

Spring
REP

Valley
DANCE
Theatre



Live at
The Bankhead

Sat. May 27, 2023, 7 p.m.

Sun. May 28, 2023, 2 p.m.



Artistic Director & Choreographer

Betsy Hausburg

Assistant Director

Madison Adkins

Executive Director

Karin Bunnell

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

H. Robert Williams

Scenic Design

Jim Wright

Jean Francois Revon

Conductor

Don Adkins

Lighting Design

Harold Waters

Stage Manager

Gregory Adkins

**Wardrobe Mistress
and Costumer**

Christy Ruzicka

**Tutu Design
and Construction**

Caryne Mount
Sarah Marlett-Loza

Guest Artists

Maxwell Simoes Roberto Vega

Principals and Company

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Rochelle Abrantes | Lyla Armstrong | Alana Bourguet | Olivia Callahan |
| Audrey Curtner | Olive Dooley | Emma Ferren | Alex Foster |
| Katherine Foster | Bridget Gervase | Grace Heaney | Hannah Henze |
| Grace Huang | Todd Kamena | Eliza Lloyd | Grace McVey |
| Lakshmi Nair | Rachael Norton | Eugenia Rose | Tatum Ryan |

Apprentices

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Vera Bardoliwalla | Anna Clark | April Clark | Camille Grondalski |
| Marisela Jones | Helen Lieberman | Sonia Lastochkina | Lila McVey |
| Alexa Metkiff | Brayden Metkiff | Avery Steill | Owen Toomey |
| | Raquel Toomey | Emmie Visaya | |

Dance Instructors

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Betsy Hausburg—Artistic Director | Madison Adkins—Assistant Director | | |
| Virgil Angulo | Kristin Delsoldato | Bryanna Cross | Meera Memula |
| Eugenia Rose | Genoa Sperske | Roberto Vega | |

Spring Rep 2023

The Rose Adagio

Music: Piotr Illyich Tchaikovsky, from *Sleeping Beauty*

Choreography 1890: Marius Petipa

Restaging for VDT 2023: Betsy Hausburg

Costumes: Caryne Mount and Betsy Hausburg

Aurora

Grace Huang

Suitors Alex Foster, Todd Kamena, Brayden Metkiff, Owen Toomey

Ladies in Waiting Lyla Armstrong, April Clark,
Grace McVey, Tatum Ryan

Chopin

Music: Frédéric Chopin, Waltz in C-sharp Minor

Choreography: Virgil Angulo

Ensemble Lyla Armstrong, Vera Bardoliwalla, Anna Clark,
Bridget Gervase, Eliza Lloyd,
Grace McVey, Lila McVey, Lexi Metkiff

The Shortest Day

*This is the night when you can trust that any direction you go,
you will be walking toward the dawn.*

The quotation above, by author Jan Richardson, refers to the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year. This dance was inspired by the transition from a time of short, dark days to a time where light brings hope and renewal.—Genoa Sperske

Music: Hendyamps Studios, “Beginning To End,” featuring Aimee Norris;
David Wingo, “Proposal,” from the film *Loving*
Hans Zimmer, “Time,” performed by 2Cellos

Choreography: Genoa Sperske

Soloist

Olive Dooley

Ensemble Alana Bourguet, Marisela Jones, Grace Heaney,
Grace Huang, Rachael Norton, Eugenia Rose, Avery Steill, Raquel Toomey

