BALLET ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR DANCE

EN AVANT



Quote of the Month :

"The truest expression of a people is in its dance and in its music. Bodies never lie." – Agnes de Mille



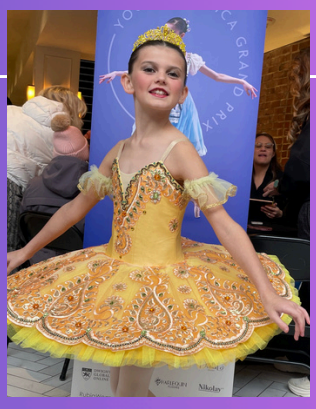
NEWS OF NOTE

Ballet Arkansas is delighted to bring the magic of the holiday season to Oaklawn with a new touring production of The Nutcracker Suite! Presented in Oaklawn's Event Center, November 28-29, this enchanting, abbreviated adaptation of the beloved holiday classic will capture the wonder, beauty, and timeless charm of The Nutcracker in a festive new setting. The production will also feature a new partnership with Hot Springs Dance Troupe, bringing together professional artists and local dancers in a celebration of artistry, community, and holiday tradition. This special engagement marks an exciting new chapter in Ballet Arkansas's efforts to share the joy of dance with audiences across the state.

On the Rise - Student Spotlight

LYDIA HANLEY

Lydia is filled with joy, smiling all the time, just as she is pictured here in "Canary" Fairy tutu at the Kansas City YAGP Regional. Make sure to say "HI!" when you see Lydia and her family in the halls of BA. You're sure to get a warm reply.



EN POINTE - COMPANY UPDATES







While rehearsals for our Community Cast have been in full swing, our professional company artists are just beginning their preparations! In just five weeks, these extraordinary dancers will return to the stage alongside a vibrant cast of more than 250 community performers to bring the beloved holiday tradition of The Nutcracker Spectacular to life.

As Arkansas's largest holiday production, The Nutcracker Spectacular represents an extraordinary collaboration within our local arts community. Beyond its impressive scale, the production offers young, aspiring dancers an invaluable educational and artistic opportunity: the chance to share the stage with professional artists and perform to the magnificent sounds of a live symphony orchestra. This unique experience fosters growth, inspires the next generation of performers, and celebrates the power of artistic collaboration. For dancers and audiences alike, it is a magical holiday tradition that continues to captivate, inspire, and bring our community together year after year.

A Bold Evolution: The Great Gatsby



Ballet Arkansas's dazzling production of The Great Gatsby was a bold, dramatic, and original triumph! The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette declared that BA "raised the bar" with its production, while BroadwayWorld offered a rave review of this visually striking and unforgettable performance. The excitement extended well beyond the stage with A Roaring Affair, BA's fall speakeasy-inspired celebration, held in the Glass Box at the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts. Guests stepped back into the Jazz Age with live music by Jazz R Us, bringing the spirit of the Roaring Twenties to life following the performance. Adding another special touch to the production, Arkansas Symphony Orchestra pianist Julia Buckingham treated audiences to live jazz during intermission at every performance, creating an immersive Gatsby experience from beginning to end. It was a spectacular celebration of dance, music, and artistry - and another shining moment for Ballet Arkansas!

Putting Your Best Foot Forward...

MICHAEL FOTHERGILL

Technique is the foundation of dance, but it is not the destination. Dance is more than discipline, precision, or artistic expression. it is the pursuit of understanding the extraordinary capabilities of the human body and learning to use them with intelligence, intention, and purpose. I encourage every student to approach their training with curiosity, courage, and a willingness to explore beyond what feels possible. True growth comes not from perfecting only what we know, but from discovering what we have yet to realize we are capable of.



FESTIVE AND FUN!









We had a wonderful time celebrating Fall Fun Week and Parent Observation Week! It was a joy to share with our families the enthusiasm, creativity, and dedication our students bring to the studio each week. To our parents and guardians, thank you for your continued encouragement and for nurturing your children's passion for dance and artistic expression. Your support plays an invaluable role in their growth, both as dancers and as individuals. We look forward to an exciting year ahead, filled with continued learning, discovery, and growth!

From The Stage To The Classroom



We greatly enjoyed sharing the beauty of Ballet Arkansas' *The Great Gatsby* with over 200 K-12 students via our popular Student Matinee Series! Student Matinee performances are designed to provide enriching educational experiences to young audiences, serving thousands of students across Arkansas each year.

If you are an Educator, follow this link for more information on how to get your students to see the world of Ballet!

https://www.balletarkansas.org/student-matinees



POINTE OF VIEW

This is the season of busy! As we move through the holiday season, it's more important than ever to make time for rest and recovery. I encourage all dancers to find little moments throughout their busy schedules to slow down and recharge.
Here are a few of my favorite ways to rest:

- Gently stretch while listening to your favorite music.
- Curl up with a good book and a warm cup of tea.
- Enjoy a balanced, nourishing snack to fuel your body and support recovery.
- Watch a movie and spend quality time with friends.

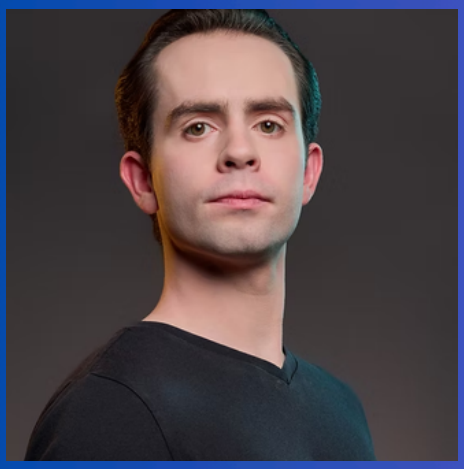
Your body is your instrument; taking care of it outside the studio is just as important as the work you put in inside the studio. Rest is part of training, too!

FROM THE WINGS

The Nutcracker Spectacular, December 11-13:
Ballet Arkansas presents The Nutcracker Spectacular with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra. Audiences will be swept into a breathtaking world of holiday enchantment filled with lavish sets, vibrant storytelling, and magical spectacle. From the warmth and sparkle of the Christmas Eve celebration to the shimmering fantasy of the Land of the Sweets, The Nutcracker Spectacular is for audiences of all ages

GET YOUR TICKETS!!





MEET THE FACULTY

Mr. Keith is from Washington DC and has trained at the Washington School for Ballet and Indiana University. His favorite ballet he has performed with Ballet Arkansas is Romeo and Juliet, where he got to live out his lifelong dream of playing Mercutio! Keith's favorite sport is baseball, and he never passes up a chance to catch a Traveler's game or see an MLB team play when he's visiting a new city.

"I love teaching at the School for Dance because I get to educate the next generation on ballet technique and history, as well as how to use the art form to become better humans. My old school director not only taught me technique, he taught me manners and discipline, amongst other things. I hope to continue this legacy and instill these ideas, and more, to my students."

REMINDERS:

No Class: November 23-29
November 28-29 - Nutcracker Suite at Oaklawn
Happy Thanksgiving!