



WEITZENHOFFER FAMILY COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
UNIVERSITY THEATRE
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA FESTIVAL BALLET

featuring
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Choreography by Rena Butler, Michael Bearden,
Boyko Dossev, and Glenn Edgerton

SEPTEMBER 26-28

Elsie C. Brackett Theatre

WEITZENHOFER FAMILY COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS FACULTY AND STAFF

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Alissa Branch, Associate Professor, Performance, Co-Interim Performance Area Coordinator
Renée Brode, Associate Professor, Lighting Design, Design and Production Area Coordinator
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Stephanie Cirar, Stitcher
Lloyd E. Cracknell, Associate Professor, Costume Design, Rothbaum Professor
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Andrew Tarr, Visiting Assistant Professor, Design and Production
Dr. Nahuel Telleria, Assistant Professor, Dramaturgy, Co-Interim Performance Area Coordinator
Jon Young, James Garner Chair, Rothbaum Professor, Scenic Design

UNIVERSITY THEATRE

Mary Margaret Holt, University Theatre Producer
Kasey Allee-Foreman, Associate Producer
Harrison Best, Performance Hall Supervisor
Taryn Feheley, House Manager
Ray Woods, Sound Technician



WEITZENHOFFER FAMILY COLLEGE OF FINE
UNIVERSITY THEATRE
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA
and OU School of Dance
present

OKLAHOMA FESTIVAL BALLET

Choreographers
Rena Butler, Boyko Dossev,
Michael Bearden and Glenn Edgerton

Costume Designers

Lloyd Cracknell

Joy Omeish

Emily Post

Lighting Designers

Lauren Foster

Lucas Knapp

Madeline Lewis

Stage Managers

Emily Cashdollar

Emily Matthews

Scenic Designers

Gillian Kelley

Goldie Snow

Oklahoma Festival Ballet Director

Glenn Edgerton

OU School of Dance Director

Michael Bearden

Elsie C. Brackett Theatre

September 26, 27, 28, 2025 at 8 p.m.

September 27, 28, 2025 at 3 p.m.

OU Fine Arts Box Office • (405) 325-4101 • theatre.ou.edu

On behalf of the University of Oklahoma School of Dance students, faculty, and staff, welcome to our first main stage production of the season: Oklahoma Festival Ballet. This production brings together many talented, emerging, and experienced, creative voices from scenic, costume, and lighting designers to choreographers and stage management.

The program will open with faculty member Boyko Dossev's new work, *Fantaisie-Improptu*. This delightful work highlights our talented incoming first-year students with a mixture of neoclassical ballet, including hints of traditional character dance.

We are honored to bring to the stage a new work by world-renowned choreographer Rena Butler titled *Tsela*. This pas de deux displays the complexities of the human condition through movement and internal conflict. It has been a pleasure to watch Rena push our dancers to grow artistically.

To complete the program, we are pleased to present a brand-new *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, co-choreographed by Oklahoma Festival Ballet director Glenn Edgerton and me. This collaboration has been a joy and a pleasure to watch the students dive into the work with enthusiasm and dedication. I want to say a special thank you to the design and production team in the School of Drama for their hard and detailed work in bringing together such a large production so beautifully. I would also like to thank Glenn, the faculty, and staff in the School of Dance for working so tirelessly on this production. It has been an incredible team effort, and I am grateful to work with such dedicated and creative professionals.

Warm regards,

Michael Bearden
Director, School of Dance
University of Oklahoma

Welcome to University Theatre's Premier Production of the 2025-2026 Season! We are delighted you have joined us for Oklahoma Festival Ballet's presentation of three ballets designed to ignite the imagination and touch the heart.

From the sparkling elegance of Boyko Dossev's *Fantaisie Improptu* to the very human emotion of *Tsela* and a newly imagined *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, our dancers, choreographers, designers, technicians, stage managers, and crew bring you a magical evening of ballet created in a few short weeks of intense creative collaboration.

Following Oklahoma Festival Ballet, the fall season will continue with the operatic version of *The Turn of the Screw*, followed by a very definite change of pace with Mel Brooks' *Young Frankenstein*, and, finally, our production of *A Christmas Carol* that will touch senses in unexpectedly personal ways.

Upon entering the theatre this fall, you may miss the beautiful smile and manner of our house manager for many years, Donna Huston, who retires with the beginning of this season. We are deeply grateful to Donna for decades of the high standard she set, but now we look forward to seeing her in the audience enjoying the show with all of you.

Welcome back to University Theatre! We are beyond happy you have joined us!

With thanks and best wishes,

Professor Mary Margaret Holt
Dean, Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts
Nichols' Chair, Regents' Professor, and
Presidential Professor
University of Oklahoma



A special thank you to our current Dean's Circle members!

- Membership as of September 22, 2025 -

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Bette Jo & Frank Hill • Linda & Keith Miller • Charles L. Oppenheim
George Records • A. Max Weitzenhoffer

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Jeannene Loeffelholz • Karen & Greg Mahaffey • Dane McDowell
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Sandy & Jacquelyn Singleton • Brad & Linda Stanton
Marcos D. Stocco & Dr. Amber J. Stocco • Emily Stratton
Stuart Family Foundation • David Surratt & Tasha Pargali Surratt
Martha & Jim Wade • Paula Wright
Nancy Yoch • Linda Young • Carolyn Zachritz



100% of the funds raised through the OU Dean's Circle membership go toward providing students in the College of Fine Arts opportunities off-campus that promote artistic and intellectual development.

Questions? Contact Kimberley Worrell, Executive Director of Advancement,
OU Foundation at kworrell@ou.edu or call (405) 325-7376.

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OKLAHOMA FESTIVAL BALLET

Fantaisie-Impromptu

Choreography: Boyko Dossev
Music: Frédéric Chopin, Franz Liszt,
Robert Schumann
Costume Design: Lloyd Cracknell
Lighting Design: Lauren Foster

Mackenzie Carroll, Eve Grunenwald, Vithor Marais, Ben Nemmers
Lily Potter, Kaelia Russell, Skyler Ryden, Madolyn Siela, Rhianwen Tinsley
Rut Trujillo-Abeyta, Payton Vickey, Lucy Wagner

There will be a brief pause.

