

GRAND RAPIDS BALLET

James Sofranko, Artistic Director

MOVING BEYOND

VIRTUAL SEASON 2020|21

Season sponsored by James & Mary Nelson



Yuka Oba-Muschiana photo by Ray Nard Imagemaker

As artistic director of Michigan's only professional ballet company, I am proud to present a season unlike any other in our 49-year history. We have remained adaptable and resilient, but one thing is clear to me: We must come together to overcome the challenges facing our world, including a global pandemic and social injustices. The arts are a great unifier, for they remind us of our shared humanity. Our dancers—who come from numerous backgrounds and countries—are eager to continue to serve our community by doing what they love to do...dance!



While we will miss the exhilaration of performing for you live in a theater, we are excited to present our art in a new way, delivered virtually to you in the comfort of your own home. Not only will our virtual season include four programs specifically created for the screen in partnership with SALT Creative Studios, but subscribers will also be given exclusive opportunities to engage with our artists and be immersed in the creative process. *The Nutcracker Experience* will take you deep into our beloved holiday production as you've never seen it before, featuring a special partnership performance with Grand Rapids Symphony. In the spirit of coming together, nine choreographers from around the world will work with our dancers remotely to contribute works to *Collective Force*. Our annual *Jumpstart* series will evolve into an exciting new film festival, giving our dancers the opportunity to not only choreograph, but direct the action from behind the camera.

If you are able, I strongly encourage you to become a subscriber in order to experience the full effect of our programming and behind-the-scenes offerings. In this unusual time, when all ticket revenue to live performances has been eliminated, your support will help carry us through and ensure our return to the stage when it is safe to do so. We are grateful for your support. Our mission is to uplift the human spirit through the art of dance. I hope you will join us to let your heart be filled and your spirit lifted.

James Sofranko, Artistic Director



unconventional

NOVEMBER 13-15, 2020

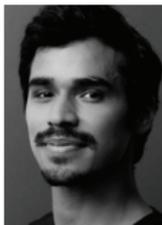
business as (un)usual

Sponsored by Mark Gurney & Dr. Mary Yurko

We present world-class ballet as usual—delivered in an unusual way—with this mix of new and existing works exemplifying our spirit.

- a world premiere by Princess Grace Award winner and Beyoncé choreographer Darrell Grand Moultrie
- a world premiere by Artistic Director James Sofranko featuring a collaboration with violinist Gene Hahn
- a world premiere by Company dancer Yuka Oba-Muschiana
- Christopher Stowell's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* pas de deux from the postponed 2019-20 season featuring the music of Felix Mendelssohn
- works by Resident Choreographer Penny Saunders and Company dancers Gretchen Steimle and Matthew Wenckowski

Branden Reiners photo by Ray Nard Imagemaker



DECEMBER 18-27, 2020

the nutcracker experience

The beloved holiday classic,
with choreography by Val Caniparoli,
as you've never seen it before!

Enjoy many of your favorite
on-stage moments, behind-the-scenes
interviews and rehearsals, and more.

