

ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET

newsnewsnewsnewsnewsnewsnews 2015 SUMMER SEASON

Summer season
schedule inside!
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ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET

2015 SUMMER SEASON NEWS

- 04 New Work: Alejandro Cerrudo
- 06 Sponsor Profile
- 07 Student Focus
- 08 2015 Summer Season
- 11 Special Events
- 13 Sponsor Profile
- 14 Dancer Spotlight



PHOTO: ROSALE O'CONNOR

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Dear Friends,

After a winter spent touring the United States and Canada, we are eager to return to our beloved home audiences in Aspen and Santa Fe with two new ballets to look forward to: one by Hubbard Street prodigy Alejandro Cerrudo and the other by Finnish virtuoso Jorma Elo. We are also extremely excited to welcome three talented new dancers to our company roster this summer: Jenelle Figgins from Dance Theatre of Harlem; Pete Leo Walker, formerly of Charlotte Ballet; and Anthony Tiedeman, a recent graduate of The Juilliard School. In this newsletter we introduce Anthony (pg. 14); stay tuned for profiles on Jenelle and Pete in our next edition!

The passionate Juan Siddi Flamenco Santa Fe has quickly become an audience favorite in both Aspen and Santa Fe, and this summer there will be even more performances to enjoy. Now under the management of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, this vibrant company of magnificent musicians and dancers is poised to step onto the national dance scene. Performances by the dynamic DanceBrazil and Les Ballet Jazz de Montréal will round out our Aspen season. Our popular family series, *Dance For Kids!*, with its hour-long, kid-friendly performances, is a wonderful way to introduce your children to this art form.

Crucial to our success are our summer galas in Aspen and Santa Fe. These events come only once a year, but the funds generated help sustain us throughout the entire season. In Aspen, *Dancing with the Aspen Stars* will once again delight partygoers, and the elegant Club at Las Campanas in Santa Fe is the setting for a beautiful evening under the stars.

As a valued donor, we are offering you early access to summer ticket sales. With several one-night-only performances, we urge you to take advantage of this donor perk by purchasing your seats before they go on sale to the general public. We look forward to an exciting summer of dance and hope to see you all in the theater. As always, your support and enthusiasm keep us thriving and inspired!

Tom Mossbrucker

Jean-Philippe Malaty



PHOTO: PETER FRANCO

Imagination Untitled:

Alejandro Cerrudo and the Art of the Dance Company

by Johnny Nevin

There is an art to being a dance company. In a way, it's a larger choreography, one that must design, balance, and foster all of the other creativity that can make concert dance so beautiful and exciting. This art, like the choreography it presents, is intrinsically collaborative, relying upon the performance of others to realize its vision. Watching choreographer Alejandro Cerrudo begin a brand new work with Aspen Santa Fe Ballet affords a unique opportunity to see how these two arts—the art of the choreographer and the art of the dance company—inspire and enrich the other.

Cerrudo's return to ASFB for the premiere of a new work (already replete with Cerrudo's trademark imagination, but as yet untitled) is as intriguing as it is promising. It's an opportunity to see Cerrudo at work on a work-in-progress, and, in doing so, to see something more. It's also a chance to observe how a dance company's careful understanding of how a choreographer makes great dance can influence every moment of what an audience ultimately sees.

Cerrudo's approach to choreography goes deeper than the design of movement to music, in part because he approaches both with such intuitive depth. Despite the precision of his imagination, he never seems to forget that what an audience sees in concert, whoever may have designed it, is movement made by dancers, not choreographers. That means that an artistic awareness of the individuality of the artists he works with is always an integral part of his creative process, and it's one of the aspects of working with ASFB that he mentions first. "They're a company that is very versatile," he says of the ASFB dancers. "Their willingness to speak your language—your movement language—is something you really appreciate as a choreographer. That ability and willingness to learn your movement vocabulary, that's priceless."

