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Contact:

Dan Bauer

dbauer@arballet.org

609.921. 7758

American Repertory Ballet Announces 2021-2022 Season

American Repertory Ballet (ARB) is pleased to announce its much anticipated 2021-2022 season under the new leadership of Artistic Director [Ethan Stiefel](#).

“It is with great optimism that American Repertory Ballet returns to live performances after this extended intermission,” said Ethan Stiefel. “The 2021-2022 season embraces a sense of starting anew and creating fresh and diverse perspectives in ballet. Every program outside of *The Nutcracker*, presents either world premieres, company premieres or works that have never been seen live by our audiences before. ARB invites everyone to come to the theater and once again connect, converse, and reaffirm the value and meaning dance and live performance have in uplifting our spirits and our communities”.

FALL 2021

ARB will start the season with a month-long “bubble” residency at Kaatsbaan Cultural Park, a 153-acre artist sanctuary located in upstate New York. Dancers and artistic staff, including ARB’s newly appointed Artistic Associate Gillian Murphy, will rehearse and develop new repertoire in this remote and inspiring environment that can safely accommodate ARB’s growing roster of 13 Company artists, three apprentices, and five ARB2 dancers. This residency will be made possible by The Ted & Mary Jo Shen Charitable Gift Fund.

A resident company of the New Brunswick Performing Arts Center, the Company returns to its home venue, October 22-24, for a series of live performances, entitled “Emergence”. This varied and captivating program includes Ethan Stiefel’s *Wood Work* (created for The Washington Ballet in 2019); Amy Seiwert’s *World, Interrupted*; David Fernandez’s *Mexican Music*; and *Saudade*, created by ARB’s very own Ryoko Tanaka. For tickets, visit secure.nbpac.org/emergence



THE NUTCRACKER

American Repertory Ballet's beloved production of *The Nutcracker* returns to theaters across New Jersey. This holiday favorite tells the magical story of Clara and her Nutcracker Prince as they battle toy soldiers and larger-than-life mice, and travel through a whirlwind of dancing snowflakes to the Land of Sweets. Greeted by the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier, Clara enjoys a suite of brilliant and joyful dances before opening her eyes to the familiar sights of her own home. Was it all a dream?

McCarter Theatre Center, Princeton, November 26-28

Union County Performing Arts Center, Rahway, December 3 & 5

Patriots Theater at the War Memorial, Trenton, December 9-10

[State Theatre New Jersey](#), New Brunswick, December 17-19 *with live orchestra

SPRING 2022

ARB revisits the Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College in New York City on February 19, 2022, with a mixed repertoire program never-before-seen by New York audiences. The Spring season continues with a series of world premieres, beginning with Ethan Stiefel's reimagining of the vibrant and popular tale, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, at the New Brunswick Performing Arts Center April 1-3, 2022.

Rounding out the 2021-2022 season, ARB will present a new works program titled *Movin' + Groovin'* at the New Brunswick Performing Arts Center June 3-5, 2022, featuring world premieres by immensely inventive choreographers new to ARB; Ja'Malik, Caili Quan, and another exciting choreographer to be announced soon

For more information: dbauer@arballet.org or call 609. 921.7758.



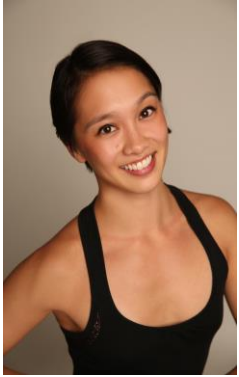
ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHERS



David Fernandez was born in Mexico City where he began his training at the Centro de arte y Ballet. After receiving a scholarship to Giordano Jazz Dance in Chicago, he immigrated to the United States. While performing with the company, he began creating contemporary works for performance in art galleries and alternative spaces. During his dancing career he performed with Chicago's Boitsov Classical Ballet, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Ballet Theatre of Chicago, and he performed alongside Mikhail Baryshnikov in the play *The Doctor and The Patient* at the 2004 Lincoln Center Festival. David's most acclaimed choreography, *Five Variations on a Theme*, was created for New York City Ballet Principal Dancer Joaquin De Luz. The work premiered as part of the acclaimed Kings of the Dance tour, and was performed to standing ovations in NYC, LA, London, Paris, Rome, Moscow, Kiev, and Odessa. His other commissions include the Kings of the Dance Tour, Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble, Youth America Grand Prix, Opera North, Staten Island Ballet, and the Vassar Repertory Dance Theatre, Joffrey Ballet School – NY and Some Dance Company. David is also an award-winning filmmaker: his latest dance-on-film accomplishments include the Lost Angeles Olympus Film Festival Award for Best Public Service Announcement. (Photo: Courtesy of David Fernandez)



