

ALBERTA DANCE THEATRE PRESENTS

INTERSTELLAR

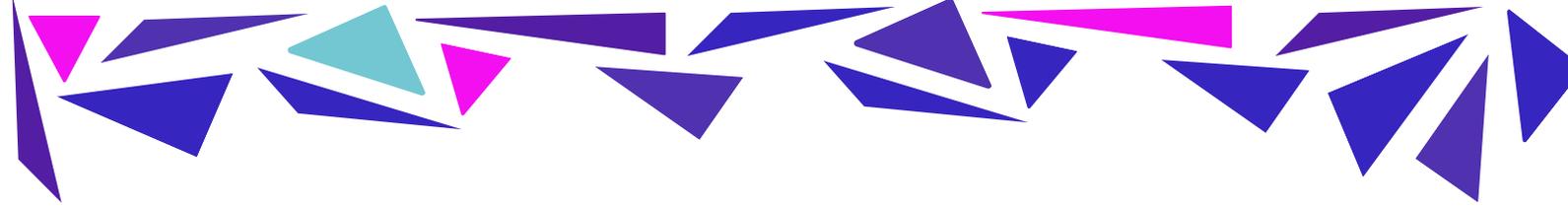
CINDERELLA

Based on the book by
Deborah Underwood and Meg Hunt

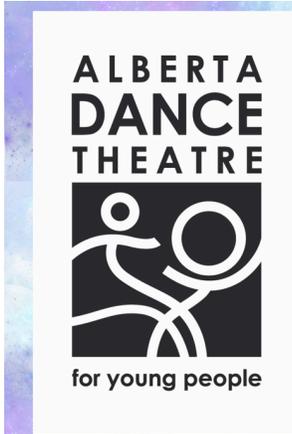


November 27-29, 2025
DJD Dance Centre





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Alberta Dance Theatre is a not-for-profit charitable arts organization dedicated to the creative potential of youth in dance.

We rely on financial and in-kind support from corporations, individuals and government funders to offer our annual programming.



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About Us

Formerly known as Children in Dance, Alberta Dance Theatre has been a part of the Calgary dance community since 1979. As many as 50+ young performers in Grades 1-12 have created and performed in ADT's annual dance productions. Children's literature provides the basis for the script and original music is commissioned. As a result, a rich tradition has been established that provides imaginative, engaging and affordable family entertainment to Calgarians. Works of the company have also been performed around the world in Brazil and The Netherlands, and province-wide in Edmonton, Banff and Lethbridge.

Each spring, Alberta Dance Theatre holds open call placement auditions inviting dancers from around the city of Calgary to join the company. ADT welcomes dancers of all experience levels and uses the auditions as a way to place the dancers in the appropriate performance group. Follow us on Facebook or Instagram, or visit our website to join our newsletter list to keep up to date on all Audition happenings. If you are interested in joining the company we'd love to meet you. Be sure to stop by the lobby for more program information!





Artistic Directors' Note

Welcome to Alberta Dance Theatre's 45th Anniversary show! We are thrilled to present *Interstellar Cinderella* to you! For us this story is about finding your passions and pursuing them through the many challenges, moments of sorrow and missteps you might have along the way. Our version of "Ella" is ferocious in her independence and confident in her skills, a perfect role model for star gazers of any age. For our 45th Anniversary, we wanted to present a story that was quirky, imaginative and fun! We hope you laugh throughout and leave inspired by this show that so uniquely represents us: a company of passionate individuals who have found a place to belong at ADT.

When Jessalyn and Alicia first received calls about taking on the roles of Co-Artistic Director and General Manager of Alberta Dance Theatre they both readily said YES! The company merged everything they loved about art making and teaching. An opportunity not to be missed! It wasn't until the first onboarding meeting that they found out that it was a paid position What a bonus that they could pursue their passions AND receive fair compensation!

Since then, Jessalyn and Alicia have grown immensely alongside the organization thanks to the Board of Directors whose knowledgeable hands helped shape them not only as leaders but also as people. It has been an incredible gift to steward this truly special company for the past seven years.

Alberta Dance Theatre, formally Children in Dance, has had 16 Artistic Directors who have poured themselves into this company, ensuring its legacy of shows made by kids, for kids, with kids continues year after year. And the shows have been out-of-this-world! A special shout out goes to all the parent volunteers whose time and energy still exist beyond their tenure with the company in the lovingly crafted costumes and set pieces we still use. We estimate there have been over 30,000 volunteer hours contributed in our history!