Such a capacity for sharing the vision and vocabulary of a choreographer fundamentally changes how a dance can be imagined, and it has profound implications for what an audience will see when the work is complete. Cerrudo's approach is uniquely adapted to the opportunity to work with such open-minded performers, in part because he is so intensely musical. He has a symphonic understanding of mix and motion in music, and he can seamlessly vary his musical selections across a broad spectrum of styles. His process almost always begins with music, and his intense attention to the details of musical construction often defines the structure of his works.

Exploring music with the dancers who will ultimately move to it was a large part of Cerrudo's process as he began creating the piece last November. "I went into the studio with many different pieces of music that I wanted to try out," he explains, "and it's from that, working with them in the studio, that I develop the concept of the piece."

Alejandro Cerrudo certainly knows how to make dance; besides his widely admired work with Hubbard Street Dance Chicago as their Resident Choreographer, his works are regularly performed by companies around the world. Because he has so much choreographic experience, his perspective on how dance is made, especially regarding what is most conducive to crafting great concert dance, is particularly insightful.

Perhaps more than anything else, Cerrudo describes how valuable it is to know that he'll be free to explore whatever it takes to make a great work. "What's great is that Tom and Jean-Philippe have never said that you have to make a piece about this, or with this music, or with this many dancers," Cerrudo explains. "That freedom is fantastic for a contemporary choreographer."

It's an artistic freedom that is very much by design, and it is characteristic of the ASFB approach to working with great choreographers. "We really try to give the choreographer a blank slate," Malaty says. "We believe that's our best chance for a great piece."

“[ASFB's] ability and willingness to learn your movement vocabulary, that's priceless.”

Even so, the ability to synthesize so many possible inspirations, so many possible creative directions into a single cohesive experience requires even more. Besides the artistic freedom to create the best work a choreographer can imagine, the process also requires the resources and the time to do so effectively.

"I think that's another aspect that choreographers enjoy about coming to work here with Aspen Santa Fe Ballet," Malaty says. "We're one of the few companies that will dedicate a four to five week time period for creation, and it seems like choreographers appreciate the luxury of having that length of time." Perhaps just as important, the company believes that the process, for both choreographer and dancers, benefits tremendously from an ability to work continuously, without interruption. "We like to focus on one creation at a time," Malaty continues, "so Alejandro will have all day long with the dancers, and we will not be rehearsing any other works in that period; he will have the full attention and commitment and focus from the dancers."

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's operational philosophy represents an impressive awareness of the details of how great dance is made. Yet, despite its very real impact on what an audience sees in concert, none of the nuts and bolts are directly visible on stage. The success of the dance company lies in its ability to create a seamless environment that honors the collaborative process and allows the art of the choreographer to shine.

That, however, may actually be the very heart of the art. Such a complete understanding of what will make the best creativity possible naturally requires knowing how not to crowd its process, how not to compromise its potential. Visible or not, it's not without its metrics. One of them is the ability of a dance company to continually attract the work of the best choreographers, artists like Alejandro Cerrudo, and Cerrudo's own observation on the subject is especially enlightening. "They work with choreographers I really admire," he says of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet. High praise, from a respected voice, for an important but nearly invisible artistry, the often unnoticed art of being a dance company.



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Santa Fe students Moises Ruiz, Jude Harris, Salim Ingram, Luis Lagunas, Joshua Weisner, Justin Lee, and Wrangler Gubelmann.

Shining the Spotlight on our Students

by Jessica Moore

From the acquisition of the Glenwood Dance Academy location, which expanded the reach of The School of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet further down valley into Glenwood Springs, CO, to the departure of beloved long-time school faculty Charlotte Bowlby, the 2014-15 school year was one of milestones and transitions. Such achievements were not, however, strictly limited to the upper levels of the organization; our students—the foundation of our school—boasted an incredible year of growth. From a new crop of male talent in Santa Fe, to those advanced students taking the plunge into summer dance intensives, our students are the physical embodiment of the success found through perseverance and dedication to The School of ASFB curriculum.

