



Presents

# THE SECRET STARLING

A tale of finding family and daring actions based on the novel by  
**Judith Eagle**

November 30 - December 2, 2023

Decidedly Jazz Danceworks  
[albertadancetheatre.com](http://albertadancetheatre.com)



# 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!



**JOIN  
ALBERTA DANCE  
THEATRE**

Perform  
Build Confidence  
Work with Professional Local Artists  
Scholarships Available

[WWW.ALBERTADANCETHEATRE.COM](http://WWW.ALBERTADANCETHEATRE.COM)

# NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

Welcome back to another heartwarming and theatrical adventure presented by Alberta Dance Theatre!

We would like to extend our thanks to you for giving performance art created by kids, with kids and for kids, a chance! The ADT program is an incredible opportunity for creative youth in the Calgary area to learn how to build live performances from local professionals. Our rehearsals are vibrant, fast paced and result in a show that is treasured by every Youth Artist, Creative Team Member and Volunteer. Thank you for being here to witness our hard work this season! We hope you laugh, cry, celebrate and GASP right along with us!

Of course a season of this magnitude cannot be achieved without our volunteers, donors and fundraising participants. Thank you for buying chocolate and raffle tickets, propping up our season's milestones through donations, and lending your time to make this season as seamless as possible. We are gearing up for an even bigger season next year. We'd love for you to join our team of Youth Artists, Sponsors, Board of Directors and more! Find us after the show to get connected with the ADT Family!

This year we are "tickled purple" to be able to present *The Secret Starling* by Judith Eagle. When we first read the book the idea of a found family jumped off the page. The people that are important to us don't always share blood but can become deeply significant to shaping our futures. Much like at ADT! We have found a family at every rehearsal, sleep away weekend and show week! The bonds we create at ADT are life long.

Throughout the process Judith has been enthusiastic and supportive of our journey turning her novel into movement. We had the incredible opportunity of chatting with Judith at our last Sunday rehearsal. She wanted the prevailing message of kindness to come across in our performance. We hope after sharing this show with us you are inspired to go on your own adventures, remain open hearted to those around you, and are able to find your own family.

From all of us in the ADT family ... Enjoy the show!

Jessalyn Britton and Alicia Ward  
Co-Artistic Directors and General Managers





# NOTE FROM THE BOARD

*The Secret Starling*... You are about to meet a mysteriously abandoned Clara Starling (who is joined by Peter, his rescue cat, Stockwell, and some friendly neighborhood kids) as she discovers the tale behind a tattered ballet slipper. While Clara tries to avoid capture in this daring adventure, the history of the ballet slipper unfolds with details of a murderous plot from the past and the chance to find family once lost!

Alberta Dance Theatre (ADT) is thrilled to present this year's performance of *The Secret Starling*; an adaptation of Judith Eagles' captivating mystery novel. Live, on the stunning Decidedly Jazz Danceworks stage, our phenomenal cast of dancers will take you on a voyage rich with storied capers and exquisite movement. This is the crowning moment of an intense ten-week season during which the dancers and the broader ADT team have pushed beyond their expectations and forged a magical, one of a kind spectacle.

On behalf of the ADT Board, we would love to acknowledge the incredible vision and leadership of our Artistic Directors / General Managers, Alicia Ward and Jessalyn Britton. Together with professional choreographers, a composer and ADT alumni, Alicia and Jessalyn guide school-aged dancers from across Calgary through a creative journey of rehearsals and intensives, emboldening the kids to explore and refine their dancing, choreography and script writing as well as voice, acting and performance skills. As compassionate leaders, Alicia and Jessalyn curate a community for our young artists that fosters rich relationships and a safe and supportive environment to be bold and imaginative. With huge hearts and boundless tanks of energy and inspiration, Alicia and Jessalyn encourage our dancers to learn and challenge themselves both as artists and as humans. We thank them for the tireless care given to our dancers and for building a community that feels like home.

Our season is a success because of the unwavering dedication of our ADT community, especially our ADT parents who put in countless hours fundraising, sourcing materials, prop building, costume sewing, volunteering and supporting our dancers from home to the rehearsal stages. Each ounce of effort from these parents has helped bring to life this delightfully twisted plot of family secrets.

Now, to you - our audience! A show becomes a show when we have an audience, and for this we thank you. As a non-profit organization, we appreciate your time and generosity. Thank you for joining us in the theatre to experience the hard work of these sensational young artists and for supporting ADT. For more information on how you can help ADT continue to grow and create, please visit our website: [albertadancetheatre.com](http://albertadancetheatre.com)

It's show time. Sit back, relax and be swept away by the diabolical villains, plucky orphans and charming intrigue of *The Secret Starling*!