And the story wouldn't be complete
without the musical accompaniment of

**GRAND RAPIDS
SYMPHONY**
Marcelo Lehninger, Music Director





unparalleled

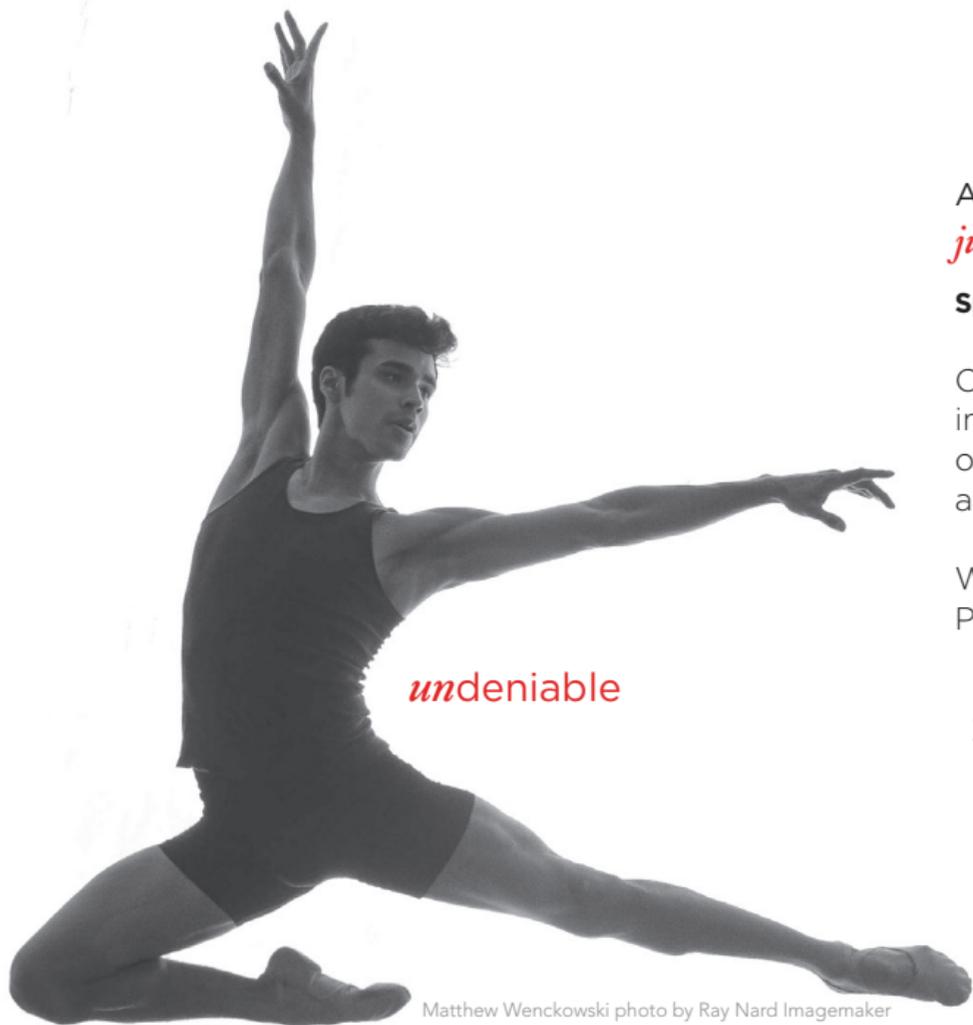
MARCH 2021 DATES TBA

collective force

The world's most celebrated and in-demand choreographers come together to stage their ballets and create new works, contributing to a performance that will truly be an immersive tour de force. In addition, Artistic Director James Sofranko will present an exciting new work featuring the music of Michigan-based cellist Jordan Hamilton.

- Penny Saunders
- Danielle Rowe
- Adam Houglund
- Jennifer Archibald
- Amy Seiwert
- Edwaard Liang
- Katarzyna Skarpetowska
- Trey McIntyre





undeniable

Matthew Wenckowski photo by Ray Nard Imagemaker

APRIL 2021 DATES TBA

jumpstart: on film

Sponsored by Rosemary & David Good Family Foundation

Choreographed by the dancers of Grand Rapids Ballet, this innovative program will also provide them the unique opportunity to explore a completely new layer of creativity and expression: filmmaking.

We sincerely thank our season video partner, Salt Creative Production Studio, for their mentorship and guidance.



Video Production Partner



PATRON

\$100

- Access to exclusive video of all four virtual programs via private Vimeo link
- First chance to purchase in-person tickets if available
- Pre-show creative artist talk videos for each program

Subscribe today at
grballet.com/2021season.
Thank you!

PATRON PLUS

\$200

- Access to exclusive video of all four virtual programs via private Vimeo link
- **BONUS!** Access to Grand Rapids Symphony's live video stream from Van Andel Arena of Tchaikovsky's *Romeo & Juliet* featuring Grand Rapids Ballet dancers
- First chance to purchase in-person tickets if available
- Pre-show creative artist talk videos for each program
- Additional audio commentary for each virtual program by the artistic director and/or dancers
- Exclusive live "sneak peek" opportunities to view morning ballet class and Company rehearsals
- Zoom meet-and-greet with a dancer
- Limited access to past performance videos throughout the year

Add appetizers and wine for two for only \$50 per program! More details coming soon.