

Ballet

NEBRASKA presents

# momentum

March 30 & 31, 2012

Joslyn Art Museum

Omaha, Nebraska

## CLEOPATRA



## DANCE SPORT



## love games



and  
more...



*Ballet Nebraska 2011-12, from left front: Kristin Goeringer, Erin Alarcón, Andrea Mason; Matthew Carter, Angela Zolczynski, Alberto Liberatoscioli, Kelsey Schwenker, Denis Vezetiu; Jenna Strachota, Bret Samson, Natasha Grimm, Sasha York, Erika Overturff, Claire Goodwillie, Teresa Coulter. Not pictured: Mandy Lock.*

### **About Ballet Nebraska**

Ballet Nebraska is the state's professional dance company — the only arts organization of its kind in the region. Performing at home and on tour, its mission is to enrich Nebraska and Iowa communities through programs of the highest quality: professional dance performances, educational programs, and community outreach. Ballet Nebraska's talented professional dancers hail from around the nation and abroad, making Omaha their home to share the excitement of dance with others. As expressive artists, powerful athletes, and skilled teachers, Ballet Nebraska's dancers give the company a key role in the cultural vitality of the region.



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# Ballet

N E B R A S K A

## Artistic Staff

Erika Overturff, Founder and Artistic Director

Matthew Carter, Ballet Master

## Company Artists

Erin Alarcón	Matthew Carter	Claire Goodwillie
Natasha Grimm	Alberto Liberatoscioli	Erika Overturff
Bret Samson	Kelsey Schwenker	Denis Vezetiu
Sasha York		Angela Zolczynski

## Apprentices

Teresa Coulter	Mandy Lock	Andrea Mason
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Magali Damien and Kristin Goeringer, *Company Guests*

Jenna Strachota, *Trainee*

Costumers .....Deborah Overturff,  
Mona Schlautman

Dance Administrator .....Jolie Koesters

Grant Writer .....Jane Howard

Production Manager .....Lance Glenn

Rehearsal Assistant .....Angela Zolczynski

Visual Media Designer .....Jim Williams

## Acknowledgements

*Nebraska Orthopaedic Hospital is the official orthopaedic hospital  
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# momentum: program notes

## *Bacchanale Variations*

Matthew Carter's *Bacchanale Variations* is a work for four women, danced on pointe to the music of Charles Gounod. "It is all about beautiful music, glamorous ballet dancers and virtuoso dancing," said Mr. Carter, who serves as ballet master and company dancer for Ballet Nebraska.

## *The Dying Swan*

This poignant solo was created for the iconic ballerina Anna Pavlova by Mikhail Fokine, the first great ballet choreographer of the 20th century. Set to Camille Saint-Saëns' cello solo *Le Cygne* from his *Carnival of the Animals*, it was first presented in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1905, and became Pavlova's signature dance; she went on to perform it some 4,000 times.

## *Americano*

Erika Overturff's light-hearted retro duet was inspired by an Italian pop song of the 1950s, *Tu vuoi fare l'americano* ("You're just an American wannabe.") "I imagined a young Italian man trying to impress his American sweetheart," said Ms. Overturff. "It's a perfect role for Ballet Nebraska's own Italian dancer, Alberto Liberatoscioli."

## *Love Games*

This lively new contemporary work is performed to upbeat drum music and was created for the company by Monique Haley in December. Ms. Haley described it as "the flirty tug of war we play when we are falling for someone." Originally from Washington D.C., Ms. Haley performed for nine seasons with the nationally acclaimed River North Chicago Dance Company.

## *Perpetuum Mobile*

Jeff Satinoff's *Perpetuum Mobile* is a solo for a male dancer. "I loved the music and wanted the movement that I made for it to reflect its sensibility on stage," said Satinoff. "The story is the movement language that I made for it." A prolific choreographer, Mr. Satinoff has created more than 40 ballets for dance companies and schools across the U.S.

## *DanceSport*

Created by nationally-renowned choreographer and showman Harrison McEldowney, DanceSport is a riotously witty look at the intersection between competitive sports and professional dance, complete with hilarious play-by-play commentary!



