

COMPLEXIONS CONTEMPORARY BALLET

FOUNDING CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTORS Dwight Rhoden and Desmond Richardson

PRINCIPAL CHOREOGRAPHER Dwight Rhoden

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Muadi B. Dibinga

ARTISTIC ADVISORS Carmen de Lavallade and Sarita Allen

THE COMPANY Alberto Andrade, Bilgude Ariunbold, Aeron Buchanan, Christian Burse, Michael Cherry, Jasmine Heart Cruz, Jillian Davis, Angelo De Serra, Chloe Duryea, Vincenzo Di Primo, Joe González, Marissa Mattingly, Miguel Solano, Lucy Stewart, Candy Tong, Manuel Vaccaro, April Watson

APPRENTICE Aristotle Luna

REHEARSAL DIRECTORS Natalia Alonso, Christina Dooling, Natiya Kezevadze

ASSISTANT REHEARSAL DIRECTORS Jillian Davis, Miguel Solano

RESIDENT LIGHTING DESIGNER Michael Korsch

RESIDENT COSTUME DESIGNER Christine Darch

RESIDENT POET/JOURNALIST Aaron Dworkin

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION Monica Montaño

COMPANY MANAGER Bex Silberfein

LIGHTING SUPERVISOR Harrison Hoffert

STAGE MANAGER Ron Vodicka

PRODUCTION ASSOCIATE Jillian Davis

PRESS AGENT Lisa Labrado

PHOTOGRAPHERS Rachel Neville, Steve Vaccariello Company,

The Gingerbreadman Photography

ACCOMPANISTS Ai Isshiki, Dan Meinhardt, Alice Hargrove

VIDEOGRAPHER Jacob Hiss

REPRESENTATION Margaret Selby, Selby/Artists MGMT

Zellerbach Theatre

Friday, October 18 @ 8 PM

Saturday, October 19 @ 2 PM

Saturday, October 19 @ 8 PM

There will be an intermission.

INSIGHTS

Stay after the performance on Friday evening for a chat with the dancers, led by Dr. Laura Katz Rizzo, Associate Professor at Temple University's Boyer College of Music and Dance.

PROGRAM

Bach 25 (excerpt) (2019)

CHOREOGRAPHY Dwight Rhoden

MUSIC J. S. Bach

LIGHTING DESIGN Michael Korsch

COSTUME DESIGN Christine Darch

PERFORMED BY The Company

Choke (2006)

CHOREOGRAPHY Dwight Rhoden

MUSIC Vivaldi (*The Four Seasons* - Summer)

LIGHTING DESIGN Michael Korsch

COSTUME DESIGN DRSquared

PERFORMED BY Christian Burse, Marissa Mattingly

Choke was originally a duet for two men that highlights opposing qualities and competitive energies.

Gone (2000)

CHOREOGRAPHY Dwight Rhoden

REPETITEUR Clifford Williams

MUSIC Odetta

LIGHTING DESIGN Michael Korsch

COSTUME DESIGN Christine Darch

PERFORMED BY Michael Cherry, Aeron Buchanan, Angelo De Serra

Elegy (2020)

CHOREOGRAPHY Dwight Rhoden

MUSIC Ludwig van Beethoven*

LIGHTING DESIGN Michael Korsch

COSTUME DESIGN Christine Darch

PERFORMED BY Jillian Davis

In loving memory of Dolores Rhoden and Yvonne Richardson. Unconditional Love. Believer. Matriarch. Fighter. Forever In Our Hearts.