A major milestone in a budding ballerina's course of study is the transition from a soft ballet slipper to the iconic pointe shoe. There is nothing quite as exciting as the first pointe shoe fitting and making one's initial tentative relevé onto the tip of the hard, satin shoe. Melanie Dorskocil, director of The School of ASFB in Aspen, explains that our faculty look at each student individually to determine whether or not they are ready to advance into pointe classes. "Starting around age eleven," she said, "students are evaluated on a wide range of criteria including ankle mobility and strength, turnout, leg strength, and core strength." This year in Santa Fe, ten girls achieved this important step in their training. Meanwhile, in the Aspen area, another ten girls got fitted for their first shoes, making the trip to Colorado Springs, CO, to see Noel Amend, whose expert eye has matched many of our students with their first pair of shoes.

While the shift into pointe work is exciting, it also signals a change in a dancer's studies. No longer can students afford to take summers off from practice, as they will fall behind and lose strength in their developing feet and ankles. To that end, The School of ASFB encourages its students to live the summer dance intensive experience by auditioning and traveling to attend programs across the country. It is through these experiences that students will not only enhance their technique, but also be exposed to new people and places that can broaden their perspectives. Dorskocil says

(con't on pg 10)

2015 SUMMER SEASON

ASPEN



PHOTO: COURTESY DANCEBRAZIL

DANCE FOR KIDS! DANCEBRAZIL

July 8 | 4:00pm
Generously underwritten by
Les Dames d'Aspen

Dance for Kids! offers a special condensed version of DanceBrazil's imaginative and athletic show in an hour-long, family-friendly matinee performance showcasing the company's trademark fusion of contemporary dance, Afro-Brazilian movement, and capoeira, the traditional martial arts form rooted in the streets of Brazil. Children of all ages will delight in this rhythmic, acrobatic, and culturally engaging show!

"The dancers, engaging from the first, glow enthusiastically as they let rip at highest energy."
- The New York Times



PHOTO: ANDREA WICK

DANCEBRAZIL

July 8 | 8:00pm
Generously underwritten by
Les Dames d'Aspen

Fresh off their performances at New York's Joyce Theater, DanceBrazil comes to Aspen with a spirited program showcasing the company's trademark fusion of contemporary dance, Afro-Brazilian movement, and capoeira, the traditional martial arts form rooted in the streets of Brazil and, before that, in the colonial slave experience. For over thirty years, DanceBrazil has dazzled audiences with its trademark speed, power, precision, and driving original scores by Brazilian composers. Heat up your summer with the sultry sounds of Brazil!

"What matters here above all is the gorgeously full physicality of movement, allied to music."
- The New York Times



PHOTO: ROSALIE O'CONNOR

ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET

July 18 & 28 | 8:00pm
Generously underwritten by
Carolyn Powers

This summer, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet unleashes an innovative program by international choreographic heavyweights featuring the world premiere of a commissioned work from Alejandro Cerrudo of Spain, currently in residence at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. ASFB will also present *1st Flash* by Finnish superstar Jorma Elo, and the return of fan favorite *Beautiful Mistake* by the Spanish Cayetano Soto. With three opportunities to see the company perform in Aspen, you won't want to miss out on this exciting show!

"An abundance of riches from Aspen Santa Fe Ballet."
- Boston Globe



PHOTO: ROSALIE O'CONNOR

JUAN SIDDI FLAMENCO SANTA FE

July 23 | 8:00pm
Generously underwritten by
Les Dames d'Aspen

Discover the rich, authentic, and passionate world of Juan Siddi Flamenco Santa Fe, recipient of the Santa Fe Mayor's Award and rave reviews from international press. The ensemble of fourteen dancers and musicians deliver a no-holds-barred theatrical experience. Experience the thrill of flamenco at its finest!

