love is betrayed, and her spirit is left to wander.



## Act II – The Realm of the Wilis

As night falls, the forest becomes the domain of the Wilis — the spirits of young women betrayed before their weddings, who now seek vengeance by luring men to dance to their deaths.

Giselle's spirit rises from her grave, but unlike the others, she remains guided by love and forgiveness. When Albrecht enters the forest, tormented by guilt, the Wilis target him. Yet Giselle's spirit intervenes, dancing with him through the night, protecting him from their deadly spell.

At dawn, the Wilis lose their power. Albrecht is saved, but Giselle must return to her grave. Though separated, her love has triumphed — a love so pure it conquers even death.

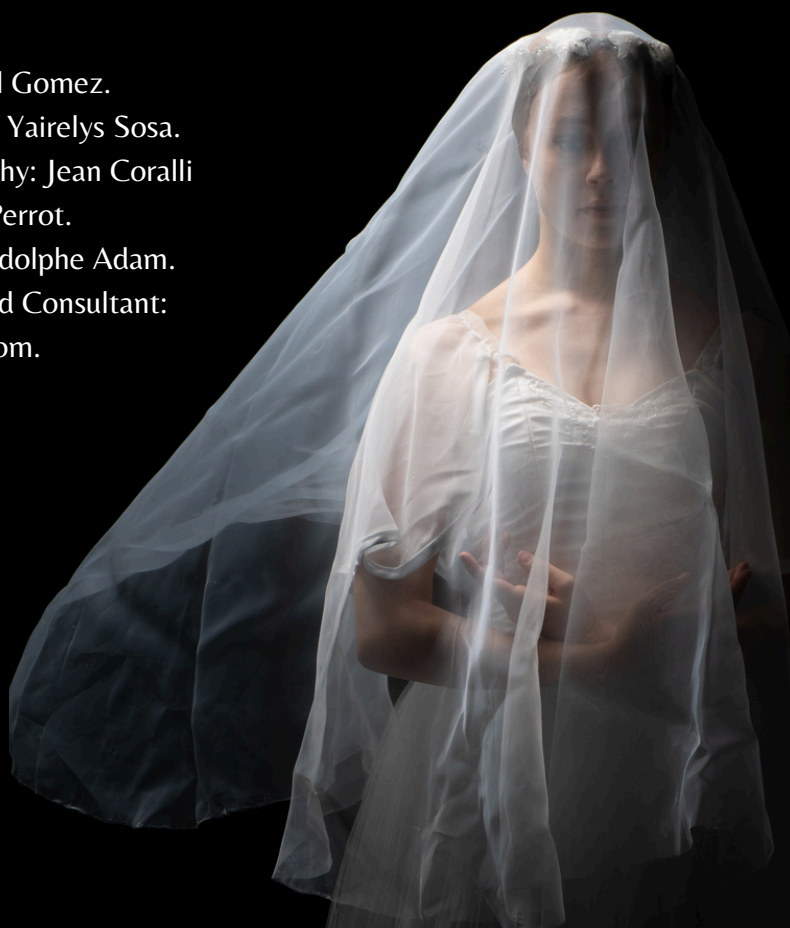
Staging: Jaciel Gomez.

Rehearsal Mistress: Yairelys Sosa.

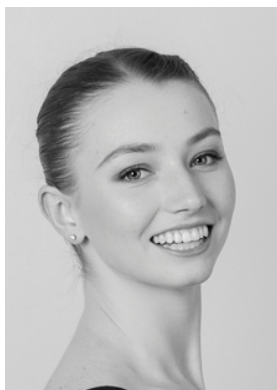
Original Choreography: Jean Coralli  
and Jules Perrot.

Music Composer: Adolphe Adam.

Lighting and Sound Consultant:  
Steve Isom.



# Meet the Dancers



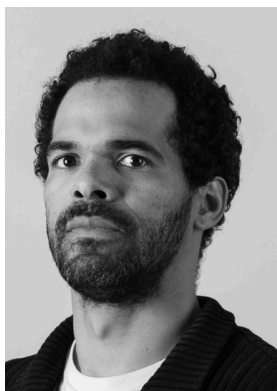
Brielle Mitchell  
Giselle (June 7m, 8)  
Wilis (June 6, 7s)  
Bathilde ((June 6, 7s)



Lauren Saunders  
Giselle (June 6, 7s)  
Wilis (June 7m, 8)  
Bathilde ((June 7m,8 )



Sophie Zilke  
Myrtha  
Giselle's Friend  
(June 6, 7s)



