James Sewell Ballet's



O'SHAUGHNESSY

35^{тн} Anniversary Retrospective & Farewell

March 14 & 15, 2025 The O'Shaughnessy, St Paul, MN



James Sewell Ballet's 35th Anniversary Retrospective & Farewell

James Sewell Ballet is grateful to our Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota communities for the many years of collaboration, support, and friendship. Our time amongst so many of you has meant the world to us.

PROGRAM

Chopin Tribute: Arm Jive

Premiere: October 23, 2008, The O'Shaughnessy, St Paul, MN
Choreography: James Sewell
Music: Frédéric Chopin
Dancers: Jarod Boltjes, Kaylie Bullock, James Sewell, Connor Simone, Liv Thornton, with special guest Nicole Coelho

Into the Spin (excerpt)

Premiere: April 24, 2015, Goodale Theater at the Cowles Center, Minneapolis, MN
Choreography: James Sewell
Music: Dessa
Costumes: Fritz Masten
Dancers: Kaylie Bullock, Connor Simone, Emily Trapnell

Prestidigitations: Rings

Premiere: May 18, 1991, The David Howard Dance Center, New York, NY **Choreography**: James Sewell **Music**: Scott Joplin **Dancer**: James Sewell

Made In America: Crazy

Premiere: March 10, 2000, Mayo Civic Center, Rochester, MN
Choreography: James Sewell
Music: Willie Nelson
Costumes: Mary Hansmeyer
Dancers: Connor Simone, Liv Thornton, with special guest Arimee Gambill

Triptych

Premiere: March 11, 2022, The O'Shaughnessy, St Paul, MN **Choreography**: Michael Walters **Music**: Nirvana, The Cranberries, and Radiohead **Costumes**: Stephanie Karr-Smith **Dancers**: Jarod Boltjes, Connor Simone, Michael Walters

Remarks from Sally Rousse, co-founder

Opera Moves: Diva

Premiere: November 23, 1991, The David Howard Dance Center, New York, NY
Choreography: James Sewell
Music: Gioachino Rossini
Costumes: Fritz Masten, Mary Hansmeyer
Dancers: Kaylie Bullock, James Sewell

Tryst

Premiere: July 26, 1990, Juilliard Theater, New York, NY **Choreography**: James Sewell **Music**: J. S. Bach **Costumes**: Mary Hansmeyer **Dancers**: Jarod Boltjes, Emily Trapnell

Moving Works (excerpt)

Premiere: April 18, 1996, The O'Shaughnessy,
St Paul, MN
Choreography: James Sewell
Music: Baaba Mal and Kodō Drummers
Costumes: Mary Hansmeyer
Dancers: Jarod Boltjes, Kaylie Bullock, James Sewell, Connor Simone, Liv Thornton, Emily Trapnell

~intermission~

Improvisation

Premiere: this very moment, The O'Shaughnessy, St Paul, MN
Music: "Prelude to Suite No. 2 in D minor" by J.S. Bach, performed by Laura Sewell, cello
Dancers: Company Artists past and present

Time Lapse

Premiere: March 11, 2023, Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, Big Sky, MT
Choreography: Michael Walters
Music: Michael Nyman
Dancer: Emily Trapnell (3/14); Chloe Duryea (3/15)

Body Puzzle

Premiere: January 26, 2011, Carol Autorino Center for the Arts and Humanities, West Hartford, CT
Choreography: James Sewell
Music: Q-Burns Abstract Message
Dancer: James Sewell

Appalachia Waltz

Premiere: April 24, 1997, The O'Shaughnessy, St Paul, MN
Choreography: James Sewell
Music: Edgar Meyer and Mark O'Connor
Costumes: Mary Hansmeyer
Dancers: Company, with special guests Christian Burns; and Penelope Freeh (3/15)

BIOS

James Sewell, Dancer & Artistic Director (35th Season)

A Minneapolis native, Mr. Sewell moved to New York and studied at the School of American Ballet with David Howard, and began performing with ABT II. He was a lead dancer with Feld Ballets/NY for six years and has performed as a guest artist with the New York City Ballet, Zvi Gottheiner and Dancers, and Denishawn. He has choreographed more than 100 ballets for companies in the United States and around the world, and collaborated with countless other artists across disciplines.