Tsela

Choreography: Rena Butler
Music: I. & II.,
Sound Designer, Darryl J Hoffman
III.,
Performed by Capella Vocalis Boys Choir,
Eckhard Weyand
Written by Michael Praetorius, Traditional

Scenic Design: Goldie Snow
Costume Design: Joy Omeish
Lighting Design: Lucas Knapp
Rehearsal Director: Brandye Lee

Sophia Smith & Andrew Parson
(9/26 8 pm, 9/27 3pm, 9/28 8pm)

Cheyenne Lok Suet Yeng & Oscar Miller
(9/27 8pm, 9/28 3pm)

Program Note

Tsela (עֵלָא) is a Hebrew word that generally means "side" or "rib". In the context of the creation story in Genesis, it's often translated as "rib," but some scholars argue that "side" is a more accurate translation. The word also appears in other contexts in the Old Testament, where it is translated as "side" (e.g., of the Ark of the Covenant).

15-minute intermission.

OKLAHOMA FESTIVAL BALLET

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Choreography: Michael Bearden and Glenn Edgerton
Music: Felix Mendelssohn
Scenic Design: Gillian Kelley
Costume Design: Emily Post
Lighting Design: Madeline Lewis
Sound Editing: Dustin Trotter

Cast for 9/26 8pm, 9/27 3pm, 9/28 8 pm

Titania: Ava Kabealo
Oberon: Oscar Miller
Puck: Ben Nemmers
Hermia: Sophie Brown
Helena: Larissa Yakunovich
Lysander: Andrew Parson
Demetrius: Hollis Narkiewicz
Nic Bottom: Thomas Brown
Changeling: Biileé V.

Nymphs:

Alexandra Byank, Katya Cassidy, Macie Castellanos, Damerah Coleman
Sophie Kanzler, Joelle Kimbrough, Cheyenne Lok Suet Yeng, Taylor McCardle
Abby Pieper, Eliza Symonds, Payton Van Poppel, Lucy Vosburg

Cast for 9/27 8 pm, 9/28 3 pm

Titania: Skyler Ryden
Oberon: Andrew Parson
Puck: Sophia Smith
Hermia: Abby Pieper
Helena: Taylor McCardle
Lysander: Oscar Miller
Demetrius: Thomas Brown
Nic Bottom: Hollis Narkiewicz
Changeling: Diaxxash V.

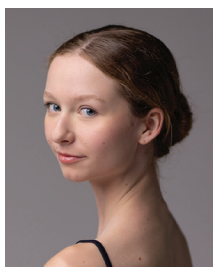
Nymphs:

Ella Backus, Anna Britt, Katya Cassidy, D'Anise Chavez, Olivia Costello
Lauren Gordon, Kathryn Hensley, Isabella Lucido, Melissa Quiros Diaz
Payton Van Poppel, Larissa Yakunovich, Anna Zimmerly

MEET THE CAST OF OKLAHOMA FESTIVAL BALLET



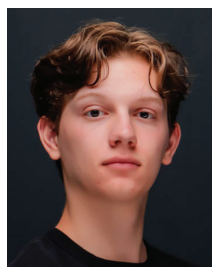
ELLA BACKUS



ANNA BRITT



SOPHIE BROWN



THOMAS BROWN



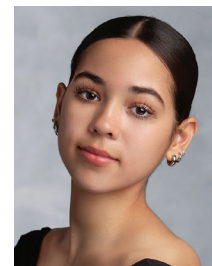
ALEXANDRA
BYANK



MACKENZIE
CARROLL



KATYA
CASSIDY



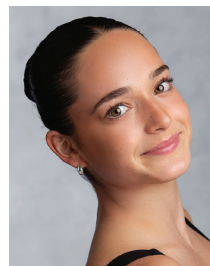
MACIE
CASTELLANOS



D'ANISE CHAVEZ



DAMERAH
COLEMAN



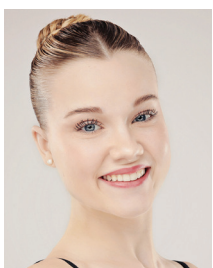
OLIVIA COSTELLO



LAUREN GORDON



EVE
GRUNENWALD



KATHRYN
HENSLEY



AVA KABEALO



SOPHIE KANZLER

MEET THE CAST OF OKLAHOMA FESTIVAL BALLET



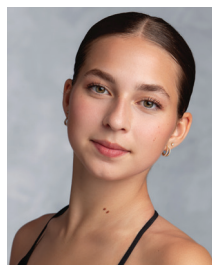
JOELLE
KIMBROUGH



CHEYENNE
LOK SUET YENG



ISABELLA LUCIDO



TAYLOR
McCARDLE



OSCAR MILLER



HOLLIS
NARKIEWICZ



BEN NEMMERS



ANDREW PARSON



ABBY PIEPER



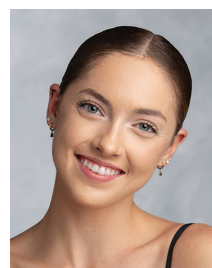
LILY POTTER



MELISSA
QUIROS DIAZ



KAELIA RUSSELL



SKYLER RYDEN



MADOLYN SIELA



SOPHIA SMITH

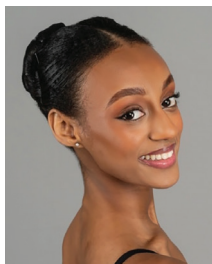


ELIZA SYMONDS

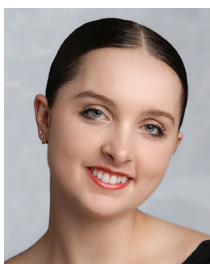
MEET THE CAST OF OKLAHOMA FESTIVAL BALLET