Wishing everyone health and happiness,

Vivian Krauchek, Chair, Board of Directors

&

Allison Zwozdesky, Vice Chair, Board of Directors



# ABOUT THE SHOW

## **Spoilers ahead!**

**The show you are about to see weaves together dance and acting to tell the story of *The Secret Starling* by Judith Eagle. We've included a recap of the show below to help you follow along but there are spoilers. If you want to keep the show a surprise skip this page!**

Since our show is only 1 hour and 15 minutes we couldn't include every detail from the book. We highly suggest you read the novel to fully discover the world that enchanted us!

Clara Starling lives with her Uncle, Edward Starling, and their friendly Cook in the crumbling Braithwaite Manor. Her Uncle is very strict and keeps the exact same routine day in and day out. Clara is bored. However, everything changes one day when the Cook is fired, her Uncle disappears and she is left in the cold Manor, even more lonely than before. It would appear her Uncle has severe debts and is selling Braithwaite Manor. Clara doesn't know what she is supposed to do. Until a boy shows up on her doorstep!

The boy's name is Peter. He is friendly, energetic and has a never ending passion for Ballet! Peter also brings his curious cat, named Stockwell, along! Peter and Clara develop a deep friendship and share stories from their past with each other. As a baby Peter was found at a train station by a kind woman named Elsa Trimble. Peter calls her Granny, and though not related by blood, they are family. Unfortunately, Granny is sick. One of Peter's kind neighbours named Stella sent Peter away to live with their friend Uncle Edward. Except neither Peter or Clara know where Uncle went.

Things get complicated when Mr. and Mrs. Morden show up at Braithwaite Manor. They want to buy the Manor and turn it into The Home For Unwanted Children. Peter and Clara are even included in the sale! Luckily they are allergic to cats and Stockwell is able to drive them off! Almost as soon as the Morden's leave another mysterious stranger arrives. Clara and Peter are able to narrowly avoid their notice.

Peter and Clara's days become even more interesting when they find a ballet shoe! Clara has never danced before, and as far as she knows, no one in her family has done anything as fun or exciting as dancing. The mystery of the ballet shoe begins! Peter and Clara are joined by the friendly neighbourhood kids and they take a trip to the nearest city of Leeds to visit a department store and find out more about the ballet Shoe. They find out that the shoe belongs to none other than Clara's Mom! The Shop Owner lets them know that Clara's Mom was actually a famous ballerina, right on the brink of becoming a star, but died tragically, and unexpectedly, while performing the ballet *Swan Lake*.

When the two kids return home they find Peter's neighbour, Stella, at Braithwaite Manor. She seems friendly and very put together! Clara wants to immediately trust this capable adult who could help her find her Uncle ... that is until Stella locks both the kids in the highest tower of Braithwaite Manor! Stella is definitely suspicious and colluding with Uncle Edward. A daring escape ensues!

Clara and Peter have to learn more about Christobel Starling, so they head to the busy city of London followed by the very mysterious stranger! It doesn't take long for Peter to notice there is a famous Ballet company presenting works from the Choreographer Mr. Nureyev.



Peter and Clara head to the Newspaper Library where they find Christobel Starling's obituary. The obituary doesn't mention a child at all. Clara was always told her mother died while giving birth to her. Clara feels invisible, confused, and wonders what else her Uncle lied about.

The obituary does mention a fellow dancer named Sergei Ivanov who may be Clara's father! Peter is quick to point out that Sergei might not know he had a child and may really want to meet Clara. The kids vow to visit the Ballet Company that is in town after visiting Peter's Granny. A neighbour lets them know Granny is in the hospital! The Doctors have discovered Granny has been poisoned.

Peter is very worried about Granny and doesn't want to leave the hospital but they are told Granny is strong and will get better after some rest. While they wait for Granny's recovery Peter and Clara head to the Ballet Company to meet Sergei Ivanov. Instead they run into Mr. Nureyev!

Mr. Nureyev knows Sergei Ivanov! Not only that but Sergei is performing that night in the Ballet! Peter and Clara convince Mr. Nureyev to give him a message. They just have to wait until after the show.

While they wait Peter and Clara read the history of the Ballet Company and notice a picture with a very familiar face! It's Stella! Except the Ballet Company is calling her Svetlana Markova. After Christobel's death, by poison, Svetlana took over all of her roles at the Ballet Company.

Peter and Clara are blown away! Stella must have poisoned Christobel and Granny! She is a selfish criminal!

Unfortunately it's right then that Mr. and Mrs. Morden show up again and capture Peter! Once again Clara and Peter find themselves locked away in the highest tower of Braithwaite Manor. They repeat their daring escape only to find the mysterious stranger is waiting for them ... with Uncle Edward and Stella!

The stranger is Jackson Smith, a Private Investigator, who was hired by Granny to find out more about Peter's past. Jackson Smith discovered that Peter and Clara are twins! Christobel Starling left Stella in charge of the wellbeing of both children until their father could be found. Stella of course tried to get more out of the bargain and convinced the Uncle to participate. Uncle Edward was the one who left Peter at the trainstation as a baby. In his defense all the bags did look the same. And that's why you don't put baby's in a bag.

