

ALBERTA
DANCE THEATRE
Presents

GLOOM TOWN

CONFRONT YOUR FEARS.
RISE TO YOUR GREATEST POTENTIAL.

A heart racing mystery
told through dance and
theatre based on the
novel by Ronald L. Smith.



November 28 - 30, 2024 - DJD Dance Centre

www.albertadancetheatre.com



ABOUT US

Formerly known as Children in Dance, Alberta Dance Theatre has been a part of the Calgary dance community since 1979.

As many as 50+ young performers in Grades 1-12 have created and performed in ADT's annual dance productions. Children's literature provides the basis for the script and original music is commissioned. As a result, a rich tradition has been established that provides imaginative, engaging and affordable family entertainment to Calgarians. Works of the company have also been performed around the world in Brazil and The Netherlands, and province-wide in Edmonton, Banff and Lethbridge.

Each spring, Alberta Dance Theatre holds open call placement auditions inviting dancers from around the city of Calgary to join the company. ADT welcomes dancers of all experience levels and uses the auditions as a way to place the dancers in the appropriate performance group.

Follow us on Facebook or Instagram, or visit our website to join our newsletter list to keep up to date on all Audition happenings. If you are interested in joining the company we'd love to meet you. Be sure to stop by the lobby for more program information!



Join ADT!

albertadancetheatre.com



Contribute. Grow. Express.

NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

Welcome to Gloom! A town, where no matter how dreary or difficult things are, the people hold their loved ones dear and find joy. This is a story of resilience. It's a story of confronting your fears and overcoming your self doubt. It's a story of finding your own true potential and caring for your community. We hope that these lessons and themes resonate with you today as they have resonated with us all Fall! Our Youth Artists are incredibly adept at caring for each other and showing up for our rehearsals every Sunday, but these skills don't happen overnight or without reminders. We hope you enjoy watching the way these characters care for each other and remind each other to be their best selves.

We have thoroughly enjoyed adapting Ronald L. Smith's novel to the stage! Our Youth Artists have found a particular joy in embodying the villains of the story and embracing the spookiness of the setting! It's a very special privilege for us to receive such trust from authors to care for their novel and transform it into the live show you are about to see. We hope we delight you Ron!

This year we have had the new experience of working with a majority of Youth Artists who are teenagers. This has brought a delightful focus and maturity to our rehearsals! The thoughtfulness they have brought to their choreography, the commitment to their character portrayals, and their dedication to improving the Alberta Dance Theatre program has been so appreciated and miraculous to watch!

Working with teens also brings a great sadness as it means our time together is coming to an end. This year we are saying goodbye to four graduating seniors: Bronwyn, Charlotte, Nayeli, and Prarthona. It is an extreme pleasure to work with such a creative, engaged and invested group of young people every season. We hope that no matter where the futures take our Youth Artists that they can keep a part of ADT with them. We'll be thinking of you!

The show you are about to see is made by the Youth Artists who work under the guidance of professionals in our community. We are exceptionally grateful to have our choreographers, composer, lighting designer and production team lend us their expertise, care and generous spirits. Not every professional artist enjoys working with youth, and even less are good at it. We have some of the best! They are engaging, fun, and have created magic for you! Thank you for sticking with us!

We cannot make ADT happen without the support of the ADT families, Board of Directors, Sponsors, Donors, Granters, audience members and personal support systems! Without these interconnecting communities we could not have the strength, resources or resilience ourselves to make ADT happen. As we approach the Holiday Season, we hope you have the opportunity to hold your loved ones close and express your own gratitude for all the ways big and small that people connect and uplift each other.

Thank you for joining us! Sit back and enjoy the shivers and secrets of Gloom Town!

Alicia Molinski and Jessalyn Reimer
Co-Artistic Directors and General Managers

NOTE FROM THE BOARD

Gloom Town - a story of perseverance, self-discovery and bravery in a world of gray and secrets! Join Rory the main character, our narrator, and engaging cast as they take you on a stunning journey told through dance!

The cast of passionate and talented youth dancers of Alberta Dance Theatre along with their outstanding creative team are thrilled to present this year's performance of Gloom Town! Each year the creative process starts with picking a book that will be the source of inspiration and storyline for the performance. This year not only has the book been intriguing and inspiring, but author Ronald L. Smith has celebrated the script that the cast wrote, cheered on creative adaptations and solutions thought up by our youth artists, and has been extremely supportive after every update. We feel extremely fortunate to work with an author that congratulates our successes and shares in our excitement!

In only a short Fall season our dedicated youth dancers collaborate peer to peer and learn alongside local inspiring and professional choreographers, soundscape artist, lighting designer, graphic artist, and artistic directors to create this show! We are blown away by the effort, powerful imagination, and resourcefulness that goes into bringing this show to life!

The Alberta Dance Theatre Board are humbled and in awe of our Artistic Directors and General Managers, Alicia Molinski and Jessalyn Reimer. We would love to acknowledge that Alicia and Jessalyn build an inclusive, supportive and educational environment where youth dancers feel safe and inspired. They challenge the dancers to be the best artists and community members they can be, and the dancers rise to the challenge! We are forever thankful to Alicia and Jessalyn for their exceptional leadership as they foster a welcoming and motivating culture that has our dancers returning year after year! Through organized and diligently planned rehearsals, our creative team provides opportunities to develop dance skills, acting skills, and build choreography experience. These dancers aren't just dancing on stage they are confidently telling a story and captivating audiences in the most magical ways! Our cast enjoys connecting with their audience. This year, with the support of our ADs, our cast has developed new ways for our audience members to be immersed in the show and the performance experience through the Spoiler Book Club and Touch & See & Try. In the Spoiler Book Club, the cast shares the story chapter by chapter ahead of the performance for accessibility and for audience members looking to do a deep dive into the book. The Touch & See & Try experience encourages audience members to explore a small taste of what it feels like to be in the show, as they get to meet cast members, check out props and costumes, and try out some dance moves! We give a huge thanks to our dancers for helping our audience be a part of the show in this unique way!