RHIAWEN TINSLEY



RUT TRUJILLO-
ABEYTA



PAYTON
VAN POPPEL



PAYTON VICKEY



LUCY VOSBURG



LUCY WAGNER



LARISSA
YAKUNOVICH



ANNA ZIMMERLY

OKLAHOMA FESTIVAL BALLET

PRODUCTION STAFF

Producer	Mary Margaret Holt
Associate Producer	Kasey Allee-Foreman
Faculty Advisor to the Scenic Designer	Jon Young
Faculty Advisor to the Costume Designers	Lloyd Cracknell
Faculty Advisor to the Lighting Designers	Renée Brode
Faculty Advisor to Stage Management	Christopher Sadler
Design and Production Area Coordinator	Renée Brode
Young Performer Supervisor	Caitlin Smith
Technical Director	Akari Harada
Production Carpenter	E. Pope
Scenic Charge Artist	Sydney Hagen
Scenic Undergraduate Assistants	Sydney Brooks, Jake Cook, Elizabeth Elliott Braxton Ellsworth, Cadence Gates Diego Gonzales, Gillian Kelley, Michael Miller Oscar Miller, Abigail Pirtle, Ruby Ravston, Jalisa Reed Goldie Snow, JJ Toly
Properties Director	Margot Glaser
Run Crew Head	Elizabeth Elliott
Run Crew	Joseph Cooper, Evie Fisher, Violet Heilaman Michael Leubscher Black, SarahAnn Posey Madison Watkins
Fly Rail Operator	Katharine Hart
Electrics Supervisor	Eric Stehl
Lighting Undergraduate Assistants	Kai Allen, Ava Booker, Ericka Dodson Micah Dooley, Lauren Foster, Matheiu Gay Madison Heckelsberg, Noah Jittawait, Felix Joshi Lucas Knapp, Madeline Lewis, Conner Lin Lucas Mann, Emily Morris, Carleigh Nickel Malerie Pollock, Ruby Ravsten, Sophia Smith
Production Electrician	Conner Lin
Light Board Programmer	Noah Jittawait
Light Board Operator	Sydney Tuffnell
Deck Electricians	Michael Miller, Zoe Tilman
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Audio Undergraduate Assistant	Madison Hecklesberg, Conner Lin
Sound Board Operator	Jack Swearingen
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Junior Draper	Chloe Mullin
Lead Stitcher	Amy Kercher
Stitcher	Stephanie Cirar
Costume Undergraduate Assistants	Bree Burchett, Westbrook Hallum, Paige Kasulis, Natalie Lane, Ian Lee, Emily Matthews, Ben Nemmers, Emily Post, Sydney Tuffnell, Samantha Verbsky
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Wardrobe Crew Head	Samantha Verbsky
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Marketing Assistant	Lane Houk
Production Undergraduate Assistant	McKenna Bowman

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

ELLA BACKUS is a ballet performance and biology junior from Clarendon Hills, IL. Credits: University Theatre: *Where the Mind Goes* (YCS '25); Spanish, Waltz, Party Adult, *The Nutcracker*. Ballet Under the Stars: *Whereabouts Unknown*. Salt Creek Ballet: *Carabosse*, *Sleeping Beauty*.

ANNA BRITT is a ballet performance sophomore from Conway, AR. Credits: OU University Theatre: *By Any Means Necessary* (YCS '25); Snow Crystal, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Snow Crystal, *The Nutcracker*.

SOPHIE BROWN is a ballet performance junior minoring in art history and digital marketing from Greer, SC. Credits: OU University Theatre: *Whereabouts Unknown*, *Berio Suite* (OFB '24); Dew Drop Fairy/Marzipan, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24); Marzipan/Flowers/Snow/Ribbon Dance, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '23). Ballet Under the Stars: *Whereabouts Unknown*. OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Marzipan/Flowers/Snow, *The Nutcracker*. OU School of Dance France Tour: *Another Doodle*, *Ne Me Quitte Pas*, *Awakening*.

THOMAS BROWN (DEMETRIUS/NICK BOTTOM) is a ballet performance and computer science sophomore from Suwanee, GA. Credits: OU University Theatre: OFB '24.

ALEXANDRA BYANK is a ballet performance junior from Long Valley, NJ with minors in marketing and digital marketing. Credits: OU University Theatre: Spanish, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24); Flowers & Party Parent, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '23). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Snow & Flowers, *The Nutcracker*.

MACKENZIE CARROLL is a ballet performance freshman from Tuscon, AZ. This is her OU University Theatre debut.

KATYA CASSIDY is a ballet performance and health & exercise science along the pre-physical therapy sophomore from The Woodlands, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Flower, Snow, Marzipan, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24); *Nantahala* (YCS '24); OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Flower, Snow, Marzipan, *The Nutcracker*. The Windsong Chamber Choir, *The Sacred Veil*.

MACIE CASTELLANOS is a ballet performance and journalism junior with a minor in history from San Antonio, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Clara/Waltz of the Flowers, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24); *Whereabouts Unknown* (OFB '24); *Irrequieta*, *By Any Means Necessary* (YCS '24); Clara/Waltz of the Flowers/Waltz of the Snowflakes, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '23). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Waltz of the Snowflakes/Waltz of the Flowers, *The Nutcracker*.

D'ANISE CHAVEZ is a ballet performance, biology and pre-med sophomore from El Paso, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Dance Flower Corps, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24) OU School of Dance/OFB 2024 Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Flower Corps/Battle Scene *The Nutcracker*. OU School of Dance 2024 Summer Intensive Showcase.

DAMERAH COLEMAN is a ballet performance senior with minors in health and exercise science and arts management & entrepreneurship from Indianapolis, IN. Credits: OU University Theatre: Frau Silberhaus, Spanish Divertissement, Flower, *The Nutcracker* ('23 and '24) *Take Five* (OFB '24); *Serenade* (OFB '23); *Deux Amours* (OFB '23) *Untitled* (OFB '22); *Memories* (OFB '22); *Sacred Ground* (OFB '22); *Embraced* (OFB '22).

OLIVIA COSTELLO is a ballet performance junior from Chicago, IL. Credits: OU University Theatre: Flowers/Ribbon, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24); Party Parent/Ribbon/Flowers, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '23). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Flowers, *The Nutcracker*.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

LAUREN GORDON is a ballet pedagogy and pre-physical therapy/health and exercise sophomore from Nashville, TN. Credits: OU University Theatre: Young Choreographers' Showcase '25; Flower Corps (OFB '24). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Flowers, Party Parent, *The Nutcracker*.

EVE GRUNENWALD is a ballet performance freshman from Simpsonville, SC. This is her OU University Theatre debut.

