

Spring  
REP

Valley  
DANCE  
Theatre  
2026



Sat. May 23, 2026, 7 p.m.

Sun. May 24, 2026, 2 p.m.

Live at

**The Bankhead**



**Artistic Director & Choreographer**

Betsy Hausburg

**Assistant Director**

Madison Adkins

**Guest Conductor**

Timothy Harris

**Conductor**

Don Adkins

**Director Emeritus of the Valley Dance Theatre Pit Orchestra**

H. Robert Williams

**Scenic Design**

Jean Francois Revon

**Announcer**

John Dooley

**Lighting Design**

Illia Campbell

**Stage Manager**

Greg Adkins

**Rehearsal Captain**

Alana Bourguet

**Wardrobe Supervisor**

Christy Ruzicka

**Guest Artist:** Roberto Vega Ortiz

**Artist in Residence:** Alana Bourguet

**Company**

Anna Clark	Jessica Cooley	Elizabeth Foster	Camille Grondalski
Sonia Lastochkina	Helen Lieberman	Rachael Norton	Tatum Ryan
	Avery Steill	Alexa Stewart	

**Men of the VDT**

Aarul Agarwal	Kegan Bourguet	Harry Dunne	Elijah Estep
Noah Estep	Alex Foster	Joe Mancini	Brayden Metkiff
Matthew Mollica	Frankie Peppel	Devon Price	Henry Rogers
Carson Tibbens	Owen Toomey	Alexander Vovenko	

**Apprentices**

Vera Bardoliwalla	Penelope Bendezu	Amaris Clark
Grace Harris	Katelyn Hendricks	Katie Kamena
Maya Louie	Maya Maker	Bani Mehta
Juniper Merl	Mackenzie Mindoro	Elizabeth Monteith
Coraline Moody-Johnson	Riya Penmethsa	Myra Singhal
	Aubrey Thorpe	

