



JUL 25 - AUG 5
2025

DANCE FOR \$20.25
WITH BALLETX

Tuesday, August 5, 2025
Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater

Generously Underwritten by Discover Vail.

BalletX

Artistic & Executive Director, Co-Founder: Christine Cox

Associate Artistic Director: Tara Keating

Rehearsal Director & Community Liaison: Keelan Whitmore

Managing Director: Megan O'Donnell

Production & Company Manager: Caitlyn Davis

Stage Manager: Rebecca Smith

Director of Major Giving: James Ihde

Marketing Manager & Publicist: Dan Bruskwicz

Education Manager: Alisa Moore

Design & Brand Manager: Li Tian Trick

Communications Manager: Katie Adkinson

Patrons Services Manager: Evan Kappelman

PERFORMERS

ELI ALFORD, ITZKAN BARBOSA, LUCA DE-POLI,
SAVANNAH GREEN, FRANCESCA FORCELLA, LANIE JACKSON,
MATHIS JOUBERT, JARED KELLY, EILEEN KIM, SKYLER LUBIN,
JONATHAN MONTEPARA, JERARD PALAZO, MINORI SAKITA,
BEN SCHWARZ, ASHLEY SIMPSON, PETER WEIL

Figments of Song

Choreographer: Caili Quan

Music: “Under the Boardwalk” by The Drifters;

“Orange Colored Sky” by Nat King Cole; “Our Day Will Come” by Brenda Lee;

“Little Bitty Pretty One” by Bobby Day; “Love Is Strange” by Mickey Baker;

“Mess Around” by Ray Charles; “I’ll Be Seeing You” by Billie Holiday;

“Danke Schoen” by Wayne Newton

Original Lighting Designer: Michael Korsch, *Adapted by* Roya Abab

Costume Designer: Christine Darch

LUCA DE-POLI, FRANCESCA FORCELLA, SAVANNAH GREEN,
LANIE JACKSON, JARED KELLY, JONATHAN MONTEPARA,
JERARD PALAZO, ASHLEY SIMPSON

Become a Mountain

Choreographer: Justin Peck

Music: *Become a Mountain* by Dan Deacon

Original Lighting Designer: Nicole Pearce, *Recreated by* Brandon Stirling Baker

Costume Designer: Benjamin Burton

ELI ALFORD, ITZKAN BARBOSA, LUCA DE-POLI,
SAVANNAH GREEN, FRANCESCA FORCELLA, LANIE JACKSON,
MATHIS JOUBERT, JARED KELLY, EILEEN KIM, SKYLER LUBIN,
JONATHAN MONTEPARA, JERARD PALAZO, MINORI SAKITA,
BEN SCHWARZ, ASHLEY SIMPSON, PETER WEIL

Created by Justin Peck for Juilliard’s Senior Class of 2022, ‘Become a Mountain’ is a dance that simulates the arc of a mountain climb, unfolding in three parts: a climb to a summit, the emboldened feeling of reaching the peak, and finally, the adrenaline rush of sliding down the other side. Throughout this journey, the dance weaves in explorations of human connectivity, personal reflection, and the uncertainty for what is uncharted. BalleX premiered ‘Become a Mountain’ in 2022.

INTERMISSION

The Last Glass

Choreographer: Matthew Neenan

Music: *La Banlieue, The Akara, A Sunday Smile, The Penalty, Prenzlauerberg, A Call to Arms, Un Dernier Verre (Pour La Route), Elephant Gun* by Beirut

Original Lighting Designer: Drew Billiau, Adapted by Roya Abab

Costume Designer: Martha Chamberlain

ELI ALFORD, ITZKAN BARBOSA, LUCA DE-POLI,

FRANCESCA FORCELLA, EILEEN KIM, SKYLER LUBIN,

JONATHAN MONTEPARA, MINORI SAKITA,

BEN SCHWARZ, PETER WEIL

With inspiration from the wild street-parade sound of American indie-rock band Beirut, 'The Last Glass' is a ballet that slowly awakens like a city, part mysterious pageant and part raucous celebration.

