

*yb* YOUTH  
BALLET  
OF SASKATCHEWAN

# Attitudes YEARS

Artistic Director: Michelle McMillan

Featuring Ballet, Contemporary, Modern, Flamenco, Kathak, and Ukrainian dance

**November 17 & 18, 2023**

Regina Performing Arts Centre

# About Youth Ballet of Saskatchewan

## *40 years of excellence in dance*



Youth Ballet of Saskatchewan, led by Artistic Director Michelle McMillan, is a non-profit dance organization. Our pre-professional Company fosters young artists to develop their unique voice through professional training, public performance, and contribution to the choreographic process.

In 1983, the Youth Ballet of Saskatchewan was created out of a dream of Vera and Gennadij Adrianow. They aspired to bring classical ballet, modern, and folk dance to the people of Saskatchewan while allowing the youth to discover these art forms both on and off the stage. The performing Company was re-established by former Artistic Director, Connie Moker-Wernikowski in 2001. Under Connie's direction, the Company's reputation for excellence and innovative works gained recognition among some of Canada's leading dance artists.

From its inception, high standards were set which led to exceptional and noteworthy invitations to Expo 86 in Vancouver; Expo 88 in Brisbane, Australia; Aberdeen International Youth Festival in Aberdeen, Scotland in 2013; and upcoming in Slovenia this coming July 2024 at the daCi (dance and the Child international) conference. Youth Ballet of Saskatchewan's Company has been honoured to represent Saskatchewan and Canada at these prestigious events.

Our 2023-2024 Company consists of 21 dancers between the ages of 13 to 18. The Company continues to share their love of dance and creativity by collaborating with different organizations and events such as the SHEA Awards, the Regina Symphony Orchestra Chamber Players, South Saskatchewan Youth Orchestra, the Halcyon Choir, India Canada Dinner, Saskatchewan's Telemiracle 40 and 42, and On Cue Performance Hub.

As well as its performances for the general public, the Company also prepares special school performances that combine the artistry of dance with education material relating to the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education's Arts curriculum.

### **About the Youth Ballet of Saskatchewan's Ensemble**

The Ensemble provides young dancers (ages 11+) a fun environment to develop their performance skills, increase confidence and engage their creative energy. Ensemble is a wonderful stepping stone for those that may want to audition for the Company in the future.

# Message from the *Artistic Director*

Welcome to Youth Ballet of Saskatchewan's 40th anniversary season. This extraordinary accomplishment, and those that helped us along the way, are worth celebrating! Our Company's performance this season, *ATTITUDES*, was inspired by the attitudes of positivity, dedication, resilience and determination that got us to this moment, as well as the iconic dance position attitude.

All of our dancers performing tonight, our contributing choreographers, and staff fought through the struggles of the pandemic, stayed dedicated to their craft, and continued to spread the joy of dance at Youth Ballet and in our community. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart!

I'd also like to thank our generous partners and donors, Board of Directors, and families for continuing to support dance and all it brings to life. Your generosity has helped make all this possible and for this, I have the utmost gratitude.

This season, the Company has had the privilege of impacting youth in our community through our School Matinees Series, aiming to touch hearts and minds through live dance performances and theatre experiences. We continue to celebrate the ability to share dance with our community in this incredible way.

Here's to our Ruby Anniversary and many more to come!

With an attitude of gratitude,

Michelle McMillan  
Artistic Director



# Attitudes

## Act 1

### **grATTITUDE**

Choreography: *Michelle McMillan*

Music: *Yellow Moon* by *Luca D'Alberto*

Artwork: *Caitlin Coflin (2005)*

Visual Artist: *Garry Wasyliw*

Dancers: *Full Company- Elliot Balas, Ava Caporicci Josephson, Milène Card, Océane Cazi, Madeline Clincke, Evelyn Currie, Kinsey Gabriel, Thalia Gee, Joëlle Gougeon, Beata Gustafson, Veronica Hamilton, Eliza Howland, Shaun Lewis, Frances Newman, Anna Pepper, Irene Perentes, Amanda Rincker-Tarry, Kate Rincker-Tarry, Autumn Vanstone, Elle Wernikowski, Jayden Zipchian*

This piece was inspired by the history of Youth Ballet. It's a tribute to all those that contributed their talents, while thinking of the future and those we hope to inspire.

