



New England Ballet Theatre
presents

DORIANNE GREY



Hoffman Auditorium | University of Saint Joseph
West Hartford, CT

Saturday September 26th, 2026 at 7:00pm
Sunday September 27th, 2026 at 2:00pm

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Welcome to New England Ballet Theatre's DORIANNE GREY

It is with tremendous excitement that we welcome you to New England Ballet Theatre's seventh season and to the world premiere of *Dorianne Grey*.

Opening a new season is always a special moment, and this production is a meaningful reflection of how far NEBT has come. In just seven years, we have grown from a small company with a big ideas into a regional organization creating original productions, commissioning new choreography, educating young dancers, and building a vibrant artistic community in Connecticut.

Tonight, we are honored to present *Dorianne Grey*, a brand-new full-length ballet by Christopher Fleming, former New York City Ballet dancer and choreographer. Inspired by Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, this production brings a familiar story to life through a completely new choreographic vision. Our dancers have the unique opportunity to be the first artists to bring this work to the stage, and we are thrilled to share its beginning with you.

As we look toward the rest of Season Seven, we continue our commitment to honoring ballet's traditions while uplifting new voices, creating new work, and welcoming new audiences.

And none of this would be possible without you. NEBT is a nonprofit organization, and your support makes every performance, educational program, and new production possible. Thank you for being here, for believing in our work, and for investing in the future of dance in Connecticut.

If you enjoy tonight's performance, please consider making a donation and helping us continue to grow.

Welcome to Dorianne Grey, and welcome to Season Seven!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rachael Gnatowski".

Rachael Gnatowski
Artistic & Executive Director

Artistic & Executive Director

RACHAEL GNATOWSKI



Originally from Frederick, Maryland, Rachael began her dance training under the direction of Joyce Morrison at the Frederick School of Classical Ballet. While performing as a member of the Urbana High School Dance Company under the direction of Stephanie Weigelt, she was named a Maryland All-State Dancer. She furthered her dance training attending summer intensives at the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, North Carolina School for the Arts, the Kansas City Ballet School, and Complexions Contemporary

Ballet. Rachael then went on to graduate from Mercyhurst University with a B.A. in Dance. It was during her time at Mercyhurst where she was given the chance to perform with the Lake Erie Ballet and the Mercyhurst Ballet Theatre. Upon graduation, she danced professionally with Ballet Fleming, Fort Wayne Ballet, and Ballet Hartford. Rachael has also performed as a guest artist with the Albany Berkshire Ballet, Deos Contemporary Ballet, Three Rivers Dance, and Blacksburg Ballet. Prior to Founding New England Ballet Theatre, Rachael served as Assistant Company Director for Connect the Dots Dance Company in Washington D.C. Rachael has choreographed eight full-length ballets for NEBT including two original ballets “The Fantastic Toyshop” and “The Long Black Veil”, along with numerous short works for NEBT’s mixed repertoire productions, Fort Wayne Ballet, AROVA Contemporary Ballet, Ballet Fleming, the Kingswood Oxford’s Choreographers’ Showcase, Three Rivers Dance, Miss Porter’s School, and the School of Ballet Hartford.

Rachael founded New England Ballet Theatre in January 2020.

There are three major branches of the organization: the company, school, and community engagement. As Artistic & Executive Director, Rachael oversees all three branches and new initiatives. Rachael is committed to making ballet accessible and welcoming to new audience members.

ABOUT NEW ENGLAND BALLET THEATRE

Rachael Gnatowski founded New England Ballet Theatre (NEBT) in January 2020 to champion ballet in the Greater Hartford Region. NEBT is a 501(c)3, nonprofit organization that has three major branches: a professional company, a school, and a community engagement division.

NEBT typically produces five major productions a year, two of which include students of The School of NEBT and children selected from open community auditions. NEBT is proud to partner with other nonprofits in the area including The Miracle League of CT, Arts for Learning CT, and Hartford Performs.

Our Mission

To provide high-quality performances, to inspire through exceptional educational programs, and to cultivate an appreciation for dance throughout the community.

