

PREMIERE PRODUCTION

# Swing, Swing, Swing!



Saturday, October 2, 2010 • 8 pm  
Omaha's Orpheum Theater

# Ballet

NEBRASKA  
[balletnebraska.org](http://balletnebraska.org)

*Presented with the support of the Iowa West Foundation,  
the Nebraska Arts Council, and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment*



## The Story of Ballet Nebraska

Ballet Nebraska is the region's only professional dance company. The company's mission is to enrich the communities of Nebraska and Iowa through professional dance performance, educational programs, and community outreach.

Ballet Nebraska was formed out of a talented group of professionals from the Omaha Theater Ballet in anticipation of its closing in February 2010.

Ballet Nebraska will not only fill this void, but will take the opportunity to expand its artistic offerings to the community. As expressive artists, powerful athletes, and skilled teachers, Ballet Nebraska's company members will provide the community with an unparalleled experience in the arts and play a key role in the vitality of our region.

For the latest from Ballet Nebraska, bookmark our website at [balletnebraska.org](http://balletnebraska.org).

## Director's Notes

Dear Friends –

I am thrilled to welcome you to Ballet Nebraska's company premiere! It's a very special evening that marks an incredible turnaround for professional dance in our community. The support and dedication that so many people have shown is truly a beautiful thing. I hope you all share in our sense of excitement and pride as we celebrate Ballet Nebraska and what the future holds.

Upcoming this fall, join the Joslyn Art Museum and Ballet Nebraska as we partner on an engaging new project. From October 15 through November 15, visit the museum to view three special selections and vote on your favorite. The winning work will be the inspiration for a new ballet presented on our *Momentum* repertory concert in February. *Momentum* will also feature works in a variety of styles by a talented roster of guest choreographers and is sure to be an exhilarating evening of dance.

In December, we will present *The Nutcracker* on tour at the Sami Bedell Center for the Performing Arts in Spirit Lake, Iowa, and are working with Omaha Performing Arts and the Rose Theater to manage rehearsals for local children in Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's *The Nutcracker*. In May, join us at the Rose Theater for Oskar Antunez' brilliant interpretation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

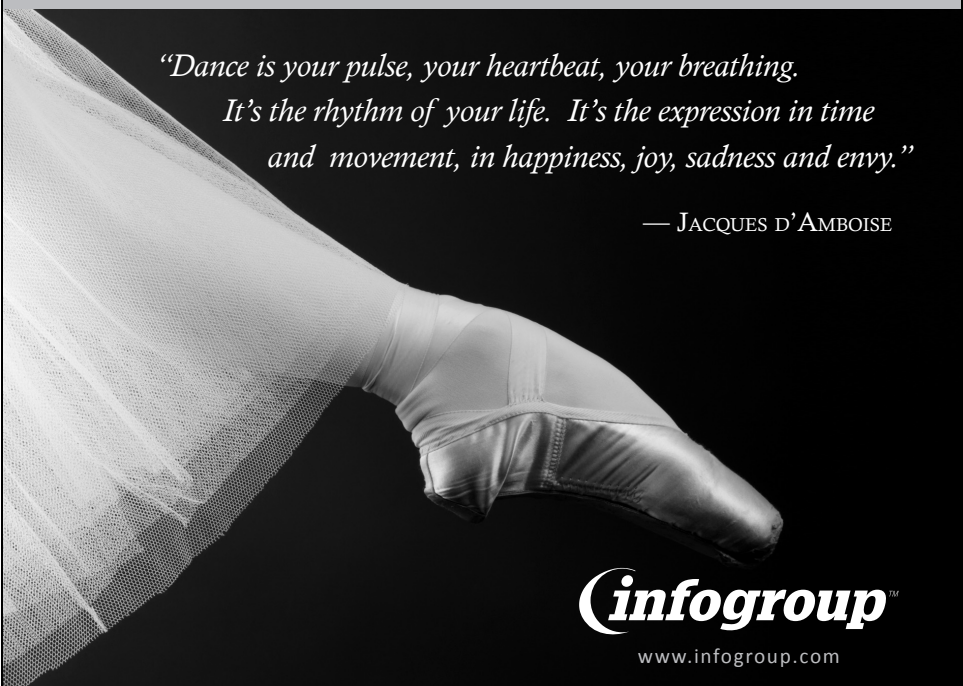
If you haven't already subscribed, don't miss a step of our premiere season! Petite-subscriptions that include *Momentum* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* ensure great seats and savings on tickets.

