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**HOUSTON BALLET ANNOUNCES ITS 2024 – 2025 SEASON ROSTER**

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**HOUSTON, TEXAS [June 10, 2024]** — Houston Ballet Artistic Directors Julie Kent and Stanton Welch AM proudly announce the 2024 - 2025 roster of its professional company at Houston Ballet’s Margaret Alkek Williams Center for Dance. The Company welcomes the return of 52 dancers along with nine new additions, including four from Houston Ballet Academy: Angelo Greco, Julian Lacey, Brittany Stone, Alexa Torres, Rodrigo Pinto, Remie Goins, Saela Rivera-Martinez, Eli Go, and Kaito Matsuoka.

**Angelo Greco** joins Houston Ballet as a Principal from San Francisco Ballet. Born in Sardinia, Italy, Greco grew up in Modena and then trained at Il Balletto di Castelfranco Veneto and then La Scala Ballet Academy in Milan before joining La Scala Ballet where he had a life contract. Honed on prestigious stages around the world, his experience and breadth of repertoire led him to follow his passion arriving at San Francisco Ballet in 2016 as a soloist, where he was promptly promoted to principal in 2017. Numerous renowned choreographers have created works on Greco, including Yuri Possokhov’s *Optimistic Tragedy,* Helgi Tomasson’s *Harmony*, Dwight Rhoden’s *LET’S BEGIN AT THE END,* Christopher Wheeldon’s *Bound To*, and Stanton Welch AM’s *Bespoke.* He has also performed principal and featured roles in Sir Kenneth MacMillan’s *Romeo and Juliet,* Rudolf Nureyev’s *Don Quixote*, Alexei Ratmansky’s *The Sleeping Beauty,* and Maurice Béjart’s *Gaîté* *Parisienne.* Greco has been the recipient of Dance Europe’s Outstanding Artistry Award in 2011 and 2012, and the Erik Bruhn Prize in 2016.

**Julian Lacey** joins Houston Ballet as a First Soloist from Semperoper Ballett Dresden. Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, Lacey began his training at the Ballet San Jose School, Teen Dance Company, City Ballet School San Francisco, School of American Ballet, and Apprentice Program Palucca University of Dance before joining Semperoper Ballett Dresden.

His repertoire includes Sir Kenneth MacMillan’s *Manon*, David Dawson’s *Giselle*, *Four Seasons* and *Romeo and Juliet*, and Aaron Watkin’s (Marcelo Gomez) *The Sleeping Beauty*.

**Brittany Stone** joins Houston Ballet as Corps de Ballet from The Washington Ballet. Originally from East Hartford, Connecticut, Stone began training at The Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School at American Ballet Theatre, continuing onto North Carolina School of the Arts. She has previously danced at the Boston Ballet, and her repertoire includes *Apollo* and *Slaughter on 10th Avenue* by George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins’ *The Concert*, Jessica Lang’s *Reverence* and Julie Kent and Victor Barbee’s *Giselle*. *Pointe Magazine* named Stone as top 10 favorite “Stars of the Corps” in 2013.

**Alexa Torres** joins Houston Ballet as Corps de Ballet from The Washington Ballet. Originally from Santiago, Dominican Republic, Torres began her training in her hometown at the Ballet Clasico Santiago, continuing onto the Kirov Academy of Ballet in D.C. and later The Washington Ballet as a trainee. She has danced for Boston Ballet and the Paris Opera Ballet as a short-term dancer in 2023. Her repertoire includes Julie Kent and Victor Barbee’s The *Sleeping Beauty, Swan Lake, Romeo Juliet, Giselle*, Jiří Kylián’s *Bella Figura*, George Balanchine’s *Serenade* and *Ballet Imperial.*

**Rodrigo Pinto** joins Houston Ballet as Corps de Ballet from Semperoper Ballett Dresden. Originally from Porto, Portugal, Pinto began his ballet training in Switzerland at the Ballettschule Theater Basel before moving on to the Royal Ballet School in England. His repertoire includes Aaron Watkin’s (Marcelo Gomez) *The Sleeping Beauty* and *La Bayadere*, and William Forsythe’s *The Second Detail* and *The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude*.

**Eli Go** joins Houston Ballet as an Apprentice from Houston Ballet II. Originally from Houston, Texas, he began training with the Houston Ballet Academy through the summer intensive in 2016. He joined the Houston Ballet Academy and later Houston Ballet II.

**Remie Goins** joins Houston Ballet as an Apprentice from Houston Ballet II. Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, Goins began training at International City School of Ballet and later the Vaganova Ballet Academy where she was named Russian Pointe's “One to Watch” in 2016.