Carnival of the Animals

Featuring the Valley Dance Theatre Pit Orchestra

Music: Camille Saint-Saëns

Choreography: Kristin DelSoldato, Betsy Hausburg, Genoa Sperske

Costumes: Caryne Mount, Christy Ruzicka, Betsy Hausburg

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Zookeeper | Piper Sperske |
| Lioness | Alana Bourguet |
| Lion | Alex Foster |
| Cubs | Leah Estep, Avalon Pedroni, Charlotte Stark, Kyla Uchytıl, Quinley Visaya |
| Rooster | Anna Clark |
| Jackass | Sydney Kechter |
| Heads | Hannah Estep, Violet Giustino, Giselle Martin |
| Turtles | Kegan Bourguet, Carson Tibbons, Owen Toomey |
| Birds | Rachael Norton with Olivia Callahan, Audrey Curtner, Emma Ferran, Camille Grondalski, Helen Lieberman, Grace McVey, Lakshmi Nair, Tatum Ryan, Emmie Visaya |
| Peacock | Meera Memula |
| Elephants | Penelope Bendezu, Katie Kamena, Lilah Kaminsky, Juniper Merl |
| Cuckoos | April Clark, Bridget Gervase |
| Kangaroos | Marlena Adkins, Tallula Banks, Amaris Clark, Ava McKay, Everly Peppel, Ariana Williams |
| Jellyfish | Audrey Curtner |
| Goldfish | Brielle Pedroni |
| Mule | Todd Kamena |
| Mini-Mule | Pierce Peppel |
| Swan: | Katherine Foster |
| Cygnets | Alexis Agamir, Daphne Eddy, Hannah Estep, Violet Giustino, Giselle Martin, Nandita Nair, Riya Penmethsa |
| T-Rex Dinosaur | Olive Dooley |
| Fossils | Lyla Armstrong, Hannah Henze, Eliza Lloyd, Lila McVey, Alexa Metkiff, Raquel Toomey |
| Finale | Ensemble |

Intermission

Sleeping Beauty

Music: Piotr Illyich Tchaikovsky

Choreography 1890: Marius Petipa

Restaging for VDT 2023: Madison Adkins

Costumes: Caryne Mount and Betsy Hausburg

Procession

Queen Rochelle Abrantes
King Phil King
Ladies in Waiting Lyla Armstrong, April Clark,
Grace McVey, Tatum Ryan

Gentlemen and Ladies of the Court

Green: Owen Toomey with Bridget Gervase & Rachael Norton
Lilac: Brayden Metkiff with Marisela Jones & Avery Steill
Blue: Alex Foster with Katherine Foster & Grace Huang
Pink: Eliza Lloyd & Helen Lieberman

Aurora Variation

Aurora Emma Ferran
Prince Desire Maxwell Simoes

Bluebird Grand Pas de Deux

Alana Bourquet & Roberto Vega

The Jewels

Gold: Lakshmi Nair
Emerald: Olive Dooley
Sapphire: Audrey Curtner
Ruby: Grace Heaney

Puss & Boots and the White Cat

Hannah Henze and Madison Adkins

Lilac Fairy and her Petals

Lilac Fairy Olivia Callahan
Petals Vera Bardoliwalla, Camille Grondalski,
Sonia Lastochkina, Emmie Visaya

Sleeping Beauty Grand Pas de Deux

Emma Ferran & Maxwell Simoes

Finale

Ensemble

Board of Directors 2022–2023

Jennifer Foster — *President*

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Rochelle Abrantes — *Secretary*

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Brandon Ferran

Liz Heaney

Kristin Memula

Sandra Pastor

Student Liaisons

Alyssa Colin

Olive Dooley

Katherine Foster

Meera Memula

Artistic Director (ex officio)

Betsy Hausburg

Valley Dance Theatre Pit Orchestra

Violin I

Michael Peach

Juliana Zolynas

Violin II

Anushka Bora

Stacy Hughes

Karen Lydick

Viola

Nicole Targosz

Brandon Tran

Cello

Sora Kim

Sydney Dang

Bass

Navaz Jasavala

Flute

Stacie Manuel

Clarinet

Cyndy Salmon

Piano Solos

Angela Bu

Velma Lee

Conductor

Don Adkins

Betsy Hausburg Director

Upon 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 is the choreographer for all Livermore High School musicals and is the tuba player for the Livermore-Amador Symphony.

Don Adkins Conductor

Dr. Don Adkins has taught music in the Santa Cruz area, primarily at Cabrillo College, for the past 35 years. He has music degrees from Western Oregon State College in music education, the University of Idaho in composition, and the University of Missouri, Kansas City, in orchestral conducting. Don has taught for both public schools and organizations such as the Cabrillo Youth Strings. He conducts the Cabrillo College Community Orchestra and Livermore-Amador Symphony's summer youth orchestra, performs as a piano accompanist, directs music for musical theater, and is the music director at his church.