"For all the pain inherent in the tradition of flamenco, there is also comfort on display here, sweat and joy."
- Culture Vulture



PHOTO: GREGORY BATAARDON

DANCE FOR KIDS! ZAP - LES BALLETS JAZZ DE MONTRÉAL

August 8 | 4:00pm
Generously underwritten by
Melinda and Norman Payson

ZAP is almost as though one is sitting in front of the television set and switching channels! This selection of carefully selected excerpts from the Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal repertoire, assembled like a succession of music videos, offers young people an entertaining and informative introduction to the world of contemporary dance.

"Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal landed on stage... determined to wow the crowd. Mission accomplished."
- Minneapolis Star Tribune



PHOTO: JOSEPH GHALEB

LES BALLETS JAZZ DE MONTRÉAL

August 7 & 8 | 8:00pm
Generously underwritten by
Melinda and Norman Payson

Displaying a radiant and expressive style, Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal is an astounding contemporary group that has certainly earned the title of "feel good company." Their program features *Harry* by Israeli-American choreographer Barak Marshall. Also on the program is *Closer*, a duet by Benjamin Millepied set to the music of Philip Glass, and *Rouge*, a full throttle, high-intensity piece by the legendary Brazilian choreographer Rodrigo Pederneras.

"With superb imagery and elaborate, sophisticated choreography, Harry is a perfect match for the undeniable talent of Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal. A magnificent work!"
- Danser Magazine (France)



PHOTO: ROSALIE O'CONNOR

ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET

August 22 | 8:00pm
Generously underwritten by
Carolyn Powers

This summer, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet unleashes an innovative program by international choreographic heavyweights featuring the world premiere of a commissioned work from Alejandro Cerrudo of Spain, currently in residence at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. ASFB will also present *1st Flash* by Finnish superstar Jorma Elo, and the return of fan favorite *Beautiful Mistake* by the Spanish Cayetano Soto. With three opportunities to see the company perform in Aspen, you won't want to miss out on this exciting show!

"An abundance of riches from Aspen Santa Fe Ballet."
- Boston Globe

Summer season
schedule announced!
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SANTA FE



PHOTO: JAMIE KRAUS

ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET

July 10 & 31 | 8:00pm

This summer, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet unleashes an innovative program by international choreographic heavyweights featuring the world premiere of a commissioned work from Alejandro Cerrudo of Spain, currently in residence at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. ASFB will also present *1st Flash* by Finnish superstar Jorma Elo, and the return of fan favorite *Beautiful Mistake* by the Spanish Cayetano Soto. With three opportunities to see the company perform in Santa Fe, you won't want to miss out on this exciting show!

"An abundance of riches from Aspen Santa Fe Ballet."
- Boston Globe



PHOTO: ROSALIE O'CONNOR

JUAN SIDDI FLAMENCO SANTA FE

July 12, 21, & 26 | 8:00pm
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Discover the rich, authentic, and passionate world of Juan Siddi Flamenco Santa Fe, recipient of the Santa Fe Mayor's Award and rave reviews from international press. The ensemble of fourteen dancers and musicians deliver a no-holds-barred theatrical experience. Experience the thrill of flamenco at its finest!

"For all the pain inherent in the tradition of flamenco, there is also comfort on display here, sweat and joy."
- Culture Vulture



PHOTO: ROSALIE O'CONNOR

JUAN SIDDI FLAMENCO SANTA FE

August 1 & 29 | 8:00pm
Generously sponsored by
La Boca and Taberna restaurants

Discover the rich, authentic, and passionate world of Juan Siddi Flamenco Santa Fe, recipient of the Santa Fe Mayor's Award and rave reviews from international press. The ensemble of fourteen dancers and musicians deliver a no-holds-barred theatrical experience. Experience the thrill of flamenco at its finest!