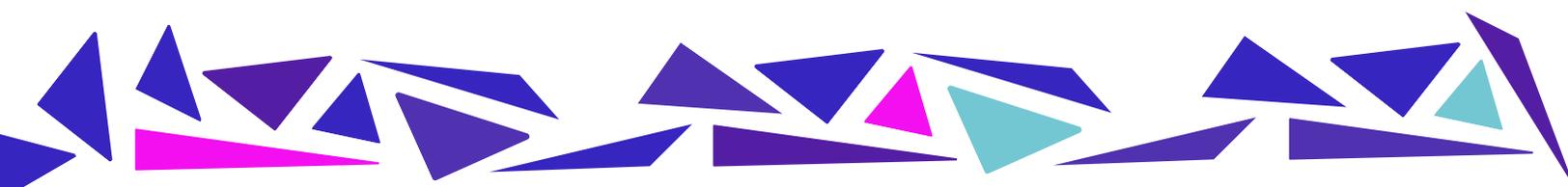
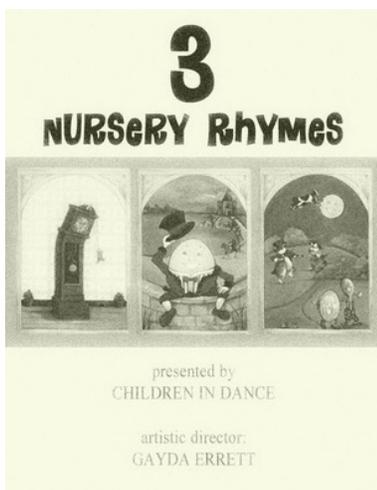
We want to honour all the professional artists who have created alongside ADT Youth Artists. The artistic excellence could not have been achieved without these choreographers, theatre artists, composers, production designers, and puppeteers! Looking back at old posters fills us with excitement to recognize names of established professionals who were still experimenting with their craft as emerging artists at ADT.

ADT is magic in the making! We are deeply grateful for being just a small part of the journey. To launch us into our next 45 years we have given our logo and messaging some new rocket fuel! The team at Everbrave Branding Group has gifted us with tear jerking, heart pulling, happy tear making material we are so proud to share with you.

Thank you for being here to celebrate with us, support us, and believe in young people enacting their ideas! You put our imaginations into orbit!
It means the galaxy to us!

Enjoy the show!

Alicia Molinski & Jessalyn Reimer
Just Two Stars In This Beautiful Galaxy





Board of Directors' Note

It is the 45th Anniversary of the Alberta Dance Theatre and the members of the ADT Board are excited to continue to support our dancers, choreographers, artistic directors and all the others who work behind the scenes to create the show.

We are humbled and in awe of our Artistic Directors /General Managers, Alicia Molinski and Jessalyn Reimer. Alicia and Jessalyn build an inclusive, supportive and educational environment where youth dancers feel safe and inspired. They challenge the dancers to be the best artists and community members they can be, and the dancers rise to the challenge! We are forever thankful to Alicia and Jessalyn for their exceptional leadership as they foster a welcoming and motivating culture that has our dancers returning year after year.

This season is a success because of how our ADT community consistently shows up, collaborates, and thrives together! With heartfelt gratitude we give our thanks to our hardworking parents for their volunteer hours, exceptional skill sets and for sharing loving support and encouragement with our dancers. These valuable volunteer hours are spent fundraising, sourcing materials, building, sewing, painting, cutting, and constructing. Each of these tasks help transport us into the world of the show. When you see this show, it will be perfectly clear that our parents and community pour just as much love into the show as our dancers do!

We also acknowledge ADT Alumni who have built the foundation on which we can continue to grow. Without your hard work in the last 45 years, ADT would not be where it is now.

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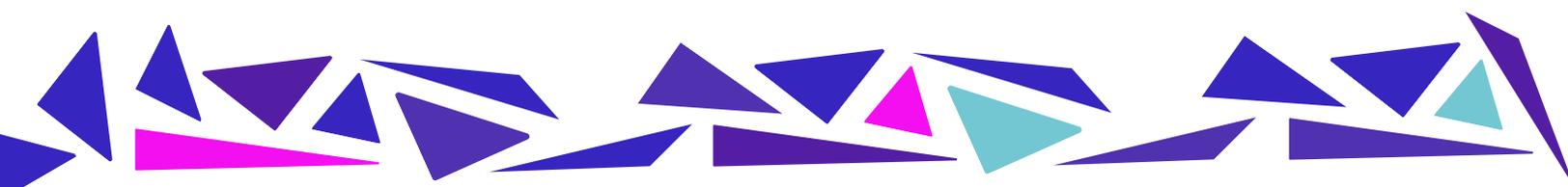
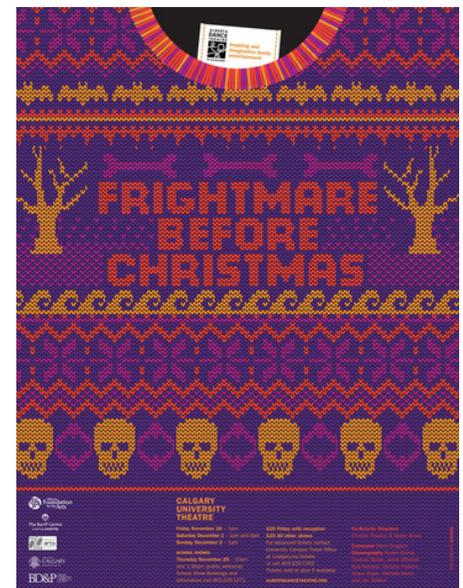
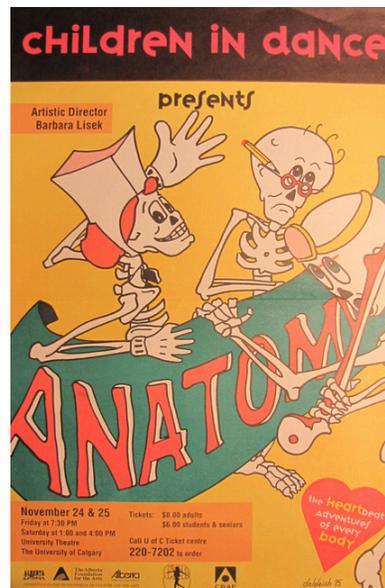
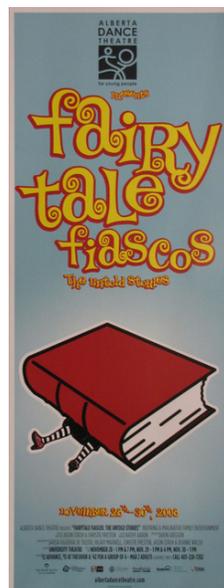
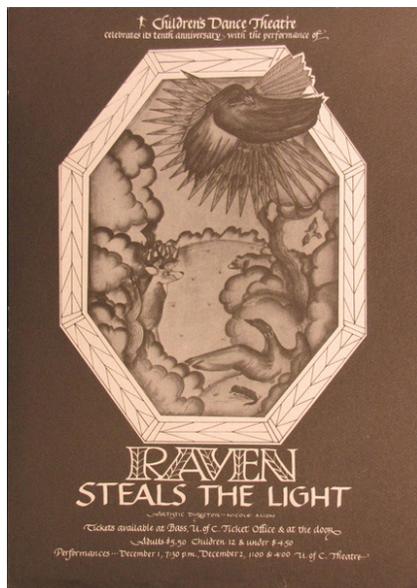
This year the Board welcomes our new board member, Jillian Yaehne Babatunde, who has graciously volunteered to join existing members Scott Tallman, Joe Anderson, Shela Luprypa, Irina Charania, Maite Barajas, Viv Krauchek, Rae Shungur, Krista White, and Jean Hsieh. We always welcome additional volunteers who would like to serve on the Board.

