

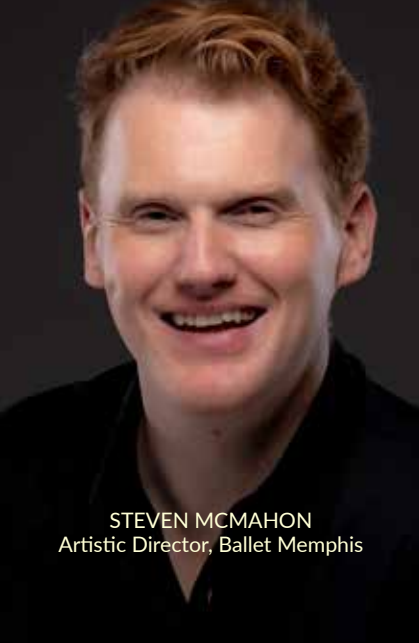


balletmemphis

AMERICAN ROOTS

APRIL 19-21, 2024
CROSSTOWN THEATRE

A CELEBRATION OF AMERICANA MUSIC THROUGH DANCE



STEVEN MCMAHON
Artistic Director, Ballet Memphis



GRETCHEN WOLLERT MCLENNON
President & CEO, Ballet Memphis

DEAR FRIENDS

Another season of captivating dance is drawing to a close, and we continue to be delighted that we have the privilege of sharing this art form with you. This was a season of dreams made realized, not the least because we premiered a new production of *The Nutcracker* to our community to wide acclaim and generous reception. We also presented beloved works from our repertoire and sought new voices to create meaningful new works--several of which are premiering this weekend.

This dance and live music series, which premiered in 2022 with *Soul* (also here at Crosstown Theater; also featuring the Stax Alumni Band), is such a treat for us to perform! The design and creation process for a show like this is engaging and thoughtful and allows our team to really harness the power of music and its alignment to movement in new and interesting ways. Music is such a vital part of our identity at Ballet Memphis, and this series helps us build on our legacy as dancemakers and storytellers while utilizing the opportunity to share vibrant and energetic contemporary music and its makers with our audiences. We hope you enjoy this show as much as we've enjoyed making it.

Lastly, we can't forego the opportunity to share our gratitude with you for supporting and championing us again this year. Be it our school, company, Pilates + Wellness program, or our multiple community impact touchpoints inside our building and around our region, YOU are what makes Ballet Memphis an essential force in our community. We are steadfast in our gratitude to you.

Thank you for dreaming with us this season-

Handwritten signatures of Steven McMahon and Gretchen Wollert McLennon, separated by a plus sign. The signatures are in black ink on a light yellow background.

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THE STARS, MY GOD

CHOREOGRAPHY Alia Kache

MUSIC “Worried Now, Won’t Be Long” by Sidney Carter and Alan Lomax, “Mean Old World” by Toshi Reagon, “Butter” by Taj Mahal, “The Scream” by Chris Thomas King, “Rosie” by Alan Lomax, “Roll Away the Stone” by Kelly Joe Phelps, “Hurt” written by Trent Reznor and performed by Johnny Cash, “Come by Here” by Sweet Honey in the Rock

COSTUME DESIGN Maria Gabriela Moros Diaz

LIGHTING DESIGN Sheric Hull

CAST

Hope: Iori Araya

Facade: Kennedy Ballard and Anwen Brown

Underbelly: Wyatt Pendleton and Gretchen Vander Bloomer

Rosie: Cecily Khuner

Father: Demetrious Reed

Hurt: André Gallon and Emilia Sandoval

CHOREOGRAPHER’S NOTE I dedicate this piece to my stars, my guiding light...my family.

15 minute intermission

HABIT OF MIND

CHOREOGRAPHY Julie Marie Niekrasz

MUSIC “Why’d Ya Do It” and “Hey Me, Hey Mama” by Sierra Ferrell, “St. James’s Bed” and “13 Kinds” by The Bones of J.R. Jones, “Be More” and “Because of You” by Stephen Sanchez

ORIGINAL COSTUME DESIGN Christine Darch

LIGHTING DESIGN Sheric Hull

CAST

Angelina Broad, Joey Dlearo, Phoebe Magna, Wyatt Pendleton, Demetrious Reed, Emilia Sandoval, Rianna Talento

CHOREOGRAPHER’S NOTE “Habit of Mind” explores the complexities of mental practices and how they inform our actions. This dance enacts what it might feel like to habituate ourselves to greater empathy, self-reflection, love, and wonder.

THIS FORM SHALL REST

CHOREOGRAPHY Steven McMahon

MUSIC “Wayfaring Stranger” by Rhiannon Giddens with Francesco Turrisi

COSTUME DESIGN Maria Gabriela Moros Diaz

LIGHTING DESIGN Sheric Hull

CAST

Gretchen Vander Bloomer

5 minute pause

ONE TRICK PONY

CHOREOGRAPHY Brandon Ramey

MUSIC “Burn It,” “Loving County,” “One Trick Pony,” “Cupboard” (Acoustic), “Lot Lizard,” and “Bronco Billy’s”
written and performed by Joshua Ray Walker

COSTUME DESIGN Maria Gabriela Moros Diaz

LIGHTING DESIGN Sheric Hull

CAST

Kennedy Ballard, Anwen Brown, Matthew Cunningham, Andre Gallon, Cecily Khuner, Beth Ann Maslinoff,
Darcy McLoughlin

Additional program support provided by Blake C. Helis, Technical Director, and Newman Jones, Costume Construction.

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SEASON 37
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BROAD



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PILATES + WELLNESS, AND HOW TO SUPPORT, SCAN HERE



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