About BalletX:

BalletX, Philadelphia's premier contemporary ballet, unites artistic innovation with technical excellence to forge new works of athleticism, emotion, and grace. Founded in 2005 and led by Artistic & Executive Director Christine Cox, the company has commissioned over 80 choreographers from around the world to produce 150 world premieres that are "fresh, inclusive, and connect to what people want" (Philadelphia Citizen). With a versatile and diverse ensemble of 16 dancers, hailed as "among America's best" by The New York Times, BalletX pushes the boundaries of classical ballet to tell today's stories with passion, creativity, and exuberance. As a vibrant global incubator for artistic talent, the company makes ballet accessible and inviting, captivating audiences at prestigious venues including The Kennedy Center, Vail Dance Festival, The Joyce Theater, and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. Through performances, international touring, and meaningful community outreach, BalletX creates extraordinary dance experiences that inspire human connection.

Eli Alford (Dancer) received his BFA in dance from the USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance under the direction of Jodie Gates and William Forsythe where he learned and performed the works of Ohad Naharin, Jiri Kylian, Justin Peck, Merce Cunningham, and Dwight Rhoden to name a few. Eli joined BalletX in 2022.

Itzkan Barbosa (Dancer) danced with Miami City Ballet and NY Theater Ballet, where she performed works by Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, Antony Tudor, and more. She also performs contemporary and aerial dance with Dzul Dance and is a Principal Artist with Verzola Ballet. Itzkan joined BalletX in 2023.

Luca De-Poli (Dancer) attended the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and began his career with the Cincinnati Ballet Second Company. He's performed works by Ma Cong, Ohad Naharin, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Nicolo Fonte, Justin Peck, and others. Luca joined BalletX in 2024.

Francesca Forcella (Dancer) danced with the Washington Ballet Studio Company, Los Angeles American Contemporary Ballet, and Houston Ballet II, where she toured internationally, representing Houston Ballet at the International Youth Dance Festival in Budapest, Hungary. Francesca joined BalletX in 2013.

Savannah Green (Dancer) studied at Manhattan Youth Ballet and LaGuardia High School for the Performing Arts. She graduated with a BFA from the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 2017, performing works by Jose Limon, Andrea Miller, and Anna Halprin. Savannah joined BalletX in 2020.

Lanie Jackson (Dancer) danced with Ballet Virginia after graduating from The Juilliard School where she performed works by Gentian Doda, Andrea Miller, James B. Whiteside, and Matthew Neenan, and participated in residencies with Ohad Naharin of Batsheva Dance Company. Lanie joined BalletX in 2023.

Mathis Joubert (Dancer) is a former member of Visceral Dance Chicago, 'Verb' Ohio Contemporary Ballet, and Bad Boys of Ballet. He also performed at the Concert of Paris, Riyadh Season Festival, and Paris Fashion Week. He has been featured as a dancer model with Adidas, Reebok & Asus. Mathis joined BalletX in 2024.

Jared Kelly (Dancer) trained at The Washington School of Ballet, Baltimore School for the Arts, and Indiana University Ballet Theatre, where he graduated with a BS in Ballet. Jared has performed works by George Balanchine, Martha Graham, Jerome Robbins, Twyla Tharp, and Paul Taylor, among others. Jared joined BalletX in 2022.

Eileen Kim (Dancer) received her BFA in dance from the USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance and danced with the Universal Ballet in Seoul, South Korea, and Cincinnati Ballet. Eileen performed featured roles by George Balanchine, Justin Peck, Jiří Kylián, and Kyle Abraham, among others. Eileen joined BalletX in 2024.

Skyler Lubin (Dancer) danced as a member of the Corps de Ballet with Miami City Ballet from 2010-2014. She has performed featured roles including Flower Festival pas de deux, Swan Lake pas de trios, and Jerome Robbins' Afternoon of a Faun, and has premiered pieces by Alexei Ratmanský and Liam Scarlett. Skyler joined BalletX in 2015.

Jonathan Montepara (Dancer), from Orsogna (Italy), graduated from the Balletto di Roma. He danced for American Repertory Ballet, and has worked with Ethan Stiefel, Amy Hall Garner, Loughlan Prior, Jennifer Archibald, Matthew Neenan, Jamar Roberts, Caili Quan, and other international artists. Jonathan joined BalletX in 2022.

Jerard Palazo (Dancer) studied at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School Professional Division, Toronto Dance Theatre, Ailey School, Jacob's Pillow Contemporary Program, and Nederlands Dans Theatre. He has worked with Nai Ni Chen Dance Company, Peridance Company, and Lavagnino Dance. Jerard joined BalletX in 2022.