KATHRYN HENSLEY is a ballet performance sophomore from Roswell, GA. Credits: OU University Theatre: Snow Crystal, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24); By Any Means Necessary by Joelle Kimbrough (YCS '25). Ballet West Choreographic Workshop: *Somnus* by Joshua Whitehead. OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Snow Crystal, *The Nutcracker*.

AVA KABEALO (TITANIA) is a ballet performance senior from Summerville, SC. Credits: OU University Theatre: Papillon and Dew Drop Fairy, *The Nutcracker*; *Another Doodle*, *Berio Suite* (OFB '24); *Piece* (YCS '24); *Papillon and Dew Drop Fairy*, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '23); *Sostice* (YCS '23); *Serenade*, *Antique Epigraphs*, *Train of Thought* (OFB '23). Oklahoma City Ballet: member of Swan Corps, *Swan Lake*. OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic. OU School of Dance: Clermont Ferrand Study Abroad.

SOPHIE KANZLER is a ballet performance and health and exercise science junior from Winston-Salem, NC. Credits: University Theatre: Waltz of the Flowers, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24); *Whereabouts Unknown* (OFB '24); *Governess*, *Flowers*, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '23). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Snow Corps/Waltz of the Flowers, *The Nutcracker*.

JOELLE KIMBROUGH is a ballet performance and biology pre-med senior from Kansas City, KS. Credits: OU University Theatre: Party Mom/ Snow Corps / Ribbon Dancer / Flower Corps, *The Nutcracker*; Dancer, *Serenade* excerpt, *Deux Amours* (OFB '23). OU School of Dance: Dancer, Kira Robinson, Lina Davis Capstone 2024; Dancer, Alayna Wong's Capstone 2022. OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Ribbon Dancer/Party Mom, *The Nutcracker*. OU School of Dance/Clermont Ferrand: *Ne Me Quitte Pas*.

CHEYENNE LOK SUET YENG is a ballet performance and biology pre-physical therapy senior from Petaling Jaya, Selango, Malaysia. Credits: OU University Theatre: *Berio Suite* (OFB '24); Ribbon Dancer and Waltz of the Flowers Corps, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24); Maid, *The Nutcracker*, Dancer, *Bolero* (OFB '24) Dancer, *Deux Amours* (OFB Spring '23). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Mouse/Ribbon Dancer, *The Nutcracker*. Windsong OKC: Veil, *The Sacred Veil*.

ISABELLA LUCIDO is a ballet performance and pre-PA track sophomore from Dallas, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Flower Corps, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Party Mom, Flower Corps, *The Nutcracker*.

TAYLOR McCARDLE (HELENA) is a ballet performance junior with a minor in arts management & entrepreneurship from Lexington, KY. Credits: University Theatre: YCS '24 & '25; *Berio Suite*, *Whereabouts Unknown* (OFB '24); *Marzipan*, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24); *Marzipan*, Snow Corps, Flower, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '23). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: *Marzipan*, *Flowers*, and Snow Corps, *The Nutcracker*. OU School of Dance/Clermont-Ferrand, France: *Doodle*, *Ne Me Quitte Pas*, and an excerpt of *Awakening*.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

OSCAR MILLER (OBERON/LYSANDER) is a ballet performance senior from Leawood, KS. Credits: OU University Theatre: Train of Thought, "Deux Amour", "Whereabouts Unknown", "Berio Suite", "Another Doodle"(OFB '24); Herr Silverbaum/Snow Cavalier/Dewdrop Cavalier/Sugar Plum Fairy Cavalier/Papillon, *The Nutcracker*. OU School of Dance: Dancer, Bouquet for Yvonne, Five Moons Dance Festival. Oklahoma City Ballet: 2025 Peasant Corpse de Ballet.

HOLLIS NARKIEWICZ (DEMETRIUS/NIC BOTTOM) is a ballet performance sophomore from Monmouth, IL. Credits: OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: *The Nutcracker*. Scissortail: *Whereabouts Unknown*. *The Sacred Veil*.

BEN NEMMERS (PUCK) is a ballet performance junior from Dallas, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Prince, Russian, *The Nutcracker*; *It's All in the Rhythm* (YCS '23); *Train of Thought*; *Deux Amour*; *Orpheé* (OFB '23). *Whereabouts Unknown*, *Work Within Walk*, *Another Doodle* (OFB '24). Victoria Ballet Theatre: *Coppélia* 2022. Aspen Santa Fe Ballet: *The Nutcracker* 2022.

ANDREW PARSON (OBERON/LYSANDER) is a ballet performance and biology freshman from Little Rock, AR. Credits: OU University Theatre: *Whereabouts Unknown*, *Berio Suite* (OFB '24); Trepak, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Trepak, *The Nutcracker*. Windsong Chamber Choir, *The Sacred Veil*. *Another Doodle* and *Ne Me Quite Pas* in OU School of Dance/Clermont-Ferrand, France - Conservatoire Danse Clermont, 2025. Five Moons Dance Festival '24.

ABBY PIEPER (HERMIA) is a ballet performance and psychology junior from Chicago, IL. Credits: OU University Theatre: Clara/Flowers, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24); *Whereabouts Unknown* (OFB '24); Flower/Snow Crystal/Snow Corps, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '23). Ballet Under the Stars: *Whereabouts Unknown*. OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Clara, *The Nutcracker*.

LILY POTTER is a ballet performance and piano freshman from Surprise, AZ. This is her OU University Theatre debut.

MELISSA QUIROS DIAZ is a ballet performance and economics junior from Heredia, Costa Rica. Credits: OU University Theatre: Marzipan/Snow Queen/ Waltz of the Flowers, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '23); *Berio Suite*, *Whereabouts Unknown* (OFB '24); *Nantahala* by Sophia Smith (YCS '25); *Whereabouts Unknown* (OFB '24). Five Moons Dance Festival: *Bouquet for Yvonne*. Ballet Under the Stars: *Whereabouts Unknown*. OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Marzipan/Snow Queen/Snow Corps de Ballet/ Waltz of the Flowers, *The Nutcracker*.

KAELIA RUSSELL is a ballet performance and marketing freshman from Seattle, WA. This is her OU University Theatre debut.

