



Houston, TX Timeline

DATE : January 10-12, 2025

Class Venue: Vitacca Ballet; 2311 Dunlavy Street, Houston TX, 77006

**Performance Venue: CULLEN PERFORMANCE HALL AT UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
4300 University Drive Houston, TX 77204**

TIME	Friday, January 10, 2025	LOCATION
10:00am	Check in Primary Division	Vitacca Ballet
11-12:30	PRIMARY TECHNIQUE EVALUATION (1.5 hrs)	Vitacca Ballet
11:45am	Check in Junior Group one	Vitacca Ballet
12:45-2:15pm	JUNIOR GROUP ONE TECHNIQUE EVALUATION(1.5hrs)	Vitacca Ballet
2:15pm-2:45pm	Lunch	Vitacca Ballet
1:45pm	Check in Junior Group two	Vitacca Ballet
2:45pm-4:15p	JUNIOR GROUP TWO TECHNIQUE EVALUATION(1.5hrs)	Vitacca Ballet
3:30pm	Check in Senior Group one	Vitacca Ballet
4:30pm-6pm	SENIOR GROUP ONE TECHNIQUE EVALUATION(1.5hrs)	Vitacca Ballet
5:15pm	Check in Senior Group two	Vitacca Ballet
6:15pm-7:45pm	SENIOR GROUP TWO TECHNIQUE EVALUATION(1.5hrs)	Vitacca Ballet



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TIME	Saturday, January 11, 2025	LOCATION
9:00am	Doors Open	Cullen Hall
9:10am	Open Stage Primary Classical (20mins)	Cullen Hall
9:30am-11:15am	<u>Primary Age Division Classical Competition</u>	Cullen Hall
11:15am	Open Stage Junior Contemporary (20mins)	Cullen Hall
11:35 am-2:30 pm	<u>Junior Age Division Contemporary Competition</u>	Cullen Hall
2:30pm-3pm	LUNCH	Cullen Hall
3pm	Open Stage Junior Classical Group 1 (20mins)	Cullen Hall
3:20pm-5:15pm	<u>Junior Age Division Classical Group 1 Competition</u>	Cullen Hall
5:15pm	Open Stage Junior Classical Group 2 (20mins)	Cullen Hall
5:35 pm-7:45pm	<u>Junior Age Division Classical Group 2 Competition</u>	Cullen Hall
7:45pm-8:15pm	DINNER	Cullen Hall
8:15pm	Open Stage Pas/ Duet/ Trio Division (20mins)	Cullen Hall
8:35 pm-9:10pm	<u>Pas/ Duet/ Trio Division Competition</u>	Cullen Hall

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TIME	Sunday, January 12, 2025	LOCATION
8:15am	Doors Open	Cullen Hall
8:30am	Open Stage Primary Contemporary (15mins)	Cullen Hall
8:45 am-9:30 am	<u>Primary Age Division Contemporary Competition</u>	Cullen Hall
9:30am	Open Stage Senior Classical Group 1 (20mins)	Cullen Hall
9:50 am- 11:30 am	<u>Senior Age Division Classical Group 1 Competition</u>	Cullen Hall
11:30 am- 12:00pm	LUNCH	Cullen Hall
12pm	Open Stage Senior Contemporary (20mins)	Cullen Hall
12:20pm-3pm	<u>Senior Age Division Contemporary Competition</u>	Cullen Hall
3pm	Open Stage Senior Classical Group 2 (20mins)	Cullen Hall
3:20-5:00pm	<u>Senior Age Division Classical Group 2</u>	Cullen Hall
5pm	Open Ensembles (30mins)	Cullen Hall
5:30pm-6:40pm	<u>Ensemble Division Competition</u>	Cullen Hall
6:40pm-7:40pm	Dinner	Cullen Hall
7:45pm-8:15pm	<u>Panel Discussion Forum</u>	Cullen Hall
8:15pm-9:15pm	<u>AWARDS</u>	Cullen Hall

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Susan Bryant **Houston Ballet, Academy Faculty**

Susan Bryant began her dancing career studying with Muriel Evans and Lisa Shaw in Hampton, Virginia. She continued her training at North Carolina School of the Arts and after graduation joined Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy. One year later Ms. Bryant was invited to join the company as a member of the Corps de Ballet. She attained the rank of Soloist and enjoyed a 20 year career dancing with Houston Ballet under the direction of both Ben Stevenson and current Artistic Director Stanton Welch. Ms. Bryant enjoyed featured roles in BenStevenson's Swan Lake, The Sleeping Beauty, Don Quixote, Dracula, Coppelia, Peer Gynt, Romeo and Juliet, Snow Maiden, Four Last Songs and Five Poems. She had featured roles in Sir Fredrick Ashton's Les Patineurs, Sir Kenneth MacMillian's Elite Syncopations and Manon. Her contemporary roles included dancing in the world premiere of Paul Taylor's Company B at the Kennedy Center, Christopher Bruce's Cruel Garden, Glen Tetley's Daphnis and Chloe, The Rite of Spring, and Lux in Tenebris, Jiri Kylian's Sinfonietta and Symphony in D. Ms. Bryant also enjoyed roles in George Balanchine's La Valse, The Four Temperments, Agon, Serenade, and Symphony in C and Stanton Welch's Bruiser, Madame Butterfly, and Bolero. Upon her retirement in 2005, Ms. Bryant was invited by Artistic Director Stanton Welch to portray the role of the Queen in the world premiere of his new Swan Lake. She was also invited to teach in the Houston Ballet Ben Stevenson Academy where she continues to teach in the Upper School and in the Adult Open Class Program.



