

Arkansas Festival Ballet

presents

Once Upon a Time

a Storybook Ballet Collection

Artistic Director, Rebecca Miller Stalcup



*April 24-25, 2026 @ Dreamland Ballroom
800 West 9th Street*

Special School Shows & Public Performances

ArkansasFestivalBallet.org 501 443 7207





ARKANSAS FESTIVAL BALLET

**REBECCA MILLER STALCUP, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
TRENT MONTGOMERY, ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
MEREDITH ZACHRITZ, OUTREACH DIRECTOR**

Arkansas Festival Ballet strives to educate, enhance, and promote the artistry of classical ballet and dance.

Arkansas Festival Ballet is a member of Regional Dance America/ Southwest

Arkansas Academy of Dance, under the direction of Rebecca Miller Stalcup, is the official school of Arkansas Festival Ballet

Board of Directors

**Meredith Zachritz
Kim Meyer-Webb
Lori Holzwarth
Sandra Marbaise
Anne Wang
Mike Stacks
Lorre Parrish**

Acknowledgments

**Rehearsal Assistants: Trent Montgomery, Meredith Zachritz, Louisa Utley
Facility & Technical Director, Mike Stacks
Wardrobe & Concessions: Susannah Beachboard, Lorre Parrish, Annie Wang
Backstage & Front of House Volunteers
The REP
UALR, Theatre Department
Tami Dawson & Stage Pros
Democrat Gazette, Inviting Arkansas
THV11-The VINE, AR STYLE
Music Licensing & Rights: ASCAP and BMI**


Support for Arkansas Festival Ballet is provided, in part, by the Arkansas Arts Council, an agency of the Department of Heritage and the National Endowment for the Arts.

**Arkansas Festival Ballet - 518 Main Street - Downtown Little Rock, AR 72201
501 443 7207/ 501 786 0784 - ArkansasFestivalBallet.org**

2025-2026 Season Sponsors

Our continued success is supported by our Patrons and Friends like you, Thank you!

*Jon & Sandra Marbaise
Charles H. Murphy III
Grady and Kerry McCoy
Jay and Laura Ecker
Richard and Becky Lancaster
Nathan Lancaster
Diane Alexander
Paul & Alice Alexander
Angela Scott
Charles Scott
Jennifer McCallum
Mary Margaret Jones Wippo
Kristin Owen
Jaston and Veronica Carter
Susannah and Matt Beachboard
Jane Beachboard
Suzanne Grobmyer
Richard S McIlroy
Jennifer Nicholas
Mike Stacks
Lyuba Bogan
Steve and Susan Santa Cruz
Nancy Denise Gilliam
David and Betsy Kern
Judith Zachritz
Steve and Meredith Zachritz
Lorre Parrish
Annie Wang
Daniel Webb and Kim Meyer Webb
Marty and Tisha Head
Alexandra Marshall
Louisa Utley
Sara Hurst
Karla Allala
Lisa Brumley
Steve Ellis
Rebecca Miller Stalcup*