**Saela Rivera–Martinez** joins Houston Ballet as an Apprentice after one season with Houston Ballet II. She was raised in Saint Petersburg, Florida and received her training at the Academy of Ballet Arts, the Sarasota Cuban Ballet School, and the American Ballet Theatre Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School. She has performed in international galas in Costa Rica and Panama and was selected in 2022 as a candidate for the Prix de Lausanne.

**Kaito Matsuoka** joins Houston Ballet as an Apprentice from Houston Ballet II. Originally from Ehime, Japan, Matsuoka began his training at the Ehime Ballet Academy, continuing onto The Royal Ballet School and later Houston Ballet II.

New promotions for the 2024 – 2025 season include: Nikita Baryshnikov, Taela Graff, Alejandro Molina León, and Allison Whitley to the rank of Corps de Ballet.

The full company, listed by rank, for the 2024 – 2025 season includes: **Principals** Skylar Campbell, Soo Youn Cho, Jessica Collado, Karina González, Angelo Greco, Yuriko Kajiya, Chase O’Connell, Beckanne Sisk and Connor Walsh. **First Soloists** Tyler Donatelli, Mónica Gómez, Julian Lacey, Gian Carlo Perez and Harper Watters. **Soloists** Simone Acri, Bridget Allinson-Kuhns, Eric Best, Aoi Fujiwara, Danbi Kim, Jacquelyn Long, Naazir Muhammad, Aaron Daniel Sharratt and Alyssa Springer. **Demi Soloists** Adelaide Clauss, Syvert Lorenz Garcia, Kellen Hornbuckle, Estheysis Menendez, Rench Soriano, Masanori Takiguchi, Elivelton Tomazi, Natalie Varnum, Jack Wolff and Chae Eun Yang. **Corps de Ballet** Henrique Barbosa, Nikita Baryshnikov, Gretel Batista, Jindallae Bernard, Neal Burks, Jaci Doty, Emma Forrester, Taela Graff, Rafaela Henrique, Griffin Koehl, Augustin Lehner, Zoe Lucich, Riley McMurray, Alejandro Molina León, Saul Newport, Jaclyn Oakley, Rodrigo Pinto, Samuel Rodriguez, Brittany Stone, Song Teng, Sayako Toku, Alexa Torres, Allison Whitley and Ryan Williams. **Apprentices**, Eli Go, Remie Goins, Kaito Matsuoka, and Saela Rivera-Martinez.

Houston Ballet looks forward to the spectacular season ahead! To learn more about Houston Ballet’s 2024 – 2025 Company dancers, visit [**houstonballet.org**](http://houstonballet.org/explore/artists/)**.**

**ABOUT HOUSTON BALLET**

With over 50 years of rich history, Houston Ballet has evolved into a company with a budget of $37.6 million and an endowment of $97.5 million (as of June 2023), making it the country’s fourth-largest ballet company. Its $46.6 million state-of-the-art performance space, the Houston Ballet Margaret Alkek Williams Center for Dance opened in April 2011. In addition, Houston Ballet's reach is global, touring theaters in Dubai, London, Paris, Moscow, Spain, Montréal, Ottawa, Melbourne, New York City, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Tokyo and more.

Australian choreographer Stanton Welch AM has served as Artistic Director of Houston Ballet since 2003. Welch has choreographed 43 new works for Houston Ballet during his tenure while ensuring the growth of the Company’s repertoire by presenting works from George Balanchine, William Forsythe, Jiří Kylián, Sir Kenneth MacMillan, John Neumeier, and Jerome Robbins. Welch continues the legacy of Houston Ballet being a choreographic Eden by commissioning over 30 works from world-renowned choreographers including Aszure Barton, Trey McIntyre, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa and Justin Peck. Julie Kent joined Welch as Artistic Director in 2023, after serving as Artistic Director of The Washington Ballet from 2016 – 2023 and following a storied career as a Principal ballerina of American Ballet Theatre - the longest-tenured dancer in ABT’s 85-year history. Executive Director James Nelson serves as the administrative leader of the organization, a position he assumed in February 2012 after serving as the Company’s General Manager for more than a decade.

Beyond its stage presence, Houston Ballet maintains a strong foothold in continuing to foster a love for dance in future generations. Its Education and Community Engagement program reaches more than 85,000 individuals in the Houston area annually. Houston Ballet Academy trains more than 1,000 students every year, producing more than 60 percent of the extraordinary artists that comprise Houston Ballet’s current Company.

For more information on Houston Ballet, visit [houstonballet.org](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.houstonballet.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7CALee%40houstonballet.org%7C64e1cc87723949d1a10408dc32704e3b%7C96ffe6484e0e4d839e7a0b72af0ac187%7C0%7C0%7C638440705143801451%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=VlLWJ3L1c7HffofHZEmSzSNXbtA4wnnmnjGzrK9zMKE%3D&reserved=0)

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