# Cleopatra

Across thousands of years, the story of Cleopatra has remained...

Cleopatra, last ruler of ancient Egypt, first ruled with her brother, Ptolemy. However, the real power of the throne belonged to the alluring and ambitious queen. Cleopatra led a revolt against her brother with the help of Julius Caesar, winning control of her kingdom. The young queen fell in love with Caesar and they had a son, Caesarion. Cleopatra followed Caesar to Rome, but after he was murdered by the Roman Senate, she returned to Egypt. Marc Antony, a powerful Roman general, was intent on political negotiations with the queen, but he could not resist her mesmerizing charm. Antony fell hopelessly in love with Cleopatra. This is where our story begins...

*In the beautiful capital city of Alexandria, Cleopatra and Antony enjoy an evening of sumptuous dining, drinking, and entertainment in the royal palace. Following the festivities, the couple retires to the queen's chamber, very much in love.*

The next morning, Antony receives news that he must return to Rome at once. While he is away, Cleopatra gives birth to their twins, a son and daughter.

*When Cleopatra eventually learns the news of Antony's political marriage to the sister of his rival Octavian, she is furious. Upon Antony's return to Egypt several years later, he is greeted by a cold queen. However, their passion is soon rekindled.*

Cleopatra, always aware of her royal birth and claims to divinity as pharaoh, wishes to reestablish the glory and power of the Egyptian throne with Marc Antony by her side. In a magnificent ceremony known as the Donations of Alexandria, Antony crowns Cleopatra "Queen of Kings" and gives their children special royal titles, naming them rulers over foreign lands. Together in love, the couple celebrates their power and great ambition.

*Roman rivals are threatened and fearful of the couple's powerful alliance and plot to destroy the two lovers. Antony is defeated in battle and is ultimately deserted by his men. Despairing, Antony falls on his own sword in an act of suicide. He is carried to Cleopatra's mausoleum, where the queen is hiding from the imminent Roman advance. The lovers are reunited briefly before Antony's death.*

Faced with the reality of her own defeat and the death of her beloved Antony, Cleopatra ends her own life, poisoned to death by an asp. For Cleopatra, as with all ancient Egyptians, death is not the end. She joins a long line of her ancestors in the afterlife.

*While Cleopatra's visions of glory and power ultimately failed, her ambition, capability, and remarkable charm left an unforgettable mark in history. Through our memory of the queen, Cleopatra truly has achieved an eternal life.*

# momentum

March 30 & 31, 2012 • Joslyn Art Museum's Witherspoon Concert Hall

Lighting Design.....	Michael Arch of Theatrical Media Services
Wardrobe.....	Kristin Harper, Elizabeth Houts, Wendy Linville, Rebecca Mason, Deborah Overturff, David Peterson, Mona Schlautman
Set Pieces and Props.....	Clyde Overturff, Shanna Overturff
Stage Manager.....	Erin Burns
Stagehand.....	Gina Leonardo

## Bacchanale Variations

Choreography.....	Matthew Carter
Music.....	Charles Gounod
Dancers.....	Teresa Coulter, Erika Overturff, Kelsey Schwenker, Angela Zolczynski

## The Dying Swan

Choreography.....	Mikhail Fokine
Staged by.....	Matthew Carter
Music.....	Camille Saint-Saëns
Dancer.....	Erin Alarcón (Friday, March 30) or Bret Samson (Saturday March 31)

## Americano

Choreography.....	Erika Overturff
Music.....	The Puppini Sisters
Dancers.....	Teresa Coulter, Alberto Liberatoscioli

## Love Games

Choreography.....	Monique Haley
Music.....	Babatunde Olatunji
Dancers.....	Erin Alarcón, Matthew Carter, Claire Goodwillie, Natasha Grimm, Alberto Liberatoscioli, Erika Overturff, Kelsey Schwenker, Denis Vezetiu, Sasha York

## Perpetuum Mobile

Choreography.....	Jeff Satinoff
Music.....	Penguin Café Orchestra
Dancer.....	Denis Vezetiu

## DanceSport

Choreography.....	Harrison McEldowney
Music.....	Various
Dancers.....	Matthew Carter, Natasha Grimm, Alberto Liberatoscioli, Erika Overturff, Sasha York, Angela Zolczynski

— Intermission: 20 minutes —

Cleopatra

Choreography.....Erika Overturff  
Music.....John Pryce-Jones, Jeff Beal, Harry Gregson-Williams  
Costume Design.....Deborah Overturff

Cleopatra is part of Ballet Nebraska's ongoing partnership with Joslyn Art Museum, and was inspired by the museum's exquisite touring exhibition To Live Forever: Egyptian Treasures from the Brooklyn Museum (on view through June 10, 2012).