## Board of Directors 2025–2026

Jennifer Foster—*President*

Nathan Dreyfus—*Treasurer*

Rochelle Abrantes—*Secretary*

Lesli Norton—*Vice Secretary*

Sandi Becker    Tory Bettencourt    Liz Heaney

Margaret Kamena    Amber Metkiff

Betsy Hausburg—*Artistic Director (ex officio)*

### *Student Liaisons*

Alex Foster

Elizabeth Foster

Camille Grondalski

Tatum Ryan

## Dance Instructors

Betsy Hausburg—*Artistic Director*

Madison Adkins—*Assistant Director*

Virgil Angulo

Alana Bourguet

Kristin Ellis Delsoldato

Audra Edwards

Meera Memula

Genoa Sperske

## Valley Dance Theatre Wind Ensemble

### Guest Conductor

Timothy Harris

### Flute

Beverly Johnson

### Oboe

Jeff Lenigan

### Clarinet

James Aldous

Christy Diggins

Michelle Ho

Duy Tran

### Bass Clarinet

Kathy Boster

### Bassoon

Katie Brunner

Richard Krishnan

### Saxophone

Greg Conway

Zachry Taburaza

Mike Wilson

### Horn

Adrienne Chambers

Jim Hartmann

Roger Henderson

Jeremy Lawton

### Trumpet

Steve Azevedo

Bob Bryant

David Reinke

Melody Minto

### Trombone

Alex Bond

Chris Lawon

Marilyn Tashjian

### Euphonium

Dave Otteson

### Tuba

Cody Ng

### Timpani

Casey Tompkins

### Percussion

Christian Gerardo

Phil Kerr

Adam Vue

*(musicians are listed alphabetically within their sections)*

---

# Peter and the Wolf

**Choreography:** Betsy Hausburg

**New Choreography and Re-staging:** Alana Bourguet

**Music:** Sergei Prokofiev

**Costume Designers:** Erin Smith and Christy Ruzicka

**Narrator:** Avery Steill

## Featuring the Valley Dance Theatre Wind Ensemble

**Peter** Amaris Clark

**Wolf** Elizabeth Foster

**Grandfather** Matthew Mollica

**Bird** Riya Penmethsa

**Cat** Elizabeth Monteith

**Duck** Coraline Moody-Johnson

**Huntsmen**

Brielle Pedroni, Zoey Schnurbusch, Sophie Suttora

**Ducklings**

Leah Estep, Danica Johnson, Eleanor Krakora

**Toadstools**

Madeleine Krakora, Rosie Mikolajczyk,  
Stella Mikolajczyk, Sivan Ross

**Flowers**

Nora Craig, Dakota Johnson, Addison Simas

**Turtles**

Hannah Estep, Nysa Singhal, Ellery Thissen

**Bunnies**

Julia Cartegena, Nina Cartegena, Isabella Classen

**Skunk**

Wafer Wilson

---

# American in Paris

**Choreography:** Betsy Hausburg

**Music:** George Gershwin

**Costumes:** Betsy Hausburg

## Gendarmes courtesy of Triple Threat Performing Arts

**American Couple**

Tatum Ryan and Owen Toomey

**French Couple**

Alana Bourguet and Devon Price

**Baker & Tart**

Aarul Agarwal and Camille Grondalski

**Dog Walker**

Everly Peppel

**Poodles**

Maiselle Adkins, Lily Gross, Harley Berry Polash

**François**

Dashiell

**Gendarmes**

Kennedy Gandolfo, Gigi Gervase, Charlotte Healy

**Waitress**

Aubrey Thorpe

**Tourist**

Avery Steill

**Madeleines**

Marlee Adkins, Inez Hering, Helena Pan, Ariana Williams

**Ruffians**

Noah Estep, Frankie Peppel, Carson Tibbens

**Bread Hawker**

Elijah Estep

**Lead Masquerade Dancer:**

Alexa Stewart

**Masquerade Corps**

Grace Harris, Katelyn Hendricks,  
Sonia Lastochkina, Helen Lieberman,

**Men**

Joe Mancini, Matthew Mollica, Henry Rogers

---

# Intermission

---

## Pineapple Poll

**Choreography:** Betsy Hausburg

**Music:** Sir Arthur Sullivan

**Featuring the Valley Dance Theatre Wind Ensemble**

**Pineapple Poll** Rachael Norton

**Jasper** Brayden Metkiff

**Captain** Alex Foster

**Fiancée** Anna Clark

**Mother** Maya Maker

**Pineapples Sisters** Marlee Adkins and Ariana Williams

**Young Couples** Mackenzie Mindoro and Frankie Peppel;  
Bani Mehta and Noah Estep; Riya Penmenthsa and Carson Tibbens;  
Myra Singhal and Kegan Bourguet

**Jasper's Jilted Girlfriend** Juniper Merl

**Older Couples** Katie Kamena and Devon Price;  
Maya Louie and Harry Dunne; Vera Bardoliwalla and Alexander Vovenko;  
Camille Grondalski and Owen Toomey

---

## Pas Classique

**Choreography:** Victor Gsovsky

**Re-staging:** Madison Adkins

**Music:** Daniel-Francois Auber

Alana Bourguet and Roberto Vega Ortiz

---

## Red, White, and Blue

**Choreography:** Madison Adkins

**Music:** John Philip Sousa & U.S. Military Anthems

## Washington Post

**Music:** John Philip Sousa

Entire Ensemble

## Coast Guard

**Music:** Semper Paratus, Latin for "Always Ready," is the official march of the United States Coast Guard, composed in 1927 by U. S. Coast Guard Captain Francis Saltus Van Boskerck

**Red Skirts** Anna Clark, Grace Harris, Rachael Norton, Tatum Ryan

## Marine Corps

**Music:** "Halls of Montezuma," the Marines' hymn, was introduced by the first director of the USMC Band, Francesco Maria Scala.

It is typically sung at the position of attention as a gesture of respect.