SKYLER RYDEN (TITANIA) is a ballet performance junior from Midland, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Snow, Marzipan, Flowers, Dew Drop, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24) Five Moons Dance Festival, 2024; *Berio Suite*, *Another Doodle* (OFB '24). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Snow, Marzipan, Dew Drop, *The Nutcracker*. OU School of Dance/Clermont-Ferrand, France - Conservatoire Danse Clermont, 2025. The Boishoi School Brazil (2025). Festival Ballet San Jose. Windsong Chamber Choir, *The Sacred Veil*.

MADOLYN SIELA is a ballet performance and art history freshman from Austin, TX. This is her OU University Theatre debut.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

SOPHIA SMITH (PUCK) is a ballet pedagogy senior from Winston-Salem, NC. Credits: OU University Theatre: Dancer, *Berio Suite*, *Whereabouts Unknown* (OFB '24); Clara, Fairy Doll, *The Nutcracker*; *Serenade*, *Train of Thought*, *Deux Amours* (OFB '23); Choreographer: *Nantahala* (YCS '25); Lighting Designer, *Foreign Metal* (YCS '25); *all the stars in heaven* (YCS '24); Windsong Chamber Choir, Choreographer, *The Sacred Veil*.

ELIZA SYMONDS is a ballet performance junior with a minor in arts management & entrepreneurship from Wooster, OH. Credits: OU University Theatre: Waltz of the Flowers/Ribbons, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24); *Nantahala* (YCS '25); Party Mom/Snow/Snow Crystal/Waltz/Ribbons, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '23). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Party Mom, Waltz of the Flowers, *The Nutcracker*.

RHIAWEN TINSLEY is a ballet performance freshman from Raleigh, NC. This is her OU University Theatre debut.

RUT TRUJILLO-ABEYTA is a ballet performance freshman from Denver, CO. This is her OU University Theatre debut.

PAYTON VAN POPPEL is a ballet performance and business management junior from Frisco, TX. Credits: University Theatre: *Nantahala* (YCS '25), *Berio Suite* (OFB '24), *Whereabouts Unknown* (OFB '24), Snowflake/Ribbon Dance/Flower, *The Nutcracker*. Ballet under the Stars '24: *Whereabouts Unknown*. Colorado Springs Philharmonic and OU School of Dance: Snowflake/Ribbon Dance, *The Nutcracker*.

PAYTON VICKEY is a ballet performance and pre-physician assistant freshman from Wilmore, KY. This is her University Theatre debut.

LUCY VOSBURG is a ballet performance junior with marketing minor from Greenwood Village, CO. Credits: University Theatre: *Whereabouts*, *Ribbon* (OFB '24); Governess/Snow/Ribbon/Flowers, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '23). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Snow/Ribbon, *The Nutcracker*.

LUCY WAGNER is a ballet performance and marketing freshman from Pittsburgh, PA. Credits: OU University Theatre: This is her OU University Theatre debut.

LARISSA YAKUNOVICH (HELENA) is a ballet performance and biology (pre-physician associate) junior from Houston, TX. Credits: University Theatre: Young Choreographers' Showcase 2025 Flower/Spanish, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24). *Berio Suite*, *Whereabouts Unknown* (OFB '24); Flowers/Snow Corps/Spanish, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '23). Ballet Under the Stars: *Whereabouts Unknown*. OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Governess/Snow Corps/Spanish, *The Nutcracker*.

ANNA ZIMMERLY is a ballet performance and psychology sophomore from Cincinnati, OH. Credits: OU University Theatre: Flower, Snow Crystal, *The Nutcracker* (OFB '24); *Very, Very Human* (YCS '24). OU School of Dance/Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Flower, Snow Crystal, Mouse, *The Nutcracker*. Windsong Chamber Choir, *The Sacred Veil*

WHO'S WHO BEHIND THE SCENES

KASEY ALLEE-FOREMAN has served as Associate Producer/Production Manager for over 100 productions in the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts at the University of Oklahoma. She is currently the President of USITT. A short listing of her professional theatre credits include: SphinxCON, a conference promoting Diversity in the Arts; Canterbury Choral: Bernstein's Mass; Houston Grand Opera: Renée Fleming's premiere *La Traviata* (world premiere); Stages Repertory Theatre (Houston); Houston Shakespeare Festival; Shakespeare Festival at Tulane (New Orleans); Theatre West (Los Angeles). Professional film credits include: *Mystery, Alaska, Lost and Found; Austin Powers: The Spy who Shagged Me*. She is proud to have served on the USITT Board of Directors as the VP for Conferences, the VP for Education and Training and as a Director. She has served USITT on the Conference Committee chair and member, IDEAS Committee chair and member, is the co-founder of the Gateway Program, and has been the Co-chair of the Women in Theatre Network. Kasey received her MFA in Costume Design and Technology and Lighting Design and Technology from the University of New Orleans and her BA in Theatre Arts from Furman University.

MICHAEL BEARDEN (Choreographer) is the third Director of the University of Oklahoma School of Dance which was founded in 1963 by Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo dancers Miguel Terekhov and Yvonne Chouteau. Prior to joining OU he was the Artistic Director of Ballet Arkansas and an Assistant Professor at the University of Utah. He was a Principal Dancer with Ballet West in Salt Lake City and had a 14-year career with the company touring across the United States and the world. Michael performed leading roles in works by some of the world's greatest choreographers including Balanchine, Ashton, Tudor, Forsythe, Stevenson, Welch, Dove, Tetley, Tharp, Kylian and Christopher Bruce. As a choreographer, Mr. Bearden has created or staged his works for Ballet West, University of Utah, Brigham Young University, University of Cincinnati, Belhaven University, Texas Christian University and Bucknell University.

RENA BUTLER (Choreographer) hails from Chicago, IL, and began her studies at The Chicago Academy for the Arts. She studied overseas at Taipei National University of the Arts in Taiwan, and received her BFA from SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance. Rena performed with companies including Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, AIM by Kyle Abraham, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company, David Dorfman Dance, The Kevin Wynn Collection, Pasos Con Sabor Salsa Dance Company, and Gibney Company.