In addition to performances, Ballet Nebraska will be active throughout the community this season in educational and outreach activities. Please visit our website, [balletnebraska.org](http://balletnebraska.org), to learn more about the exciting happenings of Ballet Nebraska and how you can become involved.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you to everyone who has helped make Ballet Nebraska possible. We look forward to contributing to the cultural vibrancy of our great community!



### Celebrating Ballet Nebraska's Inaugural Season



*“Dance is your pulse, your heartbeat, your breathing.  
It’s the rhythm of your life. It’s the expression in time  
and movement, in happiness, joy, sadness and envy.”*

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*(continued on next page)*

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*††An extraordinary  
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for underwriting  
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## Special thanks to:

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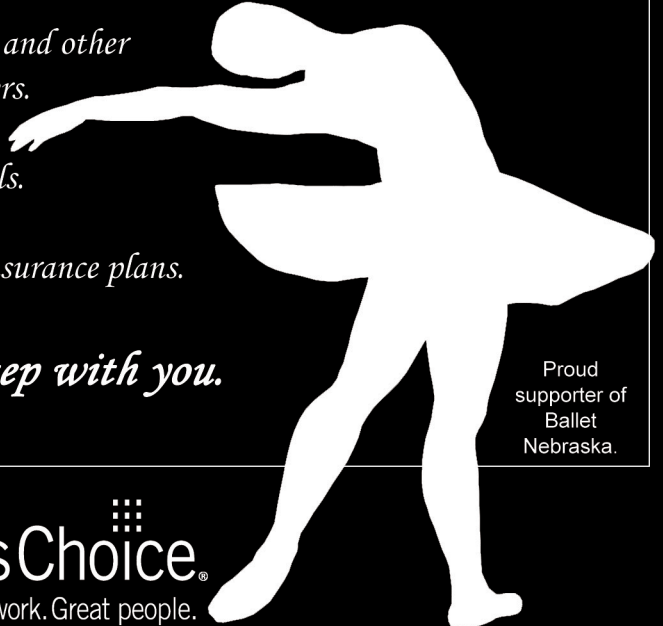
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**Ballet Nebraska**  
Erika Overturff, Artistic Director  
presents

# Swing, Swing, Swing!

Choreographer .....Harrison McEldowney  
Ballet Master .....Matthew Carter  
Scenic Designer .....Kathy Voecks  
Costume Designer .....Mona Schlautman  
Lighting Designer .....Michael Arch  
Music ..... Various Musical Artists  
from the '30s and '40s

## Company Artists

Matthew Carter	Claire Goodwillie	Natasha Grimm
Alberto Liberatoscioli	Risa Mochizuki	Erika Overturff
Mikhail Ronnikov	Bret Samson	Jennifer Weber
Sasha York		Angela Zolczynski

## Guest Artist

Wade Schaaf

## Apprentices

Erin Alarcón                      Kelsey Schwenker

## Featuring the DoyleMusic Combo

Leader, Trumpet ..... Doyle Tipler  
Saxophone, Clarinet ..... Ken Janak  
Vocals ..... Suzie Mertz  
Guitar ..... Jeff Scheffler  
Bass ..... Mark Haar  
Drums ..... Carlos Figueroa

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Ballet Nebraska presents

# Swing, Swing, Swing!

Orpheum Theater, Slosburg Hall • October 2, 2010

## Synopsis:

It's World War II, and a patriotic fervor unites the nation as Americans support both each other and their collective cause. Our scene is set with soldiers embarking on their daily routine – energized by spirit and determination.

