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Milwaukee Ballet Artistic Director Announces 2021/22 Dancer Roster

~ Company promotes from within as it prepares to return to the big stage ~

MILWAUKEE – August 17, 2021 – Artistic Director Michael Pink announced Milwaukee Ballet’s 2021/22 roster of dancers, another exciting step towards the dance organization’s return to a full season of performances at Marcus Performing Arts Center in fall.

The full Company of 24 dancers will return to Baumgartner Center for Dance next month to begin preparing for the upcoming 2021/22 Season of Inspiration, including Michael Rinderle and Hailee Rodriguez, who were promoted from the organization’s second company, Milwaukee Ballet II (MBII).

“Michael and Hailee excelled in our second company and showed tremendous growth and artistic development performing alongside the Company this past year. It’s always inspiring to work with young dancers of their caliber, and I look forward to watching them flourish in their new roles,” said Pink. “Audiences will certainly love watching them in the exciting and challenging programs we have planned for our upcoming season.”

[Milwaukee Ballet II](#) transforms excellent ballet students into artists ready for the professional world. Dancers in the second company train with the professional dancers and share the stage with them in large-scale productions such as *The Nutcracker*. Additionally, they star in their own performances and serve as Milwaukee Ballet ambassadors, introducing the power of dance to the Greater Milwaukee Area through its community engagement programs.

More than one-third of dancers on the 2021/22 roster are graduates of Milwaukee Ballet II.

“Our MBII Program continues to develop exceptional dancers. Most go on to dance for classical and contemporary ballet companies around the world. I was pleased to have room in the Company this year to give Michael and Hailee this opportunity for the next step in their careers,” noted Pink.

Michael Rinderle is one of few artists to begin their dance education in Milwaukee Ballet’s School & Academy, be accepted into the second company, and then dance in the professional Company.

Rinderle and Rodriguez join 22 dancers returning to [Milwaukee Ballet’s Company](#), including:

Leading Artists: Parker Brasser-Vos, Randy Crespo, Marize Fumero; Annia Hidalgo; Davit Hovhannisyan, Barry Molina, Lahna Vanderbush

Artists: Isaac Allen, Josiah Cook, Craig Freigang, Garrett Glassman, Alana Griffith, Elizabeth Harrison, Marie

Harrison-Collins, Itzel Hernandez, Daniela Maarraoui, Kristen Marshall, Marko Micov, Francesca Morris, Benjamin Simoens, Lizzie Tripp, Ransom Wilkes-Davis

New Dancers

Michael Rinderle, Artist

Michael Rinderle grew up in Milwaukee and was accepted at a young age to train at Canada's National Ballet School. During his time there, he went to Denmark and San Francisco via exchange programs, and was exposed to a wide variety of dance training and styles. Upon graduation, Rinderle was hired as an Apprentice at National Ballet of Canada. He then moved back to Wisconsin to dance in the Milwaukee Ballet II program.



Hailee Rodriguez, Artist

Hailee Rodriguez is originally from Jacksonville, FL where she trained with Florida Ballet. She then trained at Orlando Ballet on scholarship for two years as a trainee. In 2019, she attended Milwaukee Ballet's Summer Intensive and received a contract for Milwaukee Ballet II, where she had the opportunity to perform in many Milwaukee Ballet Company productions including Michael Pink's *The Nutcracker* and *Coppélia*, excerpts of *Don Quixote*, and the world premiere of Pink's *Symphony*.



[The 2021/22 Season](#)

Milwaukee Ballet celebrates its return to the Marcus Performing Arts Center with its 2021/22 Season of Inspiration, a program of contemporary dance from international choreographers, *Beauty and the Beast*, and the holiday classic, *The Nutcracker*.

Season packages are now available. Tickets to individual productions go on sale September 1.

The 2021/22 Season of Inspiration is presented by Donna and Donald Baumgartner with support from United Performing Arts Fund.

[More Promotions](#)

Milwaukee Ballet also announced Meagan Fleming, Amanda Lewis, Faith Marshall, and Sage Simons were promoted to Milwaukee Ballet II from the School & Academy's [Pre-Professional Program](#).

The organization created the Pre-Professional Program (PPP) in 2019 to educate, train and prepare high-school aged students for a professional career in dance through daily intensive training.

“I warmly welcome all four PPP students to Milwaukee Ballet II. We founded the program to prepare any student for a dance career, and to give our own School & Academy students the option to continue training right here in Milwaukee rather than needing to relocate to a city with a larger dance organization,” explained Pink. “I’m so pleased to see this happening already with Sage, who had been a student at our School & Academy for 6 years before joining the Pre-Professional Program. He is the first of what I believe will be many local students who will complete their ballet education here and continue to dance with the organization following their graduation.”

Fleming, Lewis, Marshall, and Simons will join the Milwaukee Ballet II dancers training under MBII Artistic Director Mireille Favarel and Rehearsal Director Timothy O’Donnell in the 2021/22 Season, and perform in their annual show, *MOMENTUM*, in March 2022 at Baumgartner Center for Dance.

About Milwaukee Ballet

Milwaukee Ballet was founded in 1970. Led by Artistic Director Michael Pink, Milwaukee Ballet transforms lives and connects communities through inspiring performance, community engagement, education, and training. Milwaukee Ballet hosts an international company of dancers and is one of the few dance organizations in the nation to maintain its own orchestra. Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy is the only professional dance school in the Midwest accredited by the National Association of Schools of Dance. Milwaukee Ballet's award-winning Community Engagement department serves nearly 30,000 people in Southeastern Wisconsin each year through original, interactive programs.

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Note to editors: Interviews with Milwaukee Ballet Artistic Director Michael Pink and images are available upon request.