The twins are re-united with their father Sergei Ivanov, which according to Christobel Starling's Will, means that Stella is no longer the guardian of the children. Stella and the Uncle are arrested. Clara is finally able to look at her new found family that includes the neighbourhood kids, Cook, and Granny. She realizes how colourful her life really is!

## **Opening**

Choreography facilitated by Alicia Ward & Jessalyn Britton

## **Clara, Uncle, Peter**

Choreography facilitated by Alicia Ward

## **Mr. and Mrs. Morden**

Choreography facilitated by Jessalyn Britton

## **Private Investigator**

Choreography facilitated by Emily Ireland

## **Department Store**

Choreography facilitated by Helen Cox

## **Christobel Starling**

Choreography facilitated by Serenella Sol

Performed by Olivia Paauw

## **Busy London**

Choreography facilitated by Jasmine Almaguer Sheldrick

## **Ode to Ballet**

Choreography facilitated by Serenella Sol

## **Newspaper Library**

Choreography facilitated by Kobe Hill

## **Poison**

Choreography facilitated by Alison Stone

## **Captured**

Choreography facilitated by Meghann Michalsky

## **Family**

Choreography facilitated by Alicia Ward & Jessalyn Britton

# CREDITS

## **Artistic Direction**

Jessalyn Britton & Alicia Ward

**The Secret Starling © Judith Eagle, 2019**

**Adapted by Alberta Dance Theatre**

**Copyright Agent: PFD**

## **Choreography**

Alberta Dance Theatre Youth Artists, Jessalyn Britton, Jasmine Almaguer Sheldrick, Helen Cox, Kobe Hill, Emily Ireland, Meghann Michalsky, Serenella Sol, Alison Stone

## **Composition**

Dean Lauderdale

## **Lighting Design**

Kim Creller

## **Poster & Production Design**

Jeff Eisen

## **Stage Manager**

Tonisha Kroeger

## **Backstage**

Backstage Manager: Leanne Kidd

Thank you to our Volunteers:

Sherri Dixon, Jean Hsieh, Jennifer Kidd, Leanne Ritter

## **Costumes & Props**

Seamstress: Priya D'Mello

Thank you to our Volunteers:

Charles Buck, Sherri Dixon, Heather Edey, Leanne Kidd, Vivian Krauchek, Jennifer Lefevre, Shela Luprypa, Rosalia Nastasi, Leanne Ritter, Rebecca Sagan, Madhukar Sinha, Sweta Sinha

## **ADT Administrator**

Sherri Rau

## **Fundraising**

Thank you to our Volunteers:

Shelley Alexander, Joe Anderson, Nana Boadi, Charlene Dorey, Maureen Hill, Meghan Hilderman-MacDonell, Leanna McKenzie



A grayscale illustration of a grand, ornate hallway with high ceilings and classical architectural details. The floor is made of large stone tiles. In the center of the hallway, four silhouettes of people are visible: a woman on the left, a child in the middle, a woman on the right, and a man with a cane on the far right. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows and highlights.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## **Board of Directors**

Board Chair: Vivian Krauchek

Vice Chair: Allison Zwozdesky

Treasurer: Joe Anderson

Secretary: Shela Luprypa

Past Secretary: Heide Stauffer-Hill

Parent Liaison: Irina Charania

Director: Rhonda Dupuis

Director: Shelley Purdy

## **Founders**

Gayda Errett and Eleanor Laishley

## **Honorary Advisors**

Nicole Mion

The Late Shirley Murray

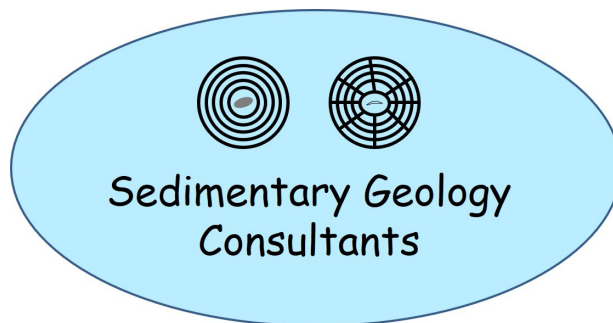
Shannon Bachynski

Emily Forrest

Hannah Stillwell

Thank you to all past and present ADT staff and board members  
for keeping the vision of ADT thriving for future generations.

# THANK YOU



# THANK YOU

Alberta Dance Theatre would like to extend our thanks to the Youth Artists for the dedication and creativity they offered so generously throughout our very intense season. We would also like to thank the families for their generosity of time, energy and believing in the Alberta Dance Theatre experience. Cheers to another fantastic season filled with community and creativity!

Thank you to this year's Creative Team!  
Our season would not be possible without your innovation and care.  
Thank you for joining the ADT family!

We would also like to extend a thank you to Judith Eagle and their team at PFD who allowed us to use *The Secret Starling* as this year's inspiration. Judith's incredible enthusiasm throughout this project has been heartwarming and so appreciated.