"For all the pain inherent in the tradition of flamenco, there is also comfort on display here, sweat and joy."
- Culture Vulture



PHOTO: ROSALIE O'CONNOR

ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET

September 4 | 8:00pm

This summer, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet unleashes an innovative program by international choreographic heavyweights featuring the world premiere of a commissioned work from Alejandro Cerrudo of Spain, currently in residence at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. ASFB will also present *1st Flash* by Finnish superstar Jorma Elo, and the return of fan favorite *Beautiful Mistake* by the Spanish Cayetano Soto. With three opportunities to see the company perform in Santa Fe, you won't want to miss out on this exciting show!

"An abundance of riches from Aspen Santa Fe Ballet."
- Boston Globe



PHOTO: ROSALIE O'CONNOR

JUAN SIDDI FLAMENCO SANTA FE

September 5 | 8:00pm
Generously sponsored by
La Boca and Taberna restaurants

Discover the rich, authentic, and passionate world of Juan Siddi Flamenco Santa Fe, recipient of the Santa Fe Mayor's Award and rave reviews from international press. The ensemble of fourteen dancers and musicians deliver a no-holds-barred theatrical experience. Experience the thrill of flamenco at its finest!

"For all the pain inherent in the tradition of flamenco, there is also comfort on display here, sweat and joy."
- Culture Vulture

► Performance Information

All shows take place at the Aspen District Theatre
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970-920-5770 or toll free 866-449-0464

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Visit Aspen Show Tickets at the Wheeler Opera House
320 E. Hyman Street, Aspen, CO

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All shows take place at the The Lencis, Santa Fe's Performing Arts Center
211 West San Francisco St., Santa Fe, NM

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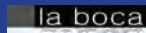
Monday, July 13, 2015
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For information or reservations, call 505-983-5591 ext. 105

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ST REGIS



(con't from pg 7)

summer programs are important “because they give students an opportunity to work with other teachers, choreographers, and coaches, and also see what other students their age are doing. Students get a taste of what it might be like if they were a professional dancer: long hours, exposure to new choreographers and coaching, and classes they might not get at home like partnering, pilates, or gyrokinesis.”

Students of The School of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet have attended summer programs at prestigious institutions such as the School of American Ballet and American Ballet Theatre. “The high placement rate of our students into these exclusive programs is indicative of the standards to which our students are held in their yearly training,” says Santa Fe School Director Gisela Genschow. “We strive to ensure that the reputation of the school matches the national reputation of the company.”

This summer, students from both the Aspen and Santa Fe areas will be attending noted programs around the country including Pacific Northwest Ballet, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Alonzo King Lines Ballet, Ballet Austin, and Walnut Hill School for the Arts in Massachusetts. The audition process for these programs is rigorous and requires months of preparation. “The audition process was definitely intimidating and overwhelming,” recalls Aspen student Sydney Clark about her Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet audition. “To take class with about 60 other hopeful dancers all going for the same intensive is stressful, but in the end, when you get accepted into the program, it's one of the best feelings in the world.”

Aspen student Covington Pearson knows that audition experiences are valuable to his development as a dancer: “Having auditioned for over 10 summer intensives, I feel as though I have learned how to prepare myself for an audition and audition with the highest quality that I am capable of.” His confident audition skills paid off, as he was awarded a partial scholarship to the Joffrey Ballet’s summer program in New York and a full scholarship from the Nutmeg Conservatory for both the summer and the year-round professional training programs. Pearson says he is most looking forward to daily partnering and men’s classes, as well as joining The Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory for the upcoming school year. He hopes that his summer dance studies “will help me prepare both physically and emotionally for the upcoming year, as I leave home and my beloved teachers at Aspen Santa Fe Ballet.”

