



UPCLOSE WITH **DAMIAN WOETZEL**

Sunday, August 2, 2026
Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater

*Generously Underwritten by Jeffrey Byrne, additional support
provided by Rosalind Reed.*

UpClose with Damian Woetzel

ALEXEI RATMANSKY

Artist-In-Residence

ADJI CISSOKO

Alonzo King LINES Ballet

HERMAN CORNEJO ELIJAH GEOLINA DANIEL GUZMÁN

CATHERINE HURLIN BROOKS LANDEGGER

CHLOE MISSELDINE MICHAEL DE LA NUEZ CALVIN ROYAL III

American Ballet Theatre

PRESSTON CHAMBLEE SARA MEARNs MIRA NADON

UNITY PHELAN RYAN TOMASH KLOE WALKER

New York City Ballet

PHILIP DUCLOS

Royal Danish Ballet

MADDIE CABRAL SOFÍA DORANTES MICHAEL FLECK

ANNA GORMAN CHELSEA HOY

Trinity Irish Dance Company

LIL BUCK MICHELLE DORRANCE

ROBBIE FAIRCHILD DARIO NATARELLI

EMIKO NAKAGAWA MELISSA TOOGOOD

AUDREY TOVAR-DUNSTER

ABT Studio Company

Scholar-In-Residence

Piano:

ANNE-MARIE MCDERMOTT MICHAEL SCALES

MORIAH TRENK

Kora: YOUNG CISSOKHO Violin: JOHNNY GANDELSMAN

Drums: ELIZA SALEM

Vocals:

KATE DAVIS CAROLINE SHAW DAVÓNE TINES

UPCLOSE FEATURED WORKS INCLUDE:

Mozartiana (1981)

Music by Peter Ilyitch Tschaikovsky
Choreography by George Balanchine
©The George Balanchine Trust

Rubies (1967)

Music by Igor Stravinsky
Choreography by George Balanchine
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Afternoon of a Faun (1953)

Music by Claude Debussy
Choreography by Jerome Robbins
©The Robbins Rights Trust

Diamonds (1967)

Music by Igor Stravinsky
Choreography by George Balanchine
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Serenade (1935)

Music by Peter Ilyitch Tschaikovsky
Choreography by George Balanchine
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Tschaikovsky Pas de Deux (1960)

Music by Peter Ilyitch Tschaikovsky
Choreography by George Balanchine
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Stars and Stripes (1958)

Music by John Philip Sousa
Choreography by George Balanchine
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Don Quixote (1869)

Music by Ludwig Minkus
Choreography by Marius Petipa

No Nonsense (2022)

Music by Composer-In-Residence Caroline Shaw
Choreography by Pam Tanowitz

Wartime Elegy (2022)

Music by Valentin Silvestrov
Choreography by Artist-In-Residence Alexei Ratmansky

Du Bist Die Ruh (1977)

Music by Franz Schubert
Choreography by Richard Tanner

GEORGE BALANCHINE (1904-1983) Regarded as the most influential and celebrated ballet choreographer in history, George Balanchine studied at the Imperial Ballet School in St. Petersburg, Russia, and served as Ballet Master for Diaghilev's Ballets Russes before emigrating to the United States and establishing the School of American Ballet in 1933, with Lincoln Kirstein. In 1948, Balanchine and Kirstein founded the New York City Ballet, where Balanchine served as Artistic Director and choreographed the majority of its performed works up until his death in 1983. Over the course of his career he choreographed over 450 works, many of which continue to be performed today around the world.

MARIUS PETIPA Born in France, Petipa became a Principal Dancer for the Imperial Theatre in St. Petersburg in 1847. After his dance career ended, he turned to choreography as the Imperial Theatre's Premier Ballet Master. His creations represent a majority of the classical ballet canon, including *Don Quixote* (1869), *La Bayadère* (1877), *Sleeping Beauty* (1890), *Swan Lake* (1895), and *Raymonda* (1898).

ALEXEI RATMANSKY // ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE Acclaimed choreographer Alexei Ratmansky is the Vail Dance Festival's Artist in Residence for the 2026 Festival, marking his first time in Vail to participate in the collaborative multidisciplinary Festival. Ratmansky's works have been performed in Vail over the last years, including *Fandango* which was commissioned by the Festival in 2010. Born in St. Petersburg, Russia, Alexei Ratmansky is of Ukrainian descent and trained at the Bolshoi Ballet School in Moscow prior to becoming a Principal Dancer with the Ukrainian National Ballet, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, and the Royal Danish Ballet. From 2004 to 2008, he was the Artistic Director of the Bolshoi Ballet. He served as Artist in Residence at American Ballet Theatre from 2008 to 2023, and in 2023 became Artist in Residence at New York City Ballet. He is also Associate Artist with Dutch National Ballet, and his work is performed by nearly all major international ballet companies.

JEROME ROBBINS (1918-1998) Jerome Robbins is world renowned for his work as a choreographer of ballets as well as his work as a director and choreographer in theater, movies, and television. Among the more than 60 ballets he created are *Fancy Free* (1944), *Afternoon of a Faun* (1953), *Dances At a Gathering* (1969), *Glass Pieces* (1983) and *Ives, Songs* (1988), which are in the repertoires of New York City Ballet and other major dance companies throughout the world. His Broadway shows include *On the Town* (1944), *The King and I* (1951), *Peter Pan* (1954), *West Side Story* (1957), *Gypsy* (1959), and *Fiddler on the Roof* (1964). In addition to receiving two Academy Awards for the film *West Side Story*, Robbins received four Tony Awards, five Donaldson Awards, two Emmy Awards, the Screen Directors' Guild Award, and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award.