Setting: Alexandria, Egypt • 41 BCE – 30 BCE

Cleopatra.....Natasha Grimm  
Marc Antony.....Sasha York

I. Nile Celebration: Cleopatra and Antony host an evening of festivities in the royal palace

Queen's Ladies.....Magali Damien, Kristin Goeringer, Claire Goodwillie,  
Mandy Lock, Bret Samson, Angela Zolczynski  
Royal Court.....Elizabeth Britton°, Michaela Farley°, John Ritland, Jeremy Waymire  
Fan Bearers.....Emma Browning°, Jamee Decker°, Victoria Eremeeva°,  
Erica Ellis°, Taylor Nihsen°, Jenna Winkler°

Dance of Sobek (crocodile god of the Nile)

Matthew Carter with Alberto Liberatoscioli, Denis Vezetiu and Anna Ballard†°, Molly Bouc†, Naomi Holkeboert°, Andrea Linville†, Caitlin Ricker†°, Hanna Ritland†, Miranda Serna†, Carolyn Warnke†°

Dance of Hathor (patron god of love, joy, and dance)

Erin Alarcón, Teresa Coulter, Andrea Mason, Kelsey Schwenker

Dance of Kephri (scarab god of rebirth and renewal)

Denis Vezetiu with Katie Hickey†, Madeline Koesters†, Emily Reiff†, Jenna Strachota†,  
Alicia Taubert, Lauren Uhlig†

II. The Queen's Chamber: Lovers United

Antony Departs  
Soldier.....Denis Vezetiu

III. Roman Wedding:

Octavian and Octavia.....Steve Nohremberg, Andrea Mason  
Priest.....John Ritland

IV. The Lotus Bath:

Nurses.....Magali Damien, Mandy Lock  
Caesarion.....Aidan Morey  
Lotus Maidens .....Erin Alarcón, Teresa Coulter, Claire Goodwillie, Bret Samson,  
Kelsey Schwenker, Angela Zolczynski  
Messenger.....Alberto Liberatoscioli

V. The Palace:

Antony Returns  
Guards .....Alberto Liberatoscioli, Denis Vezetiu

(continued overleaf)

VI. The Donations of Alexandria:

Trumpeters.....	Emma Browning°, Jamee Decker°, Erica Ellis°, Victoria Eremeeva°, Taylor Nihsen°, Jenna Winkler°
Priest.....	Jeremy Waymire
Children.....	Aidan Morey, Jack Tracey, Megan Workman°
Royal Court.....	Elizabeth Britton°, Michaela Farley°, Katie Hickey†, Madeline Koesters†, Andrea Linville†, Steve Nohremberg, Emily Reiff†, Hanna Ritland†, John Ritland, Jenna Strachota†, Alicia Taubert, Lauren Uhlig†

Dance of Horus (falcon god of the sky)

Erin Alarcón, Matthew Carter, Teresa Coulter, Magali Damien, Kristin Goeringer, Claire Goodwillie, Alberto Liberatoscioli, Denis Vezetiu, Mandy Lock, Andrea Mason, Bret Samson, Kelsey Schwenker, Angela Zolczynski

VII. The Battlefield: Antony is deserted by his men

Soldiers .....	Teresa Coulter, Claire Goodwillie, Alberto Liberatoscioli, Mandy Lock, Andrea Mason, Bret Samson, Kelsey Schwenker, Denis Vezetiu
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VIII. The Queen’s Mausoleum: Cleopatra loses Antony, then takes her own life

