AXELROI CONTEMPORARY **BALLET THEATER** 

# Wanna Dance with Somebody?



April 2 @ 1pm & 5pm

at Axelrod PAC

Our spring 2023 production is a "triple header!"
The weekend of April 1 will have you swinging and singing to "Wanna Dance." And on April 1 and May 18, our "Architects of Dance" will leave you in awe at the beauty of the modern dance movement and the grace of world-renowned artists: Blakeley White-McGuire, Andrea Weber, and Michael Trusnovec, formerly with the Martha Graham Dance Company, Merce Cunningham Dance Company, and Paul Taylor Dance Company respectively.

I am so honored that AXCBT, APAC, and Bell Works are hosting this once in a lifetime collaboration of the best of modern dancers and dancing. The AXCBT company dancers have embraced this style and are amazing in their grace and athleticism.

I want to thank very special people who have created this performance and brought it to our stages: Gabriel Chajnik our Director, our Dancers, our Staff, our Volunteers, and of course, our Donors. It takes a team of dedicated dance enthusiasts to bring these creations to you! Hope you enjoy the shows!

Elise Feldman, AXCBT President



#### Gabriel Chajnik, Aritstic Director Elise Feldman, President

## **ABOUT AXCBT**

The Axelrod Contemporary Ballet Theater (AXCBT) was founded by visionary and life-long dance aficionado Elise Feldman (President), and choreographer, Artistic Director, dancer and dance educator Gabriel Chajnik (Artistic Director) who realized their dream to bring world-class dance and professional dance education to the Jersey Shore. Chajnik is the catalyst for AXCBT's success. Raised in Argentina, trained at Juilliard, and seasoned as a dancer with American Repertory Ballet Theater, he is a natural collaborator and connector of artists across all fields. AXCBT productions infuse multiple media, including live and recorded music, film, specific sound landscapes plus collaborations with lighting, set and costume designers to shape an original company aesthetic and expand the impact of productions.

AXCBT's work in the community reaches beyond dance performance. Our goal is to create an environment that fosters audience growth and awareness, becoming a cultural resource for the community while also reaching out and building connections throughout our area. Our programs are interactive and uniquely tailored to participants at each session site for the maximum benefit of those served.

Axelrod Contemporary Ballet theater is deeply grateful to Bell Works leader CEO and Founder, Ralph Zucker, lead creative director Paola Zamudio and the inspiRED team for allowing the arts to be a thriving force and an integral part of the Bell Works community.



Directed and Choreographed by Gabriel Chajnik

#### Don't Stop Me Now

Music by Queen Vocalist Danny Drewes Giana Carroll, Dennzyl Green, Paulo Gutierrez, Alyssa Harris, Lindsay Jorgensen, Gillian Worek

#### Greatest Love of All

Choreography by Lindsay Jorgensen, Olivia Miranda
Music by Whitney Houston
Vocalist Cydney Clark
APAA Pre-Professional Performers:
Angelina Amara, Scarlett Collins, Sofia Deno, Lilakoi Grover,
Jessica Heitmann, Lily Ruiz, Ozlem Sobel, Allina Xiao

#### **Smooth Operator**

Music by Sade Paulo Gutierrez

#### Holding Out for a Hero

Choreography by Lindsay Jorgensen, Olivia Miranda Music by Bonnie Tyler APAA Pre-Professional Performers: Angelina Amara, Scarlett Collins, Sofia Deno, Lilakoi Grover, Jessica Heitmann, Lily Ruiz, Ozlem Sobel, Allina Xiao

#### **Private Dancer**

Music by Tina Turner Vocalist Cydney Clark Alyssa Harris

#### Faithfully

Music by Journey Vocalist Danny Drewes Gillian Worek

#### **Drive All Night**

Choreography by Jessica Totaro
Music by Bruce Springstein
APAA Pre-Professional Performers:
Angelina Amara, Scarlett Collins, Lilakoi Grover,
Jessica Heitmann, Lily Ruiz, Ozlem Sobel, Allina Xiao

#### Since I Fell For You

Music by Michael Bolton Lindsay Jorgensen

#### With Open Arms

Music by Journey Vocalist Danny Drewes Alyssa Harris & Dennzyl Green

#### Saving All My Love

Music by Whitney Houston Vocalist Cydney Clark

#### One More Try

Music by George Michael
Quinton Guthier

#### I Wanna Dance with Somebody

Music by Whitney Houston AXCBT Company:

Giana Carroll, Dennzyl Green, Quinton Guthier, Paulo Gutierrez, Alyssa Harris, Lindsay Jorgensen, Gillian Worek

APAA Pre-Professional Performers: Angelina Amara, Scarlett Collins, Sofia Deno, Lilakoi Grover, Jessica Heitmann, Lily Ruiz, Ozlem Sobel, Allina Xiao

#### **Meet the Artists**



#### Gabriel Chajnik, AXCBT Artistic Director

Gabriel Chajnik is a passionate educator, choreographer, and dance professional. He was trained under the tutelage of Maestro Hector Zaraspe and is an alumnus of the Juilliard School. Gabriel is a former dancer with American Repertory Ballet. His teaching credits expand from Argentina to Europe and the United States at Brooklyn Music School, Princeton Ballet, the Academy of Dance Arts and Gotta Dance in New Jersey. Gabriel's work has been featured at Juilliard, the Manhattan School of Music, the Shakespeare Theater in Washington, D.C., Alice Tully Hall, the Clark Theater at Lincoln Center, MMAC, and the Lambs Theater.



#### Jessica Totaro, Choreographer

Jessica Totaro is a Contemporary, Choreography Skills and Hip Hop teaching artist from Neptune City, NJ, She received her BFA in dance from Rutgers, Mason Gross School of the Arts and has been teaching and choreographing professionally for over a decade. Her movement vocabulary is deeply rooted in Limón Modern technique while integrating the Hip Hop fundamentals of Breaking, Locking, House and Popping. She is the founder and Artistic Director of the Movement Arts Project Dance Company, Jessica has presented original choreographic works at various academies and performing arts programs. She has recently expanded her dance composition class to dancers internationally. Her teaching method is to not dictate but guide each dancer deeper into their own creative ability and communicate authentically through movement.



#### Danny Drewes, Vocalist

Danny is from Long Island, NY. Since graduating from AMDA NY, Danny has performed professionally in theatres across the U.S and Worldwide.

Recently, his travels took him on the road with the first national tour of Pretty Woman the musical, where he was the male swing and understudied Alfredo. His favorite credits include Sonny Malone in Xanadu and Fredric in Pirates of Penzance for which he received a Broadway World Regional Theatre nomination and two Desert Theatre League nominations. Other standout roles include: UPS guy/ Grandmaster Chad in Legally Blonde the Musical and two off-Broadway credits with Musicals Tonight!

He has been the male lead singer for many cruise contracts with RWS Entertainment Group, Qdos Productions and Norwegian Cruise Lines.



#### Cydney Clark, Vocalist

Cydney Clark is thrilled to be performing at Axelrod Performing Arts Center alongside so many wonderful artists. She was most recently seen in the Rev Theatre Co.'s STATE FAIR. Past credits include: THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME (the Rev Theatre Co.) and the Circle of Life Vocalist aboard the Disney Magic. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan's Musical Theatre program and she would like to thank her friends, family, and network of alumni for their constant support! Rep: Ally Taylor Artists

#### **AXCBT ARTISTS**



#### Giana Carroll

Giana trained for four years at Adelphi University where she graduated this past May with her B.F.A. in dance. She has performed works choreographed by Frank Augustyn, Orion Duckstein, Larry Keigwin, Juan Rodriguez, and Rasta Thomas. Currently, she is dancing with Axelrod Contemporary Ballet Theater as a fellow in their fellowship program.



#### **Dennzyl Green**

Born in Long Beach, California, Dennzyl Green graduated cum laude with a BA in Dance from California State University, Fullerton 2020. He has danced professionally with Nannette Brodie Dance Theatre and Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble. He is currently a company artist of Emerge125 with direction from Tiffany Rae-Fisher. He has performed works by Darshan Bhuller, Milton Myers, Bernard Gaddis, Colin Connors, and Doug Varone to name a few. He has attended American Dance Festival and has performed at Jacob's Pillow.