RICHARD TANNER is a choreographer and former dancer whose work spans decades of American ballet. Born in Phoenix, Arizona, he began his dance training with Robert Lindgren and Sonja Tyven before earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Utah. He continued his studies at the School of American Ballet, one of the country's most prestigious training institutions. Tanner launched his performing career as a Soloist with Ballet West in Oklahoma from 1967 through 1970, then joined New York City Ballet, where he danced for ten years. During that time, he developed the choreographic voice that would define his later career, creating his first two works for New York City Ballet in 1971. His administrative and

artistic leadership roles are equally distinguished. From 1981 to 1983, Tanner served as Regisseur Generale at American Ballet Theatre, followed by five years as Associate Artistic Director of the Pennsylvania Ballet from 1985 to 1990. These positions reflect both his deep knowledge of the repertory and his capacity to shape company-wide artistic vision.

PAM TANOWITZ is a NYC-based choreographer. Her company, Pam Tanowitz Dance, has performed at Bard Summerscape festivals (2016, 2018, 2021, 2022, 2025), La Biennale di Venezia, Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Barbican Centre, Lincoln Center and New York City Center. She has created three ballets for The Royal Ballet and is currently working on a fourth. Other companies that have danced her dances are New York City Ballet, Paul Taylor Dance Company, Martha Graham Dance Company, Miami City Ballet, and Australian Ballet. She has also created dances for Vail Dance Festival and The Juilliard School. Artistic highlights include Fisher Center at Bard Choreographer-in-Residence (present), Doris Duke Award (2020), LMCC Liberty Award for Artistic Leadership (2022), NYCC Artist at the Center (2023), Jacob's Pillow Award (2024), Herb Alpert Award (2019), Juilliard Creative Associate (2024, 2025) and Assistant Professor of Professional Practice at Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University (present).

CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON (Director & Choreographer) trained at The Royal Ballet School and joined The Royal Ballet in 1991. In 1993, he joined New York City Ballet and was promoted to Soloist in 1998. He was named NYCB's first Resident Choreographer in July 2001. Since then, Mr. Wheeldon has created and staged productions for many of the world's major ballet companies: San Francisco Ballet, The Bolshoi Ballet, The Mariinsky Ballet, The Paris Opera Ballet, The Royal Ballet and Hamburg Ballet among others. In 2014, Mr. Wheeldon directed and choreographed the Broadway musical version of *An American in Paris*, which had productions in Paris, New York, and London and has toured extensively through America, China, Japan and Australia. Most recently he directed and choreographed *MJ The Musical* which opened on Broadway in February 2022, winning the Tony Award for Best Choreography.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

These performances of *MOZARTIANA*, *STARS AND STRIPES*, *RUBIES*, *TSCHAIKOVSKY PAS DE DEUX*, and *SERENADE*, Balanchine Ballets®, are presented in accordance with the Balanchine Style® and Balanchine Technique® service standards established and provided by the Trust.

This performance of *AFTERNOON OF A FAUN* is presented with permission of the Robbins Rights Trust.

MOZARTIANA, *STARS AND STRIPES*, *RUBIES*, *AFTERNOON OF A FAUN*, *TSCHAIKOVSKY PAS DE DEUX*, *DON QUIXOTE*, and *SERENADE* are made possible by support from The Carol F. Storr Endowment for Classical Ballet.

THANK YOU

The Vail Valley Foundation extends its sincere gratitude to all patrons whose commitment has made it possible for the 2026 Vail Dance Festival to achieve an extraordinary level of success, with special thanks to:

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THREE UNIQUE INTERNATIONAL EVENINGS

The below performances take place at the Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater, in Vail, CO.

Our annual Gala performances are just days away, and we're excited to unveil an extraordinary lineup of iconic works, thrilling debuts, and unforgettable performances.

FRIDAY // AUGUST 7 // 7:00PM

International Evenings of Dance I

Celebrate The Beat kicks off an unforgettable evening with works by Festival Artists including Lil Buck, Catherine Hurlin, Sara Mearns, Roman Mejia, Chloe Misseldine, Takumi Miyake, Mira Nadon, Tiler Peck, Unity Phelan, Calvin Royal III, contemporary Ukrainian duo Vladyslav Detiuchenko & Veronika Rakitina, and more.

SATURDAY // AUGUST 8 // 5:00PM

International Evenings of Dance II

Enjoy an earlier evening performance featuring a preview of a new collaboration between Trinity Irish Dance Company's Chelsea Hoy & Michelle Dorrance as well as performances by Chun Wai Chan, Naomi Corti, Robbie Fairchild, Daisy Kate Jacobson, Lauren Lovette, Takumi Miyake, Mira Nadon, Unity Phelan, Veronika Rakitina & Vladyslav Detiuchenko, Melissa Toogood, Indiana Woodward, Trinity Irish Dance Company, and more.

SATURDAY // AUGUST 8 // 8:00PM

International Evenings of Dance III

The evening concludes with a celebration of Festival artistry, featuring a preview of Robert Battle's new work for Calvin Royal III, role debuts and Vail-only collaborations by Festival stars including Lil Buck, Michelle Dorrance, Robbie Fairchild, Catherine Hurlin, Sara Mearns, Roman Mejia, Chloe Misseldine, Mira Nadon, Tiler Peck, Melissa Toogood, and many more.

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