This year our Board would like to acknowledge that after many years of showing up as a divine and outstanding administrator, we reluctantly said goodbye to Sherri Rau as she set off for retirement. It is also with great appreciation and enthusiasm that we would like to share that we were able to welcome our new administrator Natalie Murray to ADT. She has already jumped in with both feet as she helps us get up to speed by implementing new banking and record keeping solutions! Thank you Natalie, we are lucky to have you! This year of change also means we are incredibly fortunate to welcome 5 new Board members: Jean Hsieh, Scott Tallman, Rae Shungur, Maite Barajas, and Krista White. This year we are acknowledging the exceptional efforts, wisdom, leadership, professionalism, and unrivaled compassion from past board member, Rhonda Dupuis. She was instrumental in the survival and growth of ADT! As she has given so much as a Board member we have awarded her the title of Honorary Board Member.

Our season is a success because of how our ADT community consistently shows up, collaborates, and thrives together! With heartfelt gratitude we give our thanks to our hardworking parents for their volunteer hours, exceptional skill sets and for sharing loving support and encouragement with our dancers. These valuable volunteer hours are spent fundraising, sourcing materials, building, sewing, painting, cutting, and constructing. Each of these tasks help transport us into the world of the show! Our dear audience, when you see this show it will be perfectly clear that our parents and community pour just as much love into the show as our dancers do!

Our Audience! We give our final thanks to you! A show is truly only a show when we have an audience that we can share it with! As a non-profit we appreciate your generosity and your time! Thank you for joining us in the beautiful DJD theatre as our cast takes us on a journey we won't forget! If you enjoyed the show, please share it with your loved ones! For more information on how you can support Alberta Dance Theatre please visit our website.

Wishing everyone happiness and great health,

Allison Zwozdesky, Chair, Board of Directors
& Jean Hsieh, Vice Chair, Board of Directors



Gloom Town

Choreography facilitated by Alicia Molinski & Jessalyn Reimer

Lord Foxglove & Malvonious

Choreography facilitated by Alicia Molinski & Jessalyn Reimer

Izzy & Rory

Choreography facilitated by Ruffi Oswald

Dinner Party

Choreography facilitated by Meghann Michalsky

Portraits

Choreography facilitated by Alexa Elser

Heart In The Box

Choreography facilitated by Meghann Michalsky

Choreographed & Performed by Prarthona Datta

Ghost Of A Boy

Choreography facilitated by Jessalyn Britton

Choreographed & Performed by Charlotte Green

HER

Choreography facilitated by Jasmine Almaguer Sheldrick

Circus Procession

Choreography facilitated by Emily Ireland

Unmasked

Choreography facilitated by Jocelyn May

Shadow Tree

Choreography facilitated by Jessalyn Reimer

Choreographed & Performed by Bronwyn McCoy

Queen of Sorrow

Choreography facilitated by Meghann Michalsky

Choreographed & Performed by Nayeli Barajas

Mara Of The Shadows

Choreography facilitated by Kobe Hill

Sea Bell

Choreography facilitated by Alicia Molinski & Jessalyn Reimer

ABOUT THE SHOW

Spoilers ahead!

The show you are about to see weaves together dance and acting to tell the story of Gloom Town by Ronald L. Smith. We've included a recap of the show below to help you follow along but there are spoilers. If you want to keep the show a surprise skip this page!

Since our show is only 1 hour and 15 minutes we couldn't include every detail from the book. We highly suggest you read the novel to fully discover the world that inspired us!

Rory grows up in the town of Gloom with his mother Hilda. Gloom is a foggy and dreary place but Hilda keeps things fun by hosting artist salons with her three friends; Vincent, Cora and Ox Bells. Unfortunately, Hilda is struggling to make ends meet and their landlord, Mr. Bumbailiff, does not listen to Hilda's pleas. This pushes Rory to apply for a job at the spookiest house in town: Foxglove Manor.

Lord Foxglove is the old, domineering and rich owner of the Manor. He lives there with his creepy Butler, Malvonious. Rory is able to secure the job of Valet upon penalty of death! Despite his nerves and fears he signs the contract and goes to brag about his new job to his best friend Izzy.