*Music Credits: Sonata No. 14 in C-Sharp Minor, Op 27 No. 2 "Moonlight" I sostenuto (Redbook Stereo); Performed by Arthur Rubinstein; Published by Sony Music

This Time, With Feeling (World Premiere)

MUSIC David Rozenblatt (original score)

LIGHTING DESIGN Michael Korsch

COSTUME DESIGN Christine Darch

PERFORMED BY Manuel Vaccaro, April Watson & Bilgude Ariunbold, Lucy Stewart & Michael Cherry, Marissa Mattingly & Aeron Buchanan, Jasmine Cruz & Angelo De Serra, Chloe Duryea & Miguel Solano

INTERMISSION

For Crying Out Loud (2023)

CHOREOGRAPHY Dwight Rhoden

MUSIC U2*

LIGHTING DESIGN Michael Korsch

COSTUME DESIGN Christine Darch

PERFORMED BY The Company

*Music Credits: "Where the Streets Have No Name," "Every Breaking Wave," "Vertigo," "With or Without You," "I Will Follow," "Two Hearts Beat as One," "Invisible, Pride (In the Name of Love)." Performed by U2, written by Adam Clayton, Bono, The Edge, Larry Mullen Jr., published by Universal Music Publishing Ltd.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Hailed as a "matchless American dance company" by *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, **Complexions Contemporary Ballet** transcends dance tradition through a groundbreaking approach to the art. Founded in 1994 by master choreographer Dwight Rhoden and the legendary Desmond Richardson, Complexions' foremost innovation is to remove boundaries, not reinforce them. The company blends methods, styles and cultures from across the globe, and the result is a continually evolving form of dance that reflects the movement of our world — and all its cultures — as an interrelated whole.

Complexions' artistic directors and company members teach master classes around the world to dancers of all levels, bringing the company's inventive vision of human movement to five continents, over 20 countries and over 20 million television viewers. The company has also performed at major dance festivals throughout Europe. These include Italy's Festival of Dance; France's Isle De Dance Festival and Maison De La Dance Festival; the Holland Dance Festival; Switzerland's Steps International Dance Festival; Poland's kódzBiennale, Warsaw Ballet Festival and Kraków Spring Ballet Festival; and Spain's Dance Festival of Canary Islands. Complexions has toured extensively throughout the Baltic Regions, Korea, Brazil, Japan, Egypt, Germany, Italy, Israel, Russia, New Zealand, Bermuda, Serbia, Jamaica and Australia.

Complexions Contemporary Ballet has received *The New York Times* Critics' Choice Award, among numerous other awards. It has appeared in theatres across the U.S., including The Joyce Theater, Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music, New Victory Theater (New York City), the Mahalia Jackson Theater for the Performing Arts (New Orleans), Paramount Theatre (Seattle), The Music Center (Los Angeles), Winspear Opera House (Dallas), Cutler Majestic Theatre (Boston), the Music Hall (Detroit) and the Kennedy Center (Washington, D.C.) as part of the 2017 Ballet Across America. Prominent theatres abroad that have hosted Complexions include the Bolshoi Theatre, the Kremlin Theatre (Moscow), The Mikhailovsky Theater (St. Petersburg) and the Melbourne Arts Center. Over the past three decades, the company has witnessed a world becoming more fluid, more changeable and more culturally interconnected than ever before. Today, Complexions Contemporary Ballet represents one of the most recognized and respected performing arts brands worldwide.

Dwight Rhoden (Co-Founder, Co-Artistic Director, Principal Choreographer)

Rhoden has established a remarkably wide-ranging career, earning distinction from *The New York Times* as "one of the most sought out choreographers of the day." Rhoden began dancing at age 17 and performed with Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Ballets Jazz Montreal and as a principal dancer with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

In 1994, alongside Desmond Richardson, he founded Complexions Contemporary Ballet, bringing their unique brand of contemporary ballet to the world, forging a center for innovation and cutting-edge programming. Rhoden's choreography has been the lynchpin of the company's repertory development.

In three decades, he has created over 100 ballets for Complexions, as well as for numerous other companies, including the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Arizona Ballet, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, BalletMet, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Joffrey Ballet, Miami City Ballet, New York City Ballet, Philadelphia Ballet (formerly Pennsylvania Ballet), PHILADANCO!, Mariinsky Ballet, Zenon Dance Company, The Washington Ballet, Houston Ballet and San Francisco Ballet, among many others.