Rena is a recipient of the prestigious 2019 Princess Grace Foundation Award for Choreography, The Ferradini Grander Award from the Danza in Arte a Pietrasanta and The Ministry of Culture in Italy in 2025, and San Francisco's 2024 Isadora Duncan Dance Award for Outstanding Achievement in Choreography. She has created works for Het Nationale Ballet in The Netherlands, National Ballet of Canada, San Francisco Opera's Orpheus and Eurydice, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Norrlands in Sweden, AIM By Kyle Abraham, Gauthier Dance in Stuttgart, Germany, The Lyric Opera of Chicago's Proximity, Cincinnati Ballet, The New Orleans Museum of Modern Art, Le Ballet de L'Opéra Grand Avignon, SALT Dance, a film for Third Coast Percussion x Devonté Hynes/Blood Orange, Oregon Ballet Theater, The Juilliard School, Oklahoma City Ballet, Parsons Dance, TEDxChicago Virtual Salon 3.0: Design Your Life, Charlotte Ballet, BalletX, and more. She has been spotlighted in Dance Magazine's On The Rise feature in 2013, and was the featured cover story for Dance Magazine's November 2021 issue.

Facilitation and Mentorship play a big role in Rena's artistic persona. Butler has taught dance and choreographic workshops at L'Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Danse de Marseille in France, The Macau Cultural Center in China, The Juilliard School, The School at Jacob's Pillow, Ailey Camp Chicago, and SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance. She served on the Consortium for Chicago Dancemakers Forum for 3 years, was on the annual panel for Black Girls Dance in Chicago, and co-created and directed DanceLab—a free, choreographic course for the Chicago youth.

Rena's upcoming commissions include Arles Youth Ballet in France, Red Clay Dance Theater, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater II, Whim W'him, Ballet West and more. Visit renabutler.com for more details.

WHO'S WHO BEHIND THE SCENES

EMILY CASHDOLLAR (Co-Stage Manager) is a stage management senior from McKinney, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Stage Manager, *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*; Stage Manager, *Rent*; Associate Stage Manager, *Heathers*; Associate Stage Manager, *Life is a Dream*; Associate Stage Manager, *Marie Antoinette*.

LLOYD CRACKNELL (Costume Designer) originally from Cambridge England, is the associate professor of Costume Design and resident Costume Designer at the University of Oklahoma. Lloyd's career includes both costume and fashion design, working for prestigious design houses including The Emanuels and Versace. Lloyd's designs have been seen in London, New York, Paris, Milan, and South America. He was invited to exhibit his costume designs at the World Creativity Forum in Cardiff, Wales in 2010. Lloyd has costume designed in all genres of the performing arts, including drama, opera, classical ballet, modern dance and musical theatre. He has designed costumes for over a hundred productions, including over forty for OU's University Theatre.

Cracknell's regional design credits include Regional premieres of *Heisenberg*; *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*; *Let The Right One In*, World premieres: *Haydn's The Seasons* at Haydnstage, Austria. Film and Television: P.B.S. Special Early Music Program; and Film *Distance Vision*, Francis Ford Coppola, Director.

Awards for Professor Cracknell include the USITT-SW Oscar Brockett Teaching Award (2023), the Irene and Julian. J Rothbaum Professor of Excellence in the Arts Award (2020), and the USITT-SW Mildred and Glen Martin Jr. Award for Outstanding Service. Other awards and nominations include: DFW Theatre Critics Forum Award-Best Design Team for a Season (2015, 2017); Theatre Jones Best Costume Design Runner-up Award (2015); Kennedy Center American College Theater Award (2010), Region VI National Partners in American Theatre KCACTF Award (2010). In 2021, Lloyd received the Broadway World Oklahoma Award for Best Costume Design of a Play or Musical (Professional) for *Pride and Prejudice* (Oklahoma Shakespeare).

BOYKO DOSSEV (Choreographer) is an Associate Professor of Dance at the University of Oklahoma and a Varna Gold Medalist, has performed leading roles with the Dresden Semperoper Ballet, Hamburg Ballet, Washington Ballet, and Boston Ballet on stages including the Kennedy Center, Mariinsky Theatre, and Paris Opera. Internationally recognized as both performer and teacher, he has taught at Harvard, led master classes worldwide, and is an ABT Certified Teacher and is among the inaugural cohort of teachers pursuing certification in the groundbreaking Ailey-Horton Technique.

GLENN EDGERTON (Choreographer) has had an international career as a dancer, teacher, and director. His sixteen-year dancing career was with The Joffrey Ballet and The Netherlands Dance Theater. At The Joffrey Ballet, he performed leading roles, classical and contemporary for 11 years under the mentorship of Robert Joffrey and Gerald Arpino. He danced principal roles in the classics of John Cranko and Sir Frederick Ashton along with innovative choreographers like Twyla Tharp, Jiří Kylián, William Forsythe, Paul Taylor and Laura Dean. In 1989, Edgerton joined the acclaimed Netherlands Dans Theater (NDT), where he was immersed in the diverse repertory of master choreographers and emerging choreographers for five years. After retiring from performing, he became the Executive Artistic Director of NDT 1, mentored by Jiří Kylián, leading the company for a decade and presenting the works of Jiří Kylián, Hans van Manen, William Forsythe, Ohad Naharin, Mats Ek, Nacho Duato, Jorma Elo, Johan Inger, Paul Lightfoot and Sol León, among many others. From 2006 to 2008, he directed the Colburn Dance Institute at the Colburn School of Performing Arts in Los Angeles, CA while teaching at UCLA, Loyola Marymount and CalArts. Edgerton joined Hubbard Street as Associate Artistic Director in 2008. From 2009-2020 served as Hubbard Street's Artistic Director bringing the company to perform worldwide while fostering the next generation of dancers and choreographers.

WHO'S WHO BEHIND THE SCENES

Many of those dancers turned choreographers are leading the dance field today, like Alejandro Cerrudo, Rena Butler, Robyn Mineko Williams, Penny Saunders, Emilie Leriche, Alice Klock and Florian Lochner (FLOCK) among others. In 2017, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of the Arts Degree from California Institute of the Arts in Valencia, CA (CalArts). As of the fall of 2020, Glenn joined the faculty as an Instructor at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma teaching ballet and choreographing with an emphasis on the prolific repertory of Jiří Kylián and Gerald Arpino. Edgerton set the work, *Sinfonietta* by Jiří Kylián for American Ballet Theater in the fall of 2022 along with teaching for ABT. During the summer of 2025 Glenn was chosen to choreograph for the National Choreographic Initiative at UCIrvine. Other responsibilities at OU have been directing the OU Summer Intensive and as of 2025, directing Oklahoma Festival Ballet. Edgerton continues on faculty at OU as an Associate Professor.

