

RIRIE-  
WOODBURY



DANCE  
COMPANY

DATE:  
CONTENTS:

JANUARY 27-29, 2022

# Fill in the Blank



STEFANIE BATTEN BLAND ANDREA MILLER AND JO BLAKE



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**Ririe-Woodbury (Rī-rē Woōd'-būr-ē) Dance Company** is Utah's most established institution for contemporary dance. Founded in 1964, the Company actively embraces...and commissions the work of contemporary choreographers, tours worldwide, and develops dynamic education and community outreach programming. Through performance and educational undertakings, the Company pursues its mission to make dance a viable part of everyone's life – whether it be as creators, performers, dance educators, critics, or as participating audience members. Over the 58 years of its history, Ririe-Woodbury has toured nationally and internationally, always advocating the philosophy that “dance is for everybody.”

Under the direction of Executive Director Jena C. Woodbury, Artistic Director Daniel Charon, Education Director Ai Fujii Nelson, and Outreach Director Juan Carlos Claudio, Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company is committed to building upon the vision of its founders as it continues to evolve as an important voice for innovation in contemporary dance and dance education.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jena C. Woodbury

#### ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Daniel Charon

#### THE COMPANY DANCERS

Peter Farrow, Corinne Lohner,  
Megan McCarthy, Alexander Pham,  
Fausto Rivera, Miche' Smith

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Ai Fujii Nelson

#### OUTREACH AND BOOKING DIRECTOR

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This performance is dedicated to our dear friend, cohort, supporter, and fellow traveler David Barber

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This project is funded by the ARP Act and the Utah State Legislature through Utah Arts & Museums

Dear Dance Patrons,

Thank you for joining us for *Fill in the Blank*. Whether you're watching live or online, it's great to have you with us!

The choreography featured in *Fill in the Blank* so elegantly embodies what dance can do. It opens our senses to an awareness of the world and asks us to consider how we fit into it. As we navigate our lives and questions arise, it's how we answer those questions, or fill in our own blanks, that creates our thoughts, feelings, and ideas.

The dances comprising this performance consider individuality in different ways. Each deals with acceptance of oneself and of others. "Look Who's Coming to Dinner" by Stefanie Batten Bland emphasizes the importance for everyone to have a seat at the table—to speak and to be listened to—and learning how to be comfortable in one's own skin. "coincidences, when we meet up." by jo Blake delves into finding self appreciation and individual growth through experiencing traumatic experiences in one's life. And finally, the playful urgency in "I can see myself" by Andrea Miller, finds the dancers bursting forth, discovering a new vocabulary to communicate and express themselves. Sharing the work of these three distinctive artists and the uniqueness of how they see the world is an important part of how we all see each other.

I hope you enjoy the show and that it gives you something to reflect upon.



Daniel Charon, Artistic Director

## DANCE IS FOR EVERYBODY

Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company is dedicated to pursuing ongoing inclusion across race, gender, culture, spirituality, identity, age, ability, and experience. Dance is a timeless form of human expression and inspiration, and through dance, we are committed to fostering equity, diversity, access, and inclusion for all. The Company stands against racism and continues to engage in meaningful internal dialogue to make measurable changes to our policies, procedures, and programming to meet all of these goals.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Ririe-Woodbury acknowledges that the land where we have our offices, studio, and theaters, is located on the traditional and ancestral homeland of the Shoshone, Paiute, Goshute, and Ute Tribes. We recognize the Native communities in our region today and extend our deepest gratitude to those who have stewarded this land. Our organization recognizes the void of representation experienced by these and other indigenous peoples, and through our diversity, equity, inclusion, and access efforts are committed to empowering change. We encourage you to investigate whose land you reside on by visiting [native-land.ca](https://native-land.ca) and commit to finding ways you can support the Indigenous people in your community.

## PROGRAM

***coincidences, when we meet up.* - world premiere**

by jo Blake

~ BRIEF PAUSE ~

***I can see myself* (2010)**

by Andrea Miller

~ 10 MINUTE INTERMISSION ~

***Look Who's Coming to Dinner* (2019) - Utah premiere**

by Stefanie Batten Bland

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***coincidences, when we meet up.* - world premiere**

**Choreography: jo Blake**

**Original Music Composition: Trevor Price**

**Costume Design: jo Blake**

**Lighting Design: William Peterson**

**Dancers:**

**Corinne Lohner, Alexander Pham, Miche' Smith (Thursday and Friday)**

**Peter Farrow, Megan McCarthy, and Fausto Rivera (Saturday)**

Inspired by the concepts of sensory stimulation and how this may benefit inter-/intrapersonal relationships, this reflective trio focuses on the personal connection of radical self-love and clarity of voice discovered by experiencing trauma. Plunging, swirling, and diving amongst the complications of today's social issues, this dance invites the ever-changing, coordinated, and repeated murmurs of individual growth and change.

"Thank you to the fabulous dancers for joining me on this journey. You are seen, you are heard in a world that challenges strength and fortitude. Moving through trauma is different for everyone yet we find our light when the dark is present. This work is dedicated to a dear friend who lived her life resiliently in the face of adversity. Live life like MJ!" - jo Blake

*This dance was made possible by the generous support of Bick Robbins.*

~ BRIEF PAUSE ~

***I can see myself* (2010)****Choreography: Andrea Miller****Reconstruction: Haley Sung and Dan Walczak****Music: Balkan Beat Box****Lighting Design: Vincent Vigilante****Lighting Reconstruction: William Peterson****Costume Design: Andrea Miller, Melissa Younker****Additional Costume Construction: Melissa Clark****Dancers: the Company**

Performed to the contagious music of Israeli band Balkan Beat Box, *I can see myself* (formerly *Pupil Suite*) is an exuberant romp that plays with plurality, extravagance, and the imagination.

*This dance was made possible by the generous support of the Sam and Diane Stewart Family Foundation.*

**~ 10 MINUTE INTERMISSION ~*****Look Who's Coming to Dinner* (2019) - Utah premiere****Choreography, Installation and Direction: Stefanie Batten Bland****Reconstruction: Latra Wilson****Musical Score: Paul Damian Hogan****Costumes Design: Shane Ballard****Costume Adaptation: Melissa Younker****Lighting Design: Yuki Link, adapted from Clifton Taylor, reconstructed by William Peterson****Dancers: the Company**

Inspired by the 1967 Stanley Kramer film starring Sydney Poitier, Katherine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy, *Look Who's Coming to Dinner* pays tribute to those who paved the way toward acceptance in love and life. Set around a transformative dinner setting during - this commission for Rire-Woodbury during our COVID times - invites six dance artists to excavate interlaced universal traumas through imagery and ritual as they seek a seat at the table.

*This dance was made possible by the generous support of The John and Marcia Price Family Foundation*





## JO BLAKE

Joseph "jo" Blake, a graduate of the University of Utah (BFA, 2003) and the University of Washington (MFA, 2017) is an artist who has performed, taught, and choreographed throughout the United States, Europe, South America, and Southeast Asia. Inspired by his passion for community-based engagement, social justice, and educational theory, jo continues to pursue impactful projects in Utah and beyond. jo is the Director of joBdance. | a conceptual experience, an interdisciplinary project based company, with collaborations in dance, sound score, and visual arts. The evening-length premiere, (dis)connect., an immersive multimedia experience exploring the tensions created by technology between individual and community receiving rave reviews (Seattle, WA). As

member of internationally-recognized Salt Lake City-based Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company (2003-2013), he performed in works by Joan Woodbury, Shirley Ririe, Charlotte Boye-Christensen, Alwin Nikolais, Doug Varone, Wayne McGregor, Carolyn Carlson, Bill T. Jones, Susan Marshall, as well as many other influential dance makers. As a graduate student, jo had the opportunity to perform in works by Yvonne Rainer, Zvi Gotheiner, Anna Sokolow, Trisha Brown, Brian Brooks, and Shapiro & Smith. jo's community-based projects include the YCC Family Crisis Center, Minding Motion for Graceful Aging, Yoga Behind Bars, and Mark Morris's Dance for PD. His work has been seen nationally in Washington, Utah (Westminster College, Weber State University, Ririe-Woodbury Dance Alum's Momentum, Municipal Ballet, The Penguin Lady), and Minnesota. He has performed for Senga Nengudi, Stephanie Liapis, Chamber Dance Company, Loudhound Dance, RawMoves, Tandy Beal and Co., and continues his performative outreach with Boye-Christensen's NOW-ID | Now International Dance Co. (SLC), as well as local and national performance artists/companies. jo is Assistant Professor of Dance at Weber State University (Ogden, UT), 2021 WSU Presidential Awards for Community Engaged Faculty Member, Ogden City Arts 2021 Mayor's Award for the Arts, and newly elected the Advisory Board Director of Student Initiatives with the National Dance Education Organization.



2022  
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## STEFANIE BATTEN BLAND

Jerome Robbins Awardee Stefanie Batten Bland is an intercontinental interdisciplinary artist who creates for stages, spaces and films. Her work questions contemporary and historical cultural symbolism - and the complexities of human relationships.

Based in New York since 2011, she founded Company SBB in France 2008, where it quickly caught the attention of presenters, fellow artists and audiences with its award-winning choreographic installations, riveting performers and intellectually ambitious creations. The company creates work which aims to impact local and global communities. Company SBB's social and philosophical messages are visceral and accessible to a diverse public, enabling people to embrace emotional content from a place of kinetic empathy. The company is in

permanent residence at University Settlement in the Lower East Side of Manhattan, is regularly produced by La MaMa Experimental Theater of New York City and is supported by the Jerome Robbins Foundation.

SBB's recent highlights include the 2021 American Ballet Theatre world premiere of monuMEnts at the 5 Moons Festival, Bessie nominated dance film Kolonial, commissioned by Baryshnikov Arts Center, 2020 Duke Performances dance film Current, 2019 Crossing The Line Festival live commission in partnership with La MaMa Experimental Theatre, and 2019 tour to France and 2018 tour to Italy of Bienvenue 欢迎 Welcome Bienvenido ٠ك٠ب, a dance-theatre and live installation performance.

Batten Bland has been commissioned by the European Union at the United Nations, Lincoln Center, Martha's Vineyard Museum, The Yard, Works & Process at The Guggenheim, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn Botanical Garden, Gibney Dance, Rire-Woodbury, The Juilliard School, Transitions Dance Company UK, Singapore Frontier Danceland, Spoleto Festival Italy, and Ailey II. She has also been commissioned by several lifestyle brands including Louis Vuitton, Guerlain, and Hermes.

Known for her unique visual and movement aesthetic, she served as movement director for "Eve's Song" at the Public Theater (Forbes 2018 Best Theater) was a part of the COVID rebuild of SleepNoMore and is currently Casting and Movement Director for Emersive Productions.

Batten Bland has been commissioned by the European Union at the United Nations, Lincoln Center, Martha's Vineyard Museum, The Yard, Works & Process at The Guggenheim, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn Botanical Garden, Gibney Dance, Rire Woodbury, The Juilliard School, Transitions Dance Company UK, Singapore Frontier Danceland, Spoleto Festival Italy, and Ailey II. She has also been commissioned by several lifestyle brands including Louis Vuitton, Geurlain, and Hermes.

Featured in The New York Times, New York Times Style Magazine, Dance Magazine, Dance Europe, Brooklyn Rail, Marie Claire, Dance Data Project, TV 5 Monde, and Dance Teacher Magazine among others, SBB is assistant professor in the department of theatre and dance at Montclair State University. She received her MFA in interdisciplinary arts with a concentration in performance creation - from Goddard College and lives in SoHo with her family, where she grew up the daughter of artists.



**LATRA WILSON** (Associate Artist & Performer with Stefanie Batten Bland/Re-Constructor)

Latra A Wilson is a Texas native and graduate from University of Missouri at Kansas City with a BFA. Ms. Wilson has since danced with artists and institutions across the creative spectrum from Paul Taylor 2 (NY), Opera Theater St. Louis (MO) to The PublicTheatre annual Shakespeare In The Park (NY). Ms. Wilson also shares dance to the community at large as a teaching artist with both the Kansas City friends of Alvin Ailey (MO) and Ailey Arts in Education (NY). Ms. Wilson in addition to singing, dancing and teaching continues to hone her craft by assisting some brilliant artists such as Stefanie Batten Bland (Eve's Song) Josh Prince (Dance Lab New York) and Karen Sieber to name a few. Currently Ms. Wilson is seeking her Level 1 Gyrotonic teacher certification and continues to Co artistic direct TheDynamitExperience a dance project she recently co-founded with her husband in 2018. Ms. Wilson is presently being represented by LDCArtists.

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**ANDREA MILLER**

ANDREA MILLER is the artistic director of Brooklyn-based company Gallim, and has established herself as a groundbreaking artist, relentlessly in study of the deeper meanings of physical movement within the human experience. A sought-after creator and collaborator in art, film, theater, tech, and fashion, in 2017-18 Miller became the first choreographer to be named Artist in Residence at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She is also a Guggenheim Fellow and in 2018 she was featured in Forbes as a female entrepreneur and leader in the dance world.

Miller creates movement-based works for dance, theater, museums, film, and fashion. Her works have been performed at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Lincoln Center Jacob's Pillow, The Joyce Theater, The Kennedy Center, NY City Center, BAM, Spoleto USA, Theatre National de Chaillot, Frieze Festival, and Art Basel, among others. Recent commissions include Pennsylvania Ballet, Abraham.in.Motion, NDT 2, Bern Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, Grace Farms, Peak Performances, and Kimmel Center. Upcoming commissions include: Martha Graham, Rambert 2, The Juilliard School, and Alvin Ailey 2. Collaborations in fashion include Hermès, Vogue, Lacoste, and Calvin Klein, among others. Film credits include The Death and Life of John F. Donovan (2018), directed by Xavier Dolan, and In This Life (2018), starring Robbie Fairchild. Other honors include: Sadler's Wells Jerwood Fellowships and Princess Grace Foundation Fellowship. Miller has developed an educational training program for professional and pre-professional dancers that is run from Gallim's Brooklyn home studio. Miller has been invited to teach at universities and educational centers across the U.S., including The Juilliard School, Harvard, Barnard, NYU, Marymount Manhattan College, and Wesleyan College, among others.

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**PAUL DAMIAN (COMPOSER - *Look Who's Coming to Dinner*)**

Paul Damian Hogan (Composer) writes and records music for film, dance, installations and albums. He earned his doctorate in music composition from Columbia University with a focus on chamber and electronic music. He has collaborated with choreographer Stefanie Batten-Bland on works premiered at La Mama Moves Dance Festival, Lincoln Center's New Dances, Crossing the Line Festival, as well as multiple dance videos. He scores narrative and documentary films, earning an Emmy nomination for his soundtrack for *Birders: The Central Park Effect*. His music is featured in artworks in the permanent collections of the Whitney Museum and MOMA. In his spare time, he also makes albums about dreams, traveling and dreaming about traveling.

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**TREVOR PRICE (COMPOSER - *coincidences, when we meet up.*)**

Trevor Price (Composer - *coincidences, when we meet up.*) is an accomplished singer/songwriter whose music has been featured in award-winning documentaries and independent films. He is the owner of The Lounge Recording Studio in Salt Lake City. He has produced and engineered multiple #1 billboard charting albums and has performed music worldwide.

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**ROB CANFIELD - GUEST PHOTOGRAPHER (exhibit in the lobby)****ARTIST BIO**

Rob Canfield is a Salt Lake City born photographer whose work centers around nature, people, and the dynamic relationship which they share. His first introduction to photography was at the University of Utah, where he studied arts and advocacy, communication, art technology, and music technology. Currently, he enjoys working as a portrait and winter sport photographer at Snowbird Mountain Resort.

**EXHIBITION TITLE - "Still Breathing"****EXHIBITION DESCRIPTION**

A photo series taken August 15, 2021, the initial day of the Parleys Canyon Fire. I made my trip up Little Cottonwood Canyon that afternoon, set to take pictures of the Oktoberfest celebration, while the fire blazed merely 12 miles away. It was the first time I ever experienced smog at 11,000 feet. Usually climate dread moves me to distract myself by any means necessary. The problem feels too big, so I seek to avoid it.

From the wide vantage and solitude of the mountain top, however, I instead sought a humbled acceptance of things I cannot control. As I was taking photos of the seemingly alien landscape, I felt thankful to find all the instances of life persisting against the polluted atmosphere. The silhouetted peaks stood firm in support of the flora and fauna below, and I felt peaceful realizing that even in the distress of climate change, life continues to be resilient and miraculous.

These prints were created to memorialize the conviction acquired that day: there is always peace to be found, even in the worst circumstances, simply in being grateful for every occasion of life.



**PETER FARROW** was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia. He began dancing in 2005 with Richmond Ballet's youth outreach program Minds In Motion. Two years later, he began his ballet training at the School of Richmond Ballet, where he would later become a trainee for the 2013 - 14 season. He attended the Juilliard School ('18) where he performed works by choreographers such as Nacho Duato, Ohad Naharin, Merce Cunningham, Jerome Robbins, and Aszure Barton, as well as creating his own work. He also attended summer programs at Arts Umbrella in Vancouver, Nederlands Dans Theater, and Springboard Danse Montréal. After graduating, he performed in Punchdrunk's immersive production Sleep No More in NYC until early 2020. He is thrilled to be joining Ririe-Woodbury for his very first season!



**CORINNE LOHNER** (she/her) is a movement artist from Dallas, Texas. With a background in contemporary dance performance, her current work is double pronged -- as an educator and creator — and centralizes around the belief that movement reveals to us the physical, energetic, and emotional laws of the universe and of self. With a creative portfolio that collaborates with many media and veers from traditional dance presentation, Corinne creates art that exposes humanity and comments on condition. Her work as an educator offers movement to humans as a way to reclaim and empower their own bodies. This is her second season with Ririe-Woodbury.



**MEGAN MCCARTHY** (she/her) (Portland, OR) received her formative training at the School of Oregon Ballet Theatre, and is a graduate of the California Institute of the Arts BFA Program in Dance. Since joining Ririe-Woodbury in 2017 she has had the pleasure of performing the works of Daniel Charon, Raja Feather Kelly, Doug Varone, Kate Weare, Yin Yue, Andrea Miller, Alwin Nikolais, and more. As a freelancer in Los Angeles, she worked extensively with Rosanna Gamson//World Wide, Acts of Matter, and The Union Project Dance Company, with whom she performed at Jacob's Pillow. Additionally, she has been a guest artist with the Des Moines Metro Opera, Portland Opera, Portland Festival Ballet, Pasadena Dance Theatre, szalt, Nugent Dance, and in numerous independent projects. Megan has toured internationally and domestically as a teacher and performer, and has her choreography produced in Portland, OR. She is grateful for the opportunity to share her love of dance.





**ALEXANDER PHAM** (he/they) is a first generation Vietnamese American dance artist from Minneapolis, Minnesota. He studied at the University of Minnesota and holds a BFA in Dance and a BS in Human Resource Development with dual honors. Alexander's passion and commitment lie at the intersection of performance, representation, and equity in dance, with the intent of creating meaningful dialogue and change. He has toured nationally and internationally over the last eight years, dancing with zoe | juniper, Spectrum Dance Theater, LED Boise, and TU Dance respectively. Through TU Dance, he had the opportunity to work in collaboration with music group Bon Iver for their collaborative performance "Come Through", and create visual elements for their latest album "i,i". He has also performed works by artists such as Alvin Ailey, Roy Assaf, Gregory Dolbashian, Martha Graham, Bill T. Jones, Larry Keigwin, Stephen Petronio, Zoe Scofield, and Yin Yue among others. Alexander is forever grateful to share through movement and hopes to continue innovating the ways in which dance can be equally as empowering as it is visceral. This is Alexander's first season with Ririe-Woodbury.



**FAUSTO RIVERA** (he/they) is a Chicano dance artist from the Pacific Northwest. He graduated with a BA in Dance and a minor in Anthropology from the University of Washington, where he was awarded the Evelyn H. Green Endowed Scholarship for artistic merit and promise. He grew up training in Mexican Folk Dance, and trained in ballet and modern dance in college. While at the UW, he danced with the Chamber Dance Company, under the direction of Hannah C. Wiley, performing work by Lar Lubovitch, Danny Shapiro/Joanie Smith, Bill T. Jones, and Doug Varone. He is a founding member of Seattle's Au Collective, a collective of dance artists highlighting the work of artists from marginalized communities. With Au, he has been able to present and perform original choreography throughout the PNW, as well as NYC. Fausto worked under the artistic direction of Donald Byrd at Spectrum Dance Theater, for six seasons, and was fortunate to tour throughout the country and abroad. This is his second season with Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company and he is excited to grow as an artist and an educator. He hopes to keep using dance as a tool for dismantling systemic and cultural oppression.



**MICHE' SMITH** is a dancer, actor and choreographer from Gautier, Mississippi. She grew up training where her mother and aunt trained, leading her to chase a life in the arts in pursuit of telling stories which would inspire and empower others. A graduate of Troy University, Miche' completed both a Bachelor's of Science in Theatre and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance and was awarded the David Dye Award for Excellence in Theatre Artistry. Upon graduation, Miche' accepted a position as acting apprentice at Aurora Theatre in Atlanta, where she continued to hone her skills as an actor, educator, and performer. Her most recent choreographic story was a commissioned dance film, Count It All, as a Dihvinely Konnecked fellow with Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre. Other creative work has been shared at Dance Canvas' Palette Project and Alabama Dance Festival's New Works Concert. Miche' aims to create an evocative, interdisciplinary body of work that encourages us to expose our humanity, examine our wounds, and deeply connect with one another empathetically. This is her first season with Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company and she is excited to grow as both artist and educator.



**DANIEL CHARON** (he/him)

Artistic Director of Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company since 2013, Daniel Charon has been active as a choreographer, teacher, and performer for over twenty-five years. While based in New York City, Daniel maintained a project-based company and primarily danced with Doug Varone and Dancers (1999-2010) and the Limón Dance Company (1997-1999). He is a BFA graduate of the North Carolina School of the Arts and an MFA graduate of the California Institute of the Arts in Choreography and Integrated Media.

As Ririe-Woodbury's Artistic Director, Daniel has created numerous original works for the stage, gallery installations, and has designed video for his and other choreographers' works. As an independent choreographer he has presented multiple full evening concerts in New York City, has been produced by various theaters, and has been commissioned to choreograph new works for many companies, universities, and festivals around the country. Daniel choreographed *The Pearl Fishers*, *Aida*, and *Moby-Dick* at the Utah Opera.

Daniel regularly teaches master classes and workshops nationally and internationally and has taught at the Metropolitan Opera, the Bates Dance Festival, Salt Dance Fest, North Carolina School of the Arts Summer Comprehensive, Varone Summer Dance Workshops, and Limón Summer Workshops. He has been a guest artist and adjunct professor at numerous universities Daniel has staged the works of José Limón, Jirí Kylián, and Doug Varone at schools and companies around the world.

**RIRIE-WOODBURY  
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### JENA C. WOODBURY | *Executive Director*

Born and raised in Salt Lake City, Jena began dancing at a very young age and continued her dance training into her early 20's in Utah, California, New York and France. Jena founded her own dance company, which toured throughout Utah for several years until she returned to the University of Utah to complete her BA in Communications.

In 1986 Jena became the Marketing and Education Director for the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company and during that time developed an educational outreach program that continues to be one of the Company's most important contributions to schools in Utah. Upon moving to Portland, OR in 1993, Jena became the Associate General Manager for Imago Theater, whose innovative works have delighted audiences around the world for over thirty years. In 1998 Jena was hired by Do Jump Movement Theater in Portland to facilitate their new endeavor to tour their

productions. The Company now performs worldwide. From 2000 to 2003, she was Booking/Touring Manager for the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company and Company Manager for Marcel Marceau's North American and Asian tours. Jena became the Associate Managing Director/Touring Director of the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company in 2004.

Then... inevitably, having mastered the secrets of the backstage shadows of a life in the performing arts, she ascended to the position of Executive Director in 2011. In 2019, Jena was named a top CEO by Utah Business Magazine.



### AI FUJII NELSON (she/her) | *Education Director*

Ai Fujii Nelson began dancing at the age of four in Tokyo, Japan, where she received several national dance awards. After coming to the U.S., she earned a BFA in Modern Dance at the University of Utah. Following graduation, Ai apprenticed for Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company in New York City, and danced professionally with Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company for eight seasons in Salt Lake City between 2000 and 2008. In 2009 she danced her way to New Zealand, where she acquired a Master of Creative and Performing Arts degree in choreography, and also worked with Touch Compass - a professional multi-ability dance company. Throughout her career, Ai has enjoyed teaching students of all ages and abilities, both nationally and internationally. In the state of Utah, she has served as Adjunct Faculty at Utah Valley University, taught creative dance for the University of Utah's Tanner Dance, as well as contemporary dance technique for the Ballet West Academy. She is thrilled to have returned to Ririe-Woodbury in 2014 as Education Director, and looks forward to

advancing the legacy of the Company's education programs.



### JUAN CARLOS CLAUDIO | *Outreach and Booking Director*

Juan Carlos served as an Assistant Professor from 2009–2016 for the University of Utah Department of Modern Dance after a ten-year performance career with Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company. He is the co-founder and CEO of Minding Motion for Graceful Aging™, outreach director for the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, and founder and co-director of Grey Matters—Dance for Parkinson's, the first program of its kind. Juan holds several certifications in gerontology, neurology, dementia care, movement disorders, and teaching artist certification from the National Center for Creative Aging, including an MFA in Modern Dance. He is a firm believer that dance is for everybody.

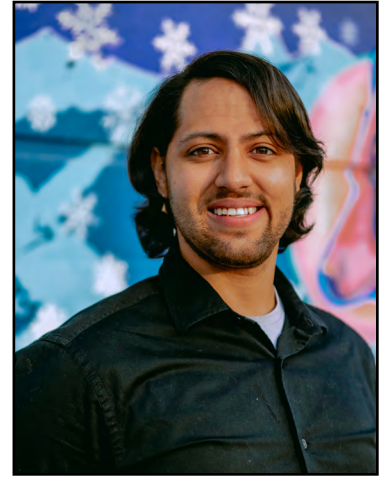




**DREW JAUSSAUD** (he/him)  
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MARKETING DIRECTOR/PR



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OFFICE MANAGER



**STEPHANIE LADWIG**  
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TICKETING

## RIRIE-WOODBURY DANCE COMPANY CO-FOUNDERS



**SHIRLEY RIRIE**  
*co-founder*

Shirley is a national leader in the field of dance for children. She was appointed to the committee which developed National Standards for Arts Education K-12 in 1994. She served as the United States delegate to Dance and the Child International and as a consultant for the Association of Instructional Television. She has also served on the National Advisory Committee for Young Audiences since 1974.

During her 35 year performing career, she performed leading roles in choreography by José Limón, Helen Tamiris, Alwin Nikolais, Murray Louis, and Merce Cunningham. Shirley has received an Honorary Doctorate, the Merit of Honor, and the Distinguished Woman of the Year Award from the University of Utah, the Governor's Award and Honors in the Arts from the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce, the Plaudit Award from the National Dance Association, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Utah Dance Education Association.



**JOAN WOODBURY**  
*co-founder*

Joan is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin where she studied with renowned dance philosopher Margaret H. Doubler and later with Mary Wigman in Berlin, Germany as the first Fulbright Scholar in dance. She was a professor of modern dance at the University of Utah where she taught for 47 years. Joan also studied with and had the privilege to teach for

Alwin Nikolais in the U.S., France and England, and to assist in the reconstruction of his works for the Company. She has choreographed over 100 works throughout her career and has danced and/or taught workshops and master classes all over the world. In addition to many choreographic grants and numerous other national awards Joan has been awarded Honorary Doctorates from Southern Utah University and from the University of Utah.



# ON TOUR | 2021-2022

Salt Lake City, UT with Utah Arts Festival - August 29th, 2021

Reno, NV with University of Nevada, Reno - October 11th-15th, 2021

Sheridan, WY with Sheridan Community College - October 26th-30th, 2021

Orem, UT with Utah Valley University - November 3rd-6th, 2021

Wilmington, NC with The Wilson Center for the Performing Arts at Cape Fear Community College - March 18th, 2022

Ivins, UT with Kayenta Center for the Arts - May 3rd-7th, 2022

Contact Juan Carlose Claudio with any questions or booking and touring opportunities at [touring@ririewoodbury.com](mailto:touring@ririewoodbury.com)

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**Donations are from September 2020 – September 2021.**

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**Contact: Drew Jaussaud, 801-297-4236  
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