

Renaissance

July 17, 2026, 7:30pm
July 18, 2026, 2:00pm
July 18, 2026, 5:30pm
The Pavilion at Grace



renaissanceballetcollective.org



From the Founder and Artistic Director

Dear friends, family, and supporters,

Welcome to *Naissance*! I am so excited to introduce you to Renaissance Ballet Collective through this inaugural performance. I founded Renaissance Ballet Collective earlier this year with a clear mission—to bring about a rebirth of dramatic storytelling through the art of ballet. At its heart, this project is about reconnecting ballet with what makes it truly powerful: emotion, narrative, and the ability to move audiences of all backgrounds.



Nina Yoshida-Webster
Founder and Artistic Director

As a professional ballet dancer with over a decade of experience, I've seen firsthand how in recent years, many ballet companies have excluded or reduced the number of classical productions in their programming. Those that continue to present full-length classics often rely on a small number of frequently-performed works. RBC seeks to ensure that a broader range of classical ballets remain alive on stage for future generations, rather than disappearing from the repertoire. Although classical ballet is sometimes viewed as antiquated or inaccessible, RBC believes these works can continue to resonate with modern-day audiences when performed with genuine artistry, emotional depth, and compelling storytelling.

At the heart of RBC's mission is a commitment to making ballet engaging and accessible to people of all backgrounds, ages, and levels of familiarity with the art form. We believe that ballet is not just technique—it is storytelling, connection, and shared human experience. Beyond performance, RBC is deeply committed to community engagement. Through open rehearsals, pay-as-you-wish prices, free preview performances for children, and opportunities for dialogue between artists and audiences, we hope to create not just performances, but meaningful connections that leave a lasting impression.

In pursuit of our mission, we are proud to present *Naissance*, a celebration of joy, dance, and new beginnings. Featuring excerpts from vibrant and rarely performed ballets, *Naissance* transports audiences from everyday life into worlds of elegance, enchantment, and theatrical revelry—from the dazzling festivities of *Walpurgisnacht* to the charm of a small village, and onward to the witty, romantic *Commedia dell'Arte* world of *Harlequinade*. These lively selections offer a glimpse into larger works that we hope one day to bring to the stage in their full-length form.

We envision a future where ballet is a vibrant, sought-after part of community life—a source of joy, inspiration, and shared experience, and we are so glad you have joined us on this new journey.

With Gratitude,

Cover: Brian Gomez and Nina Yoshida-Webster
All photos by Kelsey Paff Photography unless
otherwise specified



RENAISSANCE

— BALLET COLLECTIVE —

Founder and Artistic Director

NINA YOSHIDA-WEBSTER

Artists

HAYLEY DONAHUE BRIAN GOMEZ EMMA HALTER

ANJALI HERN NIA LESSARD AJ MAIO GARRET MCNALLY

MASSIEL VALDERRAMA ADELE WALDEN NINA YOSHIDA-WEBSTER

Volunteer Artistic Coaches

DAVID DUBOIS KRISTY DUBOIS LETICIA GUERRERO

Volunteer and In-Kind Support

KRISTY DUBOIS Production & Administrative Manager/Artistic Coach

MIRIAM CAHN YOSHIDA Operations and Finance Coordinator

ANN DITMARS HUYCK Guest Artistic Coach

DIANA GEMMA Front-of-House Assistant

KINCADE WEBSTER Front-of-House Assistant

MARGARET MOREIRA Wardrobe and Front-of-House Assistant

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We gratefully acknowledge the dedicated volunteers and in-kind donors whose time, expertise, and generosity made this production possible.

FOUNDER AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



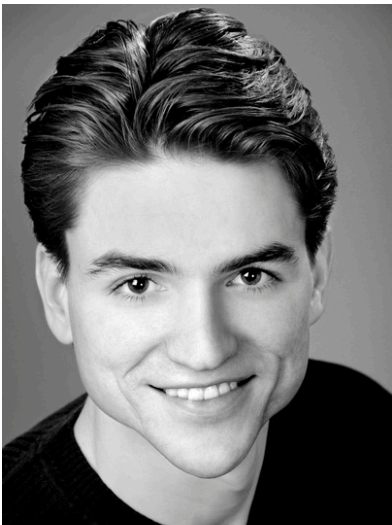
Nina Yoshida-Webster

Founder and Artistic Director, Artist
Instagram: [@ninaballerina98](https://www.instagram.com/ninaballerina98)

Nina Yoshida-Webster founded Renaissance Ballet Collective (RBC) in 2026 in Providence, Rhode Island. A professional ballet dancer with over ten years of experience in the professional ballet community, Nina trained in New York City with world-renowned principal ballerina, Gelsey Kirkland. She also trained under the instruction of master teachers Vera Solovieva, Nikolai Levitsky, Lyubov Fominih, and Martha Yoshida. Nina has performed as a principal artist with Gelsey Kirkland Ballet, Ballet Rhode Island (formerly Festival Ballet Providence), and Asian American Ballet Project. She also holds a BA in dance performance from St. Mary's College of California's LEAP Program.