As a non-profit organization, the funds and services that are provided through our grants and donations are critical to our existence. We are truly honoured to receive grants through the Alberta Foundation for the Arts and Calgary Arts Development. This year, we would especially like to acknowledge a large donation from Maillot Homes (Thank you!!). All of us are grateful for your gift. We also want to thank our sponsors Pattison Outdoor, Carbon Graphics Group and Sedimentary Geology Consultants. We are honored by your support.

We give our final thanks to you, the audience. A show is truly only a show when we have an audience with which we can share it. As a non-profit we appreciate your generosity and your time. Thank you for joining us in the beautiful DJD theatre as our cast takes us on a familiar but distinct journey. If you enjoyed this show, please share your thoughts with loved ones. For more information on how you can support Alberta Dance Theatre please visit our website.

Wishing everyone happiness and great health this holiday season,

Jean Hsieh, Chair, Board of Directors
& Scott Tallman, Vice Chair, Board of Directors





Dances

Galaxy

Choreography facilitated by Alicia Molinski & Jessalyn Reimer

Robot Mice

Choreography facilitated by Lane Sayer

Evil Step Sisters

Choreography facilitated by Mira Gitelman

Trapped Without A Toolbox

Choreography facilitated by Megan Gole
Choreographed & Performed by Brooklyn Dorey

Space Transmission

Choreography facilitated by Kaja Irwin

Fairy Godrobot

Choreography facilitated by Katherine Mandolidis
Choreographed and performed by Sadie Kidd

Space Parade

Choreography facilitated by Alicia Molinski & Jessalyn Reimer

Embers

Choreography facilitated by Megan Gole

Gravity Free Ball

Choreography facilitated by Alexa Elser

Midnight

Choreography facilitated by Alicia Molinski & Jessalyn Reimer

Cinderella Trapped

Choreography facilitated by Mira Gitelman
Choreographed and performed by Prokriti Datta

Gears & Stars

Choreography facilitated by Katherine Mandolidis

My Stars! Dreams Do Come True!

Choreography facilitated by Alicia Molinski and Jessalyn Reimer



Credits

Artistic Directors

Alicia Molinski & Jessalyn Reimer

Interstellar Cinderella © Deborah Underwood, 2015

Adapted by Alberta Dance Theatre

Choreography

Alberta Dance Theatre Youth Artists

Alexa Elser, Mira Gitelman, Megan Gole, Kaja Irwin, Katherine Mandolidis, Lane Sayer,

Alicia Molinski, Jessalyn Reimer

Dance Captains: Nayeli Barajas, Bronwyn McCoy

Script

Alberta Dance Theatre Youth Artists

Conrad Belau

Composition

Dean Lauderdale

Lighting Design

Kim Creller

Stage Manager

Tonisha Kroeger

Costumes & Props

Jessalyn Reimer, Priya D'Mello

Volunteers: Jillian Babatunde, Meghan Drennan, Heather Edey, Vivian Krauchek, Shela
Luprypa

Backstage

Leanne Kidd

Volunteers: Jenny Day, Charlene Dorey,
Jean Hsieh, Kalyn Wiebe

Set

Volunteers: Lindsay Berg, Rae Shungur

Poster Design

Amanda Ho

ADT Administrator

Natalie Murray



Board of Directors

Board of Directors

Jean Hsieh - Chair
Scott Tallman - Vice Chair
Joe Anderson- Treasurer
Irina Charania - Parent Liaison
Shela Luprypa - Secretary
Maite Barajas - Director
Viv Krauchek - Director
Rae Shungur - Director
Krista White - Director

Founders

Gayda Errett
The Late Eleanor Laishley

Honorary Board Members

Nicole Mion
The Late Shirley Murray
Shannon Bachynski
Emily Forrest
Hannah Stillwell
Rhonda Dupuis

Thank you to all past and present ADT staff and board members for keeping the vision of ADT thriving for future generations. Thank you for your generosity, your ingenuity, and your time. You have elevated ADT beyond what we could do alone. We are so grateful to have this magical place to create art and watch the growth of some amazing young people.