### **The Dancers, Part 1**

Choreography: *Caitlin Coflin*

Music: *The Dancer*, by *Christopher Ferreira*

Dancer: *Madeline Clincke*

This dance is part of a collection exploring different dance styles and interpretations to one piece of music.

### **Ripple**

Choreography: *Caitlin Coflin*

Music: *Wash.* by *Bon Iver*

Dancers: *Elliot Balas, Ava Caporicci Josephson, Milène Card, Kinsey Gabriel, Joëlle Gougeon, Beata Gustafson, Veronica Hamilton, Eliza Howland, Shaun Lewis, Irene Perentes, Autumn Vanstone, Elle Wernikowski*

### **On the Edge of Leaving (2014)**

Choreography: *Paula Skotnitsky*

Music: *Tied Down, Rooftop* by *Thom Hanreich*; *Lies, Dulcis amor, Lorenzo the Magnificent* by *Paolo Buonvino*  
Dancers: *Madeline Clincke, Evelyn Currie, Kinsey Gabriel, Thalia Gee, Frances Newman, Anna Pepper, Amanda Rincker-Tarry, Kate Rincker-Tarry, Jayden Zipchian*

This dance is about packing up all you have and leaving a situation you no longer can live with.

### **Youth Ballet's Ensemble**

Choreography: *Glen Curtis*

Music: *Swan Lake, No. 22 Danse Napolitaine* by *Pyotr Tchaikovsky*

Dancers: *Finley Balas, Lily Gabriel, Samantha Gabriel, Leah Hammond, Julia LeBlond, Betty Vos, Eva Zampese-Yandon*

### **The Dancers, Part 2**

Choreography: *Glen Curtis*

Music: *The Dancer*, by *Christopher Ferreira*

Dancer: *Anna Pepper*

### **Pas de Trois**

Choreography and adaptation: *Glen Curtis*

Music: *Les Sylphides: Grand Valse Brillante*, by *Frédéric Chopin*

Original Choreography: *Michel Fokine in 1909*

Dancers: *Evelyn Currie, Thalia Gee, Irene Perentes*

### **Sam Study #1 (2016)**

Devised Choreography: *Kathryn Ricketts and the dancers*

Music: *Lady in the Red Hat, Wheelbarrow Walk, Venus de Milo, Drowning By Number 3* by *Michael Nyman*

Dancers: *Madeline Clincke, Anna Pepper, Amanda Rincker-Tarry, Kate Rincker-Tarry, Jayden Zipchian*  
Rehearsal Director: *Caitlin Coflin*

# Intermission

## Act 2

### **The Language of the Wind**

Choreography: *Yevhenii Tretiak*

Music: *Mavka by Authentix*

Dancers: *Madeline Clincke, Evelyn Currie, Kinsey Gabriel, Thalia Gee, Beata Gustafson, Eliza Howland, Ava Caporicci Josephson, Anna Pepper, Irene Perentes, Autumn Vanstone, Elle Wernikowski*

This dance is a blend of Ukrainian and Contemporary dance, and surrounds Ukrainian folklore about Mavkas, forest spirits that protect the forest. This dance represents the beauty, love, and goodness that Mavkas bring, protecting nature and the beauty it brings to our world.

