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@artshallet #ABTFSeason2023-24

VLADIMIR ISSAEV BALLET MASTER, CHOREOGRAPHER AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

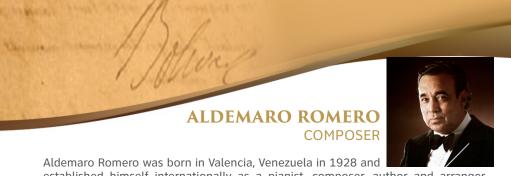
Vladimir Issaev was born in Russia in 1954. His career started at the age of 11 at the Choreographic School of Voronezh. After working as a ballet dancer at the Opera House of Ufa and at the Opera House of Odessa, he received his masters degree from the "Gitis State Institute of Arts in Moscow" as Ballet Master and Master Choreographer with the highest honors in 1986. He held the position of Academic and Artistic Director at the "Choreographic School of Frounze", in the former Soviet Union.

In 1987, he worked as Ballet Master and Regiseur for Ballet Metropolitano de Caracas and a year later for Ballet Nacional de Caracas, directed by Vicente Nebrada, where he worked for more than ten years, teaching and coaching the principal dancers of the Company for their soloist classical roles. During his extensive career as a Choreographer and Ballet Master, Issaev has had the opportunity to work with many prestigious dancers and directors such as Papa Beriozoff for Don Quixote, having Julio Bocca and Eleonora Cassano as soloists; Alla Sizova, Alla Osipenko, Tatiana Terekhova and Irina Kolpakova. He has also been invited as a quest Ballet Master by several companies such as Le Jeune Ballet de France, Ballet Nacional de España, Les Ballet Jazz de Montreal, Orlando Ballet among others. Until August of 2002 he held the position of Ballet Master at the Miami City Ballet School. As a Choreographer, he has staged several ballets in Russia, the Puerto Rico, Peru, Japan and Venezuela. Mr. Issaev was the recipient of the "New Choreographer Award" for his piece "El Encuentro" at the Dance Under the Stars Choreography Competition in Palm Desert, California. In June of 2005 Ballet Concierto de Puerto Rico presented the premiere of Issaev's work "Doctor Ouch!", a ballet in two acts based on the story of Korney Chukovskiy with great success restaging it in 2007. In 2004, Vladimir Issaev staged "Shostakovich Suites" for the Voronezh Choreographic School in Russia. An invitation from Prima Ballerina Altanay Assylmuratova, director of the Vaganova - Kirov School of Ballet in Saint Petersburg followed to stage a Ballet for the graduating students joining the Mariinsky (Kirov) Ballet Company. This choreography premiered in March of 2006 at the Mariinsky Theater in Saint Petersburg, Russia. Due to its success this choreographic work was presented again in June of 2006. Vladimir Issaev belongs to the Artistic Advisory Council for the Classical Dance Alliance. He is recipient of the Honorable Merit Diploma from the Terpsihora Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts of Dance of Saint Petersburg, Russia, in recognition for his outstanding performance enhancing the art of classical ballet on the Vaganova Style in the United States. He has also been awarded with the National Foundation for the Advancement in the Arts award as the most influential Ballet teacher.

Mr. Issaev was also awarded in 2009 as Best Arts Educator of the State of Florida by the Florida Alliance for Arts Education. He has been Artistic Director of the International Ballet Competition in Caracas, Venezuela; Artistic Director of the Russian Ballet of South Africa and International Ballet Competition in Lima, Peru. In January of 2011 his ballet Stone Flower was premiered in Nagoya, Japan with tremendous success and the greatest reviews. In 2013, two new ballets were premiered in Japan during the Aichi Triennial Festival and resented by the Michiko Matsumoto Ballet: Polovetsian Dances and the premiere of Firebird. Mr. Issaev has been invited to present his dancers and choreographies in Poland, Germany, Peru, Indonesia and most recently he had the honor to teach Master Classes at the Beijing Ballet Academy and has been named Artistic Director of the Asia Ballet Academy in Malaysia.

Maestro Vladimir Issaev has been recently awarded "A Life for Dance" at the International Ballet Festival of Miami for his long lifetime achievements in Ballet. He received a recent Proclamation from Mayor Daniella Levin Cava declaring June 11, Vladimir Issaev's Day and he received a recognition from the Department of Cultural Affairs from the Peruvian government in Lima for his contribution to the ballet in Peru.