At the same time, a bevy of hostesses prepares for the task ahead of them: providing entertainment to the servicemen on leave at New York's Stage Door Canteen. The soldiers seek a happy refuge from the rigors of war at this famous establishment. Big Band music, swing dancing and a host of performers offer much-needed recreation to these American heroes. One lucky man even finds love at the canteen and a girl to call his own.

The soldiers are shipped off to defend the nation. With the men away at war, the women assume the duties left behind – joining the workforce and coining the phrase “Rosie the Riveter.” Overseas, the soldiers reflect on the nature of GI life and dream of Vargas calendar girls. Back in New York, a hostess from the Stage Door Canteen longs for the return of her new love, while he simply dreams of home.

A nation rejoices as the war ends and the soldiers return home. The young lovers reunite and dream of being a “Me & Mrs. You.” In celebration, the Stage Door Canteen once again comes alive to the sounds of *Swing, Swing, Swing!*

## Program: Scene I

The Barracks.....Matthew Carter, Alberto Liberatoscioli,  
Mikhail Ronnikov, Sasha York

Hostess Lounge.....Claire Goodwillie, Natasha Grimm, Erika Overturff,  
Bret Samson, Jennifer Weber, Angela Zolczynski

### Stage Door Canteen

Eileen and Claude.....Erika Overturff, Sasha York

The Tappers.....Erin Alarcón, Kristen Goering†, Rachel Liu\*

The Rumba Jumps.....Matthew Carter, Jennifer Weber

Stardust .....Erika Overturff, Sasha York,  
Claire Goodwillie, Mikhail Ronnikov

The Flyers.....Natasha Grimm, Alberto Liberatoscioli,  
Wade Schaaf, Angela Zolczynski

Rooftop.....Erika Overturff, Sasha York

Return to the Canteen.....Full Company

**20-Minute Intermission**

## Program: Scene II

Outside the Canteen.....Matthew Carter, Alberto Liberatoscioli, Mikhail  
Ronnikov, Wade Schaaf, Sasha York

### Montage:

Rosie the Riveter .....Claire Goodwillie, Natasha Grimm, Bret Samson,  
Jennifer Weber, Angela Zolczynski

GI Jive.....Matthew Carter, Alberto Liberatoscioli, Mikhail  
Ronnikov, Wade Schaaf, Sasha York

Vargas Calendar Girls.....Emily Reiff\*, Kristen Goeringer†, Kelsey Schwenker,  
Erin Alarcón, Alicia Taubert†, Claire Goodwillie,  
Natasha Grimm, Bret Samson, Jennifer Weber,  
Angela Zolczynski, Teresa Coulter\*, Erika Overturff

Waiting for the Train .....Erika Overturff

Home .....Sasha York

Back at the Canteen .....Full company plus Kristen Goeringer†,  
Madelaine Hock\*, Maggie Hubbell\*  
Madeline Koesters\*, Eva Miller\*, Cleo Rogers\*,  
Alicia Taubert†, Lauren Uhlig\*

Me & Mrs. You.....Erika Overturff, Sasha York

Finale .....Full Company

† *Guest dancers*            \* *Members of Ballet Nebraska II*

Understudies: .....Katie Hickey\*, Rebecca Yuan\*

## Production Staff:

Production Coordinator .....Michael Arch

Technical Advisor .....Lance Glenn

Stage Manager .....Kaitlin Kitzmiller

Costume Staff.....Deborah Overturff, Director, with  
Kristin Harper, Elizabeth Houts, Mona Schlautman

Carpenter .....Joshua Mullady

Stagehand Services.....provided by IATSE Local 42

## Acknowledgements:

Accompanist.....Deb Jennings

Artistic Coach .....Elizabeth Nesi

Company Teacher.....Susan Chowning

Dance Administrator.....Jolie Koesters

Videographer.....Lance Glenn

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*Costumes and sets courtesy of The Rose Theater*

