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LIVE!
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CONFEDERATION CENTRE OF THE ARTS PRESENTS



BALLET KELOWNA: MAMBO and Other Works

WEDNESDAY MARCH 2, 2022 7:30 PM | MAINSTAGE



CONFEDERATION CENTRE OF THE ARTS
CENTRE DES ARTS DE LA CONFÉDÉRATION

Canada



Artistic Director & CEO: Simone Orlando
Lighting Director: Rylee Block
Stage Manager: Aaron Quibell
Rehearsal Director: Joanna Lige

CUATRO ESTACIONES (2019)

Choreography: Simone Orlando
Music: Astor Piazzolla, *Four Seasons of Buenos Aires* and Antonio Vivaldi, *The Four Seasons*
Costume Design: Lynette Schlichting and Simone Orlando
Length: 34 minutes

BOLERO (2012)

Choreography: Guillaume Côté
Music: Maurice Ravel, *Bolero*
Costume Design: Yannik Larivée
Costumes: Courtesy of The National Ballet of Canada
Length: 14 minutes

MAMBO (2018)

Choreography: Alysa Pires
Music: Perry Como, Rosemary Clooney, Julie London, Xavier Cugat, Sarah Vaughan, Dean Martin, and Louis Prima
Costumes: Alysa Pires
Length: 20 minutes

North American Representation



Cusson Management inc. / Valérie Cusson
www.cussonmanagement.com
valerie@cussonmanagement.com

COMPANY BIO



**Ballet
Kelowna**
Simone Orlando
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CEO

Founded in 2002, and under the leadership of Artistic Director and CEO (AD/CEO) Simone Orlando since 2014, Ballet Kelowna delivers compelling and inspiring performances to regional, national, and international audiences. The Company presents numerous styles of dance from Canada's finest emerging and established choreographers, and embraces the precision and athleticism of ballet technique to create original new works that captivate and engage today's diverse audiences.

Serving as the only professional dance company in BC's Interior, Ballet Kelowna is committed to its role as a leader in the region through encouraging, promoting, and developing Canadian dancers and choreographers. The Company performs annually for over 12,000 audience members in Kelowna and on tour, while also providing unique dance training opportunities and outreach programs.

AD/CEO Simone Orlando is an award-winning choreographer and former dancer with Ballet BC and The National Ballet of Canada. Ms. Orlando is actively leading Ballet Kelowna in collaborations with other community organizations, to educate and cultivate new dance audiences, and to enhance the impact of performances and programs.

Simone Orlando - Artistic Director and CEO

Phone: (250) 762-6105

Email: ad.ceo@balletkelowna.ca

Rylee Block - Technical Director

Phone: (250) 542-9355

Email: ryleeblocktech@gmail.com

SUPPORT

Ballet Kelowna gratefully acknowledges the financial support of:
the Canada Council for the Arts, the BC Arts Council, the Province of British Columbia, the City of Kelowna, the Government of Canada, the Central Okanagan Foundation, and the RBC Foundation.



The Canada Council for the Arts
Le Conseil des Arts du Canada



Ballet Kelowna respectfully acknowledges that our office and studio is situated on the unceded, traditional territory of the Syilx Okanagan People.



LIVE AT THE CENTRE 2022

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**Peter Hum's
Ordinary Heroes**
March 4, 2022

BOX OFFICE:
1 (902) 566-1267 • 1 (800) 565-0278
boxoffice@confederationcentre.com



**The Debaters
Live on Tour**
March 10, 2022



**Fred Penner:
The Cat Came Back
40th Anniversary Tour**
March 16, 2022



Bromance
April 2, 2022



Bahamas: Still Sad Tour
April 8, 2022



**Classic Albums Live
performs Led Zeppelin II**
April 9, 2022



**Choral Music:
Voices of Spring**
April 10, 2022



**Franco fière
Franco Proud**
April 14, 2022



**Choral Music
on a Holy Day**
April 15, 2022



**Silly Robbie's World:
Live!**
April 16, 2022



**Shaun Boothe presents
The Unauthorized
Biography Series**
April 22, 2022



The Logan Richard Band
April 23, 2022



**PEI Symphony Orchestra
Ode to Earth**
April 24, 2022



David Myles
April 29, 2022



**Dance Umbrella:
Year-End Performance**
May 7, 2022

THE CHOREOGRAPHERS



SIMONE ORLANDO

Simone Orlando completed her dance training at Canada's National Ballet School and subsequently joined The National Ballet of Canada in 1989. In 1996, she joined Ballet British Columbia under the direction of John Alleyne where she danced for 13 years as one of the company's most celebrated principal artists.