Ja' Malik is the Artistic Director & Choreographer for Ballet Boy Productions. Noted as a "choreographer to watch" by Roslyn Sulcas of The New York Times, Ja' Malik is an evolving choreographer from New York City who draws on his own personal life experiences as well as the world around him to create physically emotional works that allows both dancers and audiences to experience a connection through the language of movement. Having created works on Boston Ballet School, Boston Conservatory, Houston Contemporary Dance Company, Contingent Ballet, Intermezzo Dance Company & Festival Ballet Providence among others. (Photo: Dennis Johnston)



Caili Quan is a New York-based choreographer who danced with BalletX from 2013 to 2020. She has created works for BalletX, Owen/Cox Dance Group, UC Santa Barbara, Columbia Ballet Collaborative, and Ballet Academy East. She served as an Artistic Partnership Initiative Fellow and a Toulmin Creator at The Center for Ballet and the Arts at NYU. With BalletX she performed new works by Matthew Neenan, Nicolo Fonte, Gabrielle Lamb, Penny Saunders, Trey McIntyre, and danced at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Vail Dance Festival, Belgrade Dance Festival, and DEMO by Damian Woetzel at the Kennedy Center. *Mahálang*, a short documentary that wove familial conversations of her Chamorro Filipino upbringing on Guam with scenes from BalletX's *Love Letter*, was accepted into the Center for Asian American Media Festival (CAAMFest 2021). (Photo: Sara Black)



Amy Seiwert enjoyed a nineteen-year performing career dancing with the Smuin, Los Angeles Chamber, and Sacramento Ballets. As a dancer with Smuin Ballet, she became involved with the "Protégé Program," where her choreography was mentored by the late Michael Smuin. She was Choreographer in Residence there upon her retirement from dancing in 2008 until 2018. Named one of "25 to Watch" by Dance Magazine, her first full evening of choreography was named one of the "Top 10" dance events of 2007 by the SF Chronicle. Seiwert's ballets are in the repertory of Ballet Austin, BalletMet, Smuin, Washington, Atlanta, Oakland, Sacramento, Colorado, Louisville, Cincinnati, Carolina, Oklahoma City, Milwaukee and American Repertory Ballets as well as Imagery, Robert Moses KIN and AXIS Dance. Seiwert served as Artistic Director of Sacramento Ballet from 2018-2020. (Photo credit: Steve Di Bartolomeo)



Ethan Stiefel is an internationally renowned Dancer, Instructor, Coach, Director and Choreographer. Stiefel became American Repertory Ballet's Artistic Director in July, 2021. In 1989, Stiefel began his professional career at age 16 with the New York City Ballet where he quickly rose to the rank of Principal Dancer. Stiefel was also a Principal Dancer with Ballett Zürich followed by being a Principal Dancer with American Ballet Theatre (ABT) from 1997-2012. Stiefel has served as Dean of the School of Dance at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA) as well as the Artistic Director of the Royal New Zealand Ballet. During his celebrated performing career, Stiefel danced leading roles in all the full-length classics and performed in an extensive range of shorter



classical, contemporary and modern works. Guest appearances include dancing with The Royal Ballet, The Mariinsky Ballet, New York City Ballet, Teatro Colon, The Australian Ballet and many others. He has appeared in numerous film, video and television productions including the feature film *Center Stage* and the documentary *Born to be Wild*. As a choreographer, he has created new works for the Royal New Zealand Ballet, The Washington Ballet, ABT Studio Company, Northern Ballet (UK), The Royal Ballet School, UNCSA, *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* and the television series *Flesh and Bone* on the STARZ network. Stiefel has received a number of prestigious awards such as the Statue Award of the Princess Grace Foundation and the Dance Magazine Award.



Ryoko Tanaka was born and raised in Japan, where she began her training. In 2013, she was selected to be in the Nancy Einhorn Milwaukee Ballet II program, where she performed in Michael Pink's *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Nutcracker*. In 2017, she joined the trainee program at American Repertory Ballet and soon moved up to the second company, ARB2. In 2018, she was promoted to the main company. Since joining ARB, Ryoko has performed the title role in *Giselle*; lead roles in *Nutcracker*; *Overture* by Ethan Stiefel; *Airs* by Paul Taylor; *Blue Until June* by Trey McIntyre; and other roles. *Saudade* marks her first commission for the Company. (Photo: Richard Termine)

About American Repertory Ballet

American Repertory Ballet's mission is to bring the joy, beauty, artistry and discipline of classical and contemporary dance to New Jersey and nationwide audiences and to students through artistic and educational programs. Founded as the Princeton Ballet Society in 1954, the organization now comprises: the preeminent professional ballet company in the state; Princeton Ballet School, one of the most established non-profit dance schools in the nation; and ARB's Access & Enrichment initiatives, including the long-running and acclaimed DANCE POWER program. In July 2021, ARB welcomed its new Artistic Director, Ethan Stiefel. To learn more, visit arballet.org.