Minori Sakita (Dancer) trained at the Maryland Youth Ballet and Houston Ballet Academy. She danced with Tulsa Ballet and Cincinnati Ballet, and has performed principal roles in works by Victoria Morgan, John Cranko, André Prokofsky, Derek Dean, Balanchine, and Septime Weber, among others. Minori joined BalletX in 2024.

Ben Schwarz (Dancer) trained at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet and The School of American Ballet. He has originated roles in works by Alysa Spires, Norbert De La Cruz III, Silas Farley, and Preston Chamblee, and performed in Balanchine classics such as Western Symphony and Bourée Fantasque. Ben joined BalletX in 2022.

Ashley Simpson (Dancer) studied at W. Dreyfoos High School of the Arts and Ailey/Fordham, where she graduated Magna Cum Laude and as a Denise Jefferson Scholar. She is a Princess Grace Honoraria winner and has been featured in Dance Magazine and Pointe Magazine. Ashley joined BalletX in 2020.

Peter Weil (Dancer) trained at The Metropolitan Ballet Academy, Boston Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School, and Orlando Ballet. He danced with Philadelphia Ballet, where he performed world premieres by Matthew Neenan, Helen Pickett, and Garrett Smith. Peter joined BalletX in 2023.

THANK YOU

The Vail Valley Foundation extends its sincere gratitude to all patrons whose commitment has made it possible for the 2025 Vail Dance Festival to achieve an extraordinary level of success, with special thanks to:

MARQUEE PRESENTER

Jody & John Arnhold | Arnhold Foundation

PREMIER PRESENTERS:

Susan & Jeff Campbell; Jill & Kevin Plancher;
Tina & David Wilson and The Carol F. Storr Endowment for Classical Ballet

SEASON PRESENTERS:

Priscilla Brewster; Oscar Tang & Agnes Hsu-Tang, Ph.D.;
Jonna Mackin, Ph.D

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR MOST RECENT 2025 VAIL DANCE FESTIVAL DONORS*

PLATINUM DRESS CIRCLE

Argie Ligeros
Rella & Monroe Rifkin

GOLD DRESS CIRCLE

Andrea Labov Clark
Stacey & Foster Gillett
Diane Sullivan

SILVER DRESS CIRCLE

The Dance Archive
Jennifer & John Kelly
Leslie Nolte

BRONZE DRESS CIRCLE

Praveen Madella & Patrick Galvin
Jill & Dean Mitchell
Laurie & David O'Connell
Perch Vail

FAN CLUB

Anonymous (2)
Erin Hall & Eric Blitzstein
Whitney Harper & Jen Mason
Gerry & Edmund Palmer
Stephanie Rudnick
Christian Zimmermann

HEATHER WATTS EMERGING ARTS FUND

Jeffrey D. Byrne
Susan & Jeff Campbell
Andrea Labov Clark
Renee & Jeffrey Epstein
Theresa Jeevanjee
Jonna Mackin, Ph.D.

Jill & Kevin Plancher
Ronnie Potter
Rosalind Reed
Fran Schulman
Linda Waterhouse
Tina & David Wilson

* Since May 31, 2025

CELEBRATE THE BEAT SUPPORTERS

Lead support by Jill & Kevin Plancher

Hennessy-Allen
Dierdre & Ronnie Baker
Jeffrey D. Byrne
Susan & Jeff Campbell
Andrea Labov Clark
Allie Coppeak
Holly & William Elliott
Shelly & Chris Jarnot
Anne-Marie & John Keane

Joyce & Paul Krasnow
Cynthia & Robert LeBreton
Eugenia Lubell
Jennifer Mason
Jane & Skip Netzorg
Renée Okubo
Rosalind Reed
Suzanne Westmoreland
Tina & David Wilson

SUPPORT THE FESTIVAL
at www.vaildance.org/support



SAVE THE DATE FOR 2026

Mark your calendars for Opening Night of next year's Vail Dance Festival on Friday, July 31, 2026. Consider becoming a donor to take advantage of many benefits including presale access!

**SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL LIST
TO BE IN THE LOOP WITH ALL
FESTIVAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.**



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

MARQUEE PRESENTER

Jody & John Arnhold | Arnhold Foundation

FESTIVAL SPONSORS



EMPOWERED BY