Kristin Dimmer **Milwaukee Baller; School Director**

Kristin Dimmer has led Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy (MBSA) since August 2020 following a long history with the organization, performing in the Milwaukee Ballet II (MBII) second company and serving as a faculty member. She was named Director of the school in July 2023. A native of DeForest, Wisconsin, Dimmer began her dance training at the Monona Academy of Dance under the direction of JoJean Retrum. Additionally, she participated in summer training programs at Virginia School of the Arts, Joffrey Midwest Workshop, and Houston Ballet. Dimmer continued her training on full scholarship with Houston Ballet Academy working with Stanton Welch, Claudio Muñoz, and Lazaro Carreño, and performing alongside Houston Opera and Houston Ballet. Accolades include being named a top ten finalist in the Youth America Grand Prix Competition in 2003 and being selected to represent Wisconsin for Regional

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Dance America's gala performance at the International Ballet Competition where Sergei Kozadeyev created *Divertissement* on her. Dimmer joined Colorado Ballet Studio Company in 2007 performing in *Le Corsaire*, *Coppelia*, *The Nutcracker*, *Dracula*, and as a soloist in Sandra Brown's *Synchronicity*. She returned to Wisconsin to join MBII dancing with the company for two seasons, from 2008-2010. During that time she notably performed *The Snow Queen* and *Sugar Plum Fairy* in Michael Pink's *The Nutcracker*, solos from *La Bayadere*, *Raymonda*, *Napoli*, and *Sylvia*, and alongside the Company in *Sleeping Beauty*, *Cinderella*, and *Peter Pan*. In addition to her dance career, Dimmer earned a Bachelor of Arts in Marketing and Business Administration from Lakeland University and a Master of Science in Education – Teaching and Learning from Concordia University. In 2010 she began her career in education at Pius XI Catholic High School in Milwaukee in the dance department. During a decade of working for the school, which included a swift appointment to Artistic Director, Dimmer was able to establish a fully scoped and sequenced dance program with a comprehensive curriculum. She accomplished this while also serving as the Chair of the Performing Arts Department. Throughout this time she continued to teach ballet at Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy. In 2020 she joined the MBSA administration full-time as General Manager, helping to lead the organization through the COVID-19 pandemic. and has been a Board Member of the Wisconsin Dance Council since 2016. Dimmer has served on the Wisconsin Dance Council Board of Directors since 2016 and as a guest teacher at various dance studios throughout Wisconsin. She resides in Port Washington with her husband and children.



Riley McMurray

Houston Ballet Company Dancer

Riley McMurray was born in Chicago, Illinois and received early training under Carol Hutchinson and later Watmora Casey. At the age of 14 he moved to Houston, Texas to pursue further training at The Houston Ballet Academy with full merit scholarship. After five years with the academy and Houston Ballet II, he joined the company of Houston Ballet in 2018. He has danced various repertoire with the company including leading roles in works by Stanton Welch AM such as *Sylvia*, *Cinderella*, *Romeo & Juliet* and *Swan Lake*, as well as lead roles in contemporary works by choreographers Edwaard Liang, Jiří Kylián and Christopher Bruce. He has also been apart of the creative cast of many new works with the company by choreographers like Justin Peck, Cathy Marston, Arthur Pita, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa and Silas Farley.

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KATHRYN WARAKOMSKY-LI

**Associate Director of Schools Director of Studio
Training Company Director of Summer Intensive**

Kathryn Warakomsky-Li, originally from Boston, MA, began her ballet studies at the relatively late age of 14 in Springfield, Virginia with Oleg Tupine. She graduated from the State University of New York at Purchase with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Dance. She was invited to join the Ballet de Santiago under the direction of Ivan Nagy where she rose to the status of principal dancer. In 1989 Ms. Warakomsky-Li joined Houston Ballet and became Principal dancer. She has over 20 years performing experience dancing lead

roles in all the major classical ballets including Swan Lake, Nutcracker, Sleeping Beauty, Giselle, Romeo and Juliet, Cinderella, Cleopatra, Etudes and Coppelia. She also danced in numerous contemporary works by Ben Stevenson, George Balanchine, Jiri Kylian, Kenneth MacMillan, John Cranko, Ronald Hynd, James Kudelka and Christopher Bruce among others. Ms. Warakomsky-Li has toured extensively around the world dancing throughout North and South America, Asia and Europe. Upon retiring from the stage in 2001, Ms. Warakomsky-Li was invited to teach at Houston Ballet Ben Stevenson Academy where she staged and rehearsed many pieces for the upper school. Ms. Warakomsky-Li has been teaching for Texas Ballet Theater School in Fort Worth since 2003 where she has taught all levels of the school. She is an American Ballet Theatre (ABT) Certified Teacher who has successfully completed the ABT Teacher Training in Primary through Level 7 of the ABT National Training Curriculum®. She has also traveled to Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia to view the Bolshoi and the Vaganova Schools and to participate in their training programs. In 2007, Ms. Warakomsky-Li was appointed Principal of Texas Ballet Theater School of Fort Worth and also created the Summer Intensive, which she continues to direct each year. She now is the Director of the Studio Training Company, in addition to serving as Associate Director of Schools