Rhoden has also choreographed for *So You Think You Can Dance*, E! Entertainment's *Tribute to Style*, *AMICI*, Cirque Du Soleil's *Zumanity* and *Mozart Her Story*, and collaborated with artists including Prince, Lenny Kravitz, Paul Simon, Nina Simone and many more. Rhoden is a recipient of The New York Foundation for the Arts Award, The Choo San Goh Award for Choreography and The Ailey School's Apex Award and an Honorary Doctorate from the Boston Conservatory in recognition of his extensive contributions to the field of dance. Currently, he is Adjunct Professor at Howard University and Artistic Professor of Dance at Chapman University.

Desmond Richardson (Co-Founder, Co-Artistic Director)

Richardson is an iconic American dance professional, Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director of Complexions Contemporary Ballet (celebrating its 30th year anniversary), Tony Award nominee, TedTalk guest artist and speaker, and *So You Think You Can Dance* and *AMICI* (Italy) guest choreographer. Richardson is a Presidential Scholar in the Arts and has graced the covers of various publications. He was the first African American principal dancer of American Ballet Theater, a principal dancer with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Frankfurt Ballet, and a featured guest performer nationally and internationally.

He has received the Capezio, Rosey Roosevelt Thompson, Bessie and *Dance Magazine* awards. He is an honorary doctorate recipient from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Currently, Richardson and his collaborator Dwight Rhoden are working on the Broadway-bound *Mozart Her Story* with producers Tegan Summer, Patricia Klausner and Christopher Sepulveda. Richardson's character Ted appeared on season three of the HBO Max hit series *The Other Two*.

Natiya Kezevadze (Rehearsal Director)

Kezevadze started her training in classical ballet at V. Chabukiani State Ballet School in Tbilisi, Georgia. At age 13, she was accepted to the Vaganova Academy of Russian Ballet on full scholarship in St. Petersburg, Russia. While at the Academy, Kezevadze studied with professor T. Udalenkova, performed extensively on the celebrated Mariinsky Stage and received her BFA. She joined Boris Eifman Dance Company and then was a soloist with Ballet Classic. Kezevadze moved to NYC in 2004 to further pursue her performing career and a year later joined Forces of Nature Dance Theatre, under the direction of Abdel Salaam. In 2007, she joined Complexions Contemporary Ballet, touring worldwide performing works by Dwight Rhoden, Desmond Richardson, Igal Perry and Jae Man Joo. In 2012, Kezevadze left touring life to focus on motherhood and to embrace her love for teaching. She has taught at the Joffrey Experience in NYC and Broadway Dance Center. She was assistant choreographer with the New York City Ballet's Choreographic Institute and for Dwight Rhoden's original international production of the *Great Gatsby* ballet. Today, Kezevadze continues performing with Complexions as rehearsal director, teaching as master faculty at the Complexions Academy and collaborating on various dance projects.

Natalia Alonso (Rehearsal Director)

Alonso began her career in dance when joining Ballet Hispanico in 2001, for which she received accolades in *Dance Magazine's* cover story for her work with the company. Shortly thereafter, she joined Complexions Contemporary Ballet where she danced for five seasons. Alonso then performed the role of Maria Tallchief in the Lincoln Center Theater play, *Nikolai and the Others*. She can also be seen in commercial publications such as Discount Dance and Baltogs, as well as several TV shows including *Law & Order: SVU*. Alonso is currently performing with the Metropolitan Opera and has appeared in productions of *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Carmen*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Rigoletto* and *Turandot*.

Before beginning her career as a professional dancer, Alonso received a BA in economics from Wesleyan University, where she also performed and co-directed a student run dance company. Alonso has taught master classes at institutions such as The Juilliard School, The Joffrey Ballet School, Barnard, Broadway Dance Center and Perry Mansfield and is also a certified GYROTONIC® instructor.

24/25 SEASON

Christina Dooling (Rehearsal Director)

Dooling began her career performing with Complexions Contemporary Ballet after working with Dwight Rhoden at NYU Tisch. After several exhilarating years with the company, Dooling parted ways to pursue additional opportunities. Credits include *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Radio City's Christmas Spectacular*, *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, *Flesh & Bone* and performances with artists such as Pharrell and Camilla Cabello, to name a few. Dooling is honored to support Complexions in its 30th season. She is represented by Lakey Wolff & Company.