LAUREN FOSTER (Lighting Designer) is a lighting design junior from Moore, OK. Credits: OU University Theatre: Production Electrician, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, CDO '24, *Life is a Dream*; Programmer, OFB '24; Lighting Designer, YCS '25, YCS '24. OU Lab Theatre: Lighting Designer, *Brilliant Traces & The Zoo Story*; Production Electrician/Programmer, *Go Please Go*. Co.llective Arts Production: Lighting Designer, *Grøenland*, *Where The Rabbits Roam No More*.

MARY MARGARET HOLT (Producer) began her early ballet training in Austin, Texas at Austin Civic Ballet, receiving a Ford Foundation scholarship for study with the San Francisco Ballet at the age of 15. Subsequently, she received a Ford Foundation scholarship for study at the School of American Ballet, also appearing with the New York City Ballet. Holt accepted a soloist contract with Houston Ballet upon completing her BFA in Ballet Performance. While a member of Houston Ballet, she danced a wide variety of solo and principal roles in the classical and contemporary repertoire by choreographers including Stevenson, Van Manen, Van Danzig, Petipa, Balanchine, Taras, Dolin, Boris, Clouser, Franklin, Ivanov, de Mille, and O'Donnell. She also performed principal roles in Terekhov's *The Firebird*, *The Snow Maiden*, and *Don Quixote*. She has performed as a guest artist, teacher, and choreographer with ballet and opera companies across the United States.

Holt joined the dance faculty of the University of Oklahoma School of Dance as an assistant professor, following Miguel Terekhov as chair in 1991, and an appointment as director in 1998. As director of Oklahoma Festival Ballet, Holt has choreographed over forty ballets and operas and led Oklahoma Festival Ballet on tours to France (six), the Internationale Haydnstage in Austria (2), Mexico (3), Taiwan, China, and Ecuador.

Holt's choreography includes the music of Franck, Haydn, The Beatles, Porter, Weill, Mozart, Ginastera, Ikard, Holley, Satie, Bartok, Orff, and Debussy and her ballets have been seen across the U.S. as well as in South America, the United Kingdom, and Europe. Under Holt's leadership, Oklahoma Festival Ballet performed works from the national repertoire by Joffrey and Balanchine as well as de Mille's, *Rodeo*. Her students have performed with Miami City Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Ballet Arizona, Ballet Austin, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Orlando Ballet, Oklahoma City Ballet, and Tulsa Ballet, and as finalists and semifinalists in the International Ballet Competition. At the University of Oklahoma, Holt taught every course in the ballet curriculum and her continuing studies in ballet pedagogy include studying Bournonville Technique with Tage Wendt; and Vaganove Technique at the Bolshoi Academy at Vail; and in St. Petersburg and Minsk, Russia.

Holt was an honoree at the second national RDA Festival in Pittsburgh in 2007, and she received the CORPS de Ballet International Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020. She has served on the Dance Panel of the National Endowment for the Arts and been a panelist on Women in the Academy at Oxford. She is the recipient of the Governor's Arts Award, the Presidential Professorship, and the Regents' Professorship at OU where she also holds the John and Mary Nichols' Chair in Dance.

WHO'S WHO BEHIND THE SCENES

GILLIAN KELLEY (Scenic Designer) is a scenic design junior from Norman, OK. Credits: OU University Theatre: Co Props Lead, *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*; Assistant Scenic Designer, *Rent*; Props Lead, *As You Like It*; Co Props Lead, *The Nutcracker*.

OU Helmerich School of Drama: Props & Co Scenic Designer, *Heroes of the Fourth Turning*.

BRANDYE LEE (Rehearsal Director) is a Washington, DC native whose dance journey began at the Jones-Haywood School of Ballet under the tutelage of Doris Jones. She continued her training at renowned institutions including Dance Theatre of Harlem, The École Supérieure de Danse de Cannes Rosella Hightower, and The Hailey School. She went on to tour extensively with Ailey II, The Lion King, and Collage Dance Collective. Her performance repertoire includes works by acclaimed choreographers such as Kevin Lega Jeff, Judith Jamison, Keith Lee, Darrell Grand Moultrie, Camille A Brown, Nicole Fonte, John Alleyne, Joshua Manculich and countless others.

Formerly Rehearsal Director at Collage, Lee's passion for research has led her to present at institutions such as San Francisco Ballet, Smith College, the National Ballet of Canada, and Charlottesville Ballet in collaboration with the University of Virginia's Democracy Initiative. She has been a New Memphis Institute Fellow, a Buckminster Fuller Institute/Design Science Studio Fellow, as well as a commissioner for Memphis City Beautiful.

Steeped in her hometown and artistic roots, Lee has served on the Kennedy Center Dance Council, advising on the Center's robust ballet programming. She received the Distinguished Faculty Award for Outstanding Teaching at Howard University's Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts and the Distinguished Alumni Award from Sidwell Friends School.

Lee holds a BA in Economics and Afro-American Studies from Smith College and an MFA in Dance from the University of California, Irvine. She is proud to serve on the Ballet faculty at OU Dance, where she seeks to let her life speak authentically while inspiring the next generation of dance leaders.

MADELINE LEWIS (Lighting Designer) is a lighting design senior from Bartlesville, OK. Credits: OU University Theatre: Associate Stage Manager, *Susannah*; Associate Stage Manager, *Heathers*; Associate Stage Manager, *Rita/l'heure espagnole*; Co- Stage Manager, YCS '24; Lighting Designer, YCS '25; Assistant Lighting Designer, *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*; OU Drama Lab Theatre: Lighting Designer, *Mac Beth*. OU School of Dance: Lighting Designer, OUSI '24 & '25; Associate Stage Manager, Five Moons Dance Festival '24. OK Shakespeare in the Park: Lighting Designer, *Macbeth*. BCC: Sound Engineer, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

LUCAS KNAPP (Lighting Designer) is a lighting design junior from Kansas City, MO. Credits: University Theatre: Lighting Designer, *The Nutcracker*; Lighting Designer, *Lost* (YCS), Lighting Designer, *pluralisms* (YCS);, Lighting Designer, *Berio Suite*; Lighting Designer, *Omne Trium Perfectum*; Projections Designer, *Waiting For Lefty*; Lighting Designer, *Go Forth and Conquer*, and Lighting Designer, *Welder*.