For the majority of the ten young boys enrolled in the Santa Fe schools, the reality of leaving behind the safety of familiar teachers and friends is still years away. For the time being, each has his own reasons for pursuing dance training. Sixteen-year-old Salim Ingram enjoys the “prestige” associated with being a dancer, explaining that “people are always impressed when a boy says he dances.” He continually seeks to improve his technique and thrives in the structured environment of ballet: “The discipline is quite refreshing and you can leave all your problems at the door of the studio.” Jude Harris, age 5, and Joshua Weisner, age 12, both agree that the best part of being a boy in ballet is getting to perform all the great solos; Jude, in particular, is eagerly anticipating his role in the upcoming recital where he gets to “spin the girl dancers around.” Although girls regularly outnumber boys in the studio, for three-year-old Moises Ruiz, being the only boy in his ballet class is a perk. Showing foresight beyond his years, when asked what goal he would like to accomplish in ballet, Ruiz replied that he hopes to one day “hold up the ladies.”

We look forward to seeing our students perform in the end-of-year recitals and wish them all an exciting and productive summer!

The School of ASFB 2015 Recitals

Aspen

The School of ASFB

May 16, 6:00pm

May 17, 1:00pm

ASFB Folklorico

May 17, 6:00pm

Santa Fe

The School of ASFB & ASFB Folklorico

May 31, 1:00pm & 6:00pm



School of ASFB student Emma Boucher getting fitted for new pointe shoes.



School of ASFB student Jaden Grimm learning to tie her pointe shoes.



School of ASFB student Francesca Seeman in costume for the recital.

PHOTO: MICHAEL ALVAREZ



Aspen Santa Fe Ballet was delighted to host an intimate Valentine's Day gathering at the Hotel Jerome for the Aspen National Council. Members got the inside scoop from directors Tom Mossbrucker and Jean-Philippe Malaty on ASFB's upcoming summer season while mingling with the dancers.

The National Council is one of ASFB's most important circles of support. Along with our trustees, National Council members serve as ambassadors for ASFB in Aspen, Santa Fe, and nationwide. The group is invited to gather with our directors and dancers several times each year, in Aspen and Santa Fe, for informal updates on the company. For more information on our National Council, contact Kaitlin Windle at 970-925-7175, ext. 110.

Thank you to our February host, the Hotel Jerome, and for all those who celebrated Valentine's Day with us!



Dancers Joseph Watson and Peter Franc, National Council member Rachel Zimmerman, and Business Development Manager Zander Higbie.



National Council member Marilyn Wilmerding and Les Dames d'Aspen President/Executive Director Christine Gerschel.



Board President Judith Steinberg, Randi Lowenthal, and Executive Director Jean-Philippe Malaty.



National Council members Paul Zimmerman, George Shaw, and Jim Horowitz.



National Council member Carrie Wells with Nancy Mayer of *Aspen Sojourner*.



ASFB Graphic Designer Sam Chittenden and Trustee Tony DiLucia.



National Council members Peter Nicklin and Linda McCausland with dancer Nolan McGahan.

In keeping with its innovative and hybrid business model, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet launched a new partnership one year ago with the vibrant, young flamenco company, Juan Siddi Flamenco Santa Fe. This shared management structure—unique among dance organizations—now diversifies the cultural offerings of both Santa Fe and Aspen, while cultivating the rich tradition of flamenco.

In celebration of the first year of the ASFB/JSFSF partnership, patrons gathered at the Four Seasons Resort Rancho Encantado in Santa Fe for dinner, an auction, and an intimate performance by Juan Siddi and his talented artists.

Special thanks to all those who attended and contributed to the event; to our generous auction donors; to our event partner and host, Four Seasons Resort Rancho Encantado; and our gracious wine sponsor, Fiasco Fine Wine.



Ali MacGraw, Gary Mihalik, Rich Depippo, and National Council member James Posch.



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Spotlight: Anthony Tiedeman

by Jessica Moore

From growing up in New Jersey with dreams of being a back-up dancer to the stars, to becoming the newest member of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, Anthony Tiedeman's focus throughout his life has been on dance. Aspen Santa Fe Ballet Artistic Director Tom Mossbrucker first noticed Tiedeman's talent this past October on one of his annual scouting trips to The Juilliard School in New York City. Now a newly minted graduate of the esteemed Juilliard dance program, Tiedeman is swapping skyscrapers for the Rocky Mountains, as he says goodbye to the Big Apple and makes his home in Aspen. With a performance history that ranges from works by modern dance icons Merce Cunningham and José Limón, to contemporary perspectives by global choreographers such as Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Crystal Pite, Tiedeman is perfect fit for the wide-ranging repertoire of ASFB. Join us in welcoming our newest dancer to the family!