Dreamland BALLROOM

TABORIAN HALL MUSEUM

Arkansas Democrat  Gazette

THE IDLE CLASS



 Bank OZK

UAMS | Translational
Research Institute

 Parkinson's
Foundation


Regional Dance America
Southwest

Arkansas Festival Ballet - Artistic Leadership



Rebecca Miller Stalcup, Artistic Director

Founding member of Arkansas Academy of Dance & Arkansas Festival Ballet in 2000,. With 30 + years of teaching experience, she continues to promote the highest standards of training and demonstrates a unique ability to instill, in her students, a joy for dance along with an appreciation of formal ballet etiquette. She holds a BA in Psychology, and is a former company dancer with the Lake Charles Civic Ballet, Lake Charles Ballet, Delia Stewart Dance Company, Ballet Arkansas, and former Children's Division Principal of the Academy of Ballet Arkansas. Rebecca has served as Adjunct Professor at University of Arkansas Little Rock, teaching ballet and is a Mental Wellness Certified Dance Educator through Danscend, and founding member and instructor of Dance for Life - a Dance for Parkinson's program. As instructor on the Arkansas Artist Roster, she has worked with teens at Pulaski County Juvenile Detention and served as artist in residence at both local and statewide public schools. As Artistic Director for Arkansas Festival Ballet (AFB), she has produced, choreographed and received awards for original works and statewide recognition for her contribution to the dance community. She has been the spotlight feature in publications of AR Democrat Gazette, Inviting Arkansas, Little Rock Family, Dance Magazine, and The Idle Class. Through her leadership, AFB continues to celebrate membership with Regional Dance America/Southwest. Under her artistic direction, AFB has worked collaboratively with local arts organizations including Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre, Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre, Argenta Community Theatre, Arkansas Arts Center, ACANSA, Conway Symphony Orchestra, Little Rock Wind Symphony, Opera in the Rock, Pine Bluff Symphony Orchestra, South Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, Saint Mark Baptist, Praeclara Arts, The Clinton Foundation, UALR Theatre and Arts, UALR Concert Choir, Wildwood Park for the Arts. Ms. Stalcup has staged classic ballets The Nutcracker Ballet, The Sleeping Beauty, Coppelia, Cinderella, Les Patineurs, and has created original choreography for full length story book ballets, Peter Pan, Alice in Wonderland, The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland, Aladdin, Beauty and the Beast (2 versions), Snow White (2 versions), The Adventures of Pinocchio, Princess and the Frog, Babes in Toyland and Hansel and Gretel. She has created original choreography for collaborative opera productions including, The Magic Flute, Midsummer Night's Dream, Romeo and Juliet, Carmen, Aida, Carmina Burana, Peter Grimes, Dido and Aeneas, The Sleeping Beauty, in addition to musicals The Music Man, and Pirates of Penzance. Her original choreography is also seen in award winning works, A New Influence, Aplomb, Rippling Soliloquies, Phaethon, Tangled Composition, Outrance, Kali Shu Kali Pai. Fleeting, not forgotten (with daughter holland Stalcup). Rebecca is the mother of four children, Gavin, Holland, Avaleigh and Farah.

Arkansas Festival Ballet - Artistic Leadership



Trent Montgomery, Associate Artistic Director

Originally from Arkansas, having trained under the direction of Rebecca Miller Stalcup and Melinda Tobian. Mr. Montgomery is a dance artist, teacher and choreographer who is currently a company member with Les Ballet Trockadero de Monte Carlo. He was recently featured in the New York Times for his artistry and performance excellence as a soloist with Les Ballet Trockadero. His performance repertoire is extensive having performed world renown choreography and ballet classics. He holds both a MFA and BFA in Dance from Florida State University and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, where he had the privilege to perform works by Merce Cunningham, Dan Wagoner and others. He served as the Associate Artistic Director of Ballet Arts Conservatory of Tallahassee for several years. Trent is certified in Pilates, Progressing Ballet Technique and Gyrokinesis.



Louisa Utley - Rehearsal Assistant

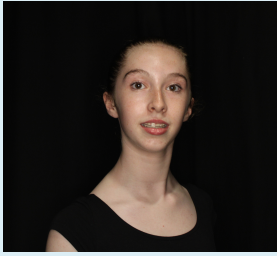
Trained under the guidance of Rebecca Miller Stalcup and Melinda Tobian at Arkansas Academy of Dance for over 15 years. As a principal company dancer with Arkansas Festival Ballet, she danced roles ranging from Arabian Coffee in The Nutcracker Ballet, Caterpillar in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Plumette in Beauty and the Beast, Tiger Lily in Peter Pan and many others. She additionally danced soloist roles in awarded winning choreography, Aplomb and Tangled Composition. In 2017, she was the Little Rock Chapter contestant in the 74th annual National Society of Arts and Letters Competition in Boca Raton, FL. Louisa is Summa Cum Laude graduate from the University of Central Arkansas (UCA), with majors in Political Science and International Relations, and a minor in Honors Interdisciplinary Studies. She tutored at UCA's Writing Center, was an active member of the Schedler Honors College and interned at the Office of the Governor, Asa Hutchinson, all while serving as ballet instructor at Arkansas Academy of Dance and stage manager for Arkansas Festival Ballet. Louisa worked for the Administrative Office of the Courts in Little Rock before attending Charles University in Prague receiving her master's in international relations. She currently works for the Arkansas Economic Development Commission.