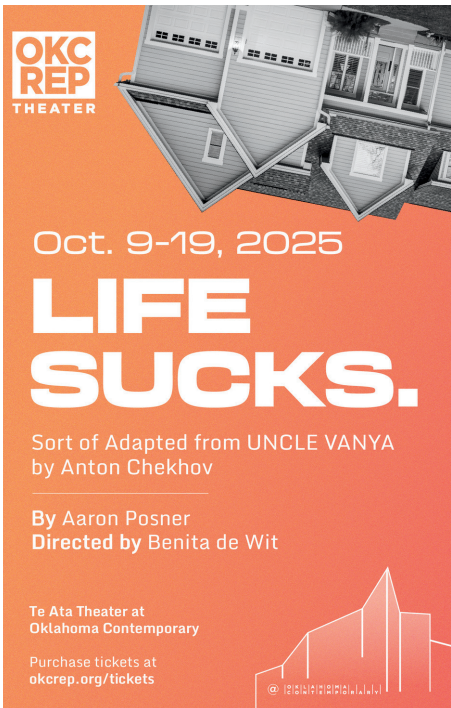
EMILY MATTHEWS (Co-Stage Manager) is a stage management junior from Dallas, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Production Assistant, *Heathers*; Associate Stage Manager, *The Merry Widow*; Associate Stage Manager, *Rent*; Stage Manager, Young Choreographers Showcase. Gilson Lab Theatre: Stage Manager, *Koger New Play Lab*.

WHO'S WHO BEHIND THE SCENES

EMILY R. POST (Costume Designer) is a costume design junior from Dallas, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Assistant Costume Designer, *Rent*; Costume Designer, *L'Heure Espagnole*. OU Musical Theatre's Downtown Series: Costume Coordinator, *Bright Star*. Dallas Children's Theatre: Costume & Props Designer, *10 Seconds*. Aaron Family Jewish Community Center of Dallas: Costume Design Assistant & Props, Camp StarQuest's production of *The SpongeBob Musical Youth Edition*. Costume Design Intern, *Maltida Jr.*

JOY OMIESH (Costume Designer) is a costume design alumna from Amman, Jordan. Credits: University Theatre: Costume Designer, *Life is Dream*; Assistant to the Costume Designer, *Radium Girls*. OU Helmerich school of Drama Lab Theatre: Stage Manager, *Mac Beth*.

GOLDIE SNOW (Scenic Designer) is a scenic design senior from Miami, OK Credits: OU University Theatre: Scenic Designer, *Waiting for Lefty*; Assistant Scenic Designer, *As You Like It*; Properties Co-Lead, *Rita and L'Heure Espanole*; Properties Lead, *The Merry Widow*; Properties Co-Lead, *The Nutcracker*. The Shepherd School of Music: Assistant Scenic Designer, *Ghost of Versailles*. Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College Theatre: Scenic Charge Artist, *Puffs*; Scenic Charge Artist, *Into the Woods*.



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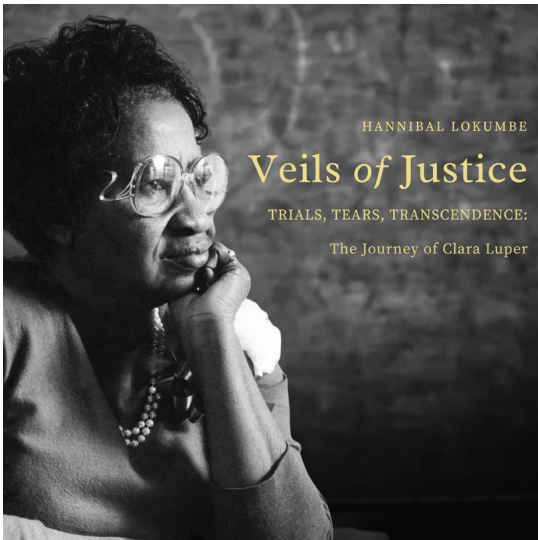
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at Lyric's Plaza Theatre



November 28 - December 28
at Lyric's Plaza Theatre

Visit LyricTheatreOKC.org or Call (405) 524-9312

THE TURN OF THE SCREW

Reynolds Performing Arts Center



OCTOBER 16-19

OCTOBER 16, 17, 18 at 8:00 P.M.

OCTOBER 19 at 3:00 P.M.

To purchase tickets, scan the QR Code or call (405) 325-4101.



UNIVERSITY THEATRE

2025-2026

SEASON SPONSORS

**The Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts
would like to extend our sincere gratitude to
our University Theatre sponsors who
have made this performance possible.**

As of September 19, 2025

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SEASON

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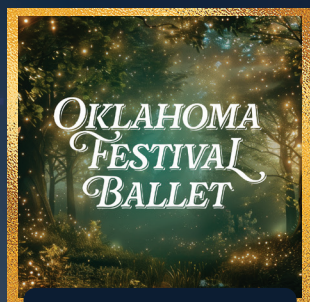
PERFORMANCE

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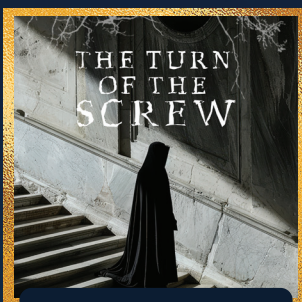
Esther Wymer

Michele Simon

UNIVERSITY THEATRE
2025-2026
SEASON



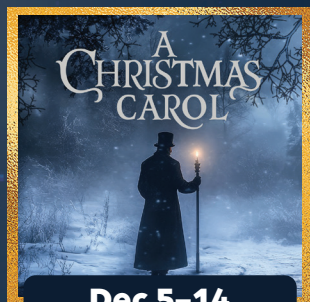
Sept 26 –28



Oct 16–19



Nov 7–9



Dec 5–14



Jan 30 – Feb 1



Feb 19–22



March 6–8



April 3–12



May 1–3



For all single tickets and season ticket
packages scan the QR code or visit
THEATRE.OU.EDU.



WEITZENHOFFER FAMILY COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
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