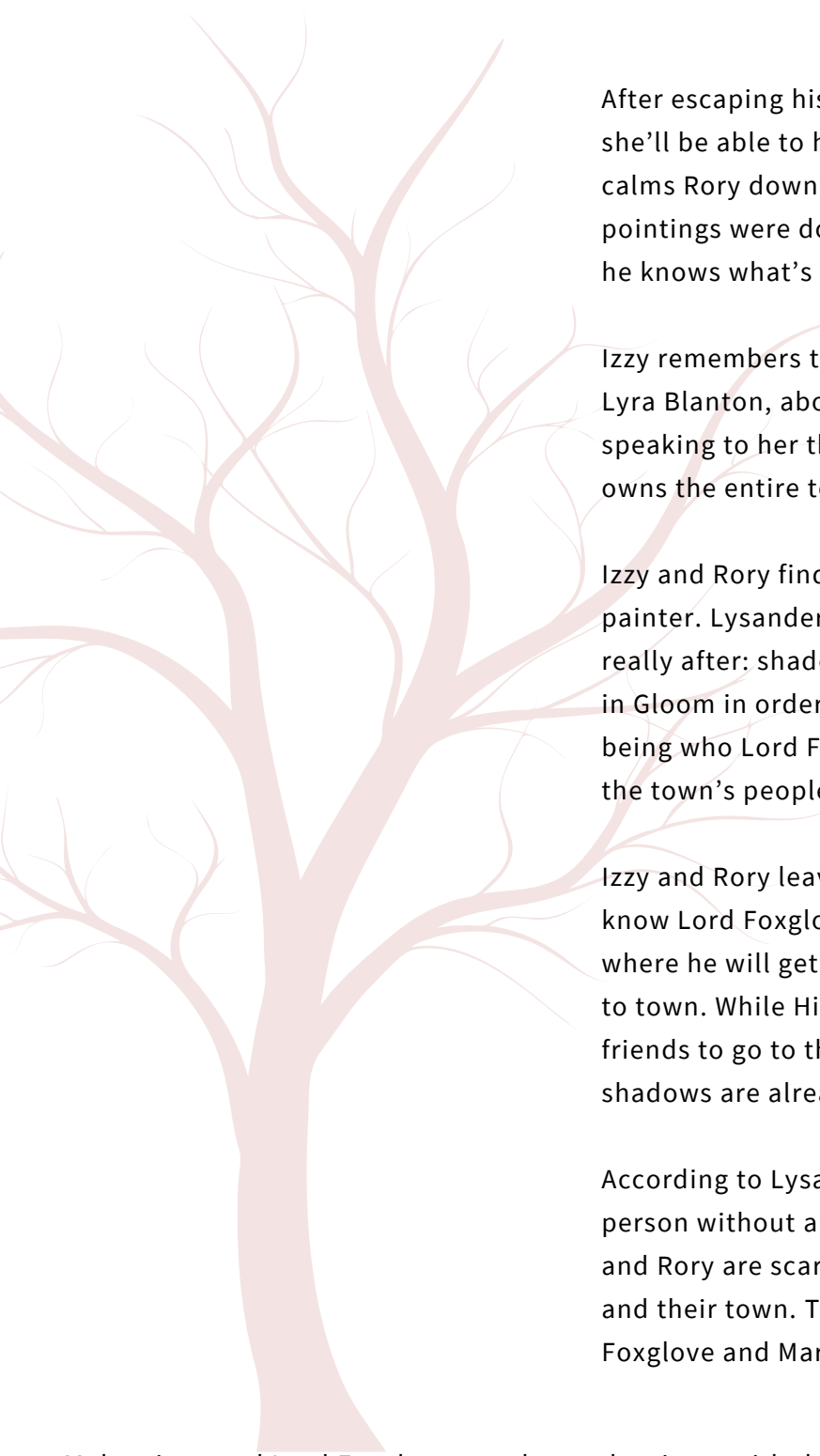
Izzy is a brave and boisterous best friend! While she can't believe Rory willingly got a job at the creepiest place in town, she supports him caring for his Mom. Hilda and her three friends are less enthusiastic about Rory's new job but luckily Vincent always has a good story to distract everyone from their troubles. He tells the tale of the infamous pirate, Goldenrod!

Afterward, Rory has to walk back through the sad town of Gloom to return to the manor to work. It feels like everyone in this town is just as lonely as he feels. Once at Foxglove Manor Rory gets instructions to prepare for a dinner party. The dinner party starts normally but ends with animal bones being left on the plates!

Rory's main job as a valet at Foxglove Manor is chores. He hates polishing the picture frames. It feels as though the paintings are looking at him.

The real tipping point is when Rory, while detangling roots in the garden, finds a box that contains a human heart! What Rory doesn't know yet is that this heart belonged to the last valet at Foxglove Manor. What Rory knows for sure that Lord Foxglove is evil! Lord Foxglove and Malvonious are planning something that will ruin the town. Rory just has to find out what.

Except he doesn't get the chance when Malvonious and Lord Foxglove discover Rory has been snooping around the manor. Rory barely escapes with his life!



After escaping his first stop is to find Izzy. He knows that she'll be able to help him make sense of the situation. Izzy calms Rory down and he is able to remember that all the paintings were done by a man named Lysander Swoop. Maybe he knows what's actually happening at Foxglove Manor!

Izzy remembers that they can ask the oldest person in town, Lyra Blanton, about all things relating to Gloom. When speaking to her they find out that Lord Foxglove actually owns the entire town! It used to be called Sea Bell!

Izzy and Rory find Lysander Swoop, a washed up and nervous painter. Lysander shares with them what Lord Foxglove is really after: shadows. He is stealing shadows from everyone in Gloom in order to feed Mara of the Shadows. She is an evil being who Lord Foxglove intends to bring to life, destroying the town's people in the process.

Izzy and Rory leave Lysander Swoop's house shaken. They know Lord Foxglove needs more shadows but don't know where he will get them ... until they see the Circus has come to town. While Hilda and her friends encourage the best friends to go to the circus Rory is busy realizing that all their shadows are already gone!

According to Lysander Swoop shadows are protectors. A person without a shadow is a ghost of their former self. Izzy and Rory are scared but motivated to protect their loved ones and their town. They are going to fight Malvonious, Lord Foxglove and Mara of the Shadows.