Michael Korsch (Resident Lighting Designer)

Korsch is a lighting, projection and scenic designer based in Philadelphia, where he earned his BA in theatre from Temple University. He has worked with numerous directors and choreographers, creating hundreds of visual designs for dance, theatre and other live performances throughout North and South America, Europe, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. Korsch has been the resident lighting designer for Complexions Contemporary Ballet since 1998 and Ballet Arizona since 2001. In addition, Korsch has created designs for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, Backhausdance, BalletMet, Ballet Nice Méditerranée, Ballet West, BalletX, Carolina Ballet, Charlotte Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Cleveland Play House, Czech National Ballet, DanceBrazil, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Disney Creative Entertainment, English National Ballet, *FELA! The Concert*, Houston Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, MOMIX, Oakland Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Philadelphia Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Royal Danish Ballet, Sacramento Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Staatsballett Berlin and Washington Ballet, among others.

Christine Darch (Resident Costume Designer)

Darch has designed for Complexions since 2006. She designs and builds costumes for many choreographers including Julia Adam, Natasha Adorlee, Jennifer Archibald, Val Caniparoli, Rena Butler, Jorma Elo, Nicolò Fonte, Jen Freeman, Adam Houglund, Jae Man Joo, James Kudelka, Gabrielle Lamb, Edward Liang, Matthew Neenan, David Parsons, Caili Quan, Amy Seiwert, Merián Soto, Septime Webre and Yin Yue. Darch has been commissioned by Alvin Ailey, Astana Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, Ballet Arizona, Ballet Hawaii, Ballet Memphis, Ballet Met, Charlotte Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Colorado Ballet, Dayton Ballet, Gibney Dance, Gwangju City Ballet, Houston Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, Madco, Marin Ballet, Milwaukee Ballet, Le Ballet Nice Méditerranée, Oklahoma City Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theatre, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Parsons Dance, Philadelphia Ballet (formerly Pennsylvania Ballet), Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, Post: ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Seoul Metropolitan Ballet, Singapore Ballet, Tulsa Ballet, Washington Ballet and BalletX. Her full length works include four *Nutcrackers*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Dwight Rhoden's *Othello*. She builds costumes from her studio in East Northport, New York.

Alberto Andrade (Dance Artist)

Andrade is from Queens, New York. He started his training at Sugarloaf Ballet, then went to train at the Colburn School and the Milwaukee Ballet School. He attended summer programs such as the School of Pennsylvania Ballet (now Philadelphia Ballet), the School of American Ballet, The HARID Conservatory, Ellison Ballet and The Milwaukee Ballet School. He previously danced with Milwaukee Ballet 2 and American Contemporary Ballet. Andrade joined Complexions in January 2023.

Bilgude Ariunbold (Dance Artist)

Originally from Mongolia, Ariunbold trained as a ballet dancer at the Mongolian Conservatory from 2005 to 2012. In 2009, while still a student, he was chosen to join the State Academic Theater of Opera and Dance, where he performed as a soloist until 2015. He then joined Wise Ballet Theatre in South Korea as a principal dancer (2015-2021). Ariunbold studied choreography for three years at Mongolian National University of Arts and Culture, where he created and performed his own choreography. He joined Complexions in January 2024.

Aeron Buchanan (Dance Artist)

Buchanan began his formal training began at age 10 at Maryland Youth Ballet, but his passion for dance has been there since birth. Having a mother who was a dancer and studio owner, Buchanan's love of movement came naturally. He trained at The Washington Ballet and then at Baltimore School for the Arts (BSA) graduating in 2017. He spent summers attending programs such as Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the School of American Ballet, Boston Ballet, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater and Dance Theatre of Harlem.

After graduating from BSA, he attended the year-round programs at Boston Ballet and Pacific Northwest Ballet before joining Cincinnati Ballet's second company. He then joined Nashville Ballet as an apprentice in 2020 and was promoted to company artist in 2022. During his four seasons with the company, he was featured in works by Jermaine Spivey, Jennifer Archibald, Justin Peck, Jiří Kylián and Matthew Neenan. Buchanan joined Complexions in 2024.

