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# MILWAUKEE BALLET

MICHAEL PINK, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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## **MILWAUKEE BALLET ANNOUNCES 2022/23 SEASON ROSTER**

**- Company welcomes two new dancers and celebrates Pink's 20<sup>th</sup> season -**

**Milwaukee, WI – September 27, 2022** – Michael Pink announced Milwaukee Ballet's roster of dancers for the 2022/23 Season, his 20<sup>th</sup> leading the Company as Artistic Director. The Company of 24 dancers officially returned to Baumgartner Center for Dance this week to begin preparing for the *Season of Timeless Tales*.

Theatrical productions will include favorites from Pink's choreographic repertoire in honor of his 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary: *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker*, *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and *Peter Pan*, all to be performed at Marcus Performing Arts Center. The Company will return to the Pabst Theater for the first time since February 2020, with *Originals*, and will close the season with *Encore*, a mixed repertoire of contemporary and classical favorites, performed in the We Energies Foundation Studio at Baumgartner Center for Dance.

New Company Artist, Eric Figueredo, will make his Milwaukee Ballet debut this fall, following two seasons in the *corps de ballet* with The Sarasota Ballet.

"I see Eric as an individual with high-quality dance training, natural coordination, and a tremendous sense of aesthetics," said Pink. "He underlies his talent with strong personal discipline. You can really tell he's here to work hard. Everyone who meets Eric remarks on his affable personality, and for all these reasons, I know he will be an asset to our Company."

Another new addition to the Company is Alyssa Schilke, who was promoted from the Second Company, Milwaukee Ballet II (MBII). A Cedarburg native, Schilke is an alumna of Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy.

"I have seen Alyssa grow and develop as an artist throughout her time here, first in the school, then in our Pre-Professional Program, and most recently during her time with MBII," said Pink. "During the past season, Alyssa danced in several Company productions, including *Beauty and the Beast* and *Aftermath*, which was choreographed by 2022 *Genesis* winner, Price Suddarth. Because of her strong dancing and sense of style, she seamlessly fits into the talented group of Artists here at Milwaukee Ballet, and we couldn't be happier to welcome a home-grown dancer like her into our ranks."

### **2022/23 Season Roster**

**Leading Artists:** Parker Brassler Vos, Randy Crespo, Marize Fumero, Annia Hidalgo, Davit Hovhannisyan, Barry Molina, Lahna Vanderbush.

**Artists:** Josiah Cook, Eric Figueredo, Craig Freigang, Garrett Glassman, Alana Griffith, Elizabeth Harrison, Marie Harrison-Collins, Itzel Hernandez, Daniela Maarraoui, Kristen Marshall, Marko Micov, Michael Rinderle, Hailee Rodriguez, Alyssa Schilke, Benjamin Simoens, Lizzie Tripp, Ransom Wilkes-Davis

### **New Dancers**

#### ***Eric Figueredo, Artist***

Figueredo was born in Itatiaia, Rio de Janeiro, and began his dance training at age ten in Brazil. He had the opportunity to participate in several national and international competitions, representing Brazil and winning the 2016 Prix de Lausanne Competition in Switzerland. He received a scholarship to continue his training at Houston Ballet Academy for the 2017/18 Season and then joined Texas Ballet Theater in 2018 as an Apprentice and as a member of the *corps* of The Sarasota Ballet in 2020. This is his first season with Milwaukee Ballet.

#### ***Alyssa Schilke, Artist***

Schilke trained with Mirror Image Dance Academy, Bella Via Dance Studio, and Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy. She attended Summer Intensives on scholarship for Milwaukee Ballet, Miami City Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, and The National School of Dance of Marseille, France. Schilke placed in the Top 12 Senior Contemporary and received Second Place in Senior Classical at Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) in Chicago and was invited to the YAGP Finals in New York City. At age 17, she joined MBII, performing alongside the Company in Michael Pink's production of *Coppélia* and *The Nutcracker*. During her two years with MBII, she danced as Odette in *Swan Lake*, the Sugar Plum Fairy in the *Nutcracker Tea*, Kitri in *Don Quixote*, and performed a featured role in *Sylvia*. This is Schilke's first season with Milwaukee Ballet Company.

### **The 2022/23 Season**

Milwaukee Ballet's *Season of Timeless Tales* includes classic, magical stories, family favorites, theatrical tales, and inventive new works. Single tickets and subscription packages are available.

The 2022/23 Season is presented by Donald & Donna Baumgartner with support from the United Performing Arts Fund, Wisconsin Arts Board, CAMPAC, Milwaukee Arts Board, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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### **About Milwaukee Ballet**

Milwaukee Ballet was founded in 1970. Led by Artistic Director Michael Pink, Milwaukee Ballet creates a rich and diverse community through its inspiring dance performance, education, and outreach. Milwaukee Ballet hosts an international Company of dancers and maintains its own orchestra. Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy is the only professional dance school in the Midwest accredited by the National Association of Schools of Dance, teaching beginner through pre-professional levels in three locations: Third Ward, Fox Point, and Brookfield. Milwaukee Ballet's award-winning Community Engagement department serves nearly 30,000 people in Southeastern Wisconsin each year through original, interactive programs. Milwaukee Ballet is a proud cornerstone member of United Performing Arts Fund and holds a four-star rating from Charity Navigator.

*Note to Editors: Interviews with Milwaukee Ballet Artistic Director Michael Pink and high-resolution images are available upon request.*