Malvonious and Lord Foxglove are also at the circus with their dinner party guests wearing hoods and masks. The evil villains capture Izzy and Rory to take them directly to the Manor and directly to a secret red door ... behind the door is Mara of the Shadows. A fierce battle ensues where Izzy almost dies! Right at the last moment Rory's own shadow bursts forward to protect him and defeat Mara.

Izzy lives! The stolen shadows return to the people of Gloom which, without an evil Lord and shadow being, appears sunnier and more like Sea Bell again.

A grand ship arrives at the docks. The town's people gather in excitement to see who it belongs to. Hilda recognizes the pirate right away! It's Goldenrod! Not only is he more than just a legend but he's Rory's father come to show him the world! While full of doubt Rory's shadow once again swoops in to encourage Rory to be fearless! Eventually, Izzy and Hilda decide to join in on the next great adventure!



CREDITS

Artistic Direction

Alicia Molinski & Jessalyn Reimer

Gloom Town © Ronald L. Smith, 2020

Adapted by Alberta Dance Theatre

Choreography

Alberta Dance Theatre Youth Artists

Jasmine Almaguer Sheldrick, Alexa Elser, Kobe Hill, Emily Ireland, Jocelyn May, Meghann Michalsky, Alicia Molinski, Rufi Oswaldo, Jessalyn Reimer

Script

Alberta Dance Theatre Youth Artists, Alicia Molinski, Ronald L. Smith

Composition

Dean Lauderdale

Lighting Design

Kim Creller

Poster & Production Design

Jeff Eisen

Stage Manager

Tonisha Kroeger

Costumes & Props

Designer & Coordinator: Jessalyn Reimer

Lead: Priya D'Mello

Thank you to our Volunteers:

Joe Anderson, Priya D'Mello, Sherri Dixon, Meghan Drennan, Heather Edey, Jennifer Kidd, Vivian Krauchek, Shela Luprypa, Tereza Storrier

Backstage

Backstage Coordinator: Leanne Kidd

Thank you to our Volunteers:

Charlene Dorey, Jean Hsieh, Jennifer Kidd, Vivian Krauchek, Laila Moos

ADT Administrator

Natalie Murray



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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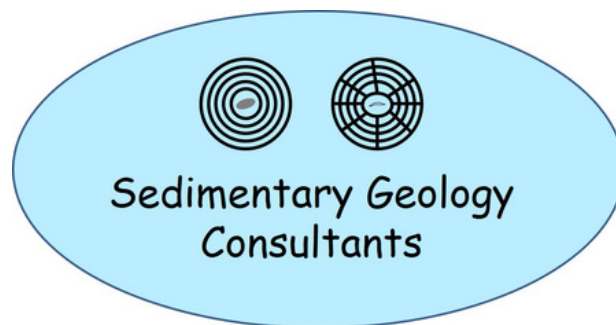
Emily Forrest

Hannah Stillwell

Rhonda Dupuis

Thank you to all past and present ADT staff and board members for keeping the vision of ADT thriving for future generations. Thank you for your generosity, your ingenuity, and your time. You have elevated ADT beyond what we could do alone. We are so grateful to have this magical place to create art and watch the growth of some amazing young people.

THANK YOU





THANK YOU

Alberta Dance Theatre would like to extend our thanks to the Youth Artists for the dedication, passion and creativity they offered in abundance throughout another intense season. We are truly so proud of the show you created. Thank you for your leadership! We would also like to thank the families for their generosity of time, energy and believing in the Alberta Dance Theatre experience. You amaze us with everything you take on! Thank you for sticking with us!

Thank you to this year's Creative Team!

Our season would not be possible without your willingness to say "yes, and" and your ambition. Thank you for your organization and for hitting this show out of the park!

We would also like to extend a thank you to Ronald L. Smith and their team who allowed us to use Gloom Town as this year's inspiration. We have loved these characters and setting! Thank you for trusting us with this adaptation!

Thank you to the Alberta Dance Theatre Staff and Board of Directors (past and present) who put in countless hours throughout the year to support our work in the studio every fall. Welcome to the team Natalie! It's been quite the first few months for you and we are so grateful to have you here! Thank you for taking on so much with such enthusiasm!

Thank you to Sarah, Chantal, Arielle and the entire DJD Dance Centre team who made our rehearsals and show week experience possible! It's truly a pleasure to rehearse and perform at the DJD Dance Centre. You all are delights!

As always, thank you to our audiences! Thank you for taking a chance on a show made by kids, with kids, for kids! We hope you enjoy the show!

Thanks to The Next page who facilitated getting a copy of Gloom Town by Ronald L. Smith into the hands of each ADT Youth Artist.

the next page
books & coffee



ADT YOUTH ARTISTS

Alice Horobin - Understudy

Avery is a 15 year old, grade 10 student. She has been a part of ADT for three years, and is super excited for this show. Avery loves gym class, food and hanging out with friends.

Alistair Boadi-Gumbs - Rory

Alistair is a 12 year old boy who loves reading. He loves hot chocolate and dancing. This is his 5th year at ADT and he has participated in the shows Deck the Halls, Circus Mirandus, Sneaks, and The Secret Starling. He is currently learning Latin at his school and is excelling in it. He is very excited to be performing as Rory in the show Gloom Town.

Anais Pierre

Anais is a grade 10 student. She is currently in the PVA Dance Program. This is her third year at ADT and has been dancing for 10 years. When she is not dancing she is outside playing with friends. She enjoys many sports other than dancing like skiing, biking and climbing.