Mr. Issaev is considered one of the top ballet masters and choreographers world wide.



established himself internationally as a pianist, composer, author and arranger. A child prodigy as a musician he was the first child performing at a local radio station La Voz de Carabobo. After working with great musicians and directors as an arranger and composer from age 16, he signed a contract at the age of 22 for RCA in New York as an arranger. The following year he released his most successful album, "Dinners at Caracas", which became a best-seller in America. His notoriety continued to grow and over the years he was invited to work with orchestras and great artists including Dean Martin, Jerry Lewis, Stan Kenton, Ray Mc Kinley, Machito, Noro Morales, Miguelito Valdés and Tito Puente.

While he was in Italy, Romero composed many soundtracks among which stood out the one for "The aga of Simon Bolivar", a film by Alessandro Blasetti with Maximilian Schell and Rosanna Schiaffino, that won the Peace Award at the Moscow Film Festival in 1969. Music that you will enjoy tonight in this ballet by Vladimir Issaev. His greatest contribution to music was certainly the introduction of a new genre, called "Onda Nueva" which became the main theme of the Caracas Music Festival from 1971 to 1973.

As conductor and arranger, Romero won numerous awards including the First Prizes at the Mallorca Music Festival, the Music Olympiads in Athens and the Latin Songs Music Festival in Mexico.

In 1979, Romero became founder and conductor of the Caracas Philharmonic Orchestra. Romero also founded the Music Conservatory of Caracas.

In the following years he conducted some of the most important orchestras in the world, including the London Symphony Orchestra, the English Chamber Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Rumanian Radio and Television Orchestra. In his career as a composer, Romero wrote for orchestras, choirs and ballets and, later, he also dedicated himself to the composition of some concerts.

Romero was also involved in writing, publishing several books on music and collaborating with various music magazines.

He was appointed Life Senator of the Venezuelan Congress and became a member of the Tourism Committee and of the Administration and Public Service Committee of the Congress. In 2000 he was awarded the National Music Award in Venezuela (equivalent to the Kennedy Center's Award) One year before his passing, Romero was recognized with three honorary doctorate degrees from the University of Carabobo (Valencia, Edo. Carabobo), the University Lisandro Alvarado (Barquisimeto, Edo. Lara) and the University of Zulia (Maracaibo, Edo. Zulia).

He died in Caracas in 2007. He left more than 120 academic works, 60 of them to be premiered. He produced more than 100 LPs, more than 500 popular songs, 8 books and innumerable articles for the written press.

His original manuscripts were donated to the library of the University of Miami which now belong to the Special Collections Department at the Otto Richter Library of the UM with access to the entire humanity.

MARY CARMEN CATOYA PRIMA BALLERINA AND BALLET MISTRESS

Prima ballerina of Miami was born in Venezuela. She began her training at the age of six in Caracas and began her professional career at the age of 13. She danced with the Youth Ballet of Venezuela, the Contemporary Ballet of Caracas, Cleveland Ballet and as a principal with the National Ballet of Caracas, where she was coached and trained by Ballet Master Vladimir Issaev. She danced as a principal at the Miami City Ballet from 1999 to 2015. Her repertoire includes works of George Balanchine, Vicente Nebrada, Dennis Nahat, Alberto Mendez and Vladimir Issaev. Ms. Catoya has danced extensively abroad at many festivals and galas, including an international gala before the King and Queen of Spain, the inauguration of the Theater Simon Bolivar in Brazil, Dance Aspen, and the Gala of Stars at the Festival International de Santander and was the prima ballerina responsible to open the Arsht Center in Miami with her interpretation of Don Quixote. She has also dancer at the Gala Night at the Mikhailovsky Theater in Saint Petersburg, Russia and at the Orlando Competition Gala of the Stars. She has danced with both Taras Domitro and Daniel Sarabia in Queretaro, Mexico and with Rolando Sarabia at the Fire Island Festival in New York City.

In July 2011 she was the prima ballerina for Les etes de la Danse at the theatre du Chatelet in Paris with Miami City Ballet.

She received the award "Premio Casa del Artista" as Best Classical Dancer of the Year in 1999 and Premio Municipal de Danza 2002 as best dancer.