How did you first get into dance?

My older sister danced at a local studio and, when I was about 7 or 8, I told my mom I wanted to do hip-hop. Initially I wanted to do music

videos and dance backup for celebrities, but the director suggested I start with a basic jazz class. As the years went on, I gradually added ballet, tap, and other styles (but never ended up doing hip-hop.) In my early teens I started to get really serious about dance and switched to a dance studio that was a better fit for me. Being from New Jersey, my studio was fortunate enough to bring in a lot of guest teachers from New York City who exposed me to a lot of opportunities and prospects the dance world has to offer.

In school you tackled modern masterworks by Limón, Cunningham etc., but in your summer program with Nederlands Dans Theater you were exposed to what's happening now in contemporary dance. What did you take away from those experiences?

I had such unique opportunities while I was in school by being able to perform classics by such influential modern masters. Some of it was work that had not been seen in decades, which is really special. I studied all types of modern techniques, where I was given a wealth of knowledge that informed and changed my dancing completely. Doing summer intensives and workshops offered the opportunity to take everything I learned during the school term to discover new things and find new challenges in the more contemporary work I would perform. It also gave me the chance to find and explore my own artistic voice, which I think is so important in the dance world.

Given you're from the Northeast, how are you feeling about moving out West? Have you spent time in Colorado before?

Growing up on the shore in New Jersey, and being so close to New York City, I have become accustomed to beaches and skyscrapers. I'm thrilled to be switching that up by surrounding myself with snow and mountains. I spent two months in the summer of 2012 at Perry Mansfield [Performing Arts School and Camp] in Steamboat Springs, CO, so I am excited for my new adventure in Aspen.

What drew you to ASFB?

I first saw Aspen Santa Fe Ballet at the Joyce Theater in 2012, and then again this past year in October 2014. I was blown away by the intense physicality and strong, yet beautiful, technique that was required by the work for the dancers. It's a balance that I try to bring into my own dancing.

What's your ideal next vacation?

Last summer I finally got to visit Europe. I spent time in France and The Netherlands, and it was amazing to experience such a different culture and area of the world.

I also fell in love with the history and art (and of course the food). I can't wait to start planning another trip—this time to countries like Italy, Germany, and Spain.

What profession would you pursue if you weren't dancing?

For a while in high school, I worked as a math and English tutor, so I'm sure I would be somewhere in the education field. Although on second thought, I really enjoy cooking and baking, so maybe a chef? Who knows!

What's currently on your playlist?

I'm a sucker for a fun and upbeat song. My playlist changes as much as the top songs on the charts. Sam Smith is definitely 'Most Played' on my iTunes right now.

Where do you see yourself 20 years from now?

I love teaching and choreographing, so having the chance to dedicate all of my time to other dancers would be amazing. I also would love to be on the administrative side of the dance world or company life. I've got a feeling that, no matter what, it will involve dance.

PHOTO: ROSALE O'CONNOR

While in Denver this February for a two-day engagement at The Newman Center for the Performing Arts, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet presented a special performance, free to Denver-area schools, thanks to funding from the Morgridge Family Foundation. Despite a snowstorm, over 550 middle-school children streamed into the theater for ASFB's engaging lecture/demonstration and the magic of a live performance. Students journeyed behind-the-scenes of ASFB and brave volunteers were even invited to the stage to try their hand at partnering our dancers. For many, this was not only their first glimpse of a professional ballet company, but also their first experience in a theater. ASFB's school programs broaden horizons and inspire children to learn more!



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