Anjali Chune - Understudy

Anjali has been dancing for eight years. She is 12 years old and is turning 13 in December. Anjali not only loves to dance but she also loves to ski and play tennis. This is her first year at Alberta Dance Theatre and she wishes to continue.

Anjeli Shungur

Anjeli is a very sweet girl who likes stuffed animals, shopping, dancing and her phone. Anjeli has been dancing at ADT for three years. She wants to be a doctor when she is older. Anjeli has a loving family and a dog who's her most favourite family member. She is 13 years old and in grade eight.

Aoife MacDonnell - Lysander Swoop

Aoife is 11 years old but is so, so, so close to being 12. She is in 7th grade. She is a competitive swimmer and swims for the Calgary Patriots. She loves to dance and has been dancing since she was three years old. She enjoys reading, playing sports, and hanging out with friends. She loves to run and climb. This is her third year in ADT and she looks forward to many more.

Avery Horobin -Understudy

Alice is a 15 year old dancer who has been with ADT for three years. Alice is in grade 10. In her free time she enjoys eating food, watching horror movies, and Christmas. Shoutout to her parents and Mila for always viewing her performances.

Bronwyn McCoy - Soloist, Lord Foxglove

Bronwyn is a 17 year old girl in grade 12. She is planning to go to Post Secondary for Criminology and Public Policy. Bronwyn currently dances with the Youth Training Program and does both jazz and modern. She enjoys the aspect of putting your emotions into movement and how good it feels to dance. She considers dance to be a freeing outlet that makes her extremely happy! She hopes to continue dancing after high school and is looking forward to what that brings. She is graduating from ADT this year and is very grateful for what it has brought to her life. She is looking forward to seeing the future of ADT.

Brooklyn Dorey - Izzy

Life is better when you're dancing. Brooklyn is 16 years old and is in grade 11. She has been dancing since was three years old, and loves performing for an audience. This is Brooklyn's fifth year of being apart of the ADT company. Brooklyn is very excited to play the role of Izzy in this year's show. In Brooklyn's spare time she loves to listen to music, spend time with family and friends, and go shopping. Her favourite drink of all time is Dr. Pepper!! Thanks for coming to our show!

Charlotte Green - Soloist, Vincent

Charlotte is a 17 year old girl who is in her graduating year. Next year she is planning to go to University for nursing or something in health sciences. She has been dancing at ADT for eight years and has been dancing since she was very young. At the moment she is in the Youth Training Program at Decidedly Jazz Danceworks. When she is not dancing she enjoys seeing her friends, skiing, and listening to music. She hopes you enjoy her final show at ADT.

Daisy Anderson - Narrator

Daisy is in grade 10 and 14 years old. She loves to dance and is at the studio almost every day of the week. She has been a part of the ADT community for five years now and has loved every minute of it. Daisy loves to be onstage performing and rehearsing with her friends. She currently dances at Counter Point Marda Loop and trains in ballet, jazz, contemporary, and musical theatre but her favourite is ballet. Outside of dance Daisy enjoys reading, hiking, traveling, and hanging out with her friends.

Evyn Quarin - Cora

Evyn is an 11 year old Grade 6 French-immersion student. She fancies herself an animal-adopting farm girl who loves preppy city life. This is her 4th year with ADT and her 6th year as a dancer (mostly competing in Irish dance). She loves performance theatre, cliff jumping, crafting, rollercoasters, music, hiking, playing volleyball, skiing, Hawaii, obstacle courses and poke bowls. Her favourite animal (besides her dog, Ivy) is the bear - brown, black, grizzly or fat. Her dream is to work for CSIS, travelling the world. ADT is a happy space for Evyn because it's about making something with a whole community and putting on a show is the best kind of hard work.

Isla Buck

Isla is 12 years old and in her fifth year of ADT. She has trained in dance for 11 years at Dance Spectrum Inc. and is happy to be back in the company. Her love for music encourages her love for dance, singing, and often theatre as well. Her previous shows are Deck the Halls, Circus Mirandus, Sneaks, The Secret Starling and now Gloom Town.

Ivy Kidd - Understudy

Ivy is 13 years old! She has been dancing at ADT for over four years! Other than dance Ivy enjoys running, skiing, golf and hanging out with her family and friends! Ivy dances at the Youth Training Program at Decidedly Jazz Danceworks learning ballet, modern, jazz and more! Ivy loves ADT, it pushes you to your limits and creates new passions!

Kara Boucher

Kara is a 12 year old girl that loves dancing. She dances at Decidedly Jazz Danceworks. She does jazz, ballet, hip hop, West African, and modern. She loves archery and art. Her favourite foods are ramen, pizza and candy. Her favourite colour is blue and her favourite books are Warrior Cats, Spark and Children of the Fox. If you can't tell she loves reading a lot and her room is full of books. She is kind, caring, and fun, and she knows how to solve problems. She wants to be an engineer like her mother when she grows up. Her grandmother is an artist and she loves her a lot. Kara is a quarter Chinese and a quarter French and half Canadian. This is her third year with ADT and she can't imagine life without ADT.

Karsyn Kidd - Understudy

Karsyn is new to the dance community as she has only been dancing for 3 years and just joined ADT last year! Other than dancing Karsyn does sports like competitive swimming. She adores sports and values athleticism. Karsyn aspires to hike every mountain and touch every ocean. She loves exploration and adventure. Karsyn strongly believes there is no challenge too big and no adventure too scary to accomplish.