Projects include the New York City Ballet's Choreographic Institute, the New York State Council on the Arts grant to create "Independence In Dependence" for Feld Ballets/NY; "Aida" (1998) for the Minnesota Opera and 11 other opera companies; James Sewell Ballet's "Amahl and the Night Visitors" (1995); "Musical Toys" (1996) and "Nutcracker: The Untold Story" (1997) for the Minnesota Orchestra; "She Loves Me" (2005) and "1776" (2007) for the Guthrie Theater; and "Titicut Follies" (2017) with acclaimed documentarian Frederick Wiseman. James also has received commissions, including "Schoenberg Serenade" (2006) and "Passions" (1998), a work with composer Augusta Read Thomas, for the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra; "Metamorphosis" (2004) for the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus; "Awedville" (2004) for the Wharton Center for Performing Arts and "Turf" (2006) for the Minnesota Orchestra. Mr. Sewell received a Bush Foundation Artist Fellowship (2002), a Choo-San Goh Award for Choreography from the Choo-San Goh & H. Robert Magee Foundation (2006), and a McKnight Artist Fellowship for Choreography (2007). He is a past trustee of Dance/USA and a past director of the American Composer's Forum.

Jarod Boltjes, Dancer & Company Liaison (6th Season)

Jarod is a Minnesota native from Adrian, MN. He started his dance training at Saint Mary's University where he also obtained his BA Degree in Dance Performance and Studio Art. His formal dance training began at the age of 18 in college where he had the opportunity to train and perform internationally with Rose Bruford College in the U.K. and The Gaiety School of Acting in Ireland. Upon arrival to the Twin Cities, Jarod has worked with several local companies; Contempo Physical Dance, Twin Cities' Ballet, Collide Theatrical, and St. Paul Ballet to name a few. If he is not in the dance studio, you can find him leading class as a certified barre and yoga instructor or under the big top tent coaching and choreographing for

Kaylie Bullock, Dancer & Marketing Associate (2nd Season)

Kaylie received her early training at Kansas Dance Academy. As a student she had the honor of being a Koch Cultural Trust recipient. She attended Texas Christian University's School of Classical and Contemporary Dance on scholarship, graduating with honors. She recently completed her seventh season with Central Illinois Ballet as principal dancer. During her time with CIB, she had the privilege of dancing a diverse repertoire. Some of her favorite roles include Dorothy from Wizard of Oz, Cinderella in the title role, Mrs. Lovett in Sweeney Todd, Myrtle in Gatsby, the Sugar Plum Fairy and Black Swan pas de deux. In addition, she has performed with Ad Deum Dance Company, Storling Dance Theater, and Common Thread Contemporary. Kavlie has been teaching pre-professional students for over a decade. She also loves creating opportunities to take dance classes into under-served communities.

Connor Simone, Dancer (4th Season)

Connor Simone is a Twin Cities dancer, performing artist, and IT specialist. He received training at Stage Left Dance Center, Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists, the TU Dance School, and the University of Minnesota. Connor has previously danced with TU Dance and Threads Dance Project. Additionally, he has performed works by artists such as Marcus Willis, Kjara Wurst, Gregory Dolbashian, Berit Ahlgren, Gregory Vuyani Maqoma, Will Couture, Carl Flink, Sidra Bell, and Maurya Kerr among others. Alongside performing, Connor has worked for several arts organizations across the Twin Cities in IT and web development and is also teaching ballet and modern classes for Eleve' Performing Arts Center. He received his BA in Dance with a minor in Computer Science from the University in the Fall of 2021.



Liv Thornton, Dancer (2nd Season)

Born and raised in Minneapolis Minnesota, Olivia trained at Hopkins Dance Company for 15 years under the direction of Leslie Daly. Olivia's pre-professional training included summer programs with Milwaukee Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, and the Gelsey Kirkland Academy of Classical Ballet. After graduating in 2018, Olivia continued her dance education at The University of Cincinnati-College Conservatory of Music. Majoring in Ballet Performance, Olivia had the privilege to dance roles in Gerald Arpino's Birthday Variations, Cinderella, Balanchine's Serenade, and several other modern pieces. In 2020, Olivia joined Ballet Fantastique as an Apprentice for the 2020-2021 season and continued dancing with Ballet Fantastique as a Company Corps in 2021-2022. Olivia will be continuing her work at Grand Jete as a pointe shoe fitter as well as teaching at Hopkins Dance Company this season.