Mary Carmen have been coached and trained by remarkable artists such as Jose Pares, Vicente Nebrada, Vladimir Issaev, Rafael Portillo, Zane Wilson Karelia Moreno, Elena Madan Vera at the Ballet Nacional de Caracas, Dennis Nahat at Cleveland Ballet, Ileana Lopez, Violette Verdy, Jean Pierre Frohlich, Maria Cagliari, Mary Ashley and Edward Villella at Miami City Ballet. Most recently she performed in Poland, Mexico, Peru and Indonesia next to her ballet master Vladimir Issaev.

Ms. Catoya is principal dancer and also the Ballet Mistress of Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida since 2015.

LUSIAN HERNANDEZ BALLET MISTRESS / CHOREOGRAPHER

Born in Barquisimeto, Venezuela where she started her ballet training at the Fundacion Escuela de Ballet Clasico del Edo. Lara. She has participated in international dance festivals including the Festival Danza Joven in Colombia and attended



the Metropolitan Ballet Theatre in Minneapolis. She was awarded Bronze Medal at the International Ballet Competition in Caracas, Venezuela. After attending the Summer Intensive Program of Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida in 2011, she was invited to join the company. Since then, she has performed the repertoire of the company including Yanis Pikieris' Danzon, and Issaev's The Nutcracker, Chipollino, Suite of Waltzes, Dr. Ouch!, Shostakovich Suites, Vicente Nebrada's Pentimento, Alberto Mendez's Tarde en La Siesta, A Celebration to Klimt, Coppelia, Paquita, and Glinka Suite Fantastique among others.

Ms. Hernandez is happy to continue as a ballet Mistress of Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida for the current season.



Four Seasons

Music: Giuseppe Verdi Choreography: Vladimir Issaev

L'Hiver

Saaya Okada and Peter Azevedo (Oct 7) Yayoi Sasaki and Remina Tanaka (Oct 14) Saaya Okada and Seiga Sato (Oct 15)

Le Printemps

Kanon Murakami and Yoichi Habaguchi

L'Eté

Kanau Shiina and Daniel Panameño Yuzuka Matsumoto and Daniel Panameño (Oct 15)

L'Autamne

Moegi Matsuzawa and Clarence Wong Urara Tsukamoto and José Luis Pechené (Oct 15)

PAUSE



Danzón

Music: Arturo Márquez Choreography: Yanis Pikieris

First Pas de Deux

Louise Rigby and Yoichi Habaguchi Remina Tanaka and Yayoi Sasaki (Oct 15)

Second Pas de Deux

Kanon Murakami and José Luis Pechené Saaya Okada and Clarence Wong (Oct 15)

Third Pas de Deux

Kanau Shiina and Daniel Panameño Sara Marlin and Peter Azevedo (Oct 15)

Corps de ballet

Peter Azevedo, Ann Chua, Ian González, Yoichi Habaguchi,
Rena Iwasaki, Isabella Kennedy, Sara Marlin,
Suzuka Matsumoto, Yuzuka Matsumoto, Moegi Matsuzawa,
Ataru Matsuya, Kanon Murakami, Saaya Okada, Daniel Panameño,
Louise Rigby, Yayoi Sasaki, Seiga Sato, Kanau Shiina, Zoard Szabo,
Remina Tanaka, Urara Tsukamoto, Kirsty Walker,
Clarence Wong *and Imani Carre, Emilia Cohen, Layla Monier,
Sasha Saintil, Clara Strassnig, Sophia Torrens.

*Ballet Students of Vladimir Issaev School of Classical Ballet

INTERMISSION



"Inspired by Love" World Premiere Music: Aldemaro Romero

Soundtrack from the film "La Epopeya de Bolivar" and "Quinta Anauco".

Peace Award for best music score at the 6th International Moscow Film Festival in 1969.

Choreography by: Vladimir Issaev

Under license by Maestro Aldemaro Romero Foundation Funded by the Florida State Cultural Division.

Manuela Sáenz: Mary Carmen Catoya Simon Bolívar: José Luis Pechené

Corps: Entire Company

To Manuela Sáenz Dear Manuelita:

...I have mocked death many times, and it stalks me delirious at every step. What should I give you: a live encounter perhaps? Let me be sure of myself, of you, you will see dear friend who is Bolivar whom you admire. I could not lie to you. I never lie!

That my passion for you is crazy, you know it.

Give me time, Bolívar

H.E Simón Bolívar:

You know well that no other woman you have ever met will be able to delight you with the fervor and passion that binds me to you, and stimulates my senses. Get to know a true woman, loyal and without reservations.