Nina has performed a vast repertoire in the classical and neoclassical realm, which includes Kitri in *Don Quixote*, Aurora in *Sleeping Beauty*; Maria in *Cavalry Halt*; Columbine in *Harlequinade*; Lead Bacchanal in *Walpurgisnacht*; Jumping Girl in George Balanchine's *Who Cares?*; and the Sugarplum Fairy, Snow Queen, and Dewdrop Fairy in *The Nutcracker*. She is thrilled to bring RBC's inaugural production to the Providence and greater Rhode Island community, both as a director and a dancer!

ARTISTIC STAFF



David DuBois

Artistic Coach and Character Artist
Instagram: [@ddubois23](https://www.instagram.com/ddubois23)

David DuBois began his formal dance training at the Pinellas County Center for the Arts in Florida, winning first place in modern dance at the Youth America Grand Prix. After studying at the Boston Conservatory, he launched his two-decade professional career in 2003 with Jose Mateo's Ballet Theatre, later returning to dance numerous principal roles alongside his wife, Kristy DuBois.

David's extensive career includes tenures with Island Moving Company—where he originated the title role in *Dracula*—and the American Repertory Ballet, notably starring as Romeo in *Romeo & Juliet*. In 2015, he joined Festival Ballet Providence (now BalletRI), performing a vast repertoire including Balanchine's *Serenade* and Trey McIntyre's *Blue Until June*. Following his retirement from full-time dancing in 2022, David continues his long-standing passion for teaching dance and continuing to explore new artistic opportunities.

ARTISTIC STAFF (cont.)



Kristy DuBois

Artistic Coach, Production and Administrative Manager

Instagram: [@kristyannedubois](https://www.instagram.com/kristyannedubois)

Kristy DuBois (she/her) began studying ballet and other forms of dance at an early age in southern New Jersey, and upon graduating high school entered the Ailey School/Fordham University joint BFA program to expand her dance knowledge. During her 15 year career as a professional dancer, Ms. DuBois danced with the Richmond Ballet, Newport Contemporary Ballet (formerly Island Moving Company), Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre, Providence Ballet Theatre, and Ballet RI (formerly Festival Ballet Providence).

Kristy has originated roles in many ballets including "Lucy" for Miki Ohlsen's critically-acclaimed Dracula while with Island Moving Company and other original works by Colin Conner, Scott Putman, Kelly Ann Sloan, Mary Ellen Beaudreau, Colleen Cavanaugh, and Eva Marie Pacheco. She has performed Principal and Soloist roles in many classical ballets including Swan Lake, The Nutcracker, Cinderella, and Sleeping Beauty, and her Balanchine repertoire includes Valse Fantasie, Allegro Brillante, Rubies, and Serenade. Ms. DuBois competed in and was named a finalist at the 2011 Sibiu International Ballet and Contemporary Dance Competition in Sibiu, Romania with her husband, David DuBois. Since retiring from her professional dance career, Ms. DuBois finds fulfillment teaching the next generation of young dancers, and is currently on faculty at Project 31 in Rockland, MA; Dancing Arts Center in Holliston, MA; and is a sought-after master teacher throughout the New England area.



Leticia Guerrero

Artistic Coach

Instagram: [@lalechuguita2](https://www.instagram.com/lalechuguita2)