Emily Trapnell, Dancer & Marketing Associate (2nd Season)

Emily Trapnell graduated with her BFA in Dance at University of Iowa, earning both Honors and Distinction, and became a member of the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa society. Currently, she is a Company Artist with James Sewell Ballet, following her time as a company member with Inaside Chicago Dance and a trainee with Visceral Dance Chicago. Recently Emily has danced in Minnesota Opera's, "Romeo and Juliet", performed as "Fairy Doll" in the "Fairy Doll Ballet" with Arts Ballet Conservatory, and assisted Hanna Brictson. Emily has previously performed with Minneapolis Ballet Dancers and Curio Dance Company. Other highlights include performing in the world premiere of the opera "Karkinos", touring as a soloist to Trinidad, Iowa Dance Festival, Hancher Illuminated, and holding a soloist role in the touring UI Dance Company season in 2021. She has also enjoyed performing virtually with Mark Morris Dance Group, LA Contemporary Dance Company, and Mark DeGarmo Dance in the midst of Covid. Emily has received training with Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Orsolina '28, Mark Morris Dance Group, Oklahoma City Ballet, Martha Graham Dance Company, Emerge 125 (formerly Elisa Monte Dance), Danceworks Chicago, LA Contemporary Dance Company, and Jacob Jonas The Company.

As a choreographer, Emily debuted her own choreography at the Minnesota Fringe Festival, Englert Theatre's Marquee Lighting Ceremony, Mark DeGarmo's "Dance for their Futures", Minnesota's Boom Dance Festival, Iowa Dance Festival, and University of Iowa's BFA Showcase. Along with being a Marketing Associate for James Sewell Ballet, Emily is the Social Media/ Communications/Website Director for Iowa Dance Festival, International ScreenDance Festival, InterDance, and Eloy Barragan. A recent highlight from this spring is the time when Emily was invited back to University of Iowa as a Guest Teacher and Lecturer.

Michael Walters, Dancer & Featured Choreographer (4th Season)

Michael is originally from Detroit, Michigan. He attended The Juilliard School in New York City before dancing professionally with Nederlands Dans Theatre, Frankfurt Ballet, and Lyon Opera Ballet. During that time he has had the pleasure of working with an array of influential choreographers and perform on stages around the world. He then decided to take a sharp turn to redirect his artistic pursuits in the direction of theatrical arts. He attended and graduated from the prestigious Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, England. Since then Michael has had the pleasure of performing on stages in the West End of London as an actor.

Sally Rousse, Co-Founder

Sally Rousse performs, teaches, choreographs, curates, writes, and advocates dance. She is a recent Dance MFA Fellow and graduate of Bennington College (Vermont and France). She is a two-time recipient of the McKnight Fellowship for Dancers; a Sage Awardee for "Best Performer;" was named "Artist of the Year" (Minneapolis City Pages) and is the mother of two young adults.

Rousse's site-specific works have taken dance off the traditional stage into venues such as the Kwon Tung Pier in Hong Kong and up the tree of a vacant lot and have also been seen in both theatrical and commercial venues such as the Guthrie, Southern, and State Theaters; the Walker Art Center, MASS MoCA, the Cartoon Channel, and Harvard's American Repertory Theatre.

Born in Vermont, Rousse performed as a leading dancer with Ballet Chicago, the Royal Ballet of Flanders, and James Sewell Ballet, the company she co-founded in NYC and brought to Minnesota. She has danced many roles in the classical and Balanchine repertoires, works by Maurice Béjart, Jiri Kylián, and more than 100 new works created on her by contemporary choreographers, branding her "Renegade Ballerina."

Rousse has taught and choreographed at several companies, studios, and higher education institutions including Carleton College, Harvard University, Macalester College, St.Olaf College, Ballet Preljocaj, Matthew Bourne's Adventures in Motion PIctures, Paul Taylor Dance Company, and Ballet Hispanico.

Sally would like to give special thanks to people with whom JSB worked, who went above and beyond: photographer Erik Saulitis, Physical Therapist Evie Russel, graphic designer Joseph O'Leary, Lighting/ Production designer Kevin Jones; rehearsal assistant Lou Fancher; costume designers Mary Hansmeyer and Fritz Masten, choreographer Myron Johnson, Executive Director Gary Peterson who brought us back to NYC and stewarded us through most of our years in MN; and Eve Schulte who took on the challenges of being executive director with grace and generosity.

THANK YOU COMMUNITY PARTNERS OF JAMES SEWELL BALLET

The dancers, board of directors, and staff acknowledge with thanks and appreciation the following agencies and individuals for their financial investment in our work from July 1, 2023 to February 28, 2025. Their passion for ballet and generous gifts to the Annual Fund make JAMES SEWELL BALLET's artistic and education programs possible.

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