Board of Directors

Tracy Dorman, President
Tom Devitt, Vice President
Bill Teel, Ph.D, Secretary
Rachael Gnatowski

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SYNOPSIS

Act 1:

We open on a typical day at a thriving ballet company. The dancers are warming up. Dorianne and her rival, Camille, attempt to upstage each other at every turn to win the approval of the ballet master. The two fight over Edward, a promising dancer who's slowly starting to fall in love with Dorianne.

After rehearsal, a surprise birthday celebration leaves Dorianne to face the reminder of the passing time, and dread the day she'll no longer be in the spotlight. In her despair she turns to the ballet master, who gifts her a beautiful painting of herself and Edward and makes her an offer she can't refuse. He is the devil in disguise and he'll give her eternal youth in exchange for her soul. Dorianne takes the deal, without a thought as to how it may affect her life outside of ballet.

Intermission

Act 2:

Twenty years later, the company is holding a gala performance. Dorianne and Camille still share the spotlight, but while Dorianne remains youthful, her partner and rival have aged. As they return backstage to celebrate their success, the devil under a new disguise captures their likeness in front of the painting. He can't stand that Dorianne and Edward remain deeply in love despite the tests of time, and brings in his henchman to capture Dorianne.

The lovers are separated and a fight begins. After taking some terrible blows, Edward defeats the devil and returns to Dorianne. Their eternal love has broken the Devil's curse, and Dorianne is free again to chose her own destiny. While the painting may live on forever unchanged, Dorianne has learned that to age gracefully will bring her a more fulfilled life than an infinite life in the spotlight ever can, and the lovers embrace.

DORIANNE GREY

Dorianne Grey Rachel Smith
Edward Alfred Ibsen

Archangel Stephanie Kellogg
Camille Meggie Peterson (*Saturday*)
Martina Nero (*Sunday*)

The Devil Asher Taylor-Dawson
Ghoulettes Melissa Glenn
Emily Wiseman

Camille's Partner Burns Kowalski
Petite Soloist Tamar Cohen
Abigail Carpenter

Ensemble Juliana Anderson
Maia Atzemis
Valerie Buck
Jordyn Chepolis
Emma Larson
Sarah Murphy
Michela Poynter
Zoe Simons
Sophia Sparrow
Carter Waters

NOTICE: Recording or photography of this performance is prohibited by artistic licensing restrictions and for the safety of our dancers. For the courtesy and enjoyment of fellow audience members, please remember to turn off all electronic devices.

MEET THE ARTISTS



CHRISTOPHER FLEMING, *Choreographer*

Christopher Fleming, a former member of New York City Ballet, danced principal roles in works by George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, and Peter Martins. With Balanchine's encouragement, he began choreographing and went on to create works for companies and theaters around the world. He served as Artistic Director of the Compañía Colombiana de Ballet at Teatro Colón in Bogotá and of Bay Ballet Theatre in Florida, and as Resident Choreographer at The Rock School for Dance Education. His diverse body of work includes acclaimed ballets such as *Dracula*, *Janis & Joe*, and *The Myth and the Madness of Edgar Allan Poe*, as well as theatrical and television choreography. Fleming has received multiple international awards for his choreography and continues to create bold, imaginative works for the stage.



David H. Goldstein, M.D., *Composer*

David Goldstein began studying piano at the age of four and soon discovered a deep passion for composition. He earned degrees in Piano Performance as well as Composition and Theory from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. Pursuing a parallel interest in medicine, Dr. Goldstein completed his medical education at Harvard Medical School in Boston. He has since divided his professional life between practicing Pulmonary Medicine and composing music for ballet and dance. Dr. Goldstein's ballet scores have been performed by the Florida West Coast Symphony. Ballet companies that have performed his compositions include the Bay Ballet Theatre, Dance Alive, Boca Ballet Theatre, Maximum Dance Company, Southern Ballet Theatre, Russian Ballet, and the Sarasota Ballet.

