

NW
DANCE
PROJECT

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
SARAH SLIPPER

MAY 30 + 31
NEWMARK THEATRE

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Gustavo Ramírez Sansano

PIAF

Ihsan Rustem





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NW Dance Project offers this land acknowledgment with gratitude, appreciation, and respect to those who lived upon and stewarded this precious land before colonization.

The Portland metropolitan area, originally known as the Wapato Valley, rests on the unceded land and village sites of numerous indigenous tribes including Multnomah, Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Chinook, Tualatin, Kalapuya, Molalla, and many other peoples who lived and made their homes along the Columbia and Willamette Rivers.

We recognize that this land was unjustly taken from these tribes and we take this opportunity to thank the original caretakers of this land.

We wish to recognize and honor the present-day federally recognized tribes of this area: Grande Ronde, Siletz, and Cowlitz; as well as Chinook Nation, whose federal recognition is long overdue.

Our debt to these honored peoples as well as their descendants is abundant, present, and everlasting.

NW DANCE PROJECT

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
SARAH SLIPPER

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A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM + PIAF

MAR 30 + 31 / 2025

Newmark Theatre

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Sarah Slipper

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Scott Lewis

REHEARSAL ASSISTANT

Quincie Bean

COMPANY DANCERS

Samantha Aymong

Quincie Bean

Armando Brydson

Gabriel Canepa

Beatriz García Díaz

Ingrid Ferdinand

Anthony Milian

Alejandra Preciado

Mateo Vidals

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PLEASE NOTE: Food, cameras, and recording devices are not permitted in the theatre.

Smoking is not permitted in the theatre or in the building.



SARAH SLIPPER

artistic director/
choreographer

Sarah Slipper was born and raised in Vancouver, British Columbia, and received her professional training at the Royal Ballet School in London, England and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School. In 1980, she made her professional debut with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet as a corps de ballet member, and became one of the company's leading dramatic ballerinas. Ms. Slipper worked closely with many internationally renowned

directors, choreographers and teachers, including Arnold Spohr, Rudi van Dantzig, Hans van Manen, Jiri Kylián, Agnes de Mille, Galina Yordanova, and Alla Savchenko. Ms. Slipper was noted for her classical line and dramatic abilities, dancing the principal roles in classical ballets such as *Swan Lake*, *Les Sylphides*, *Giselle*, and *The Nutcracker*. In addition to the classical repertoire, she received worldwide acclaim for her performances of contemporary ballets, most notably Robert Vesak's *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe* and the award winning *Belong pas de deux*.

After Ms. Slipper left the stage, she continued her passion for music and drama, studying theatre at the honours level at the University of Winnipeg, and in Oxford, England. During the 1996/97 season, she served as ballet mistress of Alberta Ballet, and from 1997/99 as ballet mistress of Oregon Ballet Theatre. Ms. Slipper's command of classical and contemporary styles is demonstrated in her active role of teaching and coaching younger dancers. As a guest master teacher, Ms. Slipper has worked with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Washington Ballet, Ballet Austin, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, The Jefferson Dancers and the Dance Departments of the University of Utah, Cornish College of the Arts, and the University of Iowa.

An award-winning independent choreographer, Ms. Slipper is presently based in Portland, Oregon, creating dance worldwide. She has worked with prominent dance companies including the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theatre, Nashville Ballet, Washington Ballet, Ballet Jorgen, Louisville Ballet, Fugate/Bahiri BalletNY, Alberta Ballet, Ballet Pacifica, Cornish Dance Theater, NW Dance Project and The Jefferson Dancers. She was awarded the Grand Prize for Choreography at the International Choreographic Competition Saint Sauveur 2000 for her ballet *Shattered Night*, which was created on the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. During her choreographic residency at Festival des Arts in Quebec, Canada, her ballet *A River In A Dry Land*, was described by the Montreal Gazette as "one of the finest choreographies produced in residency." Ms. Slipper's works have been described as "absolutely remarkable ... grippingly pits breezy romanticism against a sinister undercurrent." (*The Oregonian*) and "... a complete, enclosed world, a somber yet hopeful winter landscape across which the three couples thread in a long, smoothly unfolding skein of dance." (*The New York Times*)

A Fine Balance, her pas de deux created during the first year of NW Dance Project, was a finalist for the prestigious Benois de la Danse award in 2006 and was performed at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow as part of the award's gala celebration.