Queen’s Ladies .....	Erin Alarcón, Angela Zolczynski
Asp.....	Matthew Carter

The Afterlife

Gods and Pharaohs.....	Teresa Coulter, Claire Goodwillie, Alberto Liberatoscioli, Mandy Lock, Andrea Mason, Bret Samson, Kelsey Schwenker, Denis Vezetiu
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About: Ballet Nebraska II

Performers whose names are marked † are members of Ballet Nebraska II. BN II is comprised of a select group of highly motivated pre-professional dancers training for future professional careers or advanced dance studies at the university level. BN II members are selected by audition and gain valuable exposure to life in a professional ballet company, including training, rehearsal, and performance opportunities.

About: Ballet Nebraska/Motion41 Repertory Ensemble

Performers whose names are marked ° are members of the Repertory Ensemble, a collaboration between Motion41 Dance and Ballet Nebraska. The Repertory Ensemble is a performing group comprised of talented and enthusiastic dancers from around the community. Ballet Nebraska’s participation in this program is part of the broad range of outreach services it offers to schools, dance studios, arts presenters, and other community organizations.

Visit [balletnebraska.org/participate/audition](http://balletnebraska.org/participate/audition) for information about auditioning for student ensembles and community roles in Ballet Nebraska productions.



Ballet Nebraska II, from left front: Caitlin Ricker, Hanna Ritland, Allison Buell, Hannah Birdwell, Emily Reiff, Jenna Strachota, Katie Hickey, Madeline Koesters, Carolyn Warnke, Miranda Serna, Kaitlyn Ulmer, Anna Ballard, Naomi Holkeboer, Molly Bouc. Not pictured: Lauren Uhlig.



# guest choreographers

**Monique Haley** graduated from the prestigious University of the Arts in Philadelphia, where Frank Chaves – artistic director of River North Chicago Dance Company – discovered her in a master class. After being invited to Chicago to train and perform as an apprentice, Haley danced for nine seasons with the nationally-renowned company.

Her choreographic debut work *Uhuru* (Swahili for “freedom”) opened to glowing reviews on Valentine’s Day weekend 2009 at Millennium Park’s Harris Theater of Music and Dance. Inspired by 24 years of dance, Haley said, she found that “River North Chicago was a really good home ground for my first big project.”

In addition to having trained with Philadanco, Haley is also a former member of Bermuda Dance Company and the Eleone Dance Theatre of Philadelphia. An accomplished instructor, she has taught with Universal Dance Association and has also instructed workshops for Dance Theatre of Harlem and Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago.

**Harrison McEldowney** returns for Ballet Nebraska’s second season, bringing along his brilliant *DanceSport*, a wonderful and witty satire about what happens when professional sports meets professional dance.

McEldowney has choreographed for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Hubbard Street 2, River North Dance Company, the Civic Ballet of Chicago, the Cerqua/Rivera Art Experience, Ballet Met, American Repertory Ballet, Louisville Ballet, Chicago Shakespeare Repertory, and he was resident choreographer for Configurations Dance Company.

The inaugural recipient of the Prince Prize award, McEldowney has also received choreography awards from Ruth Page Center for the Arts, After Dark, and Choo-San Goh. Other choreographic achievements include the opening work of the 10th Anniversary of *Dance for Life*, the finale of Dance Chicago’s 10th Anniversary, the 35th anniversary tour of *American Bandstand*, directing the Australian tour of *More Dirty Dancing*, the ‘92 Barcelona Olympics’ Closing Ceremonies, and Carnegie Hall’s *Celebration of 125 Years of Musical Theater*. McEldowney also directs shows for Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines including *Freedom of the Seas*, the world’s largest cruise ship.

In addition to stage, McEldowney also choreographs for film and television. In 2008, the documentary *Billy Sunday*, which featured McEldowney, was nominated for an Emmy Award.