Christian Burse (Dance Artist)

Burse was born in Austin, Texas where she began her dance journey at the age of two years old. She completed her early dance training at RISE Dance Company where she received a diverse dance education. She continued her dance training at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas, Texas and Dance Industry Performing Arts Center. She attended multiple summer intensives at the Complexions Academy and The Juilliard School. She has received awards from The National YoungArts Foundation and was named a 2020/2021 Texas Young Master. Burse joined Complexions in 2021.

Michael Cherry (Dance Artist)

Cherry was born and raised in Springfield, Virginia. He is a graduate of George Mason University and received a BFA in dance as well as a minor in arts management. Cherry has had the opportunity to dance in works created/set by Camille A. Brown, Alejandro Cerrudo, Doug Varone, Manuel Vignouille, Rafael Bonachela, Rena Butler, Fiona Jopp, Susan Shields, Shaun Boyle-Darcy and Christopher d'Amboise. He has had the opportunity to attend the Juilliard summer dance intensive twice, Complexions' summer and winter intensives and LINES summer dance intensive. He is beyond excited to dance with Complexions for his first season in 2024.

Jasmine Heart Cruz (Dance Artist)

Cruz was born and raised in San Francisco, California. She received her dance education at Westlake School for the Performing Arts where she trained in all styles with a focus in classical ballet, contemporary, jazz and modern. Following her education in California, she honed her craft further under the mentorship of Preston Miller and Jacqueline Green at TDA Prep in Illinois. She also attended programs such as Hubbard Street Dance Intensive, NYCDA Winter Dance Intensive and English National Ballet's fall and summer courses. From a young age, Cruz was an active participant in the competition and convention world where she received top accolades from organizations such as ADCIBC, YAGP, World Ballet Competition, Berlin Tanzolymp International Dance Festival and New York City Dance Alliance. In 2020, Cruz was a *Dance Spirit* Magazine cover model search winner. She is now based in New York City. Cruz joined Complexions in 2022.

Jillian Davis (Dance Artist, Assistant Rehearsal Director)

Davis is from Pennsylvania and began her ballet training at the age of three. She studied extensively with Risa Kaplowitz and Susan Jaffe at Princeton Dance and Theater Studio in Princeton, NJ. She has been a company artist with Complexions since 2014 and has been a part of several Dwight Rhoden world premieres. Additionally, she is a Co-Assistant Rehearsal Director and a Production Associate with the company. Davis is also a Choreographer Assistant with Jae Man Joo and Dwight Rhoden. She is a master faculty member for Complexions Academy, teaching at the winter and summer intensives, as well as master classes around the U.S. Instagram: @jillange93

Angelo De Serra (Dance Artist)

De Serra grew up in Sassari, Sardinia, Italy. He began his professional training at the age of 14 with Sharon Podesva, his private ABT ballet teacher. He attended summer intensives at The Royal Ballet School, American Ballet Theatre and Academie Princesse Grace. At the age of 17, he was awarded Senior Male Classical Top Six at Youth America Grand Prix Italy and a year later, won first place in Classical Soloist at the Expression International Dance Competition in Florence where he received a scholarship to the Alvin Ailey School. He then moved to Cannes, France, graduated from PNSD-Rosella Hightower and joined Cannes Jeune Ballet. After moving to New York City to attend The Ailey School, he attended intensives at the Complexions Academy and joined the company as an apprentice in 2022. De Serra was promoted to company member in 2024. Instagram: @angelodeserraa

Vincenzo Di Primo (Dance Artist)

Di Primo grew up in Adrano, Sicily, Italy and graduated from the Vienna State Opera Ballet Academy. Di Primo performed with some of the world's most reputable dance companies including The Royal Ballet of London and danced works from choreographers including Kenneth MacMillan, Crystal Pite, Marius Petipa, Peter Wright, Frederick Ashton, Morgann Runacre-Temple, Nacho Duato, Natalia Horecna, Dwight Rhoden, Justin Peck, Jae Man Joo, Ricardo Amarante and Jenn Freeman. Di Primo received several awards including Prize Winner and Contemporary Prize at The Prix de Lausanne, Gold Medal and Nureyev Prize at Grand Prix de Paris, Outstanding Artistry Prize at Youth America Grand Prix New York and Bronze Medal at the Beijing International Ballet Competition. In 2019, he was a contestant and finalist on the Italian TV show *Amici* after which he joined Complexions. In 2021, Di Primo was included in *Dance Magazine's* "25 to Watch." Di Primo has been a company artist since 2019.