Ms. Slipper has created over 50 ballets to date and is currently working on several new creations while serving as the Artistic Director of NW Dance Project.

IHSAN RUSTEM

choreographer

Ihsan Rustem was born in London and at the Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance. Ihsan began his professional career at 17, joining Matthew Bourne's Adventures in Motion Pictures, followed by engagements with Ballett Theater Munich and Introdans in The Netherlands. In 2007 Ihsan moved to Switzerland as a Soloist with the Bern Ballet and was later a founding member of the Tanz Luzerner Theater where he originated roles in creations by Wayne McGregor, Hofesh Shechter, Alexander Ekman, Matthew Bourne, Stijn Celis, Patrick Delcroix, Cayetano Soto, Felix Landerer, Guilherme Bothello and worked with choreographers Mats Ek, Jiri Kylián, Paul Lightfoot / Sol Leon, Hans van Manen, and William Forsythe, amongst others. In 2010, Sarah Slipper invited Ihsan to create his first commission for a company, and in 2015 he was appointed Resident Choreographer of NW Dance Project. His works for the company in Portland have been recognized with numerous accolades, highlighted by his company debut creation, State of Matter winning the 2012 Sadler's Wells Global Dance Contest. Ihsan has created eight works for NW Dance Project and his work has appeared in the repertoire of numerous other prestigious companies around the world. In 2021 Ihsan joined the jury of the prestigious Prix de Lausanne. That same year, together with choreographer Cathy Marston, he co-founded the Swiss-based dance company Cie. La Ronde.



GUSTAVO RAMÍREZ SANSANO

guest choreographer

Gustavo Ramírez Sansano (San Fulgencio, Spain) served as Artistic Director of Luna Negra Dance Theater (2009-2013) and currently directs TITOYAYA, a company he co-founded in Spain in 2006. He's garnered awards such as first prize at the Ricard Moragas Competition in Barcelona (1997) and Prix Dom Perignon Choreographic Competition in Hamburg (2001). Recognitions include being named one of the 'Fifteen Choreographers to Watch' by POR LA DANZA magazine (2004) and 'Chicagoan of the Year in Arts & Entertainment' by the Chicago Tribune (2012) to name a few. His commissions include works for Alvin Ailey, Nederlands Dans Theater, and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, among others. Sansano's collaborations extend to opera productions with companies like Chicago Opera Theater and Opera Philadelphia. He's collaborated with artists such as Luis Crespo and David Delfin. Sansano has taught and choreographed for institutions worldwide, including The Juilliard School and Jacob's Pillow.



company



QUINCIE BEAN

rehearsal assistant + dancer

Quincie Bean was raised in Utah and began dancing at the young age of three. She completed her pre-professional training at Provo Civic Ballet before relocating to Santa Fe to join Modas Dance's year-round program under the direction of Layla Amis. In Santa Fe, she danced works by Robert Moses and Gail Gilbert. Her next move took her to Chicago where she danced for Cocodaco Dance Project, NOW Dance Project, and Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre. Quincie later collaborated on projects for LED and Project Flux, both in Boise. Notable performances include Treefort Music Festival, Festival Prisma Danza, and Dance for Life in Chicago. She has performed works by Lauren Edson, David Maurice, Alex Ketley, and Garrett Smith, among others. Since joining NW Dance Project in 2021 she has danced works by Ihsan Rustem, Joseph Hernandez, Sarah Slipper, Caroline Finn, Yin Yue, and Bryan Arias, among others. This is Quincie's first season as the newly appointed Rehearsal Assistant.



SAMANTHA AYMONG grew up in Vancouver, Canada, and started dancing at the age of six. She completed her training with Arts Umbrella Dance Company, where she worked with choreographers such as Crystal Pite, Sidra Bell, and Marco Goecke. She also trained under Tom Weinberger at the NuovaX training program in Torino, Italy. Before joining NW Dance Project, Samantha worked for Bodytraffic in Los Angeles and worked with Ballet BC. Throughout her career, she had opportunities to collaborate with many world-renowned choreographers, including Fernando Melo, Roni Chadash, and Bryan Arias. Samantha is very happy to be joining NW Dance Project for the 2024-25 season.