Yours, Manuela

"Inspired By Love"

With this ballet, Vladimir Issaev wants to introduce Manuela Saenz and honor the love between Bolivar and her, through the music of Venezuelan composer Aldemaro Romero.

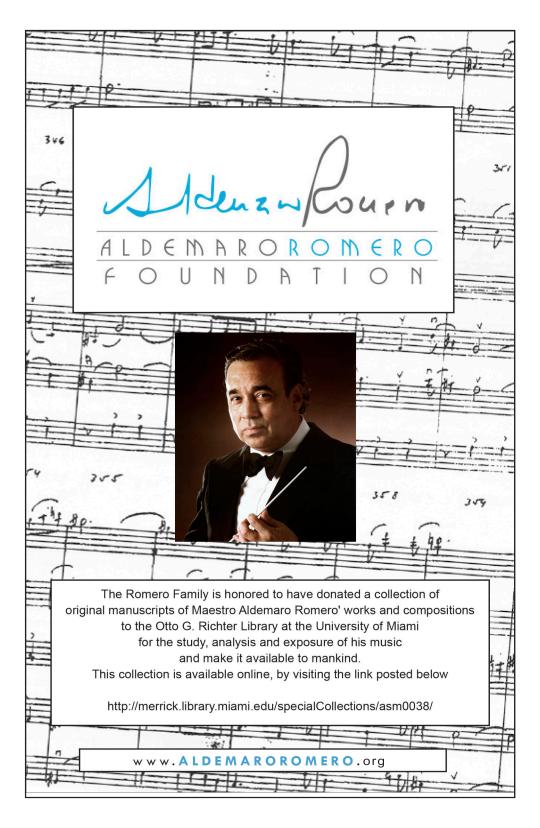
Manuela was born December 27, 1797, in Quito, Ecuador, she embarked on a remarkable journey that unfolded on the grand stage of history. After her marriage to James Thorne in 1819, they relocated to Lima. Yet, fate had other plans for her. In 1822, destiny intertwined her path with the illustrious Simón Bolívar. Their encounter ignited an enduring love story. Though circumstances kept them apart, their hearts remained tangled through passionate letters and stolen moments. At times, they shared a life together, but Bolívar's relentless devotion to the cause of liberation often separated them.

Manuela's devotion knew no bounds; she even thwarted an assassination attempt on Bolívar's life. He named her "the liberator of the liberator," a title that would forever echo in history.

Tragically, Bolívar succumbed to tuberculosis in 1830. Manuela settled in the tranquil town of Paita along the Peruvian coast. Her life ended on November 23, 1856, during a diphtheria epidemic that consumed her possessions, including the cherished letters from Bolívar.

The impact of their union on Bolívar's legacy cannot be overstated; it was a time when his greatest triumphs were forged in the crucible of their love.

Join us as we commemorate this extraordinary love story through the music of Aldemaro Romero in the world premiere of this ballet by Vladimir Issaev dedicated to Manuela Saenz and the passionate letters that bound her heart to Simón Bolívar







PETER AZEVEDO

Graduated from Alberta Ballet School in Calgary — Canada. Mr. Azevedo began his formal training at the Academia Narcissa Coelho, Ballet Adriana Assaf both in São Paulo and later at the Teatro Escola Basileu França in Goiânia - Brazil. In 2019 he participated in the Joinville Ballet Festival where he was awarded a First Place in the Classical Ballet Division.



IAN GONZÀLEZ

He graduated from the Escuela Nacional de Danza Clàsica y Contemporànea at Centro Nacional de las Artes also known as CENART in Mexico City. Mr. Gonzàlez received the First Prize and Gold Medal at the Grand Prix de la Danse Luisa Diaz and at the Playa del Carmen Dance Competition. At CENART, he perform alongside the Compañia Nacional de Danza, the flagship state sponsored Ballet Company in Mexico.



YOICHI HABAGUCHI

Mr. Habaguchi began his formal dance education at the Bolshoi Ballet Academy under the direction of Marina Leonova. He later moved to Canada to join Alberta Ballet School, where he graduated. His repertoire includes The Firebird, Paquita Pas de Trois, Blue Bird from Sleeping Beauty and Flames of Paris.