Sponsors

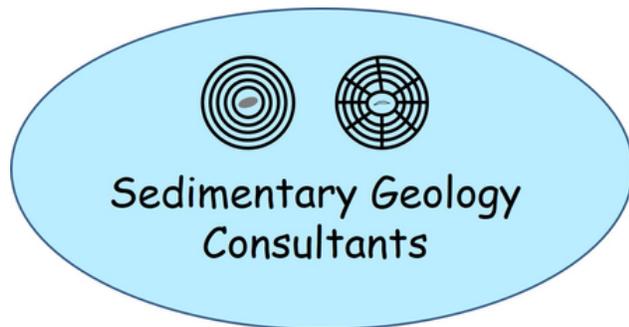
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Thank You

Alicia and Jessalyn would like to thank the Youth Artists for their focus and dedication this year! Even when it was tough you arrived at rehearsal ready to go. To our new to ADT Youth Artists, thank you for jumping right in! To the graduating Youth Artists, best wishes in what lies ahead. We are cheering you on every step of the way!

Thank you to the ADT families for their generosity of time, energy and believing in the Alberta Dance Theatre experience.

Thank you to all our volunteers for your trust, your innovation, and your excitement!

Thank you to this year's Creative Team! Thank you for your endurance, positivity, and stability!

We would also like to extend a thank you to Deborah Underwood and their team who allowed us to use *Interstellar Cinderella* as this year's inspiration. Thank you for this inspirational version of Cinderella!

Thank you to the Alberta Dance Theatre Staff and Board of Directors (past and present) who put in countless hours throughout the year to support our work in the studio every fall.

Thank you to Sarah, Claire, Tess and the entire DJD Dance Centre team who made our rehearsals and show week experience possible!
Thank you for looking after us!

Thank you to the Decidedly Jazz Danceworks Youth Training Program and the Dance Opportunities Society for costume rentals.

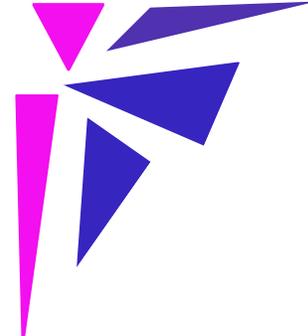
As always, thank you to our audiences! Thank you for taking a chance on a show made by kids, with kids, for kids! We hope you enjoy the show!

Thanks to The Next Page who facilitated getting a copy of *Interstellar Cinderella* into the hands of each Youth Artist.

Thank you to 2150 Creative and Emily Taylor for your videography and photography skills once again this year!

the next page
books & coffee

TWENTYONEFIFTY
creative



Dancer Biographies

Piper

Piper is a grade 11 student and is 16 years old. She is very excited to perform her second year of shows with Alberta Dance Theatre. Piper's favourite part of dance is the people she builds relationships with throughout. She'd like to thank the community of people who have helped her get where she is today. This includes her parents who have supported her through everything, and her best friends Avery and Alice who always make her smile and who she is always excited to share the stage with.

Brooklyn - Gem, Soloist

This is Brooklyn. She is a diva, icon, and of course a gem. This is Brooklyn's 6th year of ADT and she is playing the character of Gem. She is so excited to uncover this new chapter in her life after high school. Brooklyn hopes to go to school for dentistry but she hopes to travel before it all. She really wants to go to New York, and Italy, and many more places. Brooklyn will miss the ADT community and all of her friends like Alice, Avery, Piper and Daisy, she would like to thank them and Mrs. Jessalyn and Mrs. Alicia for making all these ADT years so special. She will forever be thankful for them and all the hard work they do for everyone. Brooklyn would also like to thank her parents for all their support throughout all the years.

Mira - Prince Mars

This is Mira's 3rd year in ADT and she has been dancing since she was 3. Mira is 14 years old and in grade 9. She loves many different activities like dancing, playing violin (8years!), snowboarding, art, volleyball, wrestling, football, hanging out with her friends, and sleeping until 4pm. Mira LOVES Taylor Swift, and can be found screaming "All To Well (10 Minute Version)" at 12am in her room. Her biggest dream is to meet Taylor Swift. She wants to give a shout out to all of her pookies - Maggie, Abby, Missy, Alberta, Ali, Halle, and Lia, and of course, Taylor Swift.

Kai - ET

Kai has been sent to this planet to complete 3 missions: 1) Capture all of the pronouns, 2) Play all the instruments, 3) Learn all the types of dance. Current progress: 1) Success, 2) Trumpet, tuba, piano, guitar, clarinet, saxophone, drums, 3) Jazz, ballet, contemporary, modern, hip hop, acrobatics, Latin ballroom, lyrical, house, Afro Cuban, and West African. Kai has spent 16 years on this Earth and is looking forward to continuing with the missions.