ARMANDO BRYDSON, born in Camagüey, Cuba, studied at the Vicentina de la Torre Academy of Arts. He danced with Endedans Contemporary Ballet before joining Liza Alfonso Dance Cuba in 2017-2018 and later Malpaso Dance Company. Throughout his career, he has worked with choreographers, including Maura Morales, Jens Bjerregaard, Pedro Ruiz, and Elizabeth Roxas-Dobrich. He has performed pieces by Osnel Delgado, Beatriz García, Aszure Barton, Robyn Mineko Williams, Flock, Iratxe Ansa & Igor Bacovich, and Ohad Naharin. He has also performed works by Ronald K. Brown and Merce Cunningham. Armando participated in the XXVII International Ballet Festival of Miami by presenting an original work of his own creation. He performed as a guest artist with Cuban Classical Ballet of Miami and Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami. Additionally, he created a work for Santa Fe College and served as the choreographic assistant in the creation of "En camino" for Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami. Armando joined NW Dance Project in 2023.

GABRIEL CANEPA was born in Houston, Texas, he graduated from Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts before attending the Juilliard School where he performed works by Tiler Peck, Ohad Naharin, Rena Butler, and Jawole Willa Jo Zollar. As part of Peridance Contemporary Dance Company's 40th Anniversary Season, Gabe danced in works by Igal Perry, Robert Battle, Ohad Naharin, Johannes Wieland, and Jessica Lang. While with Visceral Dance Chicago, he performed 18+1 by Gustavo Ramírez Sansano, as well as the Chicago return of the choreographer's CARMEN.maquia at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. Gabe is thrilled to now be dancing with NW Dance Project.

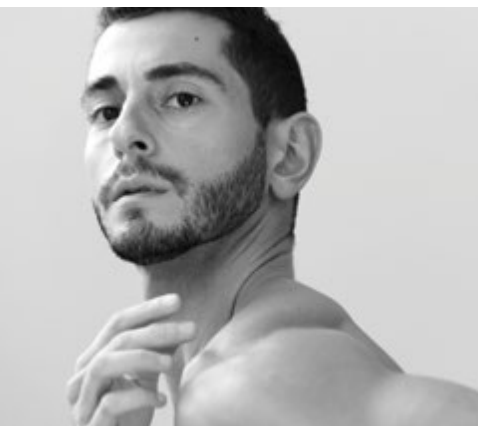


BEATRIZ GARCÍA DÍAZ Beatriz García Díaz, born in Havana, Cuba, graduated from the National Ballet School and the University of Arts of Cuba. She began her career with Danza Teatro Retazos Company before joining Malpaso Dance Company in 2014. She worked on multiple pieces created by artistic director and choreographer, Osnel Delgado and has worked with the choreographers Trey McIntyre, Aszure Barton, Sonya Tayeh, Robyn M. Williams, Flock, Iratxe Ansa & Igor Bacovich, and Ohad Naharin. Beatriz has also performed with Cuban Classical Ballet of Miami and Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami. Beatriz has created her own choreographic works for Acosta Danza and Malpaso Dance Company. She was invited to participate in the II Meeting of Young Choreographers in Cali, Colombia and participated in the XXVII International Ballet Festival of Miami by presenting an original work of her own creation. In addition to this, she has created work for Santa Fe College and for Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami. Beatriz joined NW Dance Project in 2023.