### **Fandangos de Huelva**

Choreography: *Barbara Diaz*

Music: *Arcangel (singing) and Rafael Rodriguez (guitar)*

Dancers: *Milène Card, Océane Cazi, Joëlle Gougeon, Veronica Hamilton, Shaun Lewis, Frances Newman*

Rehearsal Director: *Chrystal Normand*

### **Celebration Dandiya Raas**

Choreography: *Rosa Mirijello-Haynes*

Music: *Chogada by Darshan Raval, Asees Kaur*

Dancers: *Elliot Balas, Evelyn Currie, Thalia Gee, Kinsey Gabriel, Beata Gustafson, Eliza Howland, Ava Caporicci Josephson, Irene Perentes, Autumn Vanstone, Elle Wernikowski*

### **The Dancers, Part 3**

Choreography: *Michelle McMillan*

Music: *The Dancer, by Christopher Ferreira*

Dancers: *Madeline Clincke, Anna Pepper*

### **The Together Suite**

Choreography: *Kennedy Dale-Johnson*

Music: *J.S. Bach*

Dancers: *Elliot Balas, Ava Caporicci Josephson, Evelyn Currie, Thalia Gee, Beata Gustafson, Eliza Howland, Irene Perentes, Autumn Vanstone, Elle Wernikowski*

A dance surrounding the joys of being able to be together.

### **Slings and Arrows (2017)**

Choreography: *Nathan Powell*

Music: *Slings and Arrows, live performance by Jeffery Straker*

Dancers: *Milène Card, Océane Cazi, Kinsey Gabriel, Frances Newman, Joëlle Gougeon, Veronica Hamilton, Shaun Lewis*

This dance is from an original contemporary ballet called Heart's Calling, set to the music of Saskatchewan singer/songwriter Jeffery Straker. It celebrates an attitude of persistence and strength when faced with love lost or struggles to carry on.

### **Beauty in the Grey (2017)**

Choreography: *Michelle McMillan*

Music: *Beauty In Grey, live performance by Jeffery Straker*

Dancers: *Full Company*

# Company



Amanda



Anna



Autumn



Av



Elliot



Evelyn



Frances



Irene



Kinsey



Maddy



Milène



Océane

# Dancers



va



Bea



Eliza



Elle



ne



Jayden



Joëlle



Kate



ane



Shaun



Thalia



Veronica

# Choreographer Biographies

## Glen Curtis – Regina, SK



Glen Curtis was born in Saskatoon and took his first Ballet Classes at the University School of Ballet under the direction of Sonja Barton. After attending the National Ballet School in Toronto, Mr. Curtis had a long and successful career in Germany, first as a dancer and then as a teacher.

Mr. Curtis was fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to work with many different choreographers and in a wide spectrum of various styles of dance. This has led him to a great appreciation of dance in all its forms and a firm belief in the importance of a strong Classical Ballet foundation.

## Caitlin Coflin – Regina, SK



Caitlin Coflin has been involved with Youth Ballet of Saskatchewan since 1994 and became an instructor in 2010 after receiving a BA Honours in Dance from the University of Winnipeg in affiliation with School of Contemporary Dancers. Since returning to Regina, Caitlin has

worked as a professional dancer with Robin Poitras' company Rouge-Gorge and with Connie Moker Wernikowski, and has been given many opportunities to present her own work through New Dance Horizons. Most recently, she has become a Certified Movement Analyst and Somatic Practitioner (CMA-SP). Caitlin blends modern dance technique and somatic practices to help dancers find the duality between function and expression in their dance training.

## Kennedy Dale-Johnson – Toronto, ON



Kennedy Dale-Johnson is a Toronto based dance teacher and choreographer. Originally from Regina, Saskatchewan, she danced at the Youth Ballet of Saskatchewan, taught on faculty and was part of the Youth Ballet Company. Kennedy is a graduate of Canada's National Ballet

School's (NBS) Teacher Training (Dip) Program, holds registered teaching status with the Royal Academy of Dance and has her Associate with the ISTD (National Branch). She has continued to pursue education with Mark Morris Dance Company (Dance for PD), Baycrest Hospital (Dancers not Dementia), Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf, and more.

As Assistant Director for the Contemporary School of Dance Youth Company from 2018 to 2021, Kennedy's choreography has been seen in collaboration with the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Orchestra, and Fuse Arts (previously Vera Causa Opera Company). Currently, Kennedy teaches ballet at Pegasus Studios and works within the Community Dance initiatives at Canada's National Ballet School. This includes offering thousands of Ontario and Canada-wide school students' curriculum-based dance workshops both online and in person, teaching older adults including Dementia and Parkinson's specific classes, and teaching in the NBS Kids- Adaptive Dance program which was created in collaboration with Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital.