Audrey Curtner, Olive Dooley, Emma Ferran, and Lakshmi Nair Graduating Seniors

Audrey Curtner came to Valley Dance Theatre at just 3 years old, after attending VDT's production of *The Nutcracker*. She has been cast in many, many roles, starting with Mouse in 2009. Some favorite roles include Clara, Ribbons, Snow Queen, and Waltz Queen. Audrey has made lifelong friends at VDT, some of whom she started with in Discovering Dance so many years ago. She thanks Betsy and Maddie for making the studio what it is. They have helped her grow as a dancer and taught her discipline, perseverance, and the importance of hard work. More than that, they have offered support and encouragement. She will cherish the memories she has made here and apply the skills she has gained in college and beyond. Audrey is graduating from Livermore High School this June and will attend the University of California, Santa Cruz, in the fall, majoring in environmental studies. She hopes to come back and visit every *Nutcracker*.

Olive Dooley made their debut in the 2008 production of *The Nutcracker* as the littlest Rosebud. Since then, they have moved their way dutifully through the ranks of *Nutcracker* casting and performed countless roles at Valley Dance Theatre, their favorites being the Leaf Stomper in "Fall" of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, a "Paquita" corps member, Arabian Coffee in *The Nutcracker*, and of course the T-Rex in *Carnival of the Animals*. They would like to thank each and every teacher who helped them become a better dancer and person and would like to thank Genoa Sperske, Betsy Hausburg, and Madison Adkins specifically for all their support. Dooley hopes to continue dancing in the coming fall, while attending UC Irvine with a major in chemical engineering.

Emma Ferran is a senior at Livermore High School and has been dancing with Valley Dance Theatre for over ten years. She has danced a variety of roles ranging from an angel, to a little swan, to Sugar Plum Fairy. In addition to ballet, the VDT has presented Emma with a community that has come to include some of her closest friends. Emma would like to give a special shout-out to Audrey Curtner—her favorite dancer and best friend. This year, Emma is dancing the role of Aurora and would like to dedicate her performance to Audrey. This fall Emma will be attending the University of Utah, majoring in engineering.

Lakshmi Nair has been dancing with Valley Dance Theatre since 2014. Her favorite pieces with the company were "Waltz of the Flowers" from *The Nutcracker*, "Chicago," and "Dolores." Lakshmi would like to thank her parents for supporting and encouraging her since she started ballet at the age of 3. She would also like to thank the teachers at VDT, Maddie, Betsy, Kristin, Virgil, and Genoa and her friends in company, especially Grace who made classes so much fun. Lakshmi is extremely grateful to VDT for providing a space where she could grow as a dancer. She will miss dancing at the studio and performing at the Bankhead.

Lakshmi will be graduating from Amador Valley High School, where she was co-president of the Kids Against Hunger Club. Outside of school, she is also the founder of the nonprofit organization Art for Animals and has been practicing Bharatanatyam, a classical Indian dance form, since the age of 5. After graduating, she will be attending UCLA to pursue a degree in physiological sciences.

About Valley Dance Theatre

Valley Dance Theatre is the Tri-Valley's premier ballet company and celebrated 40 years of performances during 2021–2022. Its professionally staged production of *The Nutcracker* is one of the largest productions of this ballet in the Bay Area. Valley Dance Theatre's affiliated school offers classes in classical ballet for boys and girls ages 3 and up as well as adults.

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Please make checks payable to

Valley Dance Theatre

*If you would like your donation used to support
the Kristin Reams Bettencourt Memorial Scholarship program,
please write "scholarship fund" on the memo line of your check.*

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

School of the Valley Dance Theatre summer programs begin in June!

Summer Session I
June 18th to July 1st

Summer Session II
July 9th to July 22nd

Summer Session III
July 30th to August 12th

For more information on our Company or ballet classes:

office@valleydancetheatre.com

(925) 243-0925

valleydancetheatre.com