**Blue Skirts** Penny Bendezu, Jessica Cooley,  
Bani Mehta, Juniper Merl

## Navy

**Music:** “Anchors Aweigh” is the official fight song for the Naval Academy and the march song of the U. S. Navy. It was composed in 1906 by Lieutenant Charles A. Zimmermann with lyrics by Midshipman First Class Alfred Hart Miles.

**Unitards’ Escorts** Aarul Agarwal, Harry Dunne, Alex Foster,  
Elizabeth Foster, Brayden Metkiff, Henry Rogers, Alexander Vovenko

## Army

**Music:** “The Caissons Go Rolling Along”— The Army was eager to find an official song of its own. There was a contest in 1948 to find one, but the Army decided to keep the melody from the U. S. Field Artillery March composed in 1908 by Brigadier General Edmund L. Gruber, with new lyrics by Harold W. Arberg. The song was dedicated on Veterans Day in 1956.

**Unitards** Vera Bardoliwalla, Amaris Clark, Katelyn Hendricks, Katie Kamena,  
Sonia Lastochkina, Helen Lieberman, Maya Louie, Alexa Stewart

## Air Force

**Music:** “Wild Blue Yonder” — Originally called “Army Air Corps,” the title was changed to “Army Air Force” when the service was renamed. Since 1947, when the Air Force became a separate service, the song’s official title has been “The U. S. Air Force.”

Female Ensemble

## Stars & Stripes

**Music:** John Philip Sousa

Entire Ensemble

## About Valley Dance Theatre

The Valley Dance Theatre is a non-profit ballet company serving the Tri-Valley community. For more than 45 years, we have delighted audiences with beloved productions such as *The Nutcracker*.

As we prepare for next season’s *Nutcracker* performances, we hope to debut a beautiful new opening drop to enhance the magic of the production. However, the cost of creating this new set piece is significant.

Please consider supporting Valley Dance Theatre and helping us bring this exciting update to the stage for our community and future generations of dancers and audiences to enjoy.



Scan to donate to  
Madison Adkins's  
GoFundMe  
fundraiser for VDT.

## Summer Sessions 2026

### Session 1

Monday to Saturday  
June 15–27

### Session 2

Monday to Saturday  
July 6–18

### Session 3

Monday to Saturday  
July 27–August 8

**Fall classes begin on Monday August 17, 2026.**

## **Betsy Hausburg—Director**

After graduating cum laude with a BA in Dance from Butler University, **Betsy Hausburg** got her first professional job as soloist with the Syracuse Ballet Theatre. A year later, she took a job as costumer for the Hartford Ballet Company. When directorship of the company changed, she was rehired as company member and dean of students in charge of the two-year teacher training program. Betsy married and moved to California several years later. She founded the East Bay Ballet Theatre in Albany, California, and then went on to teach for Miss Penny's in Castro Valley. There she and Penny Tomasello founded the Valley Dance Theatre in 1980. Along with directing and teaching for the Valley Dance Theatre, Betsy was the choreographer for all Livermore High School musicals for 40 years, and she is the tuba player for the Livermore-Amador Symphony.

## **Timothy Harris—Guest Conductor**

Professor **Timothy Harris** is Director of Bands and Music Department Coordinator at Chabot College, where he directs the Wind Symphony and Chamber Winds. In addition to his duties at Chabot, he teaches at San Jose State University. Harris maintains an active schedule as a guest conductor, adjudicator, and clinician, with appearances at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, California All-State Music Education Conference, CMEA Bay Section Conference, Texas Music Educators Association Convention, Florida Citrus Bowl, and Carnegie Hall. He has published in the "Teaching Music Through Performance in Band" series as the author of research guides on the works of Larry Daehn, Yo Goto, and others. Harris has been awarded the Gilbert T. Freitas Award for Achievement in Music Education by the Bay Section of the California Music Educators Association and also the Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Teaching at Chabot College. Harris is a member of the College Band Directors National Association, California Band Directors Association, California Association for Music Education, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Music Fraternity of America.