Jaciel Gomez  
Albretch



Kelley Mckinlay  
Hilarion



Sarah Koslowsky  
Giselle's Friend  
Moyna (June 7s, 8)  
Wilis (June 6, 7m)



Isabel Rallison  
Giselle's Friend  
Moyna (June 6, 7m)  
Wilis (June 7s, 8)



Ada MacLean  
Giselle's Friend  
Villager (June 7m, 8)  
Zulma (June 7s, 8)  
Wilis (June 6, 7m)



Beatrix Damgaard  
Giselle's Friend (June 6, 7s)  
Villager (June 7m, 8)  
Zulma (June 7m)  
Wilis (June 6, 7s, 8)

# Meet the Dancers



Abigail George  
Giselle's Friend (June 7m, 8)  
Villager (June 6, 7s)  
Zulma (June 6)



Eden Tonne  
Giselle's Friend  
Villager  
Wilis



Audrey Shukuda  
Giselle's Friend (June 7m, 8)  
Villager (6, 7s)  
Wilis



Ryan Brignall  
Peasant Guy



Jackson Lindgren  
Wilfrid



Fennella Shaw  
Villager  
Wilis



Sloane Rallison  
Villager  
Wilis

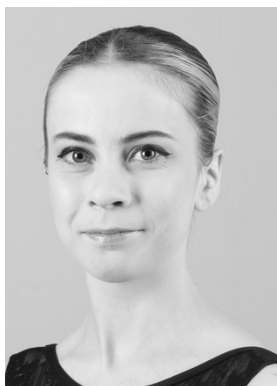


Tovë Lawrence  
Villager  
Wilis



Reese Lahey  
Villager  
Wilis

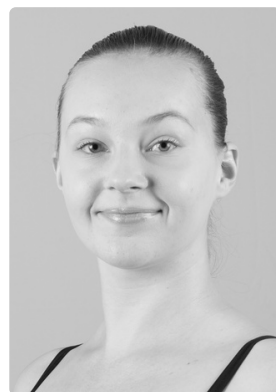
# Meet the Dancers



Sarah Leavitt  
Villager  
Willis



Lydia Damgaard  
Villager  
Willis



Paytan Tatoulis  
Villager  
Willis



Sophia Murphy  
Villager  
Willis



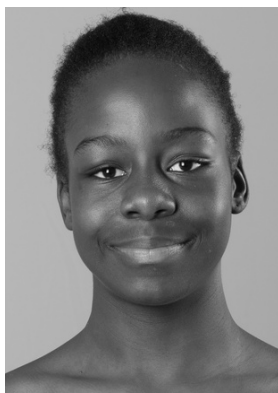
Syetha Litterick  
Villager  
Willis



Shawntika Virostek  
Villager  
Willis



Autumn Murphy  
Villager  
Willis



Jhana Mukasa-Perry  
Villager  
Willis



Jack Wilson  
Villager

# Meet the Dancers



Annie Feng  
Villager



Anaya Ody  
Villager



Daisy Wiebe  
Villager



Lexie Tyers  
Villager



Vienna Daugela  
Mother

## Court Dancers

Kim Tyers  
Maria Damgaard  
Luka Lawrence  
Natasha Lawrence  
Jenn Rallison  
Lori Leavitt  
Lachlan Betournay

*Larry Doucet*  
PHOTOGRAPHY

**WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO OUR TALENTED  
PHOTOGRAPHER FOR PRESERVING THE MAGIC OF OUR  
PRODUCTIONS WITH SUCH CARE AND CREATIVITY**



# Our Board of Directors

"On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am thrilled to welcome you to this JCBS performance. Tonight is a celebration of the extraordinary dedication, passion, and hard work of our dancers, as well as the tireless efforts of our incredible volunteers. Their commitment behind the scenes and on stage brings this production to life in the most inspiring way. We are so proud of what they have accomplished, and we thank you for being part of this special moment with us."

Anne Copeland.  
Chair.

"In my twenty plus years with Jeunesse Classique Ballet I have watched hundreds of dancers grow and develop into confident, talented artists who take the discipline and beauty of this beautiful art form with them into every aspect of their lives. We are the stewards of preserving and presenting classical ballet to audiences across Alberta and perhaps beyond and have been doing this for over 35 years. "The noblest art is that of making others happy." PT Barnum. I can tell from the smiling faces in our audiences that we have been doing this very well."

Michael McCreadie.  
Past Chair.