A native of Venezuela, Leticia Guerrero received her early ballet training at the Keyla Ermecheo Ballet School in Caracas before embarking on an accomplished international performing career. She has performed with Ballet Nuevo Mundo de Caracas, Metropolitan Ballet of Caracas, Minnesota Dance Theatre, Michigan Ballet, Charleston Ballet Theatre, José Mateo's Ballet Theatre, and Cadence Dance Project. Throughout her career, Ms. Guerrero performed principal and featured roles in both classical and contemporary repertoire. Her repertoire includes Balanchine's Allegro Brillante, Rubies, Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux, Tarantella, and Who Cares?, as well as leading roles in Swan Lake and Eldar Aliev's A Thousand and One Nights. She also originated roles in works by Gianni DiMarco, Viktor Plotnikov, and other distinguished choreographers. In

recognition of her artistic achievements, she was honored during the 2004 Venezuela del Mundo Gala for representing Venezuela internationally with "projection, dignity, and beauty," and received a Citizens Citation from former Providence Mayor David Cicilline for her exceptional dedication to the art of dance. Following her retirement from the stage, Ms. Guerrero devoted her career to educating and mentoring the next generation of dancers. With more than two decades of experience as a ballet educator, artistic coach, choreographer, and rehearsal director, she is recognized for her ability to cultivate strong classical technique while inspiring artistry, musicality, discipline, and confidence in her students.

Since 2011, Ms. Guerrero has worked with Wheaton College Dance Company as Choreographer, Rehearsal Director, and Artistic Coach. She also teaches ballet at Elite Academy of Dance, where she continues to mentor dancers of all ages and levels. Ms. Guerrero is honored to join the Renaissance Ballet Collective as an Artistic Coach and is grateful for the opportunity to work alongside founder and director Nina Yoshida in supporting and inspiring the next generation of artists.

2026 ARTISTS



Hayley Donahue

Instagram: [@hayhay514](https://www.instagram.com/hayhay514)

Hayley Donahue is a professional ballet dancer and trainee with Ballet RI, known for her versatility, artistry, and strong classical foundation. She has trained with prestigious institutions including Pacific Northwest Ballet, Boston Ballet School, San Francisco Ballet School, and The Washington School of Ballet. Hayley has performed in a wide range of classical and contemporary works, including *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker*, *Don Quixote*, *Coppélia*, *Giselle*, *La Sylphide*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Her repertoire includes corps de ballet, soloist, and featured character roles such as Seguidilla in *Don Quixote*, Ballerina Doll in *The Nutcracker*, and the Sylph in *La Sylphide*. She has worked with acclaimed directors and teachers including Kathleen Breen Combes, Peter Boal, Erica Cornejo, Carlos Molina, and Yury Yanowsky.



Brian Gomez

Instagram: [@briangomez_24](https://www.instagram.com/briangomez_24)

Born in Cuba, Brian trained under Fernando Alonso at the National Ballet School in Cuba, graduating with honors. After receiving his diploma, he began his professional career at the National Ballet of Cuba. Brian has performed as a principal dancer all over the world with companies such as the Municipal Ballet of Lima in Peru, Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami, and Ballet Rhode Island, and as a guest principal artist with International Ballet Company, Columbia Classical Ballet, and LifeChance Gala of the stars.

Brian's principal repertoire includes *Swan Lake*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Don Quixote*, *Cinderella*, *The Nutcracker*, *Giselle*, *Coppélia*, *Le Corsaire*, *La Bayadere*, and *La Fille Mal Gardée*, and his Balanchine repertoire includes the principal roles in *Who Cares?* and *Allegro Brillante*.



Emma Halter

Instagram: [@emma.halter](https://www.instagram.com/emma.halter)

Emma Halter began her ballet training at The Portland School of Ballet in Maine. In 2021, she was invited to attend The Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory, where she trained during her junior and senior years of high school. While at Nutmeg, she performed roles including the Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*, the Sylph in *La Sylphide*, and the Wedding Pas de Deux in *The Sleeping Beauty*.

Emma joined BalletRI as a trainee in 2023 and has since performed soloist and corps roles in BalletRI's *Made on Hope*, *Peter and the Wolf*, and Yury Yanowsky's *The Nutcracker*. She is excited to be part of Renaissance Ballet Collective's inaugural season!

2026 ARTISTS (cont.)



Anjali Hern

Instagram: [@anjalihern](https://www.instagram.com/anjalihern)

Anjali began her ballet training at age 3 in Los Angeles, California. She later trained at the Marat Daukayev School of Ballet, and attended summer programs at Boston Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, and Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre. In 2021, she joined Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre's graduate program, where she trained for two seasons and performed with the company in ballets such as *The Nutcracker* and *Sleeping Beauty*.

Anjali joined Ballet RI in 2023, and is currently an apprentice with the company. Over the past three seasons, she has performed both corps and soloist roles in ballets such as *Cinderella*, *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, and Balanchine's *Allegro Brillante*. Anjali is excited to be dancing in Renaissance Ballet Collective's inaugural performance.