## Barbara Diaz



Barbara was born in Regina, Sk. and started taking ballet at an early age. In learning dance, she quickly realized that she wanted to expand her knowledge and thus enrolled at the Boston Conservatory. While there she studied ballet under Samuel Kurkjian, Ann Marie Sarazin, Donna Silva, and Mel Tomlinson. She also studied Modern dance with Jennifer Scanlon, Jessica Sayre, Tommy Neblitt, Yasuko and Emiko Tokunaga and was introduced to Flamenco.

Upon graduating cum laude from the Conservatory, Barbara sought to further her knowledge of Flamenco which took her to Granada, Spain. There, she studied with the school of Carmen de las Cuevas. In 2001 she travelled to Jerez de la Frontera where she immersed herself in the culture and was accepted within the Flamenco community. She credits the amazing teachings of Ana Maria Lopez and Juan Para for what she has been able to create. In 2005 she recognized a need and want of Flamenco dance in Regina, Sk. so she established Flamenco Diaz. For 7 years she encouraged many to explore their potential as dancers and artists. During that time, she was also on the faculty of the Youth Ballet of Saskatchewan, teaching ballet and Flamenco.

Currently, Barbara lives in Ottawa, Ontario where she runs Flamenco Diaz Ottawa as well as keeps busy with an active Alexander Technique practice.

## Rosa Mirijello Haynes – Regina, SK



Rosa Mirijello-Haynes was mentored in North Indian classical Kathak by master dancer, Joanna de Souza of Toronto and participated in several intensive Kathak retreats with Joanna's guru, Pandit Chitresh Das of California. She studied music at the University of Toronto where she

also began her studies in Kathak dance. After moving to Regina, her teaching and performing led to several workshops throughout the province including DACI, RAMED, and performing at several festivals including Fringe Dance (Toronto), International Day of Dance, NDH's Stream of Dance, and Secret Garden Tours. Presently, Rosa is the Arts Ed. Specialist at École Elsie Mironuck Community School where she creates unique dance and music opportunities for the students. She is thrilled to return to YBCS yearly to share her love of Kathak dance with the dancers.

## Michelle McMillan – Regina, SK



Dance has always been Michelle's passion. She trained near her hometown in Southern California in numerous dance forms with a primary focus on the Vaganova style of classical ballet. After dancing in a few regional ballet companies in California and dealing with injury,

Michelle shifted her focus to a career utilizing her studies in Jazz, Tap, Modern, and Vocal Music. She spent the next 10 years dancing throughout the United States and Europe. Some of her favourite credits include: 5 years as one of the famous *Radio City Rockettes*; Equity productions of *The Will Rogers' Follies*, *Annie Get Your Gun*; fire-eater with *Penn & Teller in Las Vegas*; and an adage specialty act that combined pas de deux and acrobatics. Michelle's favourite role was her last, for it was where she met her husband.

Michelle has been an instructor at the Youth Ballet since 2008, and as its Artistic Director since 2013. Michelle also sits on the Board of Directors for Dance Saskatchewan Inc. She continuously looks forward to broadening her knowledge, helping others find the joy in dance, and supporting our youth to follow their dreams. She thanks her husband and 2 young boys for their constant love and support.

