



PITTSBURGH, PA Timeline

JANUARY 19-21, 2024

Class Venue: PITTSBURGH BALLET THEATRE

2900 Liberty Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15201 Ph: 412-281-0360

Performance Venue: PITTSBURGH PLAYHOUSE AT POINT PARK UNIVERSITY (PNC THEATRE)

350 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, PH: 412.392.8000

TIME	Friday JANUARY 19, 2024	LOCATION
3:00 - 3:30 pm	Check in Primary Division	Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre (PBT)
3:30 - 5:00 pm	PRIMARY Technique Evaluation	PBT
4:30 - 5:00 pm	Check-In Junior Group One Division	PBT
5:15 - 6:45 pm	JUNIOR GROUP ONE Technique Evaluation	PBT
6:15 - 6:45 pm	Check-In Junior Group Two Division	PBT
7:00 - 8:30 pm	JUNIOR GROUP TWO Technique Evaluation	PBT



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TIME	Saturday JANUARY 20, 2024	LOCATION
9:00 - 9:30 am	Check in Senior Division	PBT
9:30 - 11:00 am	SENIOR Technique Evaluation	PBT
11:00 am - 1:00 pm	Transition to Theater	
1:00 - 1:30 pm	Open Stage for Primary Contemporary	Pittsburgh Playhouse
1:30 - 3:20 pm	PRIMARY CONTEMPORARY DIVISION	Pittsburgh Playhouse
3:20 - 3:45 pm	Open Stage for Primary Classical	Pittsburgh Playhouse
3:45 - 5:45 pm	PRIMARY CLASSICAL DIVISION	Pittsburgh Playhouse
5:45 - 6:30 pm	Dinner	Pittsburgh Playhouse
6:00 - 6:30 pm	Open Stage for Junior Group One Contemporary	Pittsburgh Playhouse
6:30 - 7:45 pm	JUNIOR GROUP ONE CONTEMPORARY DIVISION	Pittsburgh Playhouse
7:45 - 8:15 pm	Open Stage for Ensemble Division	Pittsburgh Playhouse
8:15 - 9:15 pm	ENSEMBLE DIVISION	Pittsburgh Playhouse

***Additional Audition Opportunity: If dancers are not performing above, they may utilize this audition class held at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre.**

2:30 - 3:00 pm	Registration for BalletMet Summer Audition	PBT
3:00 - 4:30 pm	BalletMet Summer Audition	PBT



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TIME	Sunday JANUARY 21, 2024	LOCATION
8:30 am	Doors Open	Pittsburgh Playhouse
8:40 - 9:00 am	Open Stage for Junior Group Two Contemporary	Pittsburgh Playhouse
9:00 - 10:30 am	JUNIOR GROUP TWO CONTEMPORARY DIVISION	Pittsburgh Playhouse
10:30 - 10:50 am	Open Stage for Junior Group One Classical	Pittsburgh Playhouse
10:50 am - 12:30 pm	JUNIOR GROUP ONE CLASSICAL DIVISION	Pittsburgh Playhouse
12:30 - 1:15 pm	Lunch	Pittsburgh Playhouse
12:45 - 1:15 pm	Open Stage for Junior Group Two Classical	Pittsburgh Playhouse
1:15 - 2:55 pm	JUNIOR GROUP TWO CLASSICAL DIVISION	Pittsburgh Playhouse
2:55 - 3:15 pm	Open Stage for Senior Contemporary Division	Pittsburgh Playhouse
3:15 - 5:10 pm	SENIOR CONTEMPORARY DIVISION	Pittsburgh Playhouse
5:10 - 5:30 pm	Open Stage for Senior Classical Division	Pittsburgh Playhouse
5:30 - 7:40 pm	SENIOR CLASSICAL DIVISION	Pittsburgh Playhouse
8:15 - 8:45 pm	PANEL DISCUSSION FORUM	Pittsburgh Playhouse
8:45 - 9:30 pm	AWARDS	Pittsburgh Playhouse

***Additional Audition Opportunity: If dancers are not performing above, they may utilize this audition class held at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre.**

1:30 - 2:00 pm	Registration for ROCK School Summer Audition	PBT
2:00 - 4:00 pm	ROCK School Summer Audition	PBT

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Pittsburgh Semi-Final Jury



ETIENNE DIAZ

The Rock School for Dance -West, DIRECTOR

Etienne began his training at the Orlando Ballet School as the Founders' Scholarship Award Recipient and, following graduation, attended Florida State University with a full scholarship. Etienne danced in Teatrul de Balet Sibiu, Balletto del Sud, in Italy, Milwaukee Ballet in Wisconsin, and the National Opera of Bucharest in Romania where he performed many leading roles. In 2014, Etienne joined Philadelphia Ballet, where he rose to the rank of demi soloist dancing many leading roles. He has worked with renowned choreographers and distinguished artists including Fernando Bujones, Bruce Marks, Michael Pink, Vicente Nebrada, Alexei Ratmansky, Edward Clug, Johan Kobborg, Magaly Suarez, Nacho Duato, Matthew Neenan, Jiří Kylián, Fredy Franzutti, Christopher Wheeldon, Jean-Pierre Frohlich, and William Forsythe among others.