Kiara Charania

This is Kiara's fourth season in ADT and she is excited to share her passion for dance with the world. She loves dogs and the colour red. She has been dancing for 10 years and this is just the start. She is currently attempting to complete the IB Diploma in High School. Kiara hopes you have a wonderful day.

Maggie Tallman - Goldenrod

This is Maggie's second year at ADT. She is now 11 years old. Maggie currently dances at The Performance Studio where she has to juggle her schedule. Maggie would love to become a lawyer like her Dad. Her favourite place is California. I bet she would love to be on a beach right now.

Mira Schmidt - Lyra Blanton

Mira has been dancing since she was three years old. This is her second year in ADT. In her free time she enjoys to hang out with friends and draw. She also loves sports and music. She snowboards most weekends in the winter, is on her school's wrestling team and has been playing the violin for 7/8 years and can also play flute and trombone.

Mirabel Johnston - Ox Bells

Mirabel is 13 years old and has been dancing with ADT for five years. She has been dancing for as long as she can remember, and has done ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop, and break dancing. Other than dance Mirabel loves soccer. She plays with Calgary Blizzards and her school team. As well as soccer Mirabel loves creating art whether it's sketching, embroidering, or crocheting. Mirabel loves listening and playing music. She is a Swiftie but also enjoys SZA, the Beastie Boys, Sabrina Carpenter and more. Mirabel hopes to dance with ADT until she can do a solo, and loves coming back every year for the amazing experience.

Nayeli Barajas - Soloist, Malvonious

Nayeli is a grade 12 student and is currently part of her school's dance program. She is also looking forward to participating in her last year of culinary. She has been dancing for 12 years and has been in ADT for eight. She is fascinated with animals and hopes to pursue a career working with them.

Prokriti Datta

Prokriti is 16 years old. She has been a part of ADT for four years. Alongside ADT Prokriti also dances at DJD. Prokriti loves ADT and dancing very much and is very grateful for the opportunity.

Piper Storrier - Understudy

Piper is 15 and currently in tenth grade. She is an only child and loves to dance, sing, swim, and much more. Like probably at least three other dancers wrote in their bios, she adores her dog. After watching friends perform in ADT shows the past two years, Piper finally auditioned this year and is extremely excited to be a part of the experience and creation of the show. Piper wants to thank her parents for dealing with her very sporadic extracurricular activity switch ups every couple years. She also wants to thank Avery and Alice for being there for her through thick and thin, as well as her boyfriend Ben for being her biggest supporter.

Prarthona Datta -Soloist, Hilda

Prarthona is 17 years old and she is now a graduating senior. She dances in the PVA Dance Program. She also dances at the Youth Training Program at Decidedly Jazz Danceworks. This is her fourth year at ADT and she's excited for her friends and family to see the show. When not dancing Prarthona likes reading, drawing, sleeping, and spending time with her friends and cat. She loves ADT for the lasting friendships it creates and the chance it gives to be a part of the show making process. Prarthona hopes that everyone will enjoy the show!

Rose Lewis

Rose lives in British Columbia. She came to Calgary for ADT. Rose has danced in many companies. In January Rose danced in Brazil. Rose has done lots of ballet productions, and has a lot of different dance training, but loves to expand her knowledge and share her stories from her life in dance.

Sadie Kidd

Sadie is 16 years old and has been dancing for 13 years. She currently dances in the Youth Training Program at Decidedly Jazz Danceworks. This will be Sadie's fourth performance with ADT. Aside from dancing Sadie enjoys going for runs, reading and spending time with her family and friends. Sadie can't wait to share this experience and hopes everyone enjoys it as much as she has.

Tanisi Sinha - Mr. Bumbailiff

Tanisi is a 10 year old dancer. She is in grade six and wants to be a doctor when she grows up. Having 3 years of experience in dance, Tanisi dances beautifully. Growing up Tanisi also liked to sing and bake. This is Tanisi's second year in ADT.

ADT CREATIVE TEAM

Alicia Molinski - Co-Artistic Director & General Manager, Choreographer, Script Writer

Alicia Ward is an enthusiastic human being who loves performing, teaching and promoting a passion for performance art. Throughout the year Alicia finds herself instructing drama and dance to all ages at various studios and schools throughout the city. Alicia works administratively for a number of education and arts-focused companies including co-founding the Young Adventurer Society. Alicia has produced and stage managed events and productions for a number of local companies and proudly sits on the Create Kids Arts Society Board of Directors. Alicia is passionate about growing the artist community in Calgary and fostering opportunities for dancers of all ages to develop a love for movement. When performing Alicia focuses on her music and tap dance collaboration with local musicians Mandy Morris and Matt Morris called Colour Me Sad, which recently won Children's Recording of the Year at the YYC Music Awards. Alicia is very grateful to be a part of ADT and could only do so thanks to the community that supports her. Thank you all!

Jessalyn Reimer - Co-Artistic Director & General Manager, Choreographer

Jessalyn has had a lifelong passion for dance. She holds a B.A. in Contemporary Dance with distinction from the University of Calgary and danced with Decidedly Jazz Danceworks Professional Training Program for three seasons. Upon graduation, Jessalyn danced professionally with dance theatre company kloetzel&co. for several seasons where she performed in Professional Series, Toronto's Dusk Dances, and in the full length work "The Alice Odyssey." Jessalyn was also a Corps Bara company member as well as company manager. Independently, she has had the opportunity to perform and choreograph in dance events throughout Alberta and B.C, has self-produced three full length shows CrossCurrents, and co-created the dance company ESIRA. Jessalyn is currently co-Artistic Director and General manager of Alberta Dance Theatre and teaches in YYC studios and schools.