Ms. Orlando's choreographic explorations began in 1997. Praised for her mature and sensitive ideas, vision, musicality, and delineation of movement and space, she has received numerous commissions including those from Ballet BC, Toronto Dance

Theatre, and Ballet Kelowna. Ms. Orlando is the recipient of a 2004 Vancouver Arts Award, the 2006 Clifford E. Lee Choreography Award, a 2009 Fellowship Initiative Grant from the New York Choreographic Institute, and the 2013 Pretty Creatives International Choreographic Award.

In June 2014, Ms. Orlando graduated with distinction from the Business Management program at the British Columbia Institute of Technology and was appointed Artistic Director and CEO of Ballet Kelowna effective September 1, 2014. During her tenure at Ballet Kelowna, Ms. Orlando has brought over 35 new works into the Company's repertoire. She was the recipient of the City of Kelowna's 2017 Honor in the Arts Award and she was appointed to the BC Arts Council's Board of Directors in 2018.



GUILLAUME CÔTÉ

Guillaume Côté studied at Canada's National Ballet School and joined The National Ballet of Canada in 1999. He quickly rose through the ranks and was promoted to Principal Dancer in 2004.

Since then, Mr. Côté has danced most of the major classical roles with The National Ballet of Canada and has been the leading male figure of the company. He has also had many leading roles created especially for him and has worked closely with such dance icons as Roland Petit, John Neumeier, William Forsythe, Christopher Wheeldon,

Alexei Ratmansky and Crystal Pite.

As a guest artist, Mr. Côté has danced with a number of the world's most important companies including The Royal Ballet, Bolshoi Theatre, American Ballet Theater, New York City Ballet, Teatro alla Scala, English National Ballet, the Mikhailovsky Theater of St-Petersburg, Teatro Colón de Buenos Aires, and the Berlin's Staatsoper.

In 2013, in addition to his position as a Principal Dancer, Mr. Côté assumed the role of Choreographic Associate with The National Ballet of Canada. Since then, eight of his pieces entered the company's repertoire including most recently *Being and Nothingness* performed on an international tour to Russia. His first full-length ballet *Le Petit Prince* was presented by The National Ballet to sold-out houses in 2016. In 2018, Mr. Côté created in collaboration with the famed Director Robert Lepage, *Frame by Frame*, a new full-length evening.

In 2011, Mr. Côté was awarded "La médaille de l'Assemblée Nationale du Québec" for his work in the arts and is made a "Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Québec" in 2021. In September 2014, Mr. Côté was named the Artistic Director of the Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur, the largest summer dance festival in Canada.

THE CHOREOGRAPHERS



ALYSA PIRES

Canadian choreographer Alysa Pires has created works for companies such as the National Ballet of Canada, Ballet Kelowna, Ballet Edmonton, Canada's Ballet Jörgen, Ryerson University, and more.

Ms. Pires began working with The National Ballet of Canada as part of their Choreographic Workshop. The resulting ballet, *In Between*, premiered as part of FIVE CREATIONS in January 2018 and was subsequently performed at the company's MADHOTBALLET Gala. She then represented the company at the 13th International

Competition for the Erik Bruhn Prize and was appointed Choreographic Associate in 2019.

Her first commission for Ballet Kelowna, *MAMBO*, was presented as part of the 2018 Fall for Dance North Festival in Toronto and the China Arts Expo in Beijing. Ms. Pires twice participated in New York City Ballet's Choreographic Institute (Spring and Fall 2019) and was one of the 2017 winners of Northwest Dance Project's International Choreographic Competition. She also creates under the umbrella of Alysa Pires Dance Projects, which made its critically acclaimed full-length debut with *Exterminating Angel* at the 2016 Toronto Fringe Festival.