Nia Lessard

Instagram: [@niagracelessard](https://www.instagram.com/niagracelessard)

Nia was raised in Framingham MA and began her ballet training with Boston Ballet School at 4 years old. After graduating from Pacific Northwest Ballet School's Profession Division in 2022, Nia has danced as an Apprentice with Grand Rapids Ballet in Grand Rapids Michigan, as well as at BalletRI in Providence, RI for the past three years. Apart from dancing professionally, Nia is also pursuing a degree in Deaf Studies through Bristol Community College, and is currently working as a summer camp counselor.



AJ Maio

Instagram: [@a.m_j08](https://www.instagram.com/a.m_j08)

AJ Maio began his ballet training with The School of Ballet RI (Formerly Festival Ballet Providence) under the direction of Mihailo Djuric and Mary Ann Meyer. He had the privilege of performing in company productions of *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *The Little Mermaid* as a student. In 2018, AJ attended the University of Utah and graduated with a B.F.A. in Ballet and a B.A. in Russian. While there, he performed lead roles from *Le Corsaire*, *Carmen*, *Raymonda*, *Don Quixote*, *Giselle*, *La Vivandiere*, *Paquita*, and *La Fille Mal Gardée*, as well as participating in international gala performances in Estonia and South Korea.

AJ Joined Ballet RI in 2022 as an apprentice and was promoted to the main company in 2023. He has performed in Yury Yanowsky's *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, and *Sleeping Beauty* as well as Balanchine's *Allegro Brillante*. AJ has also trained with the Syzokryli Ukrainian Dance Ensemble and now teaches character dance at the School of Ballet RI.

2026 ARTISTS (cont.)



Garret McNally

Instagram: [@gsmcnally](https://www.instagram.com/gsmcnally)

Garret grew up in New Orleans and started taking ballet when he was 3 years old. In high school, he studied ballet at University of North Carolina School of the Arts. He earned a bachelor's in history at the University of New Orleans while dancing professionally at New Orleans Ballet Theater. Since then, Garret has danced professionally with Richmond Ballet and Ballet Rhode Island.

Garret has performed a wide variety of classical and contemporary repertoire including the Prince in Cinderella, Basilio in Don Quixote, Iago in the Moors Pavane, and Cavalier and Snow King in The Nutcracker. In addition Garret was a background dancer in the Netflix original "Tall Girl 2" as well as TNT's "Claws."



Massiel Valderrama

Instagram: [@massiel1909](https://www.instagram.com/massiel1909)

Born in Venezuela, Massiel received her training at the Maria Teresa Alford School. In 2017, she joined the Ballet Teresa Carreño, and in 2018 moved to Peru to become part of the Ballet Municipal de Lima, where she stood out in soloist roles for four seasons.

In 2021, Massiel relocated to Miami to dance with Dimensions Dance Theater of Miami for two seasons. In 2023, she joined Ballet Rhode Island, performing with the company for two seasons. She is currently in her second year as an independent dancer.

Massiel's repertoire includes classical and contemporary works such as La Fille Mal Gardée, Coppélia, Le Corsaire, The Nutcracker, Swan Lake, Light Rain (Gerald Arpino), Juanita y Alicia (Septime Webre), Balance (Jimmy Orrante), Adiemus (Yanis Pikieris), Cinderella (Yury Yanowsky), and The Death and the Maiden (Ken Ossola and Yury Yanowsky).



Adele Walden

Instagram: [@m.adele.w](https://www.instagram.com/m.adele.w)

Adele Walden trained pre-professionally at International Ballet Academy in her hometown, Cary, NC. She has danced professionally with Ballet Idaho and Ballet Rhode Island. Adele has performed classical, neoclassical, and contemporary works from Marius Petipa, George Balanchine, John Lam, Yury Yanowsky, and Peter Anastos.

Adele graduated cum laude from University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a BA in Liberal Studies. She is also ABT Certified for Pre-Primary through Level 3 and has choreographed for Ballet RI's Made on Hope series as well as their children's ballet series.

Synopses

Walpurgisnacht

From Charles Gounod's opera *Faust*, "Walpurgisnacht" is a vivid and fantastical ballet interlude inspired by the legendary witches' sabbath of German folklore. This exuberant scene brings us into a dreamlike world populated by bacchanals, nymphs, and satyrs celebrating pleasure, wine, and excess. Inspired by classical mythology, the bacchanals are celebrants of Bacchus, the god of wine and festivity; nymphs are graceful nature spirits associated with forests, rivers, and meadows; and satyrs are mischievous half-human, half-goat creatures known for their love of music, dance, and merriment. Gounod's dazzling orchestration and Leonid Lavrovsky's spirited choreography capture the seductive chaos of the spectacle, blending elegance with theatrical debauchery in one of the opera's most colorful interludes.