"The Jeunesse Classique Ballet Society is an amazing Calgary artistic organization with a strong ballet legacy. I started my journey with JCBS 8 years ago when my daughter joined the company as a tiny Seraphim and I was recruited to dance as a Party Parent for the Nutcracker and have danced in that role to this day. We cherish the memories of rehearsals and tours together on stage. I am so grateful to now serve as the Director of Fundraising for JCBS. As the only pre-professional ballet company in Alberta, what we do is incredibly unique. We give ballet dancers opportunities to dance in full-length classical ballets. I am so proud of the work we do. Thank you for your support over the years!"

Kim Tyers.  
Director of Fundraising.

"Congratulations to all the dancers on another fine performance. Your dedication inspires us".

Duncan Maclean.  
Director of Productions.

"Design and creativity have always been my passion. Crafting various pieces has brought me so much joy, and now I'm excited to challenge myself with costume production. I'm truly enjoying my role as the wardrobe director for my daughter's beloved ballet company, where I get to be part of something special every day."

Yumiko Ito.  
Director of Wardrobe.

"I have been involved with Jeunesse for many years and wanted to give back to the non-profit organization that provides such a great platform for my daughter. The Jeunesse performances have motivated my daughter to stay dedicated to the arts and classical ballet, and she finds the shows incredibly enjoyable. Participating in these performances allows dancers to build confidence, discipline, and a love for the arts, fostering a strong community spirit and passion for ballet."

Mark Shaw.  
Treasurer.

"From the moment I walked through the doors of JCBS I have been amazed at all that goes into a society like Jeunesse. It is a place where people from all walks of life come together to create and inspire. My hope is to play a small part in bringing recognition to this incredible organization so that more dancers can grow and develop as my young dancer has."

Megan Lahey.  
Director of Promotions.

"My daughter and I have been a part of the Jeunesse family for many years. Jeunesse is a place full of growth and support, coming from and shared between a wonderful group of dancers and volunteers. Jeunesse's dedication to shaping and educating young dancers is reflected through its mission of sharing the art of classical ballet within our city and beyond."

Rae Bailey.  
Director of Communications.

# To Our Incredible Volunteers

Dear Volunteers,

Behind every curtain rise, every beautifully danced step, and every magical moment on stage, there is a dedicated team of volunteers whose hard work makes it all possible. Your time, energy, and unwavering support are the heart of our productions.

From organizing costumes and managing backstage chaos to greeting audiences and lending a helping hand wherever needed, you are the unsung heroes of our ballet family. Your generosity and passion allow us to bring these timeless stories to life and share the beauty of classical ballet with our community.

On behalf of myself and everyone at Jeunesse Classique Ballet Society, thank you for being part of this journey. Your contribution is invaluable, and we are deeply grateful for your commitment.

With heartfelt appreciation,

*Jaciel Gomez*



JCBS would like to acknowledge the following organizations  
and individuals for their contributions

Wilson Family Foundation  
Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission  
Photography: Larry Doucet Photography, Bob Johnson  
Program: Brielle Mitchell  
Special thanks to: Tessa Blair

### Grant Donors

Alberta Foundation for the Arts  
Alberta Lotteries  
Calgary Arts and Development  
Canadian Emergency Rent Subsidy  
Harry and Martha Cohen Foundation  
Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant

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## Special thanks to the following Dance Studios

With heartfelt gratitude to the ballet schools whose dedication and training help make our productions possible. Your commitment to excellence nurtures the next generation of dancers and keeps the classical tradition alive on stage.



DREWITZ DANCE PRODUCTIONS



FUN 'N' DANCE



Melodie McKee Ballet



JEUNESSE CLASSIQUE BALLET SOCIETY

# THE NUTCRACKER

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AUDITIONS: SEPT 13<sup>TH</sup> & 14<sup>TH</sup>

For more information and to register visit [jcbs.ca](http://jcbs.ca)









# THE NUTCRACKER

AUDITIONS: SEPT 13<sup>TH</sup> & 14<sup>TH</sup>



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AND SUPPORTING THE ART OF CLASSICAL BALLET. YOUR BELIEF IN WHAT WE DO HELPS PRESERVE A TRADITION THAT SPEAKS THROUGH MOVEMENT, EMOTION, AND BEAUTY. WITH EVERY PERFORMANCE, EVERY REHEARSAL, AND EVERY ACT OF DEDICATION, YOUR SUPPORT IS FELT AND DEEPLY APPRECIATED. WE HOPE YOU'LL CONTINUE TO WALK THIS JOURNEY WITH US AT FUTURE PERFORMANCES, IN OUR COMMUNITY, AND IN KEEPING THE CLASSICAL ARTS ALIVE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.



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