Meredith McIlroy Zachritz, Outreach Director

Studied at Ballet Arkansas under the direction of founder Lorraine Cranford and RAD-trained ballet mistress Maureen Migden. As part of her studies, she attended annual Regional Dance America Southwest Festivals and received summer scholarships to study with world-renowned instructors such as David Howard, Robert Joffrey, and Bobby Barnett. She continued her studies in the pre-professional program at Ballet Austin under Michelle and Bill Piner, Stephen Mills, and Lambros Lambrou. After completing studies at Washington University and University of Texas, Ms. Zachritz returned to Little Rock and danced professionally with Ballet Arkansas. As a soloist in the company, she performed in various roles including the Snow Queen and Dew Drop Fairy from The Nutcracker, Peasant Pas de Deux from Giselle, Princess Florine in the Blue Bird Pas de Deux from Sleeping Beauty, and Swanhilda from Coppelia. Ms. Zachritz has also performed in a variety of roles with Austin Dance Ensemble, Collin County Ballet Theatre, and Arkansas Festival Ballet. She is certified to teach West Coast Pilates, enjoys choreographing for student performances, and has taught Arkansas Academy of Dance pre-professional ballet students at the intermediate and advanced levels. She serves as Treasurer on the Regional Dance America Southwest and teaches an intermediate adult ballet class for Arkansas Academy of Dance.

Company Dancers



Amelia Alexander
Performing Company



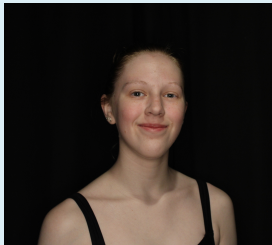
Avery Head
Performing Company



Nora Lancaster
Performing Company



Lucy Scott
Performing Company



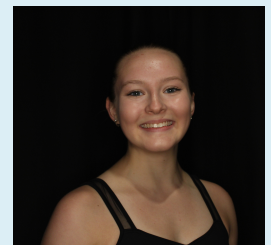
Mary Olive Smith
Performing Company



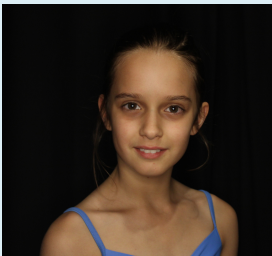
Farah Stalcup
Performing Company



Lanphia Tarawally
Performing Company



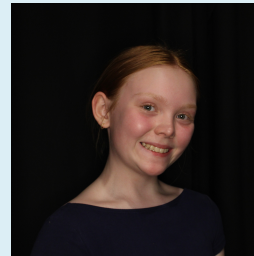
Maggie Wippo
Performing Company



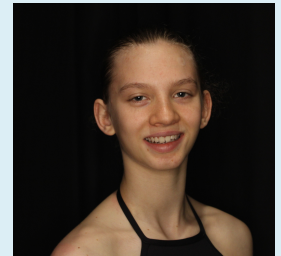
Olivia Beachboard
Apprentice Company



Cru Carter
Apprentice Company



Ellery Owen
Apprentice Company



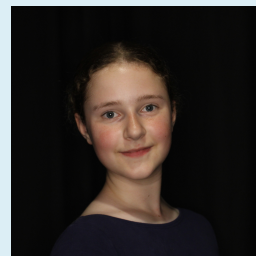
Izabella McCallum
Apprentice Company



Margaret Grobmyer
Apprentice Company



Avery Shipley
Apprentice Company



Lenore Shumake
Apprentice Company



Clara Wall
Apprentice Company



Sam Alexander
Junior Company



Willamina Wilson
Junior Company



Evie McVay
Junior Company

Company Auditions for 26-27 Season, May 19 for ages 9+ - Information at ArkansasFestivalBallet.org

Arkansas Festival Ballet Presents

Once Upon a Time

A Storybook Ballet Collection celebrating 25 years of Arkansas Festival Ballet's story telling through the world of dance.

Original choreography and staging by Rebecca Miller Stalcup

Rehearsal Assistants, Trent Montgomery, Louisa Utley, Meredith Zachritz
Technical Director, Mike Stacks