Chloe Duryea (Dance Artist)

Duryea received her early dance training near her hometown of Haslett, Michigan. While in high school, she attended American Ballet Theatre's Summer Intensive as a National Training Scholar on full scholarship. Duryea graduated from Indiana University's Jacob School of Music with highest distinction, earning a BS in ballet with an outside field of kinesiology. At Indiana University, she was featured in works by Twyla Tharp and Dwight Rhoden and was Princess Aurora in *The Sleeping Beauty*. Duryea has guested with the Ruth Page Civic Ballet and the Indianapolis School of Ballet, performing George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker* pas de deux. Duryea has danced professionally with Elements Contemporary Ballet and James Sewell Ballet and has performed at the Cannes Dance Festival. Since joining Complexions in 2023, Duryea has had the opportunity to dance works by Dwight Rhoden, Justin Peck and Ricardo Amarante, as well as perform at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival.

Joe González (Dance Artist)

González is from Boston, Massachusetts, where he trained at Roxbury Center for the Performing Arts and the Boston Arts Academy. González has participated in Boston Conservatory's summer intensive, American Dance Festival, Bates Dance Festival and twice at Springboard Danse Montréal. He received his BFA from Boston Conservatory. González has commissioned works for a few universities, educational institutions and dance companies. He toured nationally and internationally as a performing artist with PHILADANCO!, Anna Myer & Dancers, Prometheus Dance, #DBdanceProject and WaheedWorks and was the 2020/21 DanceVisions artist in residence at Performance Garage. He is the founder and artistic director of Jo-Mé Dance and was on faculty at Temple University, Georgian Court University and Boston Arts Academy. He joined Complexions in 2022. Instagram: @j.gonzalez.dance

Marissa Mattingly (Dance Artist)

Mattingly grew up in Tampa, Florida, where she was trained in several different styles of dance since the age of three. She started to take ballet and contemporary more seriously at age 13 when she began training at All American Dance Factory and Classical Ballet School under the direction of Terri Howell and Julio Montano. With this training, she took part in many ballet competitions. She is a four-time YAGP finalist and performed in the UBC 2022 finals gala as a Legacy Award winner. She attended her first Complexions Summer Intensive in 2021 and was invited to take part in their two-week Trainee Program in the spring of 2022. She then joined the company in August 2022 at the age of 17. Since then, she has performed in numerous ballets by Dwight Rhoden, including two world premieres, *Endgame* and *For Crying Out Loud*, at The Joyce Theater. Instagram: @marissa_mattingly_

Miguel Solano (Dance Artist, Assistant Rehearsal Director)

Originally from Medellín, Colombia, Solano began his dance journey at the age of 17. He initially trained in Colombia before moving to New York City to complete his studies at the Gelsey Kirkland Academy of Classical Ballet on a full scholarship, performing with Kirkland's studio company. Solano has performed with Awaken Dance Theater, Thomas/Ortiz Dance, RudduR Dance and Connecticut Ballet. He has had the privilege of collaborating with esteemed choreographers such as Earl Mosley, Christopher Rudd, Francesca Harper, Ricardo Amarante, Jenn Freeman, Darrell Moultrie, Larry Keigwin, Nadege Hottier, Larissa Calero, Eve Chan and Ted Thomas. In addition to his performance career, Solano is a faculty member at Complexions Academy, where he teaches intensives and leads master classes globally. Solano joined Complexions in 2018 and became Assistant Rehearsal Director in 2023. Instagram: @miguellsolano

Lucy Stewart (Dance Artist)