Upcoming projects include the world premiere of Pires' *Macbeth* for Ballet Kelowna, the company's first full-length commission.

Ms. Pires is an Honours BFA graduate from the Ryerson School of Performance and was the recipient of the 2015 Jack McAllister Award, which recognizes alumni accomplishment.



CONFEDERATION
CENTRE ART GALLERY

John Hartman:
Many Lives Mark This Place

ON VIEW UNTIL MAY 22

Organized and circulated by the
Woodstock Art Gallery, Ontario.

John Hartman has long been interested in the connection between people and place. With this most recent body of work, he has captured the intimate relationship Canadian authors have with their personal places of inspiration.

This project celebrates the richness of Canada's literary fabric. It also speaks to the power of the imagination, and the diverse and striking landscapes that link us altogether.

VISIT THE GALLERY

 Canada Council / Conseil des arts
for the Arts / du Canada

 Canada

 Ryerson
University / Université
Toronto

OPEN Wednesday-Saturday, 11 am-5 pm, Sunday, 1-5 pm
confederationcentre.com/artgallery

SHOW SCHEDULE



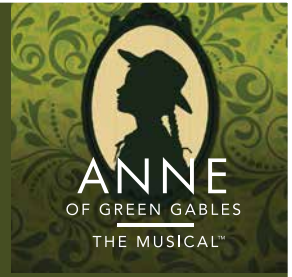
TEA TALE HARBOUR

A World Premiere Musical Comedy
Mainstage | June 14 – September 24

A struggling Atlantic fishing village is promised a new factory; but first, the community must come together to charm a doctor into taking up full-time residency there. Co-written by, and starring music icon Alan Doyle, this new musical is hilarious, heartfelt, and full of East Coast pride.

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES - THE MUSICAL™
Mainstage | June 18 – September 3

She's back! P.E.I.'s most iconic redhead returns to The Charlottetown Festival in this classic family musical. Anne of Green Gable – The Musical™ is a humorous, touching, and truly athletic musical that will inspire your imagination, tickle your funny bone, and mesmerize you with its graceful and exhilarating singing and dancing.



BETTY'S SONG



BETTY'S SONG

A Mother, A Daughter, and a Lobster Boat
The Mack | July 5 – 29

Somewhere between raising her daughter and spending Saturday nights at the Slanty Shanty, Betty becomes one of the first women to captain her own lobster boat in Eastern P.E.I. Created and performed by Island singer-songwriter Ashley Condon, this funny and heartfelt show features original music and enough memories to fill a family photo album.

HEY VIOLA!
The Soundtrack of a Life
The Mack | August 3 – 13

Who is Viola Desmond, other than the newest face on the Canadian ten-dollar bill? Featuring brilliant hits of the era, like "Dream a Little Dream of Me" and "Smile", discover how the actions of the civil rights trailblazer played a huge role in a movement that continues today.



THE DANCERS



CHARLOTTE BATTIGELLI EDMONTON, AB

Charlotte Battigelli completed her professional training at Victoria Academy of Ballet in Victoria, BC, under the tutelage of Bleiddyn Bellis and Andrew Pronger. Throughout her training, Ms. Battigelli placed 3rd at the Youth American Grand Prix semi-finals, and attended summer programs at The Royal Winnipeg Ballet, The National Ballet of Canada, Ballet Austin, and Ballet West. Upon graduation, Ms. Battigelli was invited to the Washington Ballet in D.C. to finish her training under Julie Kent, Xiomara Reyes, and Rinat Imaev. At this time, Ms. Battigelli was offered a trainee position with Nevada Ballet Theatre, under the direction of Roy Kaiser, where she was promoted to apprentice for the 2020/21 season. Ms. Battigelli's repertoire includes Swan Lake, The Nutcracker, La Bayadere, Don Quixote, Paquita, and The Four Temperaments. As well, Ms. Battigelli has had the pleasure of working with renowned choreographers such as Mimmo Miccolis, Tiffany De Alba, and Kyle Davis, and she looks forward to her first season with Ballet Kelowna.