Avery - Understudy

This is Avery. She is a 16 year old grade 11 student who spends not most, but all of her time socializing (event at school, which explains a lot). Avery has been dancing since she was 3. She takes every opportunity to be in front of an audience. She has been a part of Alberta Dance Theatre for 4 years and also does track, hikes, and loves going on week long outdoor excursions. Also, Avery hopes to one day be a nurse at the Children's Hospital and retire super early hopefully. She loves being outside, the ocean, driving and hanging out with her friends. On stage, Avery is a roller blading mouse, but in real life, she's a rollerblading girl. Stay awesome.

Ivy - Murgatroyd

Ivy is 14 years old and has been dancing since she was 4. Ivy trains mainly in jazz, ballet, modern and pointe, and always looks forward to learning new styles. Other than dance she skis, runs cross country and track, and golfs. Ivy appreciates all the support her family provides for her! She is excited to perform Interstellar Cinderella and thank Mrs. Alicia and Mrs. Jessalyn for making this year possible. Enjoy!

Alistair

Alistair is a young man who has been dancing at ADT for 6 years. He really enjoys dancing but also loves theatre and singing. He's 13 and his favourite animal is an elephant because they are smart, just like him. He is very thankful to his family for supporting him through his performing journey.

Mirabel - Cinderella

Mirabel is 14 years old, and loves doing anything and everything she can. She has been dancing for as long as she can remember, and has explored many styles of dance - ballet, jazz, hip hop, break dancing, tap, and modern. Mirabel has been in ADT for 6 years and has performed in Deck the Halls, Circus Mirandus, Sneaks, The Secret Starling, Gloom Town and of course, Interstellar Cinderella. Other than dance, Mirabel loves playing soccer with Calgary Blizzards and her school team. She also enjoys cross-country and track for her school and is passionate about music and art. During the winter, Mirabel loves snowboarding and cross-country skiing with her family. This year, Mirabel is so excited to play Ella, and hopes you enjoy the show!

Alice - Grisilla

Alice is a grade 11 student who has been with ADT for four seasons. Alice has been dancing since she was four. Alice still can't drive but has a passion for performing. She would love to thank her family and friends who support her through every stage of her life. Alice would love to work with animals in the future and live near an ocean. She would love to thank everyone for watching and she hopes you guys enjoy the show as much as she does.

Isla - Bryce

Isla is one of ADT's dancers yet again this year! She is in her 6th year of ADT and 12th year of dance overall. Outside of ADT she is well-versed in the world of ballet, hip hop, and musical theatre with past experience in jazz and contemporary. This year she plays the role of Bryce, the Prince's best friend! She is currently 13 years old, in 9th grade. She is thankful to her friends and family for being as supportive and awesome as they are! Other than dancing she loves to sing, act, and draw/paint for fun. Thank you to all who watched the show! Finally, welcome all to the great intergalactic galaxy of Interstellar Cinderella. Hope you enjoy the show!

Tayo

This is Tayo [tie-o]. This is her first year in ADT and she is really excited! She does the styles: jazz, ballet, musical theatre, tap and hip hop. Tayo is really excited for the next couple of years! And she hopes she improves even more and becomes the best dancer she can be! She is excited for this year's show Interstellar Cinderella! She hopes to see you and your family there!

Daniel

Daniel has 5 years of dance experience. It's his first year in ADT. He likes to dance contemporary and jazz. His favourite colours are purple, red, gold and green. He really enjoys colouring and talking (a lot). He is in grade 4 and he is short for his age. Thank you for reading, enjoy the show!

Aoife - Understudy

This is Aoife. Aoife is 12, is in 8th grade. Aoife has been with ADT for 4 years now. She loves to sing and act. She also has done competitive swimming for 5 years, and her favourite strokes are back and fly. Her favourite colour is blue! She wants to be a criminologist when she grows up! She also didn't know what to say about her bio, just really hopes they double space it! Have fun watching the show!

Dani

This is Dani. She is 9 years old. She has been doing dance for two or three years of dance. This is her first time doing Alberta Dance Theatre and she is really happy to be in Alberta Dance Theatre. She gets one more year of Alberta Dance Theatre because she started at grade 4 and her sister Kara started at grade 5. Hope you enjoy the dances!

Daisy - Understudy

Daisy has been dancing since she was 3 years old. She was principally trained in ballet but trains in jazz, ballet, modern, and contemporary at the moment. Daisy is in grade seven this year and will be turning thirteen in the summer. In her free time she enjoys skiing and volleyball. This is her first year with ADT and is so excited to perform this year.

Maggie - Understudy

This is Maggie. It's currently her third year at ADT. Other than dancing, Maggie spends most of her time playing competitive soccer. She enjoys traveling shopping and annoying her dog. Maggie is an understudy this year but has had main acting roles in the past. Maggie hopes you love the show as much as she loves performing.

Kara - Understudy

Kara is a 13 year old dancer. She has been in ADT for 3 years (Sneaks, The Secret Starling, Gloom Town). This is her 4th year here with ADT and hopes to continue till grade 12 although she dislikes the idea of graduating and leaving for good. She also recommends joining ADT for it is great fun. She says "ADT is so welcoming and everyone is so nice. ADT feels like second family to me!" She loves painting and drawing. She also hopes to see you at the show!!

