

THE

now

## December 19-20, 2020

BALLET <sup>co.</sup>LABORATORY

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### Holiday Greetings from the Directors of Ballet Co.Laboratory

#### **Dear Friends:**

Thank you for welcoming us into your home for this very special production. This holiday season feels much different than years past. For most of us, there are traditions put on hold to keep our loved ones safe. At Ballet Co.Laboratory, the creation of *The Snow Queen* was our way to keep artists working and students learning while gifting the community the continued tradition of enjoying a holiday show.

Nine months ago, we never could have imagined how our profession and art form would be challenged. In a typical year, Ballet Co.Laboratory's holiday production would bring in 50% of our yearly ticket revenue. Although creating, rehearsing, and filming *The Snow Queen* in the midst of a global pandemic is something to celebrate, a virtual production will never result in the same revenue as an in-person, per-seat show. If you have the means, please consider making a donation in place of the per person tickets you would have purchased for an in-theater production. Donations can be made at balletcollaboratory.org/ donate, by calling 651.313.5967, or by mail. All donations will be used to help us continue moving through the most challenging times the performing arts have ever seen.

We hope you enjoyed your special package delivered to your home from the Snow Queen herself. May you lift your glass of cheer to toast to the coming new year, nibble on your cookies fresh out of the oven, and have your bingo cards ready to play throughout the show. Please stick around after the production for a live Q-and-A with our performers. From all of us at Ballet Co.Laboratory, thank you for your never-ending support. We wish you and yours a happy and safe holiday.

#### Merry Everything & Happy Always –

'Soi + ten

Zoé Henrot Artistic Director

Rachel Koep

Rachel Koep Managing Director



### The Staff

Zoé Emilie Henrot		Founder and Artistic Director
Rachel Koep		Managing Director
Wally Swanson		Director of Videography & Post-Production
Jennifer Adam		Assistant Camera Operator
Jacob Edholm		Lighting Designer & Production Stage Manager
Barbara Edholm		Assistant Stage Manager
Phoebe Poole		Costume Manager
Vicky Erickson		Set and Prop Construction
Nailah McClain		Hair and Makeup
Sandy Saucedo-Falagan, Tina Schwach, and Saeko Takada		Costume Volunteers
	Emily Schmall	Volunteer Coordinator
Maryann Johnson PT, Dance Therapist		Physical Therapist
Emilia Mettenbrink, Tara Sullivan, and Maria Vitelli		Interns
Leah Gallas	Company Teac	hing Artist / Rehearsal Assistant
Justin Leaf	Company Teaching Artist / Rehearsal Assistant	
Andrea Mislan	Company Teaching Artist	
Katherine Chang	Digital Communications Assistant	
Tabytha Ewy	Technical Communications Assistant	
Emily Kleinschmidt	Development A	ssistant
Jayson Douglas	Development &	Community Engagement Associate
Sage Engle-Laird	Outreach Associate / Teaching Artist	
Brittany Pate	Company Manager / Teaching Artist	
Rosa Prigan	Communications Manager / Teaching Artist	
Anna Roehr	School Studio N	Aanager / Teaching Artist
Rachel Seeholzer	School Performance & Outreach Manager / Teaching Artist	
Anna Goodrich	Teaching Artist	
Juliana Johnson	Teaching Artist	
Da'Rius Malone	Teaching Artist	
Genevieve Waterbury	Teaching Artist	
Franco Holder	Accompanist A	rtist

### **Ballet Co.Laboratory Board of Directors**

Denis Henrot Chair Jim DeLeo Treasurer Sara Wilson Secretary Dee Baskin Member

### **Special Thanks To:**

Normandale Theatre Department for prop construction and storage



## The Cast

Evil Sprite	Zoé Henrot
Mirror	Ella Bursch
Mirror Shards	Joleh McCullough, Bernadette Rechek, and Charlotte Tracy
Snow Queen	Rachel Seeholzer
Gerda	Sage Engle-Laird
Kai	Jayson Douglas
Orphanage Director	Brittany Pate
Orphans	Jade Burbank, Liliya Buhr, Zira DeZell, Carolina Falagan, Solveig Fellows, Francis Foster, Nina Gourley, Liz Hamill, Allesandra Hinze-Francis, Lucy Neuville, Maya Parkin, and Caroline Sullivan
Rats	Lucy Bowden, Mathias Brinda, Lainey Brod, Evelyn Bursch, Annika Chandler, Clare Downes, Josette Gingerich-Boberg, Amina Grouni, Bethany Kachmarek, Isla Lorenz, and Persephone Walling
Winter Shoppers	Kana Aihara, Kate Deutsch, Kate Hanf, Abby Hartberg, Gigi Kampa, and Elsa Reseland
Vendors	Katie Dimock and Jace Schmall
Ice Skaters	Erica Gerlach, Caitlin Marsella, and Noor Mroueh
Bluebirds	Zinnia Adams, Alma Betchkal, Solveig Godfread, Maud McCullough, Lilli Prouty, Ruby Repa, and Inara Tajima
Wolf	Francis Betchkal
Fox	Curtis Chandler
Rose Queen	Rosa Prigan
Roses	Emily Kleinschmidt and Tabytha Ewy
Flowers	Ella Bursch, Erica Gerlach, Caitlin Marsella, Noor Mroueh, Bernadette Rechek, and Charlotte Tracy
Reindeer Queen	Anna Roehr
Reindeer	Delia Carlson, Camille Chandler, Frances Cook, Sage Houghton, and Avery Lewis
Snow Butler	Jorgen Adam Swanson
Frost	Gigi Alexander, Thalia Bell, Nora Bishop, Kaitlin Hamilton, Anika Kachmarek, Alaina Lewis, Ana Loftsgaarden, Sofia Rice, Berlin Riodique, Amariah Thompson, Isabelle Tracy, and Tseng Vang
Snow Bees	Katherine Chang, Tabytha Ewy, Zoé Henrot, Emily Kleinschmidt, Brittany Pate, and Charlotte Tracy

### The Artists



#### Katherine Chang (She/Her)

Originally from Canada, Katherine started her dance training at the age of 15 at The Scottsdale School of Ballet, AZ. In 2016, she was accepted into Victoria Academy of Ballet's Post-Secondary Bridge Program, a post graduate diploma program in Victoria, BC, Canada. Since graduating in 2018, she has danced with Convergence Ballet Company as an apprentice. Katherine is thrilled to be joining Ballet Co.Laboratory as an Apprentice for the 2020/21 Season and serves on the organization's communications team



#### Jayson Douglas (He/Him)

Javson Douglas is from Paterson, NJ where he began his training at Dance World Academy. Jayson has danced with Charlotte Ballet (formerly NCDT), Lexington Ballet, Ballet Theatre of Maryland, Ballet Nouveau Colorado, and Company C Contemporary Ballet where he was featured in Twyla Tharp's Surfer in the Styx. Last season he worked with Ballet Co.Laboratory as a guest artist and is looking forward to taking on a more permanent role this season with the Company in addition to serving on the organization's development team.



#### Sage Engle-Laird (She/Her)

Sage Engle-Laird began dance classes at a young age in her hometown of Tulsa, OK. She trained at the Tulsa Ballet Center for Dance Education and later moved to New York City to train with Sara Knight at the SLK Ballet School. She has had the opportunity to dance professionally with Ballet Austin, Ballet Tucson, Alabama Ballet, and Ballet Virginia. Along with dancing and teaching ballet, Sage is also a certified Pilates instructor and currently working on her undergraduate degree. Sage is a Teaching Artist at The School of Ballet Co.Laboratory and serves on the organization's outreach team.

Tabytha Ewy grew up in San Diego, CA where her love of dance began with tap and jazz classes at a local community center. Upon her teacher's request, Tabytha enrolled







Tabytha Ewy (She/Her)

#### in ballet classes at California Ballet School. After spending time with Ring Ring Ballet School in Kanagawa, Japan, she moved back to the United States and continued her ballet education in Washington. Tabytha graduated from Utah Valley University and

received her BFA in Dance with an Emphasis in Ballet in Spring 2020. During her time at UVU, she had the opportunity to perform with local professional company Utah Metropolitan Ballet. This is Tabytha's first year with Ballet Co.Laboratory as an Apprentice and member of the organization's technology team.

#### Zoé Henrot (She/Her)

Zoé Henrot received most of her early dance training from Boulder Ballet under the direction of Ana Claire and Peter Davison, becoming an Apprentice with the Company in 2007. Zoé graduated summa cum laude from Mount Holyoke College in 2012 with a double major in Dance and Biological Sciences. She created her first full-length work for her senior thesis entitled Becoming Undone. In Fall 2018, Zoé returned to her alma mater to stage a new work for the Five College Dance Department. Collaboration has always guided Zoé's artistry and she is proud to be the Founder and Artistic Director of Ballet Co.Laboratory.

#### Emily Kleinschmidt (She/Her)

Emily Kleinschmidt grew up in the Twin Cities and received her early training from Minnesota Dance Theatre, Classical Ballet Academy, and the Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists. She went on to study at the University of Utah where she received a BFA in Ballet and a BS in Writing & Rhetoric Studies. After graduating in 2019, she danced with Twin Cities Ballet. Emily has danced in both classical and contemporary works, such as La Fille Mal Gardée, George Balanchine's Walpurgisnacht, Gabrielle Lamb's Springload, and The Wall: A Rock Ballet. Emily is excited to join Ballet Co.Laboratory for her first season as an Apprentice and member of the organization's development team.



#### Brittany Pate (She/Her)

Brittany Pate began her dance training in her hometown of Boulder, CO at the age of six, eventually joining the Boulder Ballet Company as an apprentice in 2008. She graduated from Colorado State University in 2013 with a B.A. in Dance where she studied under distinguished faculty including Carol Roderick, Chung-Fu Chang, Judy Bejarano, and others. She has worked with many companies and choreographers across the Twin Cities. Brittany is excited to be in her third season with Ballet Co.Laboratory as a Company Artist, Teaching Artist at The School of Ballet Co.Laboratory, and serving as the organization's Company Manager. Brittany is committed to mentorship of young artists as individuals and has created programs that promote positive body image as well as mental and physical well-being.

#### Rosa Prigan (She/Her)

Rosa Prigan is from Columbus. Ohio and began her training at BalletMet Columbus. She obtained her BFA in Dance Performance from Butler University where she was a recipient of the Director's Award for Choreographic Excellence and the Margaret S. Rosenblith Scholarship. Rosa has danced a variety of roles in both classical and contemporary ballets and was honored to create the role of the Cheshire Cat in Ballet Co.Laboratory's Nutcracker in Wonderland. In addition to dancing, Rosa is a teacher and choreographer in the Twin Cities. Rosa is thrilled to be a founding member of Ballet Co.Laboratory in her third season with the Company. She is also a Teaching Artist at The School of Ballet Co.Laboratory and helps lead the organization's communications team.

#### Anna Roehr (She/Her)

Anna Roehr began her dance training in her hometown of Broomfield, CO at the age of seven, with Ballet Nouveau Colorado. In 2012, she received her B.F.A. in Dance with a minor in business from Colorado State University. Anna joined St. Paul Ballet in 2014 as a Company dancer where she performed works from choreographers including Zoé Emilie Henrot, Joseph Morrissey, Diane Coburn-Bruning, Kinsun Chan, and Jamie Johnson. Anna has instructed ballet in many training programs across the Twin Cities and is passionate about teaching strong ballet technique while sharing her love of ballet with young dancers. Anna is excited to be with Ballet Co.Laboratory for its third season as a Company dancer, Teaching Artist, and School Manager for The School of Ballet Co.Laboratory.

#### Rachel Seeholzer (She/Her)

Rachel Seeholzer was born and raised in Los Angeles, California where she began her classical dance training at age nine. She set her focus in ballet after high school and traveled to further her training in cities such as Chicago, Seattle, San Francisco, Charlotte, and Richmond. Rachel began dancing professionally in 2014 and has had the pleasure of working with the Charlottesville Ballet, The Suzanne Farrell Ballet, RVA Dance Collective, Oakland Ballet, Virginia Repertory Theatre, and Stavna Ballet. Rachel has been teaching and choreographing for over 10 years in both California and Virginia, working with students ages three to adult in more than a dozen dance studios, schools, and academies. Rachel is excited to join BCL this season as a Company Artist, Teaching Artist at The School of Ballet Co.Laboratory, and School Performance and Outreach Manager.

Trainees

Flla Bursch Erica Gerlach Caitlin Marsella Noor Mroueh

Charlotte Tracv Bernadette Rechek



#### Rachel Koep (She/Her)

Rachel Koep has melded her lifelong passion for dance into a career of uplifting flagship performing arts organizations across the Twin Cities. Prior to becoming the Managing Director of Ballet Co.Laboratory, she served as Co-Executive Leader and Director of Development at The Cowles Center for Dance and the Performing Arts where she provided the strategic vision and direction for the operations of the Midwest's largest nonprofit dance and education campus. Prior to her position at The Cowles Center, Koep served as the Senior Manager of Individual Giving at the Tony® Award-winning Children's Theatre Company. Koep holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mass Communications and a Minor in Dance Performance.



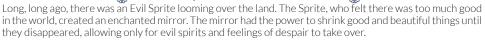




Snow Ducen

Inspired by the Danish fairy tale The Snow Queen by Hans Christian Andersen Music by Dame Ethyl Smyth Directed and Choreographed by Zoé Emilie Henrot

\* \* 🔘 \* \* Chapter 1: The Mirror 🛛 \* \* 🛛



One day, the Evil Sprite took the enchanted mirror and broke it over the land below. Shards of glass fell to earth, landing in people's hearts, and turning them cold as a lump of ice. Among the people struck was a young woman like you and me. As the fragment of broken mirror pierced her heart, she transformed into the coldest one of all - The Snow Queen.

Long after the events of this fateful day, children learn of her legend, warning them of the evil that exists in the world.

### 👯 📠 🔅 Chapter 2: The Orphanage 👯 📠

Far off in a small village lives two orphans, a girl named Gerda and her brother Kai. Gerda, the younger of the two is a playful, free-spirited girl who is imaginative and forgetful. Kai spends most of his days enveloped in books and caring for Gerda and the other children in their orphanage.

The siblings do not have many possessions, but there is one gift they hold dear - an ornate pocket mirror from their parents into which Gerda loves to daze. Gerda and Kai's favorite spot to play is along the river where they like to splash their feet in the cool water and greet the forest animals passing by. One day while playing at the river, there is an unexpected gust of wind. Kai clutches his heart, suddenly not feeling so well.

Back at the orphanage the children, who were to be completing their chores, dance merrily as if at a ball. Kai's mood quickly sours, upset by their merriment. Since it was unlike Kai to be ill-tempered, the Orphanage Director begins to worry. After checking Kai's temperature, she sends him off to bed, convinced a good night's rest will clear his mood.

Meanwhile, Gerda finally returns from the river, where she has again forgotten her cape. She is concerned for Kai, but the Orphanage Director assures her that he will be fine in the morning. They dance together until bedtime.

As the moonlight waxes, the Orphanage Director becomes restless. Although she loves caring for the children, she sometimes wonders what would be if she had not given her life in service to them. In the dormitories, Kai tosses and turns. Unable to sleep, he gets out of bed to roam the hallways, eventually leading down to the boiler room. Lost in his thoughts, unexplainable anger and dreadful emotions grow inside him as if he can only see devastation. Out of the shadows come rats to revel with Kai in his frustration and encourage his darkness to grow.



\* \* 🇱 \* \* Chapter 3: A Winter Day



In town, you can feel the spirit of winter awakening as holiday shoppers get up early to find gifts for their loved ones. Kai wakes up with the hope that he can shake his frightful thoughts with a good sled ride. In search of the perfect hill, Kai happens upon some of his friends skating in the town square. They welcome him to join, but Kai ignores them and continues his trek through the snow.

Kai finds the perfect hill. He zooms down on his sled and settles at the bottom, only to realize nothing in his heart has changed. As Kai makes his way home, shoppers excitedly flood the square with fresh parcels and packages, cutting him off with their hustle and bustle. This only angers him further. In a fit of rage, he snaps and scares the shoppers away, ending up alone in the square.

Suddenly Kai feels an icy chill. A great white sleigh appears, glistening like ice and guarded by buzzing Snow Bees. A striking woman sits inside, frost elegantly framing her face and icicles peaking upwards from her impressive crown. Her cape is draped dramatically over her shoulders as if it is made of snowflakes clinging together to protect her. As the sleigh whips around the square, Kai recognizes her. It is the Snow Queen!

The falling snowflakes become larger and larger, and the Snow Queen descends from her chariot. She plants a kiss on each of Kai's cheeks. After the first kiss, Kai notices that suddenly he does not feel so cold anymore. By the second kiss, he has forgotten about Gerda and everything about himself. The Snow Queen whisks him away to her ice castle, where her Snow Bees flit around, protecting their lair.

### 🕼 🤾 🕪 Chapter 4: The River 🕪 🐆 🕼

Back at the orphanage, Gerda is worried about Kai. She leaves to search for him at their favorite spot, the river. When she does not find him reading by the banks of the water, she fears for his safety. She asks the river, "do you have Kai?" The river responds, "I do not." As the forest animals gather, Gerda asks them, "have you seen Kai?" The animals tell her, "No. Go ask the Rose Queen." And so, Gerda sets off to do just that.

### ኛ 🧐 🏂 Chapter 5: The Rose Queen & Her Flower Garden 🖏 🥔 🛜

Gerda approaches the most beautiful garden she has ever seen. Framed by great gates, cascading with vines and flowers, the vivid colors appear almost unreal. Tiptoeing through the quiet grass, Gerda suddenly comes eye to eye with the Rose Queen.

The Rose Queen, with her radiant petals and vibrant crown, welcomes Gerda. They walk through the rows of flowers, admiring their design. The Rose Queen and her flowers are constantly admiring themselves and tending to their petals. They barely seem to notice when Gerda tells them she cannot stay, as she needs to find her brother Kai.

The Rose Queen hears her plea but insists that she settle in her garden and become a flower. The flowers open and close, open and close, and Gerda starts to get restless. As Gerta explains that her brother is missing, the Rose Queen smirks and says, "oh, my flower, the Snow Queen probably took him. Stay with us in the garden. Here we will care for your seeds and you will bloom."

Panicked, Gerda hatches a plan. If the flowers are so interested in their own appearance, perhaps they would be distracted by her mother's mirror. As the Rose Queen and her flowers fawn over their reflection, Gerda sneaks away, closing the garden gate behind her.

Once safely out of the Rose Queen's realm, Gerda's feet start to feel heavier and heavier. She looks down to see her feet plodding through a blanket of velvety white snow. In the distance, she notices a herd of reindeer. As she rushes towards them, she bumps into something firm and steady. She looks up to see big antlers covered in a dusting of snow.

The Reindeer Queen is equally surprised by Gerda, but after some consideration pronounces the young girl harmless. Gerda asks her, "do you know where the Snow Queen lives?" The Reindeer Queen informs Gerda that she does not associate with the Snow Queen. "You will have to find someone else to help you," she says. Gerda pleads with her explaining that the Snow Queen has taken her brother. The Reindeer Queen has a change of heart and agrees to take Gerda to the Snow Queen's ice castle, but she will not accompany Gerda inside.

As they arrive, the frost surrounding the castle disrupts them. After some difficulty, they find an entrance. The Reindeer Queen wishes Gerda luck and gallops off through the wintry vista.



Gerda finds herself in a gigantic white hallway which appears to be falling in on itself. Every way she turns seems to lead to another hallway until at last, she turns around finding herself face to face with the most astonishing woman she has ever seen.

The Snow Queen starts to chase Gerda. In her efforts to lose the Snow Queen, Gerda trips on the hem of her cape, falling to the floor. The Snow Queen towers over her. Left with no choice, Gerda uses her only possession for her protection, her parents' mirror. The mirror startles the Snow Queen. In its reflection, the Snow Queen sees the woman she once was before being struck by the Evil Sprite's mirror. Her face softens and the room begins to warm. The Snow Bees are stunned, as if seeing someone they once lost.

Meanwhile, Gerda spots Kai behind the wall of attentive Snow Bees. Kai's memory starts to return at the mere sight of Gerda. She rushes towards Kai and wraps her cape tightly around him, melting the ice in his heart.

The Snow Queen, now recovered from her momentary stupor, turns her attention to the pair. They have one chance to get away, but Gerda stops. She wants to try to warm the Snow Queen's heart as well. She puts her cape around the Snow Queen and a young woman not much older than Kai springs to life - dark curls frame her face and color returns to her cheeks. Gerda's love and goodness not only saved her brother but also melted away the entire ice castle - returning the Snow Queen to her former life.

#### THE END



Ballet Co.Laboratory's 2020/21 Upcoming Performances

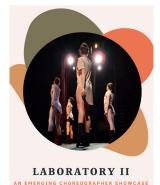
### Laboratory II

A Virtual New Choreography Showcase

• Saturday, March 20, 2021 at 6:00 pm

This production, filmed at the Southern Theater in Minneapolis, will be presented virtually - one night only!

After the performance, stay for a live post-show talkback with artists to learn more about the process of creating new work and the importance of fostering the next generation of dance creators.



### Freddie - Break Free

A World Premiere Rock Ballet

- Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 7:30 pm
- Friday, April 9, 2021 at 7:30 pm
- Saturday, April 10, 2021 at 7:30 pm
- Sunday, April 11, 2021 at 2:00 pm

Journey through the highs and lows of Freddie Mercury's life with a cast of 20 dancers and live on-stage music by Queen tribute band, *Ready Freddie*.

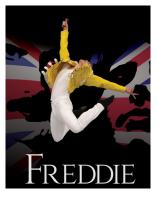
Join us to experience a blurring of boundaries, a taste of artistic collaboration, and in the words of Freddie, a "theatrical event."

### Peter Davison's An American in Paris

### A 'S Wonderful, 'S Marvelous Trip

- Saturday, May 15, 2021 at 7:00 pm
- Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 2:00 pm

Sway through the streets of 1950's Paris with Ballet Co.Laboratory in Peter Davison's *An American in Paris*. Inspired by the iconic Gene Kelly musical, this production will have you tapping your toes to George Gershwin's jazzy and recognizable score.





# THE SCHOOL OF **BALLET CO.LABORATORY** Dancing safely in-studio & virtually; Open enrollment available all year!

#### Young Dancer Program Ages 3-6

Three 6-week sessions are available this season for young dancers to explore the art of ballet. Each session is independent from the other, so dancers may join at the start of each new session.

#### **Boys & Mens Program** Ages 7-20

Designed for male-identifying dancers looking to strengthen jumps, turns, and overall stamina. Dancers will begin with fundamentals of dance, music, and physical theater. Older dancers will learn variations to improve technical elements and artistic presence.

#### **Pre-Professional Program** Ages 6-20

Dancers looking to train in the art of ballet study with Twin Cities' finest faculty and receive the opportunity to perform with the professional Company of BCL. Full and flex options allow students to select the number of hours they wish to train each week.

#### Virtual Pre-**Professional Program** Ages 6-20

In light of COVID-19, our fully virtual Pre-Professional Program allows families to make the choice best for them. Our unique virtual options allow students to select the number of hours they wish to train from home each week.

#### Adult & Teen Program Ages 15+

The School of BCL offers a wide variety of drop-in and session classes with live music accompaniment for dance lovers of all ages and abilities. Put on whatever you feel comfortable in and join us whenever your schedule allows.

















# **BALLET** *co.*LABORATORY

<sup>co.</sup>CREATE <sup>co.</sup>DEVELOP <sup>co.</sup>INSPIRE **Photos by:** Pixel Dust Photography Karin Lynn Photography Timothy Pate Alexis Lund

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