Dance of Bacchus and the Satyrs

Bacchus, God of Wine: AJ Maio

Satyrs: Brian Gomez and Garret McNally

Dance of the Nymphs

Anjali Hern Emma Halter Adele Walden

Lead Bacchanal Variation

Nina Yoshida-Webster



Cavalry Halt

Cavalry Halt is a lively, comedic one-act ballet choreographed by Marius Petipa to music by Johann Armsheimer. The ballet playfully depicts the mischief and flirtation that ensue when a troop of cavalry officers rides into a quiet village. As the officers vie for the attention of the village beauty, Theresa, the townspeople become swept up in the excitement and humor of the moment.

Theresa

Massiel Valderrama

The Captain

Brian Gomez

The Colonel

AJ Maio

The General

David Dubois

The Townspeople

Hayley Donahue Emma Halter Anjali Hern Nia Lessard
Garret McNally Adele Walden Nina Yoshida-Webster

10-minute Intermission

A reminder to please stay off the dance floor, and check out the silent auction!



Harlequinade

Harlequinade, also known as *Les Millions d'Arlequin*, is an energetic one-act comedic ballet choreographed by Marius Petipa to music by Riccardo Drigo. Rooted in the playful spirit of Commedia dell'Arte, the ballet tells a charming story of young love, mischief, and magical intervention.

The ballet follows Harlequin and Columbine, two young lovers whose happiness is threatened by Columbine's domineering father, Cassandre. Determined to control his daughter's future, Cassandre locks Columbine away with the help of his loyal but hapless servant, Pierrot, and plots to marry her to a wealthier suitor of his choosing. With the clever assistance of her best friend Pierrette, Columbine escapes, and the lovers flee together.

Cassandre and Pierrot search for the couple, hoping to force Columbine into an unwanted marriage. Just when all seems lost, the Good Fairy intervenes, taking pity on the lovers and marrying them in secret. Confronted with this turn of fate, Cassandre ultimately relents, and Harlequin and Columbine are finally free to live out their lives together—bringing the ballet to a festive and triumphant conclusion.

Harlequin

Brian Gomez

Columbine

Nina Yoshida-Webster

Pierrot

AJ Maio

Pierrette

Anjali Hern

The Good Fairy

Nia Lessard

Cassandre, Columbine's Father

David DuBois

The Suitor

Garret McNally

Soloists

Hayley Donahue Emma Halter Massiel Valderrama Adele Walden

About the Pavilion at Grace

The Pavilion at Grace in downtown Providence, Rhode Island is a dazzling and light-filled event space built in 2017. In addition to serving the Grace Church community as a setting for fellowship, outreach and celebration, The Pavilion at Grace – paired with Grace Church – is ideal for wedding ceremonies and receptions, non-profit fundraisers, art exhibits, performances, meetings and more.



Grace Church and The Pavilion at Grace offer a blend of historic charm and modern sensibilities. Located in the center of downtown activity on Westminster Street, it is just steps away from a number of hotels, restaurants, and shops.

For more information on Grace Church, the Pavilion at Grace, and its history, visit <https://www.gracechurchprovidence.org/>

A REMINDER TO PLEASE:

-  **Turn off/silence all cell phones**
-  **Do not walk on the dance floor**
-  **Refrain from photography and video-taking during the performance.**

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We wish to extend our gratitude for the generous support of our sponsors and donors.

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Costumes courtesy of BalletRI, Ocean State Ballet, and Dancing Arts Center.

Set pieces courtesy of Metamorphosis/Ten 31 Productions

Sprung marley flooring courtesy of BalletRI.

Event setup: Advanced Production and Design

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About Us

Renaissance Ballet Collective (RBC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit founded in 2026 by Nina Yoshida-Webster in Providence, Rhode Island. A professional ballet dancer with over ten years of experience in the professional ballet community, Nina established RBC to address a growing need for the preservation and continued performance of classical story ballets. Through this work, the organization seeks to ensure that these important works remain alive on stage for future generations rather than fading from the ballet repertoire.

Although classical ballet is often considered an antiquated and outdated art form, RBC believes that by performing story ballets with dancers who have the ability to show real emotion and passion on stage, we can elevate these works beyond technique and remind audiences that ballet is, at its heart, a powerful form of storytelling. RBC's goal is to make ballet entertaining and enjoyable for everyone, no matter their background, age, or level of education.