SARA MARLIN

She began her training at Vladimir Issaev School of Classical ballet at a very young age. She performed in many of the company's productions such as The Nutcracker, Coppelia, Suite of Waltzes, among other classical and neoclassical pieces. She participated in various renowned dance festivals in Germany, Poland, and Peru. Since her promotion to corps of ballet in 2022 she has performed ballets from Vicente Nebrada Pentimento and Double Clef, as well as Lusian Hernandez' Corpus, and Arapo.



MOEGI MATSUZAWA

Moegi Matsuzawa, was born in Yokohama, Japan and received her early training at Abiatt Ballet Studio in her native country. She continued her training at Pacific Northwest Ballet School. She later received a scholarship and joined The Rock School for Dance Education. Ms. Matsuzawa also attended Summer Intensive Programs at Pacific Northwest Ballet School, School of American Ballet and Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida. She performed "Coppélia" at the Public Juridical Foundation Japan Ballet Association and Bruce Wells' "Beauty and the Beast" at Pacific Northwest Ballet School.



ATARU MATSUYA

Mr. Matsuya was born in Japan. He began his early training at the Lucia Ballet School. He later was accepted at the Pôle National Supérieur de Danse Rosella Hightower in Mougins, Cannes — France where he graduated. Mr. Matsuya received Bronze Medals at the Hatsukaichi International Ballet Competition and the Youth America Grand Prix — Japan. He was also awarded a Silver Medal at the Kobe All Japan Dance Competition and performed at the MIBC Open de Medellin as a guest dancer.



KANON MURAKAMI

Graduated from Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School, Ms. Murakami attended her formative artistic years at the Ariake New City School of Ballet in Tokyo in her native Japan. She participated in the Machida Ballet Competition, awarded with a First Prize and a Special Jury Prize. She just came back from performing at the Gala of the Miami International Ballet Competition, Open de Medellin as a guest dancer.



SAAYA OKADA

From Japan. She trained and performed with Reiko Matsuoka Ballet Company. An international award winner Ms. Okada also trained at Ayano Tsuchiya's Ballet Studio and danced with Ballet Theatre United Kingdom. She had the opportunity to dance with Orlando Ballet Company in Cinderella and The Nutcracker. Ms Okada has performed soloist roles with Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida since joining in 2021. Among them: Viva Espana, The Nutcracker, Arapo, Tarde en La Siesta, Suite of Waltzes. Most recently she has received the Ewa Glowaska Award at the MIBC 2023.



DANIEL PANAMEÑO

From Miramar, Florida. He started his ballet studies at Vladimir Issaev School of Classical Ballet. He was awarded the Miller-Villela Artistic Scholarship and received a full scholarship to Houston Ballet Academy in 2017. He joined Houston Ballet II shortly after his first year and recently graduated from the program. He performed the premiere of Sylvia and Giselle by Stanton Welch AM. Daniel has danced for over 12 years and is excited to join Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida.



LOUISE RIGBY

graduated from the Tring Park School for the Performing Arts in England - United Kingdom, Ms. Rigby received the RAD Qualification with Distinction. She had the unique opportunity to guest with companies of international recognition like the English National Ballet under Tamara Rojo, the West Green House Opera and the Encore Dance Company, the graduate dance organization for her Alma Mater.





YAYOI SASAKI

was born in Miyagi, Japan. Her early ballet training started at the Company Bona Terra. She trained at the New Zealand School of Dance and graduated in 2019. Ms. Sasaki won the Miyagi Prefecture Governor Award, the Sendai Mayor Award and 1st prize in 2015 at the Ballet Competition in Sendai and the Gailene Stock Memorial Award and the Educational Ballet competition in 2018. Prior to joining Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida in 2021, she danced with Fort Wayne Ballet. Most recently she was awarded Gold Medal at the MIBC 2023 - Pas de Deux Category along with dancer Remina Tanaka.



SEIGA SATO

Graduated from the Hungarian Dance Academy in Budapest – Hungary, where Mr. Sato received a full scholarship by the government sponsored program. He received a Scholarship Award by the Youth American Grand Prix and a First Place at the Tokyo Ballet Competition.



KANAU SHIINA

Ms. Shiina comes from Japan. She received her early training at Hiroko Ballet Studio under Hiroko Nakazono followed by the professional training program at Studio Architanz, training under Michael Shannon and Kimiho Hulbert. Ms. Shiina performed solo roles during Arts Ballet's 2022-2023 season, such as SUgarplaum Fairy and Clara in The Nutcracker, and Ms. Cherry in Chipollino.