#### **Quinton Guthier**

Quinton Guthier is originally from Madison, Wisconsin. Quinton trained in dance at Interlochen Arts Academy Boarding High School in Northern Michigan. He moved to NYC to attend the Fordham University and Alvin Ailey B.F.A program. Since graduating he has had the pleasure to dance with companies such as Mark Morris Dance Group, Taylor 2, Carolyn Dorfman Dance, and JUNTOS Dance Collective. He currently dances for The Metropolitan Opera and works as a certified Pilates instructor throughout NYC.



#### **Paulo Gutierrez**

Paulo Gutierrez is originally from Ecuador. He studied at the National Ballet of Ecuador and Graduated in jazz and contemporary at the Joffrey Ballet School. He is a former dancer with Ballet Hispanico where he worked along side renowned choreographers such as Anabel Lopez Ochoa, Nacho Duato, Andrea Miller, Gustavo Ramirez Sansano, Ramon Oller, Pedro Ruiz, Tania Perez Salas, among others. Paulo has danced on the West Side Story production for the Abeline Opera Theater in Texas and for Syracuse City Ballet digital season as guest artist. He is currently a company member with Connecticut Ballet and Pony Box Dance Theater.



#### Alyssa Harris

Alyssa Harris graduated from Adelphi University with a BFA in Dance. She has worked with choreographers Frank Augustyn, Orion Duckstein, Adelheid B. Strelick, and Jennifer Kreichman. Alyssa joined AXCBT in 2021 and has performed in productions including The Nutcracker Rocks and Something's Coming.



#### **Lindsay Jorgensen**

Lindsay Jorgensen is a performing artist in the New York/New Jersey area. She currently dances with Buglisi Dance Theatre and Axelrod Contemporary Ballet Theater. She has performed at Lincoln Center, the David H. Koch Theatre, Asbury Park Dance Festival, and works by Alvin Ailey, Paul Taylor, Robert Battle, Patrick Delcroix, Riccardo de Nigris, and Gabrielle Lamb. Her poetry was featured at APAP and Women/Create, and her choreography was showcased at Bell Works and Ailey Citigroup Theatre. Jorgensen is a graduate of the

Ailey/Fordham B.F.A. Dance Program, where she graduated summa cum laude with an honorable mention in Dance. She holds a dual degree in Dance and English, and a graduate certificate in Creative Writing from University of Pennsylvania. Jorgensen most recently performed the role of Cha Cha in Grease, directed by Lisa Stevens.



#### Gillian Worek

Gillian Worek has danced with AXCBT since 2020. She previously apprenticed with Sarasota Ballet for two years, and has performed works choreographed by Sir Frederick Ashton, Sir Peter Wright, George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, Paul Taylor, and Ricardo Graziano. She is a graduate of Indiana University, holding a BS in Ballet and an Outside Field in Psychology.

#### **APAA Student Performers**

Angelina Amara, Scarlett Collins, Sofia Deno, Lilakoi Grover, Jessica Heitmann, Lily Ruiz, Ozlem Sobel, Allina Xiao





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> Gerry Gironda, Sound Engineer

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732-531-9106 ext.15, olivia@axelrodartscenter.org

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Ages 8-12, Ages 13+

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BOOK BY BOB MARTIN AND CHAD BEGUELIN

BASED ON AN ORIGINAL CONCEPT BY JACK VIERTEL

The Jersey Shore's first professional production of the musicalBillboard calls "Hairspray meets Dear Evan Hansen," A Broadway critics' darling with six Tony nominations. Jesse Green in the New York Times called it "such a joyful hoot....it makes you believe in musical comedy again."

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Nov. 3 - 19, 2023

Directed and choreographed by **Eamon Foley**Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Book by James Lapine

The first musical in the Axelrod's **Sondheim Centennial Project** will be the Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece **Sunday in the Park with George**, written with James Lapine, regarded as one of the most acclaimed musicals of all time. Nominated for an astounding ten Tony Awards, the 1984 musical was inspired by the French painter Georges

Seurat's painting A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte.

Tickets at **AxelrodArtsCenter.com** 

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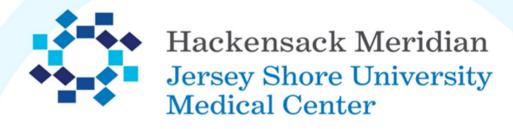
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