Kalina - Understudy

Kalina has been dancing for 3 years and just recently joined ADT. She has been watching the past 3 years of shows here at ADT. Kalina enjoys baking, crocheting and shopping. She loves contemporary, modern and jazz. Kalina hopes you enjoy the shows as much as she enjoyed performing it. She wants to thank all the people who made her first year magical.

Anjeli S

Anjeli is a young girl who has been dancing at ADT for 4 years. She's very pretty, fun, nice and awesome. She's practically perfect and she has been perfect for the 14 years she's been alive. Anjeli loves dancing so much but she also enjoys singing, make up, and drawing, but most of all she loves hanging out with her friends and spending her money on Starbucks. Anjeli wants to grow up to be a surgeon based on her love for science and biology.

Prokriti - Faith, Soloist

Prokriti is 17 years old. She is a member of the PVA Theatre Program at Central Memorial. This is her fifth and final year at ADT. She's been dancing almost all her life. In her free time, other than dance and theatre, she loves to read, listen to music, spend time with friends and write. Her favourite part of dance are the connections she builds and the creative outlet it provides her to express herself. She thanks all the people in her life that are constantly supporting and encouraging her. She is extremely sad to be leaving the company and her friends behind but is excited to see what's next!

Anjali C - Apple

This is Anjali's second year in ADT. She dances ballet and contemporary. Dance takes up a lot of her time and yet, she somehow has time to do tennis, piano, and skiing. She loves to ski once the ADT season is over. She also loves to read. Almost too much She has read over 50 books this year. She finds it really cool that ADT makes their shows off of books. Obviously Anjali is really grateful for this season and the opportunity to be here.

Sadie - Fairy Godrobot, Soloist

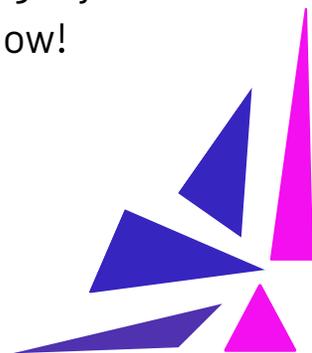
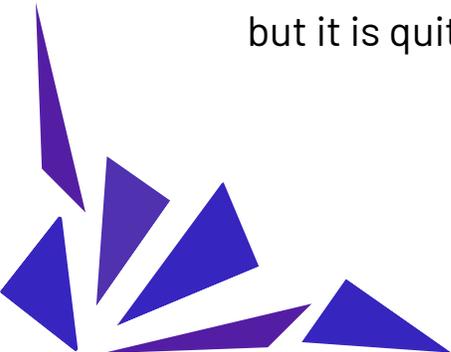
Sadie is a grade 12 student and has been a part of ADT for 5 seasons. She has been dancing for 15 years. Outside of dance Sadie loves to read, golf and spend time with her family. She wants to thank everyone in her life that makes this experience possible, including her family, all the volunteers, as well as Alicia and Jessalyn. She is so grateful for the ADT community and can't believe this will be her last production with the company. On a happier note, she hopes everyone enjoys the show as much as she did being a part of it.

Anais - Microsofty

Greetings Earthling. Anais is another human who is a part of the cast of Interstellar Cinderella. She has completed 15 laps of the sun which lands her in grade 11. Of those laps she has danced for 12 of them in ballet, jazz, and contemporary. This year she plays Microsofty, one of the mice that is friends with Cinderella. She hopes this show brings you an out of this world experience.

Evyn - Cheryl

Evyn has been dancing since she was 5. She has been dancing at ADT for 5 years and is performing as the mother of the two step sisters. She has performed: Circus Mirandus, Sneaks, The Secret Starling, Gloom Town, and now Interstellar Cinderella. Evyn is 12 years old and turning 13 in February. Evyn is in grade seven and lives in Calgary, she plays volleyball and does Irish dance, but in the past, she has done jazz, modern and acro (she's really bad at gymnastics and acro because she is quite tall). Evyn has a dream of being a marine biologist or a lawyer, she loves the ocean and nature. She has a small yapping Chihuahua that is eight years old but it is quite cute in pictures. She hopes you enjoy the show!



ADT Youth Artists Train At:

Ballet Lumina

Blakey O'Brien

Counterpoint Marda Loop

Decidedly Jazz Danceworks Youth Training Program

Dance Spectrum Inc.

Kor Danceworks

The Performance Studio

Prestige Dance Academy

PVA Program at Central Memorial

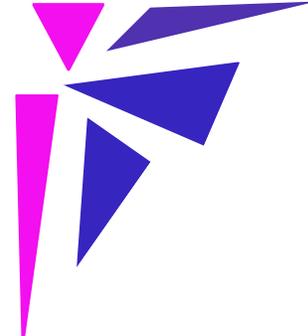


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 albertadancetheatre.com



ADT Creative Team

Alicia Molinski - Co-Artistic Director, Choreographer, Theatre Artist

Alicia Molinski (née Ward) is an enthusiastic human being who loves teaching and promoting a passion for performance art. Throughout the year Alicia finds herself instructing drama and dance to all ages at various studios throughout the city.