## Nathan Powell – Boise, ID USA



Nathan Powell is a dancer, teacher and choreographer based in Boise Idaho. He is the Co-Artistic Director of Idaho Dance Theatre. Originally from Regina, he received his professional training at Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet School and has danced for numerous dance

companies such as Festival Ballet Providence, Ballet San Antonio and Ballet Idaho. He has choreographed numerous works for Ballet Idaho, Idaho Dance Theatre, and Ballet Montana. His work "What you Wanted for Me" was selected from a pool of over 200 applicants to be a part of the Dance Gallery Festival at Sam Houston State University in Hunstville, TX in October 2017. He has also choreographed works for Black Hills Dance Theatre, Opera Idaho, Anchorage Ballet, Northern Plains Dance, and the Boise Dance Co-op. He is the winner of the "Esther Simplot Award for Choreographic Excellence" for his work "Suite." He is also an avid teacher of dance and teaches a number of adult ballet classes regularly. Nathan has taught as a guest instructor for Youth Ballet of Saskatchewan, North Ballet Academy (MN), Sun Valley Ballet, and Anchorage Ballet.

## **Kathryn Ricketts – Regina, SK**



Kathryn's choreographic approach is based on years of company work as a dancer and later as a choreographer under the term of 'devised choreography'. This entails generating material from the dancers through thematic prompts and then collectively shaping and crafting

it into a cohesive dance. This approach enables the dancers to exercise their own artistic voices and at the same time build their skills and sensibility to think of themselves as both dancers and dance makers.

## **Paula Skotnitsky – Regina, SK**



Paula trained in Yorkton, Red Leaf, British Columbia with Victoria Arts Collaborative, in Regina with Youth Ballet of Saskatchewan, and in numerous workshops over the years. She has a degree in Arts Education and has completed a certificate in Special Education from the University of Regina.

Paula has presented her own solo work at both the Stream of Dance Festival and the W.I.P Series (Saskatoon). As well as teaching dance at Youth Ballet of Saskatchewan, she has also choreographed for the Youth Ballet Company for several seasons. Paula works full-time for Regina Catholic Schools as an Arts Education teacher.

## **Yevhenii Tretiak – Regina, SK**



Yevhenii Tretiak is a dance artist, teacher, and choreographer, new to Regina from Ukraine. He has been an organizer of dance events and concerts, and a competition judge, as well.

Yevhenii's dance journey began more than 20 years ago with self-education. He trained in many dance styles from break dance to classical dance. From the time he was in high school, he knew that he would become a dance teacher.

Yevhenii realized that he needed to pursue a professional education in order to fulfill his dreams. His studies lasted almost 10 years, from College to University, and earned him a Master's Degree in Dance Education.

In parallel with his studies, he started teaching in several dance studios and children's sports schools in Poltava and the surrounding region. By the time he completed his degree, he had created his own dance school.

Since 2022, Yevhenii has been a teacher at the Martin School of Dance and Baton teaching children ballet technique, modern and contemporary dance.

Youth Ballet of Saskatchewan would like to thank you for joining us this evening,  
supporting our youth and the art of dance.

*We couldn't do this without you!*

**We'd like to acknowledge the work of the following:**

Artistic Director: Michelle McMillan  
Office Manager: Jessica Belongie  
Hall Monitors: Mia Gustafson, Jenna Hsu,  
Maria Husain  
Costumes: Caitlin Coflin  
Seamstress: Cathy Sarty  
Stage Manager: Kelly Munce  
Videographer: Matthew Sichkaruk  
Graphic Design: Ed Beaudry  
Photographer: Tanner Piper,  
PSP Sports Photography  
Visual Artist: Garry Wasyliw  
Regina Performing Arts Centre

**Youth Ballet of Saskatchewan  
Board of Directors**

President: Stephanie Cook  
Treasurer: Kirsty Laevens  
Secretary: Stephanie Rincker  
Directors: Kate Alport-Wood  
Nicholas Cann  
Sara Dewhurst  
Roxanne Friesen  
Kaylea Lax  
Shirley Xie

**Youth Ballet of Saskatchewan's Patrons and Donors**

**ACTIVE**  
591-6803 ELECTRIC

**DANCE**  
SASKATCHEWAN INC.

**John Coflin**  
and  
**Joanne Skidmore**

**20/20**  
GEOMATICS  
PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

Sask **Culture**

**5L**  
SASK LOTTERIES

**CAMPION COLLEGE**  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF REGINA

**YOUTH**  
**BALLET**  
OF SASKATCHEWAN