NEW ENGLAND BALLET THEATRE ARTISTS

PRINCIPAL DANCERS



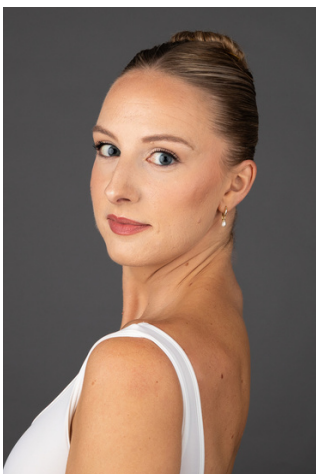
FIONA BURLIN

Fiona grew up dancing in Ohio at the Ballet Theatre of Toledo under Royal Ballet School graduate and English National Ballet principal dancer, Nigel Burgoine. She trained at Cincinnati Ballet, before attending Butler University. Fiona graduated Magna Cum Laude with High Honors in Dance with a B.S. in Dance Arts Administration and a minor in English Literature. She joined New England Ballet Theatre as a Company Artist in 2020 and also works for the company as Development and Creative Projects Manager.



STEPHANIE KELLOGG

Stephanie, from Easthampton, Massachusetts, received her formal ballet training starting at age 13 from the Pioneer Valley Ballet under the direction of Maryanne Kodzis and Thomas Vacanti. Stephanie had the wonderful opportunity to tour and perform original works with Vacanti Ballets at the International Global Theater Experience in Austria, and with Barbie Diewald Choreography at the Annual Performance Mix Festival in NYC. Her first choreographic work premiered at Jacob's Pillow in 2018.



RACHEL SMITH

Rachel (Plymouth, MA) began her training at Boston Ballet School, South Shore Ballet Theatre, and The Brookline Ballet School. She then continued her training at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre and Nashville Ballet. Rachel began her professional career at American Midwest Ballet and their (former) sister company Ballet Vero Beach. In 2022, Rachel joined New England Ballet Theatre. This will be Rachel's 6th season at NEBT and is honored to be one of the first Principal Dancers in the company's history.

SOLOIST DANCERS



ALFRED IBSEN

Alfred was born in Helena, Montana and started dancing at Creighton University, where he was trained in classical ballet, jazz, and musical theater. He was taught by Patti Zukaitis, Patrick Roddy, and Liz Alford at Creighton before attending UMKC where he recently graduated with a B.F.A. in Dance Performance and Choreography.



MARTINA NERO

Martina grew up in Italy where she began her ballet training at Master Ballet School. From 2018-2020 Martina joined American Repertory Ballet's Trainee Program. In 2020 she joined Noja-Nebyla Stage Education, a professional training program in Austria. In 2021 she returned to the States where she joined Mystic Ballet 2.



MEGGIE PETERSON

Margaret (Meggie) Peterson began her ballet training at Dance Centre North in Syracuse, NY. She graduated from Mercyhurst University with a B.F.A. in Dance and a Minor in Mathematics. In June 2022, she interned with Ballet Concerto, in Fort Worth, Texas, and was invited back in June 2023 to be the Chief Administrative Assistant.



ZOE SIMONS

Originally from San Rafael, California, Zoe trained at Marin Ballet. Upon graduating high school, Zoe was accepted to Miami City Ballet School's Pre-Professional Division, and in 2019 joined BalletMet as a Trainee. In 2021, Zoe joined Minnesota Ballet, and in 2023 Zoe joined Ballet Theatre Company. Most recently she guested with The Albany Berkshire Ballet.

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Headshots by Michela S Photography

CHARACTER ARTISTS



**CODY
BURLIN**



**TAMAR
COHEN**

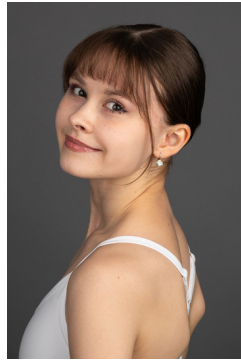


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GUEST DANCER



BURNS KOWALSKI

Born and raised in Middletown, CT, Burns Kowalski started his professional training at Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts, and went on to study at SUNY Purchase in the Conservatory of Dance. Burns has worked with various companies including Sonia Plumb Dance Company, Boston Dance Theater and Ekklesia Contemporary Ballet. He is currently pursuing his career as a dancer, choreographer and instructor in Connecticut.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Choreography: Christopher Fleming
Music: Dr. David Goldstein
Costume Direction: Fiona Burlin
Hoffman T.D. & Lighting Design: Ken Trestman
Backstage Manager: Christina Zaharevich
Front of House Manager: Mak Minor
Sound Operator: Joshua Hamre

Special Thanks to:
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