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. You have elevated our organization. We could not have completed another season without your care and attention! Sherri Rau, thank you for another season of keeping us all on track and able to achieve success!

Thank you to PVA Dance at Central Memorial High School, Freehouse Dance Plus, and DJD's Youth Training Program for lending us costumes for tonight's show!

Thank you to Sarah, Chantal, Arielle and the entire DJD Dance Centre team who made our rehearsals and show week experience possible!

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 *The Secret Starling* by Judith Eagle into the hands of each ADT Youth Artist.

the next page  
books & coffee

# PROP UP



# DONATION CAMPAIGN



Our Season is filled with milestones that we need help propping up!

Support ADT through our Prop Up Fundraising Campaign!

[www.albertadancetheatre.com/donate-now](http://www.albertadancetheatre.com/donate-now)



# ADT YOUTH ARTISTS

## **Alice Horobin - Mrs. Morden**

Alice is a 14 year old who has been a part of ADT for two years. Alice has really grown to enjoy dancing, she's been dancing since she was four. Alice is a girl who has a dairy allergy but her favourite food is cheese. When Alice is older she wants to be something to do with fire but her parents said she can't commit arson, so she would love to fight fires. Alice loves animals, especially her dog Indy. Alice may trip over air but she has never fell on stage. She enjoys contemporary dance and theatre. Alice would like to thank her family, her friends Mila and Piper who always make her laugh and don't judge her for being goofy and her dance teachers. Alice hopes everyone enjoys the show!

## **Alistair Boadi-Gumbs**

Alistair is an 11 year old boy who loves to read. His favourite series is The Blackthorn Key series. This is his fourth year at ADT and he is excited to present The Secret Starling.

## **Anais Pierre - Understudy**

Anais is a 13 year old dancer at ADT. She attends 9th grade. Outside of dance she enjoys video games and binge watching shows. This is her second year in ADT and this is her 10th year dancing. She is silly and funny and is a bubbly character.

## **Anjeli Shungur**

Anjeli is a 12 year old girl who likes the mall and Pinterest. She has been dancing for five years and this is her second year at ADT. She has a perfect dog named Daisy who is her favourite sister. Anjeli thinks school is ok but meh. She really likes the colour pink and jelly cats.

## **Aoife MacDonnell**

Aoife is very close to being 11 and is in 6th grade. She loves to dance, compose and loves swimming. She's starting her 2nd year at ADT and adores dance. She plays the guitar, ukulele (a bit), sings and is learning the piano. She's really excited for this show and might need a pizza or tacos after. Aoife's pronouns if you noticed are she/her, but is a proud supporter of pride! She also loves Taylor Swift and the Eras Tour movie is her favourite movie of all time, she highly recommends you see it!

### **Aria Cancilla - Sergei Ivanov**

Aria is a 15 year old dancer who has been with ADT for the past five years. She has also been dancing with DJD since she was three, and is currently training in ballet, jazz, and pointe. When Aria isn't dancing, she can usually be found breeding ancient frogs, collecting remnants of Queen Victoria's hair, or overall just being epic. She's very excited for the show and hopes you all enjoy.

### **Avery Horobin - Granny**

Avery is quite lit. She's the nicest, prettiest, funniest girl she's ever met. Avery is 14 years old and joined ADT last year. Even though she's clumsy Avery dances perfectly in her contemporary and musical theatre classes. Avery loves to go out with friends at night and when she grows up she wants to be a cool mom. And yes, Avery's brain is as big as her forehead. She loves school (most times) and loves working with friends.

### **Bronwyn McCoy - Ballet Shoe Shop Owner**

Bronwyn McCoy is a 16 year old dancer. She is in grade 11. She loves contemporary, jazz, ballet, and especially lyrical. She enjoys writing, traveling and going on hikes. Bronwyn is in her third year of ADT and is a senior dancer in the company. She wants to pursue something in the arts once she graduates and is excited for what that brings. She really enjoyed ADT and is looking forward to what future opportunities brings her.

### **Brooke Albert - Understudy**

Brooke is a grade 9. This is her second year of dance and she especially loves ballet. She takes dance classes at DJD in the YTP program. This is Brooke's first year of ADT and she really enjoys it. She loves baking so much that she makes at least one batch of cookies per week. Brooke loves listening to music and watching One Tree Hill, but her favourite thing is hanging out with her friends and watching scary movies with her little sister.

### **Brooklyn Dorey - Amelia-Ann**

Life is better when your dancing! Brooklyn is 15 years old and started dancing when she was three. Brooklyn loves all forms of dance but especially enjoys performing for an audience on stage. In her spare time Brooklyn loves listening to music, spending time with friends and family, and going shopping. Brooklyn's been on pointe for two years and it's one of her biggest accomplishments thus far. Very random fact: Brooklyn's favourite holiday is Christmas! MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

### **Charlotte Green**

Charlotte is in grade 11. It is her sixth year dancing in Alberta Dance Theatre and is on the Senior Dancer Committee. She has also been dancing at Counterpoint for her whole life. She is very passionate about her dance and is looking forward to continuing ADT until she graduates next year. When she is not dancing she enjoys spending time with friends, listening to music and baking.