Stewart grew up right outside of Denver, Colorado, dancing at Colorado Ballet and Kinetic Arts Dance Studio. She spent her summers training with American Ballet Theatre, The Joffrey Ballet, Complexions and Colorado Ballet. Stewart attended numerous Complexions summer intensives from the years 2017 to 2021, in addition to the preprofessional program in New York in 2019 and 2020. She studied at The Juilliard School in the dance division from 2020-2022, before joining Complexions for its summer tour that year. She has had the opportunity to study with various leading artists in the dance world, including Ohad Naharin, Francesca Harper, Tiler Peck, Rena Butler, James Whiteside, Karole Armitage, Matthew Neenan, Jae Man Joo, Jenn Freeman and Ricardo Amarante, as well as the opportunity to perform *Set and Reset* by Trisha Brown. Stewart spent her 2024 summer dancing with Traverse City Dance Project and teaching at Complexions Florida Summer Intensive.

Candy Tong (Dance Artist)

Tong was born in San Francisco, California. She trained at San Francisco Ballet School under full scholarship and is a BFA graduate in dance performance from University of California, Irvine, completing the program in just 2.5 years. Tong began her dance career in London at age 18 with English National Ballet where she performed and toured with the company dancing in the ballet classics. Prior to joining Complexions, Tong was part of the inaugural Complexions pre-professional program in 2017 before getting offered her contract just a year later. Alongside her dance career, Tong is a certified personal trainer and comprehensive Pilates instructor through third generation master instructor, Diane Diefenderfer of Studio Du Corps. She is a signed model with State Model Management and most notably featured on the cover of *Harper's Bazaar* magazine. As an entrepreneur, Tong is a fashion designer and founder of the dancewear line Candy Tong Collection. Tong has been an artist with Complexions since 2018.

Manuel Vaccaro (Dance Artist)

Vaccaro was born in Modica, a small Sicilian city in Italy. His passion for dance has lived since he learned how to walk. He began his dance studies at the age of six at a private school in Sicily. When he turned 10, Vaccaro was admitted to the Rome Opera House dance school where he studied for four years. In September 2018, he started studying at the Rosella Hightower dance school in France. In 2019, after sending a video audition to the Bolshoi Ballet Academy in Moscow, Russia, he was admitted and studied there for three years. In June 2022, Vaccaro received his diploma in professional dance and ballet teaching. Vaccaro joined Complexions in 2023. Instagram: @manuel_vaccaro_

April Watson (Dance Artist)

Watson began her dance training at age eight at University North Carolina School of the Arts Preparatory Program. In 2016, Watson graduated from University North Carolina School of the Arts High School Program. She spent her summers with School of American Ballet, Houston Ballet, Debbie Allen Dance Academy, Charlotte Ballet, Indiana Ballet Conservatory, Dance Theatre of Harlem and Joffrey Ballet of Chicago, all on scholarship. After graduating, she spent two years in Los Angeles studying under the direction of Debbie Allen as an Artist in Residence on scholarship. Watson joined Complexions in 2019 and is also part of the Complexions Academy faculty. Instagram: @wca__

Aristotle Luna (Apprentice)

Luna began as a trainee with Complexions in spring 2022 while in college. He grew up on Salt Spring and Orcas Islands in the Salish Sea and began dancing full-time at age 10 under the direction of Anthony the Dancer. He was a member of The Island Inspiration All Stars; studied ballet, contemporary, tap, hip-hop, salsa, jazz and aerial acrobatics; and performed in many shows, including as Billy in *Billy Elliot*. He also trained with Ariel Serrano at the Sarasota Cuban Ballet School, Homer Bryant of the Chicago MultiCultural Dance Center and did an apprentice-residency with Dance Now! Miami. Summer intensives include Jacob's Pillow, Orsolina28, Hubbard Street, Houston Ballet and Interlochen. Luna completed his BFA in dance and graduated from NYU Tisch School of the Arts in May 2024. He is thrilled to be performing with Complexions. In his spare time, Luna is an avid capoeirista and Charles Mingus devotee.