Sets: Mark Hansen, Mike Stacks, Randy Young, Paul Alexander

Costumes: September Rew, Callie Rew Vucci

Music by Charlie Chaplin, Carl Davis, Carmen DeLeone, Pyotr Ilyich
Tchaikovsky

Synopsis

A Ballet in One Act

Jack and Jill embark on a curious adventure, as they climb up the hill. They tumble into a wonderland greeting by Alice and the White Rabbit who are late for a very important date. Following a trail of forest pixies, they meet the energetic Pinocchio and his sidekick, Jiminy Cricket who are off to find the busy honeybees and their Queen Bee Florentine. Jack and Jill get swept into the excitement upon receiving an invitation to attend an extravagant and silly tea party. As Jack and Jill continue their adventure, the Royal Cards enter as they make way for the Queen of Hearts, who is introduced with great fanfare. Following a chaotic croquet match between the Queen of Hearts and Alice, the hedgehog and flamingo scurry away with the White Rabbit. This wild adventure now takes flight as Tinkerbell welcomes us to Neverland, and we meet a group of mischievous children and their brave friends Peter Pan, and Wendy Darling. Treasured time in Neverland dissolves into a fairytale vignette with Cinderella and her Fairy God Mother but is soon disrupted upon the arrival of Carabosse, a jealous and evil queen. Carabosse's distorted plan to steal jewels from the cave of wonders is quickly discovered, and Peter Pan, Wendy and Alice unite to stop her. They chase Carabosse to the entrance of the cave where she vanishes into brilliant stones of Onyx and Pearls. Through the camaraderie and kindness of the storybook friends, Carabosse's evil plans are foiled, and order is restored to the fairytale kingdom. A celebration of friendship and acceptance concludes this fanciful adventure.

Cast

Jack.....Sam Alexander

Jill.....Sarah Kent Robinson

Pixies..... Sloane Davis, Sierra Dugas, Niki Hinn, Naomi McDougal

Alice.....Farah Stalcup

White Rabbit.....Lucy Scott

Queen of Hearts.....Avery Head

Cards.....Spade, Olivia Beachboard; Heart, Cru Carter
Club, Ellery Owen; Diamond, Lenore Shumake

Hedge Hog.....Sierra Dugas

Flamingo.....Naomi McDougal

Pinocchio.....Izabella McCallum

Jiminy Cricket.....Margaret Grobmyer/ Willamina Wilson

Queen Bee Florentine.....Nora Lancaster

Busy Honeybees.....Ana Best, Zuri Brown, Guinevere Carter, Iqra Panjwani

Peter Pan.....Lanphia Tarawally

Wendy.....Mary Olive Smith

Neverland Children.....Sloane Davis, Niki Hinn, Ana Best, Maria Best, Zuri Brown
Guinevere Carter, Virginia Jones, Iqra Panjwani, Willamina Wilson

Tinkerbell.....Avery Shipley

Carabosse.....Avery Head

Cinderella.....Amelia Alexander

Fairy God Mother.....Maggie Wippo

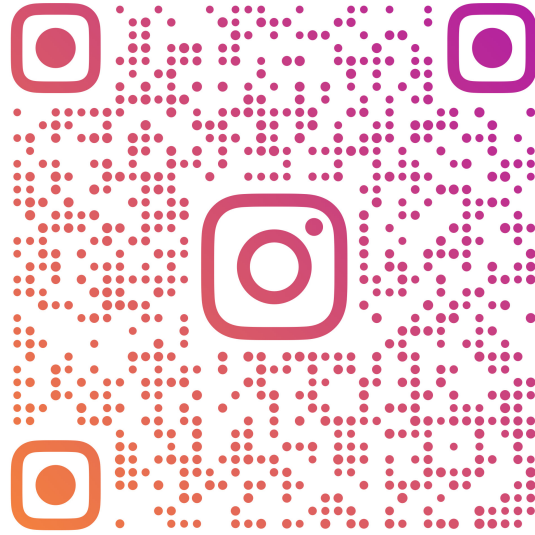
Onyx Soloist.....Lucy Scott

Pearl Soloist.....Nora Lancaster

Onyx Jewels.....Izabella McCallum, Olivia Beachboard, Cru Carter, Ellery Owen,
Lenore Shumake

Pearl Jewels.....Maria Best, Margaret Grobmyer, Virginia Jones, Willamina Wilson

Engage with AFB



ARKANSASFESTIVALBALLET



Arkansas Festival Ballet
- YouTube

www.youtube.com

Summer Enrichment Programs



**Arkansas Festival Ballet
Summer Intensive 2026**
June 1-13 Ages 5 & Up
in partnership with Arkansas Academy of Dance





Classical Ballet, Pointe, Variations, Partnering



Modern & Contemporary



Musical Theatre Tap, Jazz, Hip Hop



Character/ Folk, Dance History, Dancend, Stage Make Up



Progressive Ballet Technique, Body Conditioning Pilates & Yoga



Improvisation & Choreography

"developing the next generation of accomplished dancers"

ArkansasAcademyofDance.com/ ArkansasFestivalBallet.org
501 786 0784/ 501 443 7207 518 Main Street, Little Rock AR. 72201




DANCE *for* LIFE

CLASSES TRAINING RESOURCES *Dance for Parkinsons*

Arkansas Festival Ballet is pleased to be the first in Central Arkansas to introduce researched-backed dance classes to those living with Parkinson's Disease. With attendance to just one class, participants will experience immediate benefits.