She also loves large amounts of organizational tasks! Alicia works administratively for a number of education and arts focused companies including Dancing Parkinson's YYC, co-founding the Young Adventurer Society, and holding the position of Co-Artistic Director and General Manager of Alberta Dance Theatre. Alicia is passionate about growing the artist community in Calgary and fostering opportunities for dancers of all ages to develop a love for movement. Alicia can be found performing throughout Alberta with her storytelling series for young audiences, Colour Me Sad, which won YYC Music Awards Children' Recording Of The Year in 2022.

Jessalyn Reimer - Co-Artistic Director, Choreographer

Jessalyn has had a lifelong passion for dance. She holds a B.A. in Contemporary Dance with distinction from the University of Calgary and danced with Decidedly Jazz Danceworks Professional Training Program for three seasons. Upon graduation, Jessalyn danced professionally with dance theatre company kloetzel&co. for several seasons where she performed in Professional Series, Toronto's Dusk Dances, and in the full length work "The Alice Odyssey." Jessalyn was also a Corps Bara company member as well as company manager. Independently, she has had the opportunity to perform and choreograph in dance events throughout Alberta and B.C, has self-produced three full length shows CrossCurrents, and co-created the dance company ESIRA. Jessalyn is currently co-Artistic Director and General manager of Alberta Dance Theatre and teaches in YYC studios and schools.

Conrad Belau - Playwright

Conrad is a non-binary, hard-of-hearing award winning queer theatre director, actor and educator. In Calgary they've worked with Theatre Calgary, Ghost River Theatre, the High Performance Rodeo, Alberta Theatre Projects, Lunchbox Theatre, Stage West, Inside Out Theatre, Vertigo Theatre and many other predominant organizations. They are the creator and performer of the Instagram Livestream phenomenon MONO MAN MIA!, for which they won Broadway World's "Vocalist of the Decade". They are the Theatre Arts Director at Youth Singers of Calgary and also work with the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium as an Arts Education Facilitator. Much love and admiration to Alix & Clarence. PROTECT TRANS KIDS.

Alexa Elser - Choreographer

Alexa Elser is a Calgary-based actor, dancer, singer, choreographer, clown, residency artist, theatre instructor, dance teacher, logistics coordinator, and admin magician, as well as an avid fan of lists, the Oxford comma, and run-on sentences. She is absolutely ecstatic to be working as a choreographer for Alberta Dance Theatre this season, and cannot wait to see what this talented young group of performers will create!

Mira Gitelman - Choreographer

As a dancer, emerging choreographer, and dance educator, Mira has a strong foundation in contemporary, ballet, improvisation, and the creative process. She finished one year of study in TMU's BFA dance program and has taken classes through DJD, Harbour Dance Centre, National Ballet, and completed the RUBBERBAND Summer Intensive in 2023. In 2024 she performed in Ballet Bodies' In Motion III, The Sea choreographed by Alexandra Contreras. Currently, Mira is a member of Ballet Bodies YYC and En Corps Dance Collective, and a ballet instructor at Counterpoint Dance Marda Loop. Storytelling through dance is at the heart of her creative practice. Mira believes movement has the power to convey complex emotions, ideas and narratives, and performances have the power to connect a community under shared experiences. With a long-standing commitment to mentorship, she emphasizes the importance of building inclusive and inspiring environments for creative risk-taking in her dance practice.

Megan Gole - Choreographer

Megan has been teaching, choreographing and performing for many years in Calgary. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Dance at the University of Calgary in 2005 and has taught at the University of Calgary, Freehouse dance plus, DJD, Alberta Ballet and in the PVA program at Central Memorial High School. She has had the opportunity to travel and perform in Poland, Finland, Toronto and Montreal. Megan is looking forward to sharing her love for creation and choreography with ADT. To find out more please see her website at www.whatmovesu.ca

Kaja Irwin - Choreographer

Kaja is a Winnipeg born dancer, choreographer, and dance educator. After deciding to pursue a career in dance after completing her B.A. in Political Science, Kaja studied in the Professional Training Program offered at Decidedly Jazz Danceworks developing her love of both jazz and the Calgary dance community. Kaja is excited and dedicated to continue growing in the jazz art form and is honoured to be back for her eleventh season performing with DJD. Kaja loves to explore movement and collaborations across art forms. This includes working with Calgary jazz drummer Nate Chiang developing improvised pieces for the stage, most recently in the Arts Commons TD Incubator Program Amplify Pt 4 presented by Wakefield Brewster in 2024, as well as creating solo jazz/mask/puppetry work in both short film and stage formats premiering her first show, Fearssome in March 2025 in the Festival of Animated Objects, as well as collaborating with jewelry artist Corey Moranis in a short art film and developing her love of costuming and styling. She has choreographed for Alberta Dance Theatre for several seasons throughout the years and is very excited to be back with the ADT artistic team in 2025. Kaja continues to love teaching within youth and adult programming, feeling very inspired and grateful to be a part of this Calgary arts community.

Lane Sayer - Choreographer

Lane Sayer (he/they) is an emerging contemporary dance artist from Mohkinstsis.