**Jeff Satinoff** made his professional dance debut at age 13 as the Young Prince in San Francisco Ballet’s production of *The Nutcracker*, later using his salary of \$5 per performance to purchase a new bike. Satinoff went on to train with Pennsylvania Ballet, San Francisco Ballet and North Carolina School of the Arts. He danced principal roles with the then-newly formed North Carolina Dance Theatre in numerous classical ballets as well as works by renowned choreographers Agnes De Mille and Alvin Ailey. In 1974, Satinoff joined the newly formed Eliot Feld Ballet, where he danced for ten years as a principal dancer in *Harbinger* and *Intermezzo*, among others, and created roles in many of Feld’s ballets. Satinoff taught company class and took part in the beginnings of Feld’s own New Ballet School.

Satinoff served as Artistic Director at both Dancesouth in Charleston, South Carolina, and Lake Erie Ballet in Erie, Pennsylvania.

A prolific choreographer, Satinoff has created more than 40 ballets for dance companies and schools across the U.S. including School of American Ballet, Juilliard Dance Ensemble, Hartford Ballet, Ballet Hispanico, Dayton Ballet, Ballet Memphis and Los Angeles Dance Alliance among others.

Satinoff was named Dean of Dance at the A.W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts, where he has remained on staff since 1994. Recent works include a new version of *Carmina Burana*, a restaging of his own *L’Histoire Du Soldat* at Florida Atlantic University, and the restaging of Feld’s *Harbinger* on Dreyfoos.

Satinoff is the 2011 recipient of the leadership award for Arts Education Professional from the Florida Alliance for Arts Education.

## Ballet Nebraska Costume Designer

**Deborah Overturff** has designed and created costumes for such notable ballets as *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, *Coppélia*, *Cinderella*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *The Nutcracker*. For many years she has had the privilege of working directly with Tatiana Bechenova, former ballerina of the Original Ballet Russe Col. de Basil, and has created costumes for the Heartland Ballet, Dubuque City Youth Ballet, and Montgomery Ballet. In 2009 she received the Willoughby Award for her costumes in *The Nutcracker*. In addition, Deborah has worked as part of the wardrobe staff at Hancher Auditorium in Iowa City, Iowa, on the national tours of *Cats*, *Les Misérables*, Joffrey Ballet's *The Nutcracker*, and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. Her dazzling costumes for Ballet Nebraska's May 2011 production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* recently were nominated for an Omaha Entertainment & Arts Award in the category of Best Costume Design.

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We'd like to take  
this moment to  
thank our friends,  
supporters,  
volunteers, and  
especially you,  
our audience,  
for sharing the  
beauty of dance  
with us  
this season.

We hope  
you'll be with us  
again when  
Ballet Nebraska  
opens Season 3  
in October 2012.

**Thank you!**

**Ballet**  
NEBRASKA





# Ballet Nebraska Artistic Staff

## Erika Overturff

*Artistic Director & Founder (Artist Sponsor: Midlands Choice)*



Erika Overturff is the founder and artistic director of Ballet Nebraska. Erika began her training in Iowa at the Academy of Ballet, continuing her studies at summer programs including North Carolina School of the Arts, American Ballet Theater, Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, and the Kirov Academy. Erika earned her BFA in ballet performance and teaching from the University of Utah, which she attended on a full scholarship. She graduated cum laude in just three years and was chosen outstanding senior by the ballet department faculty.

Erika went on to dance with Montgomery Ballet, Alabama Ballet, and Omaha Theater Ballet. She has performed principal and soloist roles in a wide range of classical and contemporary repertoire. Erika has also been a faculty member and guest teacher for schools throughout the United States.

As a choreographer, Erika has received critical praise for her work. She served as répétitrice for Montgomery Ballet and resident choreographer for Omaha Theater Ballet. As part of Ballet Nebraska's ongoing collaboration with Joslyn Art Museum for *Momentum*, she choreographed last season's *Connemara* and this season's premiere of *Cleopatra*. Additionally, Erika created Ballet Nebraska's lively and entertaining new version of the holiday favorite *The Nutcracker*, which made its debut to Council Bluffs and Omaha area audiences in 2011 and will return in 2012.