Join us for classes held every week!
Mondays 10:30 am & Thursdays 1:30 pm
518 Main Street, Little Rock 72201

For information please contact
Rebecca@ArkansasFestivalBallet.org
or call/text 501 786 0784



Parkinson's Dance
arkansasfestivalballet.org



Artistic Director, Rebecca Miller Stalcup



Arkansas Academy of Dance
MIDSUMMER DANCE ACADEMY

July 6-31 2026
Monday- Friday
9 am -3 pm
Ages 3-11

Please visit our website to learn more, register and reserve your spot today!
ArkansasAcademyofDance.com

CONTACT
Director, Rebecca Miller Stalcup
501 443 7207
Training@ArkansasAcademyofDance.com




ADULT BALLETT

DON'T WAIT, TAKE CLASS THIS WEEK

Tuesdays 9-10 am, Instructor Rebecca Miller Stalcup
Wednesday 5:30-6:45 pm, Instructor Meredith Zachritz
Tuesdays & Thursdays 7-8 pm, Instructor Louisa Utley

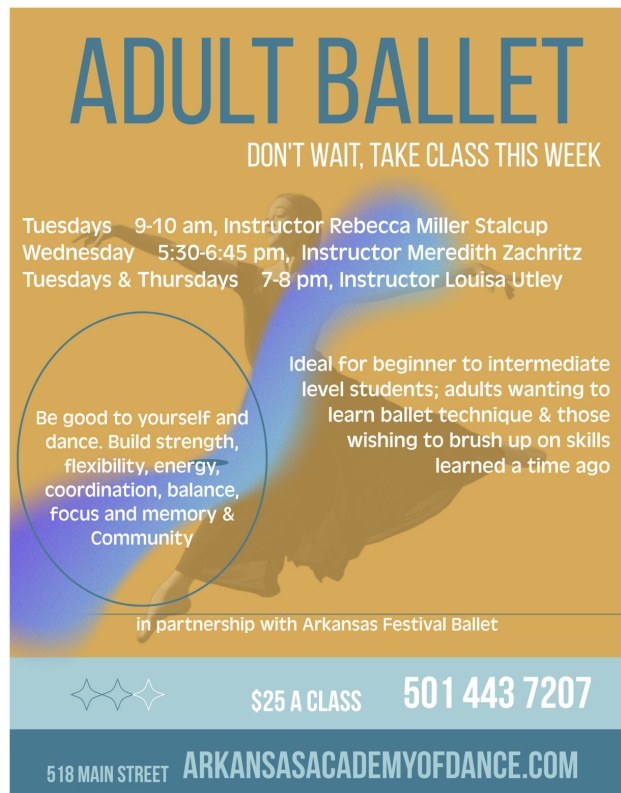
Be good to yourself and dance. Build strength, flexibility, energy, coordination, balance, focus and memory & Community

Ideal for beginner to intermediate level students; adults wanting to learn ballet technique & those wishing to brush up on skills learned a time ago

in partnership with Arkansas Festival Ballet

◆◆◆ \$25 A CLASS 501 443 7207

518 MAIN STREET ARKANSASACADEMYOFDANCE.COM



Summer Enrichment Programs Continued

Arkansas Academy of Dance
official school of Arkansas Festival Ballet

Join the movement - Register today - **SUMMER** Classes begin **JULY 6**
Academy Director,
Rebecca Miller Stalcup

Ballet Classes for ages 3 & up
Adult & Teen classes too



Register online ArkansasAcademyofDance.com
501 443 7207 Located 518 Main Street Little Rock

arkansasacademyofdance.com

**TINY TOT
Dance
Camp**

AGES 3-5

JUNE 15-26, 2026



REGISTER NOW

Contact Us
(501) 443 7207
518 Main Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

Register before March 21
for Early Bird Discounts

Official School of Arkansas Festival Ballet

Arkansas Academy of Dance

presents

**26th Annual
Student Spring
Demonstration**

May 2, 2026

5 pm

**Center for
Performing Arts
UALR Campus**

ArkansasAcademyofDance.com