He holds a BA in English from the University of Calgary with an embedded certificate in creative writing and a minor in dance. In collaboration with Jo Dickau-Duguay, Lane has choreographed and performed in multiple shows: *cor et mentem...* with One Voice Chorus, an original dance work titled *in the windowlight* as Theatre Encounter's 2025 Stranger Presentation, and in Calgary Men's Chorus' 30 Voices concert. Additionally, he has danced in Corps Bara Dance Theatre's *Vital I and II*, Ballet Bodies' *In Motion III*, and DSW's *Quick + Dirty Festival*.

Katherine Mandolidis - Choreographer

With 17 years of experience in dance instruction and an MA in Dance Movement Therapy from the University of Auckland, Katherine Mandolidis is a dedicated educator, choreographer, and adjudicator. Specializing in the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) curriculum, she also teaches contemporary, modern (Horton and Graham), hip hop, and capoeira—integrating cross-disciplinary movement practices with a holistic, somatic approach. Katherine's choreographic work is rooted in collaboration and guided by process-based research that values shared authorship, embodied exploration, and emotional truth. Her creative practice invites dancers into a dynamic exchange where improvisation, cultural context, and lived experience inform authentic movement expression. Her teaching journey has taken her across Alberta, British Columbia, the Yukon, and New Zealand, earning recognition for her choreography on stages across Canada and the United States. As a dance movement therapist, she supports artists, high-performance athletes, and individuals with diverse physical and neurological needs—focusing on anxiety, disordered eating, neurodivergence, burnout, grief, and nervous system regulation. Most recently, Katherine represented Canada as an international passista in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, during a cultural dance exchange for Carnival—further deepening her commitment to global movement traditions. Passionate about cultural responsibility, artistic growth, and embodied healing, she is committed to fostering confidence, creativity, and integrity in every dancer she teaches.

Tonisha Kroeger - Stage Manager

Tonisha Kroeger is a Stage Manager and Costume Designer with a diploma in Theatre & Entertainment Production from Red Deer Polytechnic. Her summers are spent calling cues under fireworks at The Grandstand Show. The rest of the year she proudly works with many youth performing arts companies in the Calgary community, where she strives to inspire the next generation of leaders and artists! Stage Manager: The Grandstand Show (Calgary Stampede), Gloom Town (ADT), The Secret Starling (ADT), Sneaks (ADT), The Smoking Gun (Calgary Young Peoples Theatre), Go for Gold Audrey Pham (Lunchbox Theatre). Costume Designer: Mary Stuart (Sage Theatre), A Monster Calls (Calgary Young Peoples Theatre).

Leanne Kidd - Backstage Coordinator

Born and raised in Calgary, Leanne trained at the International School of Ballet and performed with Jeunesse Classique Ballet Company before earning distinction at London's Royal Ballet School, where she also served as Head Girl. Her training includes intensive programs across North America, Europe, and West Africa, along with multiple teaching certifications. Since returning to Canada, Leanne has danced, taught, and choreographed throughout B.C. and Alberta, working with organizations such as Calgary Arts Academy, Pacific Dance Arts, and Decidedly Jazz Danceworks (DJD). Her journey with DJD began in 2002 as a Scholarship Student; she now directs the Youth Training Program, helping shape its post-pandemic evolution through initiatives like YTP Company Touchpoints. Since 2022, Leanne has also enjoyed contributing to Alberta Dance Theatre as Backstage Manager, continually inspired by the creativity, passion, and dedication of its vibrant community

Kimberly Creller - Lighting Designer

Working in the city primarily as a lighting technician and programmer, Kim is used to creating in real time in-front of a live audience for all genres of events occurring in popular venues such as Arts Commons and The Taylor Center for the Performing Arts. It is a joy and privilege to collaborate and design in an intentional way - using light, colour and texture to support a story. Kim's lighting designs have been featured in shows for Revv 52, Luminous Voices, Rueben and the Dark and DJD's Professional Training Program. She is so excited to work with Alberta Dance Theatre once again to bring a new story to life!

Dean Lauderdale - Composer

Dean Lauderdale is a Calgary-born musician with a deep passion for music. With over 15 years of experience, he excels in teaching, performing, and composing. Dean offers private voice, guitar, and piano lessons both at his home studio and Long & McQuade. He also serves as the Director of ONCUE, a professional a cappella ensemble, and as Assistant Director for the JUNIOR HI division at the Youth Singers of Calgary. Dean holds a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Humber College and a Music Diploma in Classical Vocal Performance from Mount Royal University. His diverse educational background provides him with a comprehensive understanding of music composition, production, and performance. Over the past six seasons, Dean has composed for Alberta Dance Theatre, witnessing firsthand the profound impact of his music on young performers. His compositions span a wide range of musical styles, evoking powerful and emotive performances. Dean's ability to harness the power of imagination through music showcases his exceptional talent as a composer.

Bronwyn McCoy - Dance Captain

Bronwyn is an alumna of Alberta Dance Theatre returning as Dance Captain for her first year. She hopes to continue mentoring young dancers.

Nayeli Barajas - Dance Captain

Nayeli is a first year university student studying environmental science but hopes to instead go to SAIT for automotive mechanics. She loves animals, art, dancing, and cars. Some of her favorite cars are C3 and C4 corvettes among *many* others. Nayeli has danced with ADT for 8 years and this is her first year joining them as a dance captain. She really enjoyed watching the dancers create and bring the dances to life. She hopes to continue watching and creating movement in the future!