Jasmine Almaguer Sheldrick - Choreographer

Dancer and emerging choreographer, Jasmine Almaguer Sheldrick, was born in Oaxaca, Mexico, and grew up in Hamilton, Ontario where she started training in various dance forms. Jasmine is a graduate of the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance, specialized honors program focusing on choreography and performance at York University. At York she studied modern, contemporary and ballet techniques, choreography, dance history, dance kinesiology and dance production. In 2021-2022, Jasmine trained in the Professional Training Program at Decidedly Jazz Danceworks where she studied a variety of jazz techniques, Afro- Cuban, tap, West African and jazz history. In 2020, she received The Spedding Memorial Scholarship in Dance, given for excellence in choreography of an original work. Along with dancing, she has a strong interest in filmmaking, having worked on high and low production sets. Jasmine currently works as a free-lance dancer performing professionally and in arts administration.

Kimberly Creller - Lighting Designer

Kim is a parent, partner and Event and Theatre Professional of over a decade. Working in the city primarily as a lighting technician and programmer, she is used to creating live in front of the audience for all genres of events occurring in popular Calgary venues such as Arts Commons, The Taylor Center for the Performing Arts and The Grand Theatre. Having the opportunity to be involved in the creation process is a rare luxury - She is so excited to work with Alberta Dance Theatre to bring this year's production to life. Using colour and textures of light to enhance and support artistic work is what Kim enjoys most about her role as Lighting Designer.

Alexa Elser - Choreographer

Alexa Elser is a Calgary-based actor, dancer, singer, choreographer, clown, residency artist, theatre instructor, dance teacher, logistics coordinator, and admin magician, as well as an avid fan of lists, the Oxford comma, and run-on sentences. She is absolutely ecstatic to be working as a choreographer for Alberta Dance Theatre this season, and cannot wait to see what this talented young group of performers will create!

Jeff Eisen - Projection Designer

With over four decades of unwavering dedication to the world of artistic expression, Jeff is a seasoned professional teaching artist who has consistently demonstrated a profound passion for nurturing creativity and fostering a love for the arts. His extensive career has been marked by a commitment to inspiring students of all ages and backgrounds through dynamic and innovative teaching methods. Throughout his journey, he has honed his expertise in various artistic disciplines, adapting to the evolving educational landscape while maintaining a deep-seated belief in the transformative power of the arts. Jeff's career is a testament to his ability to engage and empower students, cultivate their talents, and instill in them a lifelong appreciation for the arts.

Kobe Hill - Choreographer

Kobe has lived in Calgary their entire life, and has been dancing with ADT for one decade. After graduating last year in 2022, they have returned to continue being a part of the ADT community. They have grown up with Alberta Dance Theatre, and have been enthused to be able to share the ADT experience with other dancers. They have also acted as a choreographer and sound director for the 2023 CYPT (Calgary Young People's Theatre) Cannonball Festival. They are excited to continue their artistic journey in future years and to hopefully return to ADT after studying Arts and Education in post-secondary.

Tonisha Kroeger - Stage Manager

Born and raised in Alberta and graduate of Red Deer Polytechnic with a diploma in Theatre & Entertainment Production. Tonisha has built a career in Stage Management for over thirteen years. She is happy to return to Alberta Dance Theatre after Stage Managing for The Young Canadians at The Bell Grandstand Show (2023). She strives to inspire the next generation of leaders. Previous Stage Management credits include, Calgary Young Peoples Theatre (Someday, The Poison Squad, Runs in the Family, Snow White), Alberta Dance Theatre (Sneaks), Edmonton Fringe Festival (Glorious Loser). If she's not in the theatre you can find her by the snacks.

Emily Ireland - Choreographer

Born and raised in Peace River, Alberta, Emily Ireland (she/her) has trained extensively in various dance styles, including Ballet, Contemporary/Modern, Jazz, Tap, and Afro-Cuban. Emily earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from the University of Calgary, with a concentration in choreography and performance. Further education and training include participation in Decidedly Jazz Danceworks' esteemed professional training program, completion of Donna Krasnow's Limon Teacher Training Course, and attainment of Level 2 Condition with Imagery Instructor Certification. Emily's involvement with the nonprofit dance company, En Corps Dance Collective, from 2020 to 2024, involved in various projects, including choreography for their latest production, SYSTEM <ERROR>. Notable performances graced stages such as Montage, Dance@Noon, Dance@Night, Mainstage, Lot C, TELUS Sparks Center: Spark After Dark, YYC Showcase. Her artistic expression even extended to the realm of film with "pointless purSUIT," a dance film showcased at Ignite Festival 2023. Her commitment to performance, choreography, and dance education remains at the core of her emerging artistic identity. Emily is excited to join Alberta Dance Theatre for a third season.