### **Daisy Anderson - Private Investigator**

Daisy is in grade 9. Daisy dances at Counterpoint Marda Loop and has for four years. This is Daisy's third year at ADT. She has always loved ADT and hopes to do it until she graduates. When Daisy is not dancing she is usually listening to music or hanging out with her friends.

### **Elisabeth Paauw - Mr. Morden**

Elisabeth is a 13 year old who dances at Counterpointe Dance Academy. This is her second year at ADT. Elisabeth does many styles like ballet, jazz, tap, hip hop and contemporary. Elisabeth enjoys reading and art and her favourite animal is giraffes.

### **Evyn Quarin - Narrator**

Evyn is 10 years old, goes to a French School and has danced for three years with ADT. She has taken Irish dance lessons for five years. Evyn loves river swimming, crafting, adventures, potions/science, plants, skiing, horse back riding and math. Her favourite animal is a spirit bear. Evyn loves ADT because she can tell stories by dancing and by creating movements with her friends and choreographers. When Evyn is older she wants to be a chef so she can make delicious meals for her family.

### **Isabella McKinnon - Cook**

Isabella McKinnon dances modern, ballet, jazz, and West African at DJD, in the YTP Program. It is her first year at ADT and she is looking forward to coming back next year and making even more incredible memories. When she is not dancing, she loves listening to music, baking, hanging out with friends, and being overall amazing and cool.

### **Isla Buck - Stella**

Isla is an 11 year old dancer who has danced for 10 years. She currently dances at Dance Spectrum Inc. and Alberta Dance Theatre. Her past Alberta Dance Theatre performances consist of Deck the Halls, Circus Mirandus and SNEAKS. Isla can speak French. She currently is in grade 7.

### **Ivy Kidd - Angry Neighbour**

Ivy is 12 years old and has been dancing in ADT for three years. Ivy enjoys ADT because it's such a great community and an incredible experience. She dances at the Youth Training Program at DJD. Other than dance Ivy enjoys skiing, golfing, doing art, and hanging out with family.

### **Jack Purdy - Lawyer**

Jack is a keen learner. He enjoys dancing and playing as running back for the Western Football team. Jack has been part of ADT for two years. He enjoys being a part of the community. He is in Grade 10 and enjoys long bike rides through the mountains. After high school he plans on going to university for engineering or a trade.

### **Jersey Iverson**

Jersey is currently in their second year of Alberta Dance Theatre. She likes skiing, dancing, wake surfing, and biking. Jersey hopes to get into a good University but truly hasn't thought that far ahead. She dances at Counterpoint Dance Academy Marda Loop.

### **Kara Boucher**

Kara loves nature, art, music, leaves, books, and the moon and sun. Kara also loves colour. Kara's favourite book series is the Warriors. It is the best! She loves it! Oh and one more thing, Kara goes horse back riding and hobby horsing. Kara also really likes Harry Potter, it is her second favourite book. Her favourite gem is Diamonds, they are so cool. Her favourite animal is a cat. Her second favourite animal is a dog. Kara's favourite food is pizza, chocolate, candy and vitamins, stir fry, rotisserie chicken, pancakes, waffles and ramen plus seaweed.

### **Karsyn Kidd - Curtis**

Karsyn is a 12 year old girl and is a new youth artist with the ADT Company. On top of dance Karsyn has other passions and dreams, one of those passions being competitive swimming. She studied dancing with DJD Youth Training Program around the age of 10 and has danced with DJD ever since.

### **Kiara Charania - Peter**

Kiara/Kai is 13 years old and they have ADHD. They have been dancing since they were four years old. They love art, music and storytelling. They love dogs, cats, and all other animals. They love traveling and hanging out with friends. They hope you have a great day.

### **Maggie Tallman - Lucille**

Maggie is one of the new dancers at ADT making it her first year. She hopes to bring her spirit and make something amazing. Maggie has been dancing for eight years even if she is only ten years old but she also plays soccer and badminton, loves to paint and draw. Although she is a person with a very busy schedule she gives her all to ADT. She loves puppies and the ocean in California. She aspires to be a content creator in something that's on YouTube or a dancer. She's up for it.



### **Mirabel Johnston - Understudy**

Mirabel is 12 years old and has been dancing ADT for four years. She loves doing all sorts of dance but on top of that loves soccer and snowboarding. One of Mirabel's favourite hobbies is art, in fact she did the artwork for the ADT merch this year. As well as hobbies Mirabel's favourite things to do when hanging out is sitting back and listening to music, especially Taylor Swift. She also loves participating in school sports such as cross country running, track and field and the soccer team.

