

Cast Bios:

Landrie Adams (Festival Dancer/Ensemble), a first-year student within SMTD at the University of Michigan from Leonard, Michigan. Landrie's training includes Boston Ballet School, Indiana Ballet Conservatory and Rochester School of Dance with intensive invitations and scholarships. Landrie has been awarded numerous scholarships and invitations from multiple international competitions such as Youth America Gran Prix and ADC I IBC and most recently was selected for the Sutton Foster Award in Choreography. She was also selected to perform in the world premiere of Mimmo Miccolis' piece *3Rs* and offered multiple trainee company positions prior to making her commitment to furthering her education and academic career at the University of Michigan. Landrie looks forward to dancing professionally, pursuing her love of teaching and expanding her movement and overall healthy living commitment with obtaining Yoga and Pilates certifications.

Cristina Benn (Rehearsal Director/Ensemble) is a 4th year BFA Dance major, with a minor in Music and Performing Arts Entrepreneurship and Leadership. She is from Ypsilanti, Michigan. Her most recent works are her choreographic contributions to *Walk With Amal*, Musket's *Once On This Island* and Detroit Music Hall's *Hastings Street*. She is currently focusing her studies on Afro-Caribbean and Latinx dance styles as well as tutting and waacking techniques, working to create art that showcases the representation of Black and Latinx art.

Emma Daukayev (Cardinal, Ensemble), is currently in her fourth year pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Communication and Media Studies with a double minor in Dance & Film and Television Media Studies. Raised in Los Angeles, California, she received her classical training at her parents' ballet school. Emma's early exposure to the stage includes performances such as *The Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty*, and *Coppelia*. Emma has participated in various ballet competitions such as California Dance Classics and Youth America Grand Prix. She has had the privilege of sharing the stage with esteemed principal dancers like Maria Kochetkova, Veronika Part, and Joaquin Deluz.

Rachel Dunklee (Ensemble) Michigan-born Rachel Dunkee is a current student in the School of Music, Theater & Dance at the University of Michigan majoring in Dance. She studies multiple styles of dance, including contemporary, modern, including Humphrey and Dunham, ballet, heels, and jazz. Rachel has toured with Alpha Dance Convention, assisting choreographers in convention masterclasses. She attended ARTS Talent Convention in Orlando, Florida, and received a full scholarship to their Los Angeles event to present her dancing in front of a panel of talent scouts. In addition to dancing, she plays guitar and writes music; frequently posting her work on social media.

Natalia Gomez (Toto/Ensemble) is an aspiring dance artist who is based in the Chicagoland suburbs. She is currently a student at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, pursuing a Bachelor in Fine Arts with the School of Music, Theatre & Dance as well as a Bachelor of Science with the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. Her training thus far has been completed at Integrity School of Dance in Elgin, Illinois. She has also had the opportunity to perform works by Hanna Brictson, Amy Vanwagenen, Braeden Barnes, Kelly Hill, and Kaleigh Tyton.

Joelie Havey (Ensemble) is a senior dance major with a minor in entrepreneurship pursuing a career in sales post graduation. She is from Grand Rapids, Michigan and would like to thank her parents Melissa and Todd for being such steady support systems throughout her childhood and into her higher education.

Hope Hanna (Ensemble/Understudy) is a 3rd year at UMich, majoring in Linguistics and minoring in Dance. Having trained in many genres—including Giordano, Graham, Balanchine, and others—Hope is a well-rounded artist but is drawn to modern dance and musical theater where she can showcase her stage presence, performance quality, and acting abilities. Some of her favorite performances included *Emergence* at Pace University and *West Side Story* in high school. She trained at Company Dance Traverse in Traverse City, MI where she has performed in numerous *Nutcrackers* and recitals. Hope is so grateful for the cast, crew, and opportunity to perform.

Gabrielle Kiminyo (Clara) is a freshman double majoring in dance and environmental studies hoping to pursue both a professional dance and environmental law career. She has been dancing since the age of four, and is trained in ballet, pointe, modern, contemporary, jazz, and hip hop. Gabrielle's training includes Alexander W Dreyfoos School of the Arts in West Palm Beach, Florida, The Ailey School, The ABT School, The Orlando Ballet School, and The Dance Theatre of Harlem School. She has learned and performed works by Paul Taylor and Bob Fosse. Gabrielle is a YoungArts winner in the Modern/Contemporary category.

Bridghaite Lemrow-Collazo-Rosario (Belinda/Snowwoman) is a first-year Dance major in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance at the University of Michigan. Before Michigan, she was enrolled at Southold Dance Theater and studied under Călin Rădulescu, Fiona Cameron-Martin, Abby Marchesseault and Colin Raybin. Bri has also competed at YAGP in Indianapolis. She has taught ballet and creative movement at the Stanley Clark School in South Bend, IN as well as served her community as a Red Cross Certified Lifeguard for City pools. Drawing on her passions for teaching and community service, she is also participating in Ballet & Books this semester at Beatty Early Learning Center in Ypsilanti, Michigan. She is currently focusing her studies on teaching, performance, and dancer wellness.

Angelnae Randalle (Nutcracker) I'm currently a junior dual-enrolled student at the University of Michigan for Dance and Communications: with a focus in sports broadcasting. I started dancing when I was 11 years old and Zendaya from "Shake It Up" was probably the biggest reason for that! Shortly after I began dancing, I was blessed to be signed with Bloc Talent Agency at the age of 14. After college, I hope to continue pursuing dance at a professional level along with doing sports broadcasting/ sideline reporting. My favorite time of the year has to be fall leading into Christmas. The lights, the music, the dancing is all so special and that's exactly why I can't wait to be a part of this show to spread spirit and laughter during one of my favorite holidays.

Gabriele (Gabi) Shepherd (Sorceress/Ensemble) is a first-year at University of Michigan, majoring in political science and minoring in dance. She is from Detroit, Michigan and received her dance training at The Zone Dance Center LLC in Southfield, Michigan where she has been a part of several productions of the *Nutcracker*. This is her first performance at the University and

she is so excited to be a part of this unique adaptation of this classic show with such an amazing cast of dancers.

Javier F. Torres (Violinist) has participated in various summer music programs such as the National Youth Orchestras of the Americas where he had the opportunity to be the concertmaster of the orchestra and made his debut in the Carnegie Hall Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage. In the summer of 2023, he was awarded the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis Scholarship to attend the Encore Chamber Music Institute. Javier obtained his Bachