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Madison Ballet names Artistic Director from NY
Ja’ Malik renowned for unique perspective in dance, choreography

MADISON, WIS. (March 20, 2022)—Madison Ballet announced today that Ja’ Malik, a nationally known dancer and choreographer based in New York City’s Harlem neighborhood, will join the organization full-time as artistic director in July.

He is currently in Madison choreographing part of “Turning Pointe,” Madison Ballet’s performance at the Overture Center March 25 to April 3.

Ja’ Malik, an advocate for artists of color, brings to Madison his exceptional and diverse experience as dancer and choreographer. He is director and founder of the all-male Ballet Boy Productions. He worked with Tony-nominated Camille A. Brown on The Public Theater’s 2019 production of Ntozake Shange’s, “For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When The Rainbow is Enuf”. In 2003 he graduated from the first class of Joffrey Ballet School, and New School University, BFA program.

“Madison Ballet offers a national platform for me to share my vision to create a company that reflects the diverse world we live in,” Ja’ Malik said.

Jonathan Solari, chief executive officer of Madison Ballet, said he urges Madison residents to attend Turning Pointe as a show of support for the new artistic director.

“As an arts organization, Madison Ballet helps define beauty through the art we present on this community's stages. We take that role seriously and recognize our obligation to challenge what ballet is and who it is for,” said Solari. "Ja Malik's clear and energizing vision will honor our 40-year history while bringing progress to this organization, this city, and this art form. It is apt that he is making his debut during Turning Pointe."
Pamela Squires of *The Washington Post* said Ja'Malik is “a choreographer who shows a fine eye.” Roslyn Sulcas of *The New York Times* named him a “Choreographer to Watch.” He has been featured in *Dance* magazine.

He is a former member of Cleveland Ballet, Oakland Ballet, North Carolina Dance Theatre, Nathan Trice Rituals, City Dance Ensemble, Ballet Hispanico, and Philadelphia’s BalletX.

"Turning Pointe" begins this Friday and runs through Sunday, April 3. Tickets are $18 to $32 and for sale at the [Overture Center Ticket Office](#) in person, by mail or online.

**About Madison Ballet:** Madison Ballet is a 40-year-old arts organization in Madison, Wis. It features the 150-student School of Madison Ballet. Since 1981, Madison Ballet has been an integral part of the vibrant Dane County arts community. It offers full-scale productions of inspiring traditional ballets, innovative contemporary performances, and the timeless holiday tradition of “The Nutcracker” in Madison’s renowned Overture Center for the Arts. The School of Madison Ballet empowers students of all ages and skill levels with the poise, confidence, discipline, and life skills intrinsic to the study of dance. Outreach programming, presented in partnership with dozens of local school and community groups, enriches thousands of young people’s lives by introducing them to the joy of dance.

For more information, go to [madisonballet.org](http://madisonballet.org).