INGRID FERDINAND, a Chicago native, began her dance journey at the Academy of Movement and Music under the guidance of Stephanie Clemens. Subsequently, she went on to train at The Chicago Academy for the Arts and Marymount Manhattan College. In 2018, she became part of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago's "HSPro" under the mentorship of Alexandra Wells. Here, Ingrid performed works by Rena Butler, Florian Lochner, Peter Chu, Robyn Mineko Williams, Adam Barruch, Jenna Pollock, and David Norsworthy. Post-training, Ingrid contributed to the creation and performance of "delirium (honesty)" by House of DOV at the Adler Planetarium in Chicago, collaborated with Thodos and Danceworks Chicago, as well as played a foundational role in the establishment of Little Fire Artist Collective. Following the pandemic, Ingrid joined NW Dance Project, where she danced in works by Sarah Slipper, Ihsan Rustem, Joseph Hernandez, Yin Yue, Caroline Finn, Bryan Arias, Nicole Von Arx, Gustavo Ramírez Sansano, Serge Bennathan, and Andrea Parson. Additionally, Ingrid has had the privilege of premiering some of her own choreography on the company.





ANTHONY MILIAN, from Ann Arbor, Michigan holds a BFA in Dance with Honors Research Distinction from The Ohio State University and a Master's Degree in Movement Science, specializing in Biomechanics and Reproductive Physiology, from the University of Michigan, where he received a full Merit Fellowship. Upon undergraduate graduation, Anthony completed the Hubbard Street Professional program and was selected to apprentice for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago's main company performing repertory by Rena Butler, Alejandro Cerrudo, Ohad Naharin, and Crystal Pite, among others. In 2022, Anthony performed at the Venice Biennale Festival with Studio Wayne McGregor performing works by Merce Cunningham, Edit Domoszlai, and Saburo Teshigawara. While being offered admittance to complete a Ph.D in Biokinesiology on a fully funded research and teaching assistantship at the University of Southern California, Anthony declined the offer to pursue his dancing career at NW Dance Project. Since joining the company, Anthony has performed original roles in new works by Sarah Slipper, Luca Veggetti, Ihsan Rustem, Yin Yue, Caroline Finn, Bryan Arias, and Serge Bennathan.



ALEJANDRA PRECIADO is from Panama City, Panama, where she started dancing at three years old. After her family relocated to Salt Lake City, Utah, she continued her training until finishing her high school dance education at Ballet West Academy. Ale attended the Alonzo King LINES Ballet B.F.A. Program at Dominican University. During her time there, she studied ballet, contemporary, modern, and the GYROTONIC® method. After graduating college in 2019, she began freelancing in San Francisco with multiple organizations such as SFDANCEWORKS. In 2021 Ale joined NW Dance Project as a company artist where she has performed original roles in new works by Sarah Slipper, Ihsan Rustem, Yin Yue, Joseph Hernandez, Caroline Finn, Bryan Arias, and others. In her time at NW Dance Project, Ale has also taught at their intensives and school. She is eager and passionate to share her experiences with the next generation.



MATEO VIDALS grew up in Brooklyn, New York, and began dancing at the age of six under the direction of Shannon Hummel, Artistic Director of Cora Dance. After years of enjoying dance recreationally, Mateo decided to invest himself more seriously, attending Fort Hamilton High School as a Dance Major and later enrolling at SUNY Purchase as a Dance Major in 2020. Mateo has worked alongside widely recognized choreographers such as Andrea Miller, Norbert De La Cruz, Doug Varone, Gregory Dolbashian, Greg Lau, Earl Mosley, Darrell Moultrie, Jie-hung Connie, Jesse Obremski, and Antonio Brown. He has trained at several institutions such as Cora Dance, Paul Taylor American Modern Dance, and The Joffrey Ballet Academy. Mateo graduated from SUNY Purchase in 2024 with a BFA in dance performance and composition. Mateo joined NW Dance Project in 2024.

THANK YOU!

NW Dance Project thanks the following individuals, foundations, corporations, and government agencies for their generous support. This listing reflects gifts received from May 16, 2024 through May 15, 2025. If you have a correction or concern concerning this listing, or want to become included on the list, please contact Executive Director Scott Lewis at 503.756.1912 or info@nwdanceproject.org.



photos / Blaine Truitt Covert

dancers /

Beatriz García Díaz + Armando Brydson (front cover)

Anthony Milian + Armando Brydson

+ Alejandra Preciado + Mateo Vidals (inside front cover)

Ingrid Ferdinand + Armando Brydson (above)

Ingrid Ferdinand + Armando Brydson (back cover)

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NW DANCE PROJECT

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
SARAH SLIPPER

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