## Matthew Carter

*Ballet Master (Artist Sponsor: John & Gayla Thal)*



Matthew Carter began his training with Sharon Filone at the Lake Erie Ballet School and Sandra Barnett at Little's Dance Studio. He went on to study on scholarship at North Carolina School of the Arts, Miami City Ballet School, and the Chautauqua Festival Dancers. Matthew has danced professionally with Ohio Ballet, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, Lake Erie Ballet, and Omaha Theater Ballet. He has also performed as a Guest Artist with Hawaii Ballet Theatre, Neglia Ballet Artists, and Ballet Tucson. Matthew has been choreographing since the age of 16 and has premiered works with numerous schools, professional companies, and theaters. He is the co-director of

Motion41 Dance in Omaha and continues to serve as a guest teacher for schools throughout the country. Matthew returns for his second season at Ballet Nebraska as ballet master.



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- Visit **[balletnebraska.org/participate](http://balletnebraska.org/participate)**
- Write to Ballet Nebraska,  
PO Box 6413, Omaha, NE 68106

**Ballet**  
NEBRASKA

## **Erin Alarcón**

### *Company Dancer*



A native of New Jersey, Erin Alarcón received her dance training under Christine Taylor and Luba Gulyaeva of New Jersey Civic Youth Ballet, where she performed a number of classic roles and contemporary works. Erin earned her Bachelor of Arts in dance performance at Mercyhurst College under the direction of Tauna Hunter. During the summers, she studied with Eglevsky Ballet and The Joffrey Ballet. She has worked with a number of guest artists including Laura Alonso, Bruce Marks, Vivi Flindt, and Bill Evans. Erin has also studied abroad with Valerie Valentine of

the Dutch National Ballet. Erin previously danced professionally with SoMar Dance Works and Ballet Concerto. She performed leading roles in both *Giselle* and *The Sleeping Beauty*, as well as solo roles in Ballet Nebraska's *Momentum* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Erin is returning for her second season with Ballet Nebraska.

## **Claire Goodwillie**

### *Company Dancer*



Claire Goodwillie began her ballet training at Omaha Theater Ballet School of Dance. She spent summers training with the renowned Pacific Northwest Ballet and Ballet Austin. She has also trained in Banff, Canada. Claire appeared in numerous Omaha Theater Ballet productions as both a student and apprentice, including *The Sleeping Beauty*, *The Firebird* and *Coppélia*. Her favorite roles include young Clara in *The Orpheum Nutcracker*, Evil Rat Queen in Erika Overturff's *The Nutcracker*, as well as Helena in Oskar Antunez' *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Claire was featured

in the role of Sugar Plum Fairy in a Christmas production at Omaha Theater Company. She has also performed with Opera Omaha and the Omaha Symphony. Claire is a founding member returning for her second season at Ballet Nebraska.

## **Natasha Grimm**

### *Company Dancer (Artist Sponsor: John Ritland & Greta Vaught)*



Natasha Grimm began her ballet training at Omaha Theater Ballet School of Dance. She also received a scholarship to Kansas City Ballet, and toured with Manhattan Dance. Additionally, Natasha danced in productions with the Omaha Symphony and Opera Omaha. Natasha began her professional career at Omaha Theater Ballet, where she danced first as an apprentice and later as a company member for three seasons. She was dubbed by Examiner.com as "one of the most lithe and physically appealing dancers to grace the stage" in her role of Coral

Snake in Omaha Theater Ballet's final production, *The Rainforest*. A founding member of Ballet Nebraska, Natasha has performed leading roles, including Sugar Plum Fairy in Erika Overturff's *The Nutcracker* and Titania in Oskar Antunez' *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Natasha returns for her second season with Ballet Nebraska.

## **Alberto Liberatoscioli**

### *Company Dancer (Artist Sponsor: Clyde & Deborah Overturff)*



Originally from Italy, Alberto Liberatoscioli received his ballet training in the Vaganova and Balanchine styles, also studying modern dance. He was a member of National Theater in Brno, Czech Republic and Slovak National Ballet where he performed in classical repertory including *Le Corsaire*, *La Bayadère* and *Swan Lake*, as well as neoclassical works and opera premieres. Alberto also danced with Columbia Classical Ballet in South Carolina, and later Omaha Theater Ballet. He