MCKEELY BORGER SASKATCHEWAN MÉTIS NATION, REGINA

McKeely Borger is a member of the Saskatchewan Métis Nation from Regina, Canada. She has pursued her dance career internationally at Adelphi University in New York under full merit scholarship, Coastal City Ballet in Vancouver, Atlanta Ballet, and in France at Le Ballet de l'Opéra-Théâtre de Metz Metropole as a soloist. She was an original cast member of the mainstage production of Mickey & the Magician at Disneyland Paris in 2016. Before returning to Canada, Ms. Borger spent two years with Ballet Palm Beach, where she had the opportunity to dance George Balanchine's Who Cares? as the 'One and Only'. Embarking on her third year with Ballet Kelowna, she has premiered new works by Canadian artists such as Kirsten Wicklund, Kunal Ranchod, and Cameron Fraser-Monroe. Ms. Borger also loves sharing the joy of movement with our community as an Instructor for IN MOTION.



DESIREE BORTOLUSSI KELOWNA, BC

Desiree Bortolussi was born in Kelowna on the unceded territory of the Okanagan/Syilx people. As a student, she participated in training programs at Canada's National Ballet School, Boston Ballet School, Cincinnati Ballet School, The School of Alberta Ballet, and our very own Okanagan Summer Dance Intensive. Ms. Bortolussi went on to complete her training at The Canadian School of Ballet under the direction of Mel Brown and Lori Larson. Ms. Bortolussi is so proud to be a part of Ballet Kelowna's diverse repertoire, ranging from dancing lead roles in classical works such as Blanche Dubois in A Streetcar Named Desire and The Sugar Plum Fairy in The Nutcracker to creating contemporary works such as Disembark by Kirsten Wicklund and her upcoming role as Lady Macbeth in Macbeth by Alysa Pires. Ms. Bortolussi is thrilled to be dancing into her tenth season with Ballet Kelowna.



KELSEY HANNA CALGARY, AB

A graduate of The School of Alberta Ballet, Kelsey Hanna is entering her eighth season as a professional dancer and fifth season with Ballet Kelowna. Throughout her career, Ms. Hanna has toured a range of classical and contemporary work, bringing her to cities large and small across Canada. She has performed a diverse repertoire of choreography ranging from Les Sylphides to an original contemporary work by Yukichi Hattori. Ms. Hanna's extensive work at Ballet Kelowna, under the direction of Simone Orlando, has led to many career highlights including the opportunity to work with such influential choreographers as John Alleyne, Wen Wei Wang, Alysa Pires, and Kirsten Wicklund.

THE DANCERS



KEALAN MCLAUGHLIN TORONTO, ON

Kealan McLaughlin was born in Toronto, Canada and graduated from Canada's National Ballet School. He danced in Canadian companies Alberta Ballet and Ballet Jörgen before joining the Estonian National Ballet as a principal dancer. He has participated as a guest with companies such as The Chimera Project, Opera Atelier, Côté Danse, and DanceTeq International. His repertoire includes Eugene Onegin (Cranko's "Onegin"), Solor (Minkus' "La Bayadère"), Stanley Kowalski (Meckler/Ochoa's "A Streetcar Named Desire"), Prince Florimund and Blue Bird ("The Sleeping Beauty"), Prince Siegfried, Pas de Trois, Rothbart ("Swan Lake"), Prince and Lead Snow Cavalier ("The Nutcracker"), Prokofiev's Prince Charming ("Cinderella"), Albrecht (Adam's "Giselle"), and The Poet (Fokine's "Les Sylphides"). He has also been a guest teacher within various programmes across Canada.



EMILY MURRAY SUDBURY, ON

Emily Murray began her professional training at Canada's National Ballet School and graduated from their Post-Secondary Program in 2020. During her time at the school, and through other summer programs at the Australian Ballet School and Ballet Jörgen's Junior Company Intensive, Ms. Murray has worked with choreographers such as James Kudelka, Peggy Baker, Bengt Jörgen, Hannah Kiel, and Jera Wolfe. She has also had the opportunity to dance works by George Balanchine, John Neumeier and Ramon Oller, and with Ballet Kelowna, has worked with choreographers Kirsten Wicklund and Alysa Pires. Ms. Murray is very excited to be returning for her second season with Ballet Kelowna.