### **Nayeli Barajas - Uncle Edward Starling**

Nayeli is a grade 11 student and senior member of the ADT Company. Currently she is studying forensics, biology, and math, but most enjoys forensics and biology; aspiring to have a future in forensic sciences. She enjoys taking part in thrilling activities and exploring wherever possible. Her lifelong longing to have a family pet has turned into a love for all animals of any types.

### **Olivia Paauw - Soloist, Understudy**

Olivia is proudly (and sadly) a graduating ADT senior this year. As she finishes her last year in high school, Olivia is enjoying dancing at DJD and revealing her inner nerd in model UN. Olivia is so grateful to be a part of the ADT community. The experience was transformational and she can't believe how much she's grown through it. Olivia will always love the friends she's made in ADT and will never forget the memories they created together. Olivia has loved every moment of the past four years she spent in the company. She would like to thank everyone for everything.

### **Prarthona Datta - Mr. Nureyev**

Prarthona is in grade 11 and is a student at Central Memorial High School where she is a part of the PVA Dance Program. This is her third year at ADT and she is now part of the Senior Dancer Committee. She loves the friendships, camaraderie and love from the company members. She has been dancing from a young age and is passionate about dance. When not dancing she enjoys listening to music, drawing, reading, doing others' hair (aka her fellow ADT friends), and sleeping is fun too. She is excited to see what this year's show is going to turn out to be.

### **Prokriti Datta - Clara**

Prokriti is 15 years old. She is in grade 10. She loves to dance, read and listen to music. This is Prokriti's third year of ADT. In her free time she loves to hang out with friends, watch TV and bake. Outside of ADT Prokriti loves modern, contemporary and tap.

### **Sadie Kidd**

Sadie is 15 years old and in grade 10. She has been dancing for 12 years and is currently dancing in DJD's YTP Program. This is her third year in ADT. Aside from dancing Sadie enjoys skiing, golfing, spending time with friends and family and reading. She cannot wait to hear from you after the show. (Not to be mistaken as Ivy Kidd or Karsyn Kidd).

### **Tanisi Sinha**

Tanisi is nine years old and this is her first year of ADT! She is in grade 5 and loves art! She likes tea and loves animals. Tanisi likes camping and field trips.

### **Zelly Merani**

Zelly is a grade 9 student who loves to dance. She has been dancing since she was six years old and enjoys all styles especially jazz, ballet and lyrical. This is Zelly's first year at ADT and she has really enjoyed it. Aside from dancing she loves to bake and hang out with her friends and family.

---

Did you know ADT's composer, Dean Lauderdale, just released an album? Complete with 10 original songs, this album is an all-time celebration of his favourite music, fitting into genres such as folk, rock, country, and songwriter ballad.

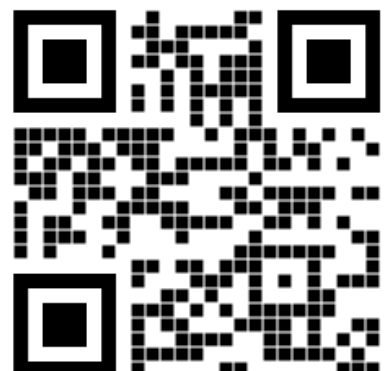
You can find Life Lessons on all streaming platforms!



If you would like a signed CD, you can message Dean or order it here:

[deanlauderdale.com/store](https://deanlauderdale.com/store)

Thank you for your continued support!





# ADT CREATIVE TEAM

## **Jasmine Almaguer Sheldrick - Choreographer**

Dancer and emerging choreographer, Jasmine Almaguer Sheldrick, was born in Oaxaca, Mexico, and grew up in Hamilton, Ontario where she started training in various dance forms. Jasmine is a graduate of the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance, specialized honors program focusing on choreography and performance at York University. At York she studied modern, contemporary and ballet techniques, choreography, dance history, dance kinesiology and dance production. In 2021-2022, Jasmine trained in the Professional Training Program at Decidedly Jazz Danceworks where she studied a variety of jazz techniques, Afro- Cuban, tap, West African and jazz history. In 2020, she received The Spedding Memorial Scholarship in Dance, given for excellence in choreography of an original work. Along with dancing, she has a strong interest in filmmaking, having worked on high and low production sets. Jasmine currently works as a free-lance dancer performing professionally and in arts administration.

## **Jessalyn Britton - Co-Artistic Director & General Manager, 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.

## **Helen Cox - Choreographer**

Helen Cox M.A is a choreographer, educator and mentor. She has worked in the UK for the past 10 years teaching for companies including: The Royal Ballet School, Royal Opera House, Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance, ISTD, Trinity Laban, and Central School of Ballet. She is currently a delivering artist and ambassador for Rambert Grades Canada, teaching locally in Calgary and working freelance as a choreographer.

## **Kimberly Creller - Lighting Designer**

Kim is a parent, partner and Event and Theatre Professional of over a decade. Working in the city primarily as a lighting technician and programmer, she is used to creating live in front of the audience for all genres of events occurring in popular Calgary venues such as Arts Commons, The Taylor Center for the Performing Arts and The Grand Theatre. Having the opportunity to be involved in the creation process is a rare luxury - She is so excited to work with Alberta Dance Theatre to bring this year's production to life. Using colour and textures of light to enhance and support artistic work is what Kim enjoys most about her role as Lighting Designer.