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## The DoyleMusic Combo

Performing onstage with the dancers in *Swing, Swing, Swing!*, the DoyleMusic Combo is a collection of some of the finest jazz musicians in the Omaha area. Its members have played with local groups including Luigi Inc., The Confidentials, Rave On, the Omaha Big Band, the Steve Raybine Band, and many more, as well as in the original Omaha Theater Ballet production of *Swing, Swing, Swing!*

The DoyleMusic Combo plays a variety of original music and jazz standards ranging from straight-ahead swing to uptempo Latin tunes, ballads, and a little funk as well. The instrumentation varies from a small trio for intimate settings, all the way up to a six- or seven-piece group for larger venues.

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# Harrison McEldowney, Guest Choreographer

Harrison returns to Omaha by popular demand. His production of *Swing, Swing, Swing!* for the Omaha Theater Ballet premiered to rave reviews, and he later returned to stage his entertaining duet *Let's Call It Off*. Harrison has choreographed for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Hubbard Street 2, River North Dance Company, the Civic Ballet of Chicago, the Cerqua/Rivera Art Experience, Ballet Met, American Repertory Ballet, Louisville Ballet, Chicago Shakespeare Repertory, and he was resident choreographer for Configurations Dance Company.



Harrison is the inaugural recipient of the Prince Prize and has received the Ruth Page, After Dark, and Choo-San Goh Awards for choreography. Other choreographic achievements include the opening work of the 10th Anniversary of Dance for Life, the finale of Dance Chicago's 10th Anniversary, the 35th Anniversary Tour of *American Bandstand*, directing the Australian Tour of *More Dirty Dancing*, the '92 Barcelona Olympics' Closing Ceremonies, and Carnegie Hall's *Celebration of 125 Years of Musical Theater*. He has choreographed for film and television and recently earned an Emmy nomination for his starring role in *Billy Sunday*. Harrison also directs shows for Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines including *Freedom of the Seas*, the world's largest cruise ship.



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# Ballet Nebraska Artistic Staff

## Erika Overturff, Artistic Director

Erika earned her BFA in ballet performance and teaching from the University of Utah, which she attended on a full scholarship. She graduated cum laude in just three years and was chosen outstanding senior by the ballet department faculty. Erika danced at Montgomery Ballet, Alabama Ballet, and Omaha Theater Ballet. She has performed soloist and principal roles in classical and contemporary repertoire, including originating the lead role in Harrison McEldowney's production of *Swing, Swing, Swing!*



As a choreographer, Erika has received critical praise for her work. Her original work, *The Diner*, was selected for performance at the prestigious Dance Chicago 15th Anniversary Spectacular. Erika's choreography includes *Ella*, *Rhapsody in Blue*, *Prison Blues*, *Feeling Good*, *Pizzicato Pas de Deux*, *Love Me or Leave Me* and *Tropico*. Erika served as répétitrice for Montgomery Ballet and resident choreographer for Omaha Theater Ballet. She has been a faculty member, choreographer, and guest teacher for schools throughout the United States. Erika is the founder of Ballet Nebraska.

## Sarah Maloney, Company Advisor

Originally from Omaha, Sarah Maloney received her ballet training from Ballet Omaha and Omaha Theater Ballet School of Dance. She joined Omaha Theater Ballet in 2001 and has performed a variety of roles including the lead in *French Songs*, and Betty Boop in *The Orpheum Nutcracker*. In 2008, Sarah graduated summa cum laude from Bellevue University with a BS in Healthcare Management.



Since 2003 she has also worked in a clinical hospital laboratory where she has developed her managerial and organizational skills. Sarah served as Director of the Omaha Theater Ballet Student Ensemble, where she was responsible for coordinating performance and outreach programs for after-school groups, assisted living facilities, and other community organizations. She currently works with Ballet Nebraska in an advisory capacity and also assists with rehearsals. Sarah was instrumental in founding Ballet Nebraska.