DONALDO NAVA MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

Donaldo Nava began his professional training at the National School of Classical and Contemporary Dance in Mexico City. He moved to Victoria, BC to continue his training and graduated from the Victoria Academy of Ballet Post-Secondary Bridge Program in 2019. While in the Bridge program, he worked with many guest teachers including Alysa Pires, Jorden Morris, and Christopher Anderson, and performed with Ballet Kelowna in John Alleyne's A Streetcar Named Desire in May 2018. Mr. Nava participated in Dance Victoria's 2019 Choreographic Lab under Justine Chambers and Susan Elliot. This is Mr. Nava's third season with Ballet Kelowna.



YUKA OTSUKI HYOGO, JAPAN

Originally from Hyogo Japan, Yuka Otsuki began her professional training at the Victoria Academy of Ballet in Victoria, BC and graduated from their Post-Secondary Bridge Program in 2017. She has attended summer programs with Evelyn Hart, Ballet Jörgen, and Milwaukee Ballet. Ms. Otsuki joined Ballet Kelowna as a trainee in 2017. During her time at Ballet Kelowna, she has had the honour of performing works by Gioconda Barbuto, Joe Laughlin, Alysa Pires, and Heather Dotto, among others. Some of her most memorable moments with the Company to date include dancing in Folie à Cinq by Heather Myers, on wings by Joe Laughlin, and Petrushka by Heather Dotto. Ms. Otsuki placed in the top twelve in the Youth America Grand Prix semi-finals in Seattle, Washington in 2015 and 2017. This is Ms. Otsuki's fifth season with Ballet Kelowna.

THE DANCERS



ASHLEY RABINOVITCH NORTH VANCOUVER, BC

Ashley Rabinovitch has attended summer intensives at Canada's National Ballet School, École Supérieure de Ballet du Québec, Joffrey Ballet, and Complexions Contemporary Ballet. She is a graduate of Lamondance's Post-Secondary Program where she worked with both former and current dancers of Ballet BC, and performed works by Racheal Prince and Brandon Alley, Dario Dinuzzi, Kirsten Wicklund, Amber Funk, Heather Dotto, and Davi Rodrigues. Ms. Rabinovitch is very excited to join Ballet Kelowna's Emerging Artist Program and pursue her love of dance.



SEIJI SUZUKI MIE, JAPAN

Seiji Suzuki was born in Mie, Japan. He moved to Victoria, BC when he was 17 years old to further his training at Victoria Academy of Ballet under the directorship of Bleiddyn Bellis. He graduated from their Post-Secondary Bridge Program in 2017. In 2014, Mr. Suzuki received a scholarship to participate in the International Summer School in Melbourne, Australia hosted by Cecchetti Ballet Australia. He was chosen for featured roles in *The Gift* by Ballet Victoria, *The Nutcracker* by Alberta Ballet, and was a guest artist with Island Circus Space. In the summer of 2017, he was selected to participate in Dance Victoria's Choreographic Lab under the direction of Wen Wei Wang. Also an emerging choreographer, Mr. Suzuki was commissioned to create two works for Ballet Kelowna's 2020/21 digital season, *Gekko* and *Stolen Tide*. This is Mr. Suzuki's fifth season with Ballet Kelowna.



KURT WERNER SCARBOROUGH, ON

Kurt Werner is a graduate of Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet School's Professional Division and has travelled abroad to Austria, England, Italy, New Zealand, and the US to further his development in classical, contemporary, and modern dance. In 2015, he was awarded the Brian Macdonald Dance Award during his participation in The Banff Centre's Summer Professional Dance Program. While with Ballet Kelowna, Mr. Werner has enjoyed creating and performing such works as *Petrushka* and *MAMBO*, as they have helped let his personality shine on stage. In 2018, Mr. Werner founded the Evolve Arts Collective, a platform to share his choreographic works and expand his network with artists across all disciplines. He is grateful for opportunities to present his works at the Kelowna Fringe Festival and the Theatre on the Edge Fest while continuing to workshop new movement with fellow company dancers. This is Mr. Werner's tenth season with Ballet Kelowna.

**THANK YOU
AND ENJOY!**