### **Jeff Eisen - Projection Designer**

With over four decades of unwavering dedication to the world of artistic expression, Jeff is a seasoned professional teaching artist who has consistently demonstrated a profound passion for nurturing creativity and fostering a love for the arts. His extensive career has been marked by a commitment to inspiring students of all ages and backgrounds through dynamic and innovative teaching methods. Throughout his journey, he has honed his expertise in various artistic disciplines, adapting to the evolving educational landscape while maintaining a deep-seated belief in the transformative power of the arts. Jeff's career is a testament to his ability to engage and empower students, cultivate their talents, and instill in them a lifelong appreciation for the arts.

### **Kobe Hill - Choreographer**

Kobe has lived in Calgary their entire life, and has been dancing with ADT for one decade. After graduating last year in 2022, they have returned to continue being a part of the ADT community. They have grown up with Alberta Dance Theatre, and have been enthused to be able to share the ADT experience with other dancers. They have also acted as a choreographer and sound director for the 2023 CYPT (Calgary Young People's Theatre) Cannonball Festival. They are excited to continue their artistic journey in future years and to hopefully return to ADT after studying Arts and Education in post-secondary.

### **Emily Ireland - Choreographer**

Born and raised in Peace River, Alberta, Emily Ireland (she/her) has trained in various styles: Ballet, Contemporary/Modern, Jazz, Tap, and Afro Cuban. Emily holds her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from the University of Calgary with a concentration in choreography and performance. Additionally, she has studied at Decidedly Jazz Danceworks in their professional training program and attended Donna Krasnow's Limon Teacher Training Course. Emily has engaged in various projects during her time as a member of nonprofit dance company, En Corps Dance Collective, from 2020-2022. Emily has performed in Dance@Night, Mainstage, Lot C, TELUS Sparks Center: Spark After Dark, YYC Showcase and the dance film "pointless purSUIT" that premiered at Ignite Festival 2023. Emily is currently dancing with Affirmation Dance Creative a contemporary company based out of Camrose. As an emerging artist in the Calgary community, Emily is invested in performance, choreography and instructing dance. Emily is very excited to join Alberta Dance Theatre for a second season.

### **Tonisha Kroeger - Stage Manager**

Born and raised in Alberta and graduate of Red Deer Polytechnic with a diploma in Theatre & Entertainment Production. Tonisha has built a career in Stage Management for over thirteen years. She is happy to return to Alberta Dance Theatre after Stage Managing for The Young Canadians at The Bell Grandstand Show (2023). She strives to inspire the next generation of leaders. Previous Stage Management credits include, Calgary Young Peoples Theatre (Someday, The Poison Squad, Runs in the Family, Snow White), Alberta Dance Theatre (Sneaks), Edmonton Fringe Festival (Glorious Loser). If she's not in the theatre you can find her by the snacks.

### **Leanne Kidd - Backstage Coordinator**

Leanne Kidd (nee McIndoe) is a Calgary dance artist, teacher & choreographer. She trained at Calgary's International School of Ballet, performing many leading roles with their Jeunesse Classique Ballet Company. Some of Leanne's extensive dance studies have included: The Royal Winnipeg Ballet, The Banff School of Fine Arts & The American Academy of Ballet. In 1997, Leanne was accepted into London England's Royal Ballet School. She graduated with distinction, in 2000, earning multiple teaching certifications such as: ARAD, AISTD Cecchetti, AISTD National Folk Dance & Benesh Notation Certification. Since returning to Canada, Leanne has taught in numerous studios & schools across B.C. & Alberta. She choreographed & staged a full-length production entitled GLORIA for Jeunesse Classique Ballet Co., performed in Dance Montage, Calgary Cares, Three Left Feet Movement Creations & Decidedly Jazz Danceworks' school show, Live and In Sync. Leanne also immersed herself in training at DJD, first as a Scholarship Student & later in the Pre-Professional Program. In 2005, she received two grants to study dance in West Africa, a life-changing experience. Leanne has had a long-standing history with Calgary Arts Academy since its opening in 2002 to 2020, both as a Resident Artist & Performance Coordinator. She has enjoyed teaching at Decidedly Jazz Danceworks as well over the past two decades and is thrilled to focus on her new role as Director of DJD's Youth Training Program. Leanne is married with two daughters and is passionate about family and sharing her love of dance and performing arts with students of all ages.