ZOARD SZABO

He comes from the Opera Krakowska in Krakow – Poland, where he was a professional ballet dancer since 2021. Mr. Szabo received his early formal training at the Hungarian Dance Academy prior to receiving his Bachelor Degree in Classical Ballet from Ballett-Akademie der Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Munich – Germany.



REMINA TANAKA

From Japan. His early ballet training started at Soki Ballet International. He also trained at Academié Princesse Grace in Monaco and San Francisco Ballet School. In 2019, he joined Orlando Ballet dancing their season repertoire including The Robert Hill Collection. Since joining Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida in 2021, he has performed Vladimir's Tchaikovsky and Coppelia Pas de Deux at the International Ballet Festival of Miami, and soloist roles in The Nutcracker, Viva Espana, among others. Remina was recently awarded the Gold Medal - Pas de Deux at MIBC 2023 after performing with ABTF dancer Yayoi Sasaki.





Ms. Tsukamoto comes from the Alberta Ballet School in Calgary – Canada, where she was part of the Trainee Program on full scholarship, awarded by the Youth American Grand Prix in her native Japan where she was a finalist. In previous years she won First Place at the National Ballet Competition in Tokyo and Hirakata, the European Ballet Grand Prix in Vienna and the World Art Ballet Competition.



KIRSTY WALKER

Born in the United Kingdom. She trained at Elmhurst Ballet school. Kirsty worked with Studio Wayne Mcgregor and performed lead roles in Sleeping Beauty, Swan Lake and Paquita as part of Elmhurst Ballet Company. Kirsty joined Orlando Ballet trainee program where she performed Victoria Morgan's Cinderella and Robert Hill's Vampires Ball, The Nutcracker and Requiem. She began her professional career with Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida in 2021 dancing soloist roles in The Nutcracker, Tarde en la Siesta and Suite of Waltzes.



CLARENCE WONG

Mr. Wong graduated from The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts where he received a Bachelor Degree, majoring in Classical Ballet under the Gifted Young Dancer Program. He began his formal education at The Commonwealth Society of Teachers of Dancing and at The Royal Academy of Dance. In 2021 Mr. Wong received a Gold Medal at The 49th Open Dance Contest.





ANN CHUA is originally from Malaysia. She graduated from Asia Ballet Academy. She was the finalist at the Star of Canaan International Dance Competition in Hong Kong. She has accrued plenty of experience as a Body Conditioning and Classical Ballet teacher for Pre-School to Preparatory students. Ms. Chua's repertoire include solos from Alice in Wonderland, Paquita and The Nutcracker among many others, including a production of Fairy Doll directed by Maestro Vladimir Issaev for Asian Ballet Academy.



RENA IWASAKI comes from the Perm State Choreographic College where she trained for the past three years. In 2020 she won 2nd Place at the Prix du Japon and in 2022 she was awarded First Place in the Japan International Ballet Festival. Her repertoire includes Paquita, La Sylphide, Coppelia, Harlequinade, Don Quixote and Cinderella





ISABELLA KENNEDY Started classical ballet at Vladimir Issaev School of Classical ballet under the tutelage of Vladimir Issaev at a very young age. Isabella has expanded her dance repertoire by performing in several of the company's productions such as The Nutcracker, Firebird, Doctor Ouch, Petrouchka, Chipollino, Harlequinade, Fairy Doll among other neoclassical and contemporary pieces. She has attended the Summer Intensive of Russian Technique of Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida for several years. After graduating in 2021 she is thrilled to begin her professional career as an apprentice in the company with Maestro Vladimir Issaev for this season 2023-2024.



SUZUKA MATSUMOTO comes from the European School of Ballet in Amsterdam – The Netherlands. She began her early training at the Ashiya Dance Studio at her native Japan. Later she joined the Perm State Ballet School where she continued her formal training. Her repertoire includes Diana and Acteon and The Sleeping Beauty.



YUZUKA MATSUMOTO hails from the European School of Ballet located in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. She initially embarked on her dance journey at the Ashiya Dance Studio in her home country of Japan. Subsequently, she enrolled in the esteemed Perm State Ballet School, where she diligently honed her skills through comprehensive training. Her repertoire includes The Sleeping Beauty and Le Corsaire.



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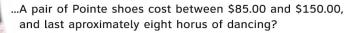
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