Leanne Kidd - Backstage Coordinator

Leanne Kidd (nee McIndoe) is a Calgary dance artist, teacher & choreographer. She trained at Calgary's International School of Ballet, performing many leading roles with their Jeunesse Classique Ballet Company. Some of Leanne's extensive dance studies have included: The Royal Winnipeg Ballet, The Banff School of Fine Arts & The American Academy of Ballet. In 1997, Leanne was accepted into London England's Royal Ballet School. She graduated with distinction, in 2000, earning multiple teaching certifications such as: ARAD, AISTD Cecchetti, AISTD National Folk Dance & Benesh Notation Certification. Since returning to Canada, Leanne has taught in numerous studios & schools across B.C. & Alberta. She choreographed & staged a full-length production entitled GLORIA for Jeunesse Classique Ballet Co., performed in Dance Montage, Calgary Cares, Three Left Feet Movement Creations & Decidedly Jazz Danceworks' school show, Live and In Sync. Leanne also immersed herself in training at DJD, first as a Scholarship Student & later in the Pre-Professional Program. In 2005, she received two grants to study dance in West Africa, a life-changing experience. Leanne has had a long-standing history with Calgary Arts Academy since its opening in 2002 to 2020, both as a Resident Artist & Performance Coordinator. She has enjoyed teaching at Decidedly Jazz Danceworks as well over the past two decades and is thrilled to focus on her new role as Director of DJD's Youth Training Program. Leanne is married with two daughters and is passionate about family and sharing her love of dance and performing arts with students of all ages.

Dean Lauderdale - Composer

Dean Lauderdale, a Calgary-born musician, is a versatile artist with a deep passion for music. With over 10 years of experience, he excels in teaching, performing, and composing. Dean teaches privately at his studio and Long & McQuade, while also serving as Director of ONCUE, a professional a cappella ensemble, and Assistant Director for the JUNIOR HI division at the Youth Singers of Calgary. Dean's academic achievements include a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Humber College and a Music Diploma in Classical Vocal Performance from Mount Royal University. These educational milestones have fortified his technical prowess and provided him with a comprehensive understanding of music composition, production and performance. As a composer for Alberta Dance Theatre across four seasons, Dean has witnessed the profound impact of his music on young performers. His meticulously crafted compositions have served as catalysts for transformative experiences, evoking powerful and emotive performances. Dean's ability to harness the power of imagination through music is a testament to his exceptional talent as a composer. His upcoming project is a full-length album of original songs, entirely self-written, performed, recorded, and produced. Set for release this September, the album will showcase Dean's talent and musical prowess and will be available on all streaming platforms.

Meghann Michalsky - Choreographer

Meghann Michalsky is a dance artist working in Alberta. She is the Co-Artistic Director of Project InTandem and YYC Contemporary Technique Training, two programs that offer opportunities to emerging artists in Canada. She was awarded the 2019 RBC Emerging Artist Award at the Mayor's Lunch for Arts Champions - she is the first Dancer/Choreographer to receive this award.

Since completing her BA in Contemporary Dance, with a concentration in Choreography and Performance, at the University of Calgary. She has rigorously pursued her dance technique training in Canada as well as in Israel, Portugal, Sweden, the U.K., the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium & Austria.

As a dancer, you've seen her dance for an array of individual artists and companies, including Karissa Barry, Laja Feild, Davida Monk, Linnea Swan, Michele Moss, kloetzel&co, Cloudsway Dance Theatre, Dancing Monkey Laboratories, J-Sik Movements, & Dancers' Studio West - Lab Emerging Artist Program (2016) & Physic/Alchemy (2018), amongst others.

Her most recent choreographic works have been presented at prestigious festivals such as Dance Made in Canada | fait au Canada (Toronto), artsPlace (Canmore), Mile Zero Dance (Edmonton), Citadel + Compagnie (Toronto), University of Calgary, Chutzpah Festival (Vancouver), Jeanne & Peter Lougheed Performing Arts Centre (Camrose), Project InTandem (Calgary), Fluid Festival (Calgary), Stream of Dance Festival (Regina), Convergence (Edmonton) & abroad in Finland.

She has been awarded Choreographic Residencies from the from the Centro Jobel (Italy), Vitlycke Arts Centre (Sweden), Banff Centre for the Arts, Remail Modern (Saskatchewan), New Dance Horizons (Regina), amongst many local Alberta opportunities.

Jocelyn Mah - Choreographer

Jocelyn is a contemporary dance artist who now wears many hats as a puppeteer, mask performer, artistic curator, musical collaborator, and more. Her multi-disciplinary practice has led to professional creations and performances with independent artists and companies based in Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and London, UK, including Tia Kushniruk, Laurence Siegel, Elaine Weryshko, Catherine Hayward, Michael Menegon and The Sound of Movement, Daniel Pelton, The Alberta Ballet School, Long Grass Studio, Cloudsway Dance Theatre, Calgary Animated Objects Society, Ghost&John and more. Jocelyn is a graduate of The School of Toronto Dance Theatre (Dance Arts Institute) and holds her Master of Arts in Contemporary Dance Performance from The London Contemporary Dance School (London, UK), with her thesis focusing on the relationship between music and dance in authentic and vernacular jazz forms. She is an alumna of Alberta Dance Theatre.

Rufi Oswaldo - Choreographer

Rufi Oswaldo's hope is to inspire reflection, gratitude, and joy through dance. And for over twenty years, he has done that through a richly multi-disciplinary and stylistically eclectic dance career that spans contemporary dance, "Latin" and standard dancesport, and Cuban traditional and social dance styles. Currently, he serves as the Artistic Director of Dancers' Studio West in Calgary, AB and conducts research as a PhD Candidate of Performance Studies at York University. Through his experience across multiple genres and through the depth of his study, Oswaldo hopes to make greater space for and serve the diversity of dance communities that practice together in Alberta.

Alberta Dance Theatre would like to recommend and give gratitude to our videographer
2150 Creative and our photographer Emily Taylor!

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