### **Dean Lauderdale - Composer**

Dean Lauderdale, a Calgary-born musician, is a versatile artist with a deep passion for music. With over 10 years of experience, he excels in teaching, performing, and composing. Dean teaches privately at his studio and Long & McQuade, while also serving as Director of ONCUE, a professional a cappella ensemble, and Assistant Director for the JUNIOR HI division at the Youth Singers of Calgary. Dean's academic achievements include a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Humber College and a Music Diploma in Classical Vocal Performance from Mount Royal University. These educational milestones have fortified his technical prowess and provided him with a comprehensive understanding of music composition, production and performance. As a composer for Alberta Dance Theatre across four seasons, Dean has witnessed the profound impact of his music on young performers. His meticulously crafted compositions have served as catalysts for transformative experiences, evoking powerful and emotive performances. Dean's ability to harness the power of imagination through music is a testament to his exceptional talent as a composer. His upcoming project is a full-length album of original songs, entirely self-written, performed, recorded, and produced. Set for release this September, the album will showcase Dean's talent and musical prowess and will be available on all streaming platforms.



### **Meghann Michalsky - Choreographer**

Meghann Michalsky is a dance artist working in Alberta. She is the co-creator of Project InTandem and YYC Contemporary Technique Training, two programs that offer opportunities to emerging artists in Canada. She was awarded the 2019 RBC Emerging Artist Award - she is the first Dancer/Choreographer to receive this award. Since completing her BA in Contemporary Dance, with a concentration in Choreography and Performance, at the University of Calgary. She has rigorously pursued her training in Canada, Europe, and Israel. As a dancer, you've seen her dance for an array of individual artists and companies, including Karissa Barry, Laja Feild of LajaMartin, Davida Monk, Linnea Swan, kloetzel&co, & Dancers' Studio West to name a few. Her movement signature has been described as vigorous, raw, and intricate. Her knowledge of Hip-Hop and Krump movement principles has influenced her development of isolated, rhythmic, bound, and fast-twitch movement qualities into her contemporary choreographies.

### **Serenella Sol - Choreographer**

Serenella Sol is a Calgary-based dancer, choreographer and the Artistic Director of Ballet Bodies YYC. Sol started dancing ballet at the age of three in Maracaibo, Venezuela. In 2007, she moved to Canada, where she studied ballet and contemporary in Vancouver and Calgary. In 2013, she graduated from the University of Calgary with a BA in Political Science and a Minor in Dance. Serenella participated in numerous summer intensives worldwide, including Spain, USA, Salzburg, The Netherlands and France. She danced for La Caravan Company (2011), Jeunesse Company (2012) and W&M Physical Theatre (2013-2019). Serenella has presented her choreographic work at the Alberta Dance Festival (Dancers' Studio West), Fluid Festival, and Montage and produced/choreographed her show Coming of Age in 2016. In 2021, Serenella founded Ballet Bodies YYC, a non-profit organization focused on making ballet more accessible, inclusive, and positive.

### **Alison Stone - Choreographer**

Alison Stone is originally from Victoria, BC where she grew up dancing and performing with Stages Performing Arts School. To further her studies Alison moved to Toronto to attend Ryerson University's dance program. She graduated with a BFA and a passion for choreography. In Ontario, Alison's choreography was seen at fFIDA International Dance Festival and the Guelph Contemporary Dance Festival. In Alberta, her choreography has been performed in Alberta Dance Festival, Ember Dance Company, Variety Pack Cabaret, Shoes Off Cabaret, Physical Therapy Cabaret, Alberta Dance Theatre for Young People, Ignite Festival, AIR, Prairie Dance Circuit, Freak Show, Alberta Dance Explosions and Emerge. During her career she has had the pleasure of performing original works choreographed by Kimberly Cooper, Sarisa Figuera de Toledo, Catherine Hayward, Meagan O'Shea, Heidi Strauss and Julia Sasso. Alison has been the co-artist director of Alberta Dance Theatre for Young People from 2010 to 2012. She has been a teacher with the Calgary Board of Education since 2014 teaching dance for the Performing and Visual Arts Program at Central Memorial High School. Alison is dedicated to immersing herself in the Calgary dance community as a dancer, choreographer and teacher.



**Alicia Ward - Co-Artistic Director & General Manager, Choreographer**

Alicia Ward is an enthusiastic human being who loves performing, teaching and promoting a passion for performance art. Throughout the year Alicia finds herself instructing drama and dance to all ages at various studios and schools throughout the city. Alicia works administratively for a number of education and arts-focused companies including co-founding the Young Adventurer Society. Alicia has produced and stage managed events and productions for a number of local companies and proudly sits on the Create Kids Arts Society Board of Directors. Alicia is passionate about growing the artist community in Calgary and fostering opportunities for dancers of all ages to develop a love for movement. When performing Alicia focuses on her music and tap dance collaboration with local musicians Mandy Morris and Matt Morris called Colour Me Sad, which recently won Children's Recording of the Year at the YYC Music Awards. Alicia is very grateful to be a part of ADT and could only do so thanks to the community that supports her. Thank you all!

---

Alberta Dance Theatre would like to recommend and give gratitude to  
our videographer 2150 Creative!

**TWENTYONEFIFTY**  
*c r e a t i v e*