appeared as a guest artist at Boulder Ballet, Ballet Fantastique and Lincoln Midwest Ballet dancing lead roles in *The Nutcracker*, *The Sleeping Beauty* and as Lando in *As You Like It*. Alberto received his teaching certification from American Ballet Theater in New York City and has taught master classes in Rome. He has also taught dance to students in Omaha and Lincoln. Alberto holds a law degree and a masters in Human Resources. He recently won first prize in the 2010 Una Manciatà di Lettere literature contest in Taranto, Italy for his book *Ombre alla Ribalta*. Most recently, Alberto performed solo roles in *Momentum*, *The Nutcracker* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Ballet Nebraska, where he is returning for his second season.

## **Bret Samson**

*Company Dancer (Artist Sponsor: Dr. James Liu & Rebecca Liu-Huang)*



Bret Samson began her dance training at Lake Shore Dance with Amy Aichele and Gwen Agee in Saukville, Wisconsin. She continued training with Melissa Anderson and Rafael Delgado in Milwaukee, where she later became a founding member of their performance group. Bret continued her training at Steps on Broadway in New York City. Bret has performed in numerous ballets by accomplished choreographers, dancing roles in Harrison McEldowney's *Swing, Swing, Swing!*, Oskar Antunez' *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and in works by Kennet Oberly and Jean-Paul Commélin. Bret has performed with Milwaukee Ballet II, Madison Ballet and Omaha Theater Ballet. A founding member of Ballet Nebraska, Bret returns for her second season.

## **Kelsey Schwenker**

*Company Dancer*



Boulder, Colorado native Kelsey Schwenker began her classical ballet training with Ballet Nouveau Colorado, where she was a five-year member of its student company directed by Julia Wilkinson Manley. She has attended summer intensives with Kansas City Ballet, Brooklyn Ballet Theatre, Boulder Jazz Dance Workshop and Paul Taylor Dance Company. Kelsey received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in ballet performance, graduating summa cum laude from the University of Oklahoma, where she trained with Mary Margaret Holt, Donn Edwards, Steve Brule and Jeremy Lindberg. Kelsey has performed in notable works including *Rodeo*, *Divertimento No. 5*, *The Firebird*, *Afternoon of a Faun* and *Les Biches*. Kelsey returns for her second season with Ballet Nebraska.

## **Denis Vezetiu**

*Company Dancer*



Born in Moldova in Eastern Europe, Denis Vezetiu received his professional training at the Academy of Ballet of Moldova. He went on to dance with a number of prestigious companies. He danced as a soloist with the National Opera of Bucharest and the National Theatre of Moldova. As a dancer with Chisinau National Theatre, Denis toured extensively in Europe and the United States. His varied repertoire includes *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Coppélia*, *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker*, *Le Corsaire* and *La Bayadère*. Since 2008, Denis served as a principal dancer with Manassas Ballet in Virginia, performing leading roles in a variety of classical and original ballets. This is his first season with Ballet Nebraska.



The Nebraska Arts Council, a state agency, has supported this program through its matching grants program funded by the Nebraska Legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment.

Visit [www.nebraskaartscouncil.org](http://www.nebraskaartscouncil.org) for information on how the Nebraska Arts Council can assist your organization, or how you can support the Nebraska Cultural Endowment.

## **Sasha York**

*Company Dancer (Artist Sponsor: OrthoWest)*



Originally from Chelyabinsk, Russia, Sasha York trained at Paavola School of Dance in Flint, Michigan. He later returned to Russia, where he trained with Urey Urivich. Sasha was accepted into the pre-professional program at Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, where he performed in company productions of *Don Quixote*, *The Nutcracker*, *Peter Pan*, and *Alice in Wonderland*. He has worked with many well-known choreographers such as Harrison McEldowney, Viktor Plotnikov and Septime Webre. Sasha performed the lead role in McEldowney's *Swing, Swing, Swing!*, Snow

King in Erika Overturff's *The Nutcracker*, and Oberon in Oskar Antunez' *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He previously danced for two seasons at Omaha Theater Ballet. Sasha joined Ballet Nebraska in 2010 as a founding member and returns for his second season.