Etienne resumed his business administration studies at Temple University where he graduated with honors. Additionally, he was in the faculty at Bryn Mawr College for two years and Metropolitan Ballet Academy for eight years. Etienne has been part of the jury at the National Ballet Competition in Delaware and taught master classes for the World Ballet Competition for the past two years.



Marjorie Grundvig

Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, Head of Pre-Professional Division

Ms. Grundvig began her ballet training in her hometown of Davis, California, and with Marguerite Phares in Sacramento, California. Additionally, she spent summers on scholarship with San Francisco Ballet School. At the age of 17, Ms. Grundvig joined the North Carolina Dance Theatre. She continued her performing career as a soloist with both the Tulsa Ballet and the Boston Ballet. She has taught at the Boston Ballet, Margo Marshall School of Ballet, and the University of Oklahoma. She has guest taught at many schools, both nationally and internationally, in addition to touring nationally to audition students for the annual summer programs of Boston Ballet and PBT School. Ms. Grundvig directed the ballet department of the Washington Academy of Performing Arts in Seattle prior to being appointed co-director of Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School in August 2005. Since starting at PBT, Ms. Grundvig has been part of a leadership team that

has increased overall annual enrollment by 79 percent.

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Alexa Kochis

Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Faculty Member & Former Principal Dancer

After a 27-year career as a professional dancer with the last 16 of those years spent at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Principal dancer Alexa Kochis recently retired and joined the PBT school faculty.

A native of North Andover, Massachusetts, Kochis's early training was with Mimi Ferrell of Ballet Arts Academy in Boxford, Massachusetts, and Iacob Lascu of Lascu School of Ballet in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

She continued her studies at The Boston Ballet Center for Dance Education, The Kirov Academy in Washington D.C., and The School of American Ballet in New York.

She joined Boston Ballet II in 1995 and the main company in 1998. In 2006, she and

her husband Christopher Budzynski, also a dancer at Boston Ballet, joined PBT. At PBT she has performed numerous lead roles in *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Giselle*, *Don Quixote*, *Le Corsaire*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Moulin Rouge*® – *The Ballet*, *La Bayadère*, and in several George Balanchine ballets as well as Stella in John Neumeier's *A Streetcar Named Desire*.



Zoica Tovar

BALLETMET, Rehearsal Director BalletMet Academy

Zoica Tovar began her training at the age of nine at the Cuban Ballet School of Havana. Upon graduation she was accepted at Classical Ballet of Havana under the direction of Laura Alonso. Ms. Tovar's talent and dedication allowed her to become a principal ballerina shortly thereafter. She received a silver medal in the Alicia Alonso Ballet Competition in Cuba as well as in the Brasilia International Ballet Competition in Brazil. Ms. Tovar has performed several principal roles including Kitri, Odette, Odile, Juliet, Swanilda, and many others from the classical repertoire.

Ms. Tovar danced as a principal dancer in Orlando Ballet from 1998 to 2009 under the direction of Fernando Bujones and Bruce Mark. At Orlando Ballet, she had the opportunity to perform works by Balanchine, Twyla Tharp, and other famous choreographers. During her time in Orlando, Ms. Tovar received The Sun of Florida award from the city for her artistic achievements. In 2009, Ms. Tovar began at BalletMet. During her time with BalletMet, she continued to increase her experience with roles such as Aurora in *Sleeping Beauty*. In addition, she worked with amazing choreographers like James Kudelka, Dwight Rhoden, Edwaard Liang and many others, increasing her contemporary dance experience. Ms. Tovar retired in 2014 from BalletMet.



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Ms. Tovar has been teaching since 1995. She began her teaching career in Brazil with the Royal Ballet Academy and Palacio de las Artes, the professional company in Belo Horizonte. From 2000 to 2009, Ms. Tovar was part of the teaching faculty at Orlando Ballet, where she was in charge of the summer program auditions. She has also trained students for the Youth America Grand Prix competition. In 2012, Ms. Tovar began teaching at NorthPointe Dance Academy where she started a YAGP program. The program had excellent results including first place performances in ensemble groups for three years in Pittsburgh and Indianapolis. Most recently, from 2020 to 2022, Ms. Tovar was Co-Academy Director of the United Ballet Theatre Academy in Orlando, Florida. During this time, she successfully created a Spring and Summer Intensive with students from all over the United States and the world.