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- Write to Ballet Nebraska,  
PO Box 6413, Omaha, NE 68106

**BALLET**  
NEBRASKA

## Company Dancers



### Matthew Carter

Matthew Carter began his training with Sharon Filone at the Lake Erie Ballet School and Sandra Barnett at Little's Dance Studio. He went on to study on scholarship at North Carolina School of the Arts, Miami City Ballet School, and the Chautauqua Festival Dancers. Matthew has danced professionally with Ohio Ballet, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, Lake Erie Ballet, and Omaha Theater Ballet. He has also performed as a guest artist with Hawaii Ballet Theatre, Neglia Ballet Artists, and Ballet Tucson. Matthew has been choreographing since the age of 16 and has premiered works with numerous schools, professional companies, and theaters. He is the co-director of Motion41 Dance in Omaha and continues to serve as a guest teacher for schools throughout the country. Matthew returns to his professional dance roots this season as a dancer and ballet master for Ballet Nebraska.



### Claire Goodwillie

Claire Goodwillie began her ballet training at Omaha Theater Ballet School of Dance with Robin Welch. She spent summers training with the renowned Pacific Northwest Ballet and Ballet Austin. She has also trained in Banff, Canada. Claire appeared in numerous Omaha Theater Ballet productions including *The Sleeping Beauty*, *The Firebird* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Notable roles include Clara, a Snowflake, and a Flower in *The Nutcracker*, as well as a Mazurka Girl in *Coppélia*. She performed the role of Sugar Plum Fairy in a Christmas production at Omaha Theater Company. Claire joins Ballet Nebraska after spending one year as an apprentice with Omaha Theater Ballet.



### Natasha Grimm

Natasha Grimm trained with Robin Welch at the Omaha Theater Ballet School of Dance. She has also trained on scholarship with Kansas City Ballet, toured with Manhattan Dance, and performed with the Omaha Symphony and Opera Omaha. Natasha began her professional career with Omaha Theater Ballet, where she danced for three seasons. She has worked with many notable choreographers including Bill Hoteling, Kristin Sudeikis, Sean Curran, Paula Weber, Harrison McEldowney, Rochelle Zide and Kennet Oberly. Her favorite roles include Princess Vasilisa in *The Firebird*, Spanish and Arabian in *The Nutcracker*, The Gossip in *La Fille Mal Gardée*, and the dancing Amneris in *Aida*. Natasha joins Ballet Nebraska this season as a founding member.



### Alberto Liberatoscioli

Originally from Italy, Alberto received his training in Balanchine and Vaganova technique in Milan under Iride Sauri. He was a member of Slovak National Ballet where he performed in such classics as *Le Corsaire*, *La Bayadere*, and *Swan Lake*. Later, Alberto became a soloist at Columbia Classical Ballet in South Carolina, where he danced in productions such as *Tryptich*, *Rite of Spring*, and George Balanchine's *Scotch Symphony*. He also danced at Omaha Theater Ballet for one season. Alberto is a founding member of Ballet Nebraska.

## Company Dancers (continued)



### Risa Mochizuki

Risa Mochizuki hails from Tokyo, Japan, where she trained under master teacher Mitsuyo Kishibe. Risa went on to study with Maria Mechkarova at the Royal Ballet School of Flanders, later performing with the company. She has performed a variety of roles from the classical repertoire, including *Don Quixote*, *Paquita*, *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Le Corsaire*, *Diana and Acteon*, and *La Bayadere*, as well as contemporary works by Goyo Montero and Jiri Kylian. Risa has also been awarded medals at prestigious international ballet competitions including the Prix de Lausanne International Ballet Competition in Switzerland, Silver Medal at the Youth America Grand Prix in New York, and Silver Medal at the Sibiu International Ballet Competition in Romania.



### Mikhail Ronnikov

Mikhail Ronnikov received his dance training at the famed Bolshoi Ballet and the Moscow Choreographic Academy. Mikhail danced as principal dancer with Moscow Classical Ballet, Moscow City Ballet and the Russian Imperial Ballet. He also competed internationally, receiving a bronze medal at the prestigious Moscow International Ballet Competition. After moving to the United States, Mikhail danced with Colorado Ballet as a principal dancer. He has performed contemporary works of Douge Verone, Rick McCullough, Michael Pink, Twyla Tharp, Septime Webre and Christopher Wheeldon. Mikhail most recently danced with Russian National Ballet before joining Ballet Nebraska for the company's inaugural season.



### Bret Samson

Bret Samson began her dance studies at Lake Shore Dance in Wisconsin. She received her formal ballet training from Melissa Anderson and Rafael Delgado, and became a founding member of their performance group in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Bret has performed in classical and neoclassical ballets, including works by Delgado and Anderson, and Master Jean-Paul Commélin. She danced with Madison Ballet for one season, where she performed her favorite role, a mermaid in W. Earle Smith's world premiere of Peter Pan. Bret danced with Milwaukee Ballet II and as an apprentice with Omaha Theater Ballet, before joining Ballet Nebraska as a founding member.

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## Company Dancers (continued)



### Jennifer Weber

Jennifer began her dance training at Ballet Omaha under the direction of Robin Welch. She danced at Omaha Theater Ballet for three seasons, performing in Balanchine's *Valse Fantasia*, Norman Walker's *Prayer and Fantasy*, *The Nutcracker*, and *Coppélia*. She also performed with Opera Omaha, the Omaha Symphony, and the Shizuoka Ballet Festival in Japan. Jennifer danced as a member of Ballet Quad Cities for six seasons, performing in several of Johanne Jakhelln's works including *Lyric for Strings*, Edith in *From the Pages of a Young Girl's Life*, the Violet Fairy in *The Sleeping Beauty*; Matthew Keefe's *The Nutcracker*; and the Pas de Trois from *Danses Concertantes*. Jennifer has taught dance throughout the Midwest. She currently still teaches in the Iowa City area and has recently received her yoga certification. Jennifer holds both a BA degree in mathematics from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, where she graduated summa cum laude, and an MFA in dance from the University of Iowa.



### Sasha York

Originally from Chelyabinsk, Russia, Sasha started his ballet training at Paavola School of Dance in Flint, Michigan. He later returned to Russia, where he trained with Urey Urivich. Sasha was accepted into the pre-professional program at Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, where he performed in company productions of *Don Quixote*, *The Nutcracker*, *Peter Pan*, and *Alice in Wonderland*. He has worked with many well-known choreographers such as Harrison McEldowney, Viktor Plotnikov and Septime Webre. Prior to joining Ballet Nebraska, Sasha danced as a company member for two seasons at Omaha Theater Ballet, performing roles such as Snow King in *The Nutcracker* and the lead in McEldowney's *Swing, Swing, Swing!*



### Angela Zolczynski

Originally from Rapid City, South Dakota, Angela is a graduate of the prestigious Walnut Hill School for the Arts in Natick, Massachusetts. She received her ballet training from Michael Owen of American Ballet Theater. Angela performed with Omaha Theater Ballet for six seasons, dancing in numerous works including *The Firebird*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Romeo and Juliet*. Angela performed many soloist roles including Chinese in *The Imperial Nutcracker*, and Lead Mazurka in *Coppélia*. A dedicated instructor, Angela has taught ballet, jazz, and tap in Omaha for six years. She also served as assistant director of Omaha Theater Ballet's Student Ensemble for three years. Angela is a founding member of Ballet Nebraska.



### **Guest Artist: Wade Schaaf**

Guest artist and a current Chicago resident, Wade graduated cum laude from Northern Illinois University with a BFA in theater arts with an emphasis in dance performance. He has danced with Ohio Ballet, State Street Ballet-Santa Barbara, Omaha Theater Ballet, and River North Chicago Dance Company. Wade has worked with such well-known choreographers as Septime Weber, Stephen Mills, Kennet Oberly, Bill Solean, Frank Chavez, and Laurie Stallings. He danced the roles of Tybalt in *Romeo and Juliet* and Jonathan in Oberly's *Dracula*. Wade also performed the snow pas de deux in *The Nutcracker*. A gifted choreographer, he has staged his own work at Omaha Theater Ballet and Groundwork Company. Wade currently dances at Thodos Dance Chicago, where he recently premiered his original work *Awakenings*.



### **Apprentice: Erin Alarcón**

A native of New Jersey, Erin Alarcón received her dance training under Christine Taylor and Luba Gulyaeva of New Jersey Civic Youth Ballet, where she performed a number of classic roles and contemporary works. During the summers, she studied with Eglevsky Ballet and The Joffrey Ballet. Erin earned her Bachelor of Arts in dance performance at Mercyhurst College under the direction of Tauna Hunter.



### **Apprentice: Kelsey Schwenker**

A Boulder, Colorado, native, Kelsey trained with Ballet Nouveau Colorado, where she was a five-year member of its student company, directed by Julia Wilkinson Manley. She has attended summer intensives with Kansas City Ballet, Burklyn Ballet Theatre, Boulder Jazz Dance Workshop and Paul Taylor Dance Company. Kelsey received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in ballet performance, graduating summa cum laude from the University of Oklahoma, where she trained with Mary Margaret Holt, Donn Edwards, Steve Brule and Jeremy Lindberg.

## **About: Ballet Nebraska II**

Joining the Ballet Nebraska professional company for this production are members of Ballet Nebraska II.

The Ballet Nebraska II company serves as a training ground for those highly motivated ballet dancers interested in pursuing a professional career in dance. These advanced dancers are exposed to life in a professional ballet company, including audition, rehearsal, and performance opportunities.

BN II members are selected by audition and perform in Ballet Nebraska productions and community and outreach performances throughout the year.



The Nebraska Arts Council, a state agency, has supported this program through its matching grants program funded by the Nebraska Legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment.



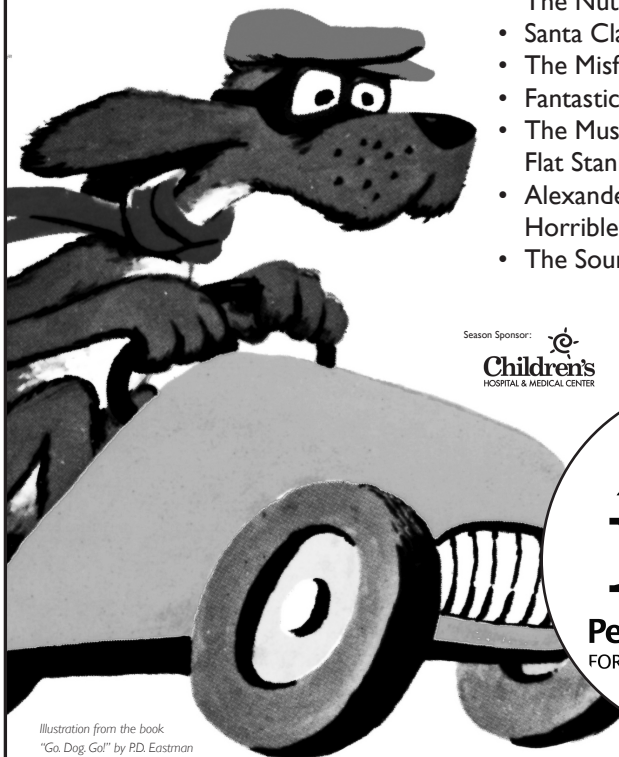
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