## **Angela Zolczynski**

*Company Dancer (Artist Sponsor: J. Michael Hemmer)*

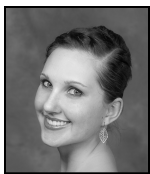


A native of Rapid City, South Dakota, Angela Zolczynski is a graduate of the prestigious Walnut Hill School for the Arts in Natick, Massachusetts. She received her ballet training from Michael Owen of American Ballet Theater. Angela performed with Omaha Theater Ballet for six seasons, dancing in numerous works including *The Firebird*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Coppélia*. Angela has performed many soloist roles, including her recent portrayal of Hermia in Oskar Antunez' *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. A dedicated instructor,

Angela has taught ballet, jazz, and tap in Omaha for seven years, and she also currently leads youth rehearsals for Repertory Ensemble. Angela is a founding member of Ballet Nebraska returning for her second season.

## **Teresa Coulter**

*Apprentice*



Teresa began her dance training at Mary Lorraine's Dance Center in Omaha. She also trained at Omaha Academy of Ballet and Motion41 Dance. Teresa spent summers training with Kansas City Ballet, the prestigious North Carolina School of the Arts, and Kaatsbaan International Dance in Tivoli, New York. Teresa was a founding member of Ballet Nebraska II in the Company's debut season. She has danced company roles as Miss May in the Calendar Girls scene in Harrison McEldowney's *Swing, Swing, Swing!* and in the flower corps during Waltz of the Flowers in Erika Overturff's *The Nutcracker*. Teresa joins Ballet Nebraska this season as a first-year apprentice.

## **Mandy Lock**

*Apprentice*



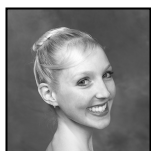
Mandy is a recent graduate of the University of Utah where she earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in ballet performance. She began her training in classical ballet and acro-gymnastics in her home state of Missouri. She was a member of resident performing companies Utah Ballet and Character Dance Ensemble. Mandy also appeared professionally as a guest artist with Aspen Santa Fe Ballet in 2008. Mandy has toured internationally in Japan and Costa Rica, as well as extensively throughout the state of Utah. She has performed in a range of classical repertory including *Swan Lake*, *Cinderella*, *La Bayadère*, *Giselle* and *The Firebird*, as well as numerous contemporary works. Mandy joins Ballet Nebraska this season as an apprentice.

## Andrea Mason

### Apprentice



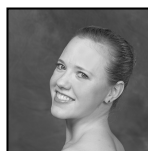
Chesterfield, Missouri native Andrea received her classical ballet training at St. Louis Ballet School with Gen Horiuchi and Ellen Costanza. She performed as a student apprentice in numerous roles in *Swan Lake* and *The Nutcracker* with St. Louis Ballet. Andrea received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance, with a dual emphasis in ballet and modern from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance in May 2011. Andrea appeared in Anthony Tudor's *Dark Elegies*, Bernard Gaddis's *Deitas* as a principal, as well as *Les Petits Riens* by Gen Horiuchi, *Shostakovich Jazz Suite* by Ron Tice, and *Untitled* by Thaddeus Davis. During summers, she studied with Nashville Ballet, Carolina Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, Ballet Chicago and St. Louis Ballet. Andrea appeared professionally in 2010 as guest artist for Dimensions Dance Theater as Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*. She also taught advanced classical ballet for two years at Creative Arts Academy. This is Andrea's first year as an apprentice with Ballet Nebraska.



**Jenna Strachota**  
Trainee



**Magali Damien**  
Company Guest



**Kristin Goeringer**  
Company Guest

A large black and white photograph of a ballerina in a dark leotard, performing a high arabesque in a dance studio with a high ceiling and many rectangular lights. In the bottom right corner, there is a circular logo for 'motion4 dance' with a silhouette of a dancer. Text is overlaid on the image.

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Save these dates:

### **Momentum (new!)**

**October 19 and 21**

Joslyn Art Museum

### **The Nutcracker**

**November 30**

IWCC Arts Center

**December 2**

Omaha Music Hall

### **Alice in Wonderland**

**April 26 and 27**

IWCC Arts Center



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