## **Roberto Vega Ortiz—Guest Artist**

Born and raised in Puerto Rico and now based in Chicago, **Roberto Vega Ortiz** trained at Escuela de Ballets de San Juan, Conservatorio de Ballet Concierto de Puerto Rico, Escuela Especializada en Ballet Julián E. Blanco, and the Miami City Ballet School. He has performed across the United States and abroad, including a two-year tenure with Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo. He has danced with Ballet Concierto de Puerto Rico, Nashville Ballet, Diabolo Ballet, and Ballet Nacional de Cuba, among others. In 2020, Vega Ortiz co-founded Ballet22, serving as Artistic Director until 2023 and helping expand visibility for dancers historically excluded from classical ballet spaces. He founded EnbyBallet with Carlos Hopuy in 2024 to uplift trans, non-binary, and gender-expansive artists and to reshape how pointe work and narrative ballet appear on today's stages. He co-directs EnbyBallet and is expanding its performance and educational programs. Vega Ortiz is also the founder of ENBY Studios, where dancers can train, connect, and grow without hierarchy, gatekeeping, or gendered limitations.

## **Alana Bourguet—Artist in Residence**

Alana Bourguet is a junior faculty member and alumna of the Valley Dance Theatre. She started dancing with VDT when she was three years old. In her first *Nutcracker* she was a Mouse and Rosebud. Some of the roles she has performed over the years are Snow Queen and Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*, Bluebird in the Grand Pas de deux in *Sleeping Beauty*, Lucile Grahn in "Pas de Quatre," and, most recently, the Black Swan in *Swan Lake*.

## **Graduating Seniors**

Bios and news about our many graduating seniors this year will be posted on the VDT website. Use the QR code at right to have a look at [valleydancetheatre.com](http://valleydancetheatre.com)!



## Friends of the Ballet

### Directors

The Memula Family

### Platinum Angels

Nigel and Paige Clark  
Yolanda Fintschenko  
The Kamena Family  
Anik and Vineet Mehta  
The Ruzicka Family  
Mary Sibayan  
Heather Whitley

### Virtuosos

Muriel Dean  
The Krakora Family  
Linda Tinney  
The Singhal Family  
The Zengel Family

### Choreographers

Sandi Becker  
The Bourguet Family  
Marianne Mindoro

### Corps

The Dunne Family  
The Bardoliwalla Family  
Michaela Kashgarian  
Marin McElheny  
Peggy McGurk  
Cynthia Noppe  
The Stark Family

### Apprentices

Kathy and Dan Crawford

### Contributors

The Penmethsa Family

### Matching Grants

Cisco  
KLA  
LLNL  
Microsoft  
Google

### Corporate Sponsors

Mark's Electrical Services  
Orion Promotional Group  
Rosetta Roasting  
Patisserie by Simone  
Omega Road Winery

### Kristin Reams Bettencourt Memorial Scholarship Program

The McLean Family  
Dick Hatfield and  
Sally Swanson



Flower bouquets  
provided by  
Livermore Valley Florist

Directors	\$5,000+	Corps	\$100–\$249
Platinum Angels	\$1,000+	Apprentices	\$50–\$99
Virtuosos	\$500–\$999	Contributors	\$25–\$49
Choreographers	\$250–\$499		

### Your tax-deductible contribution would be much appreciated.

Please use the QR code shown on page 6 to donate through our GoFundMe fundraiser for a new opening backdrop for *Nutcracker* performances, or make a general donation by check:

Make checks payable to Valley Dance Theatre

Mail to Valley Dance Theatre  
2247-B Second Street  
Livermore, CA 94550

If you would like your donation used to support the Kristin Reams Bettencourt Memorial Scholarship program, please make your check payable to VDT Scholarship Fund.

For more information on our Company or ballet classes:

[office@valleydancetheatre.com](mailto:office@valleydancetheatre.com)  
(925) 243-0925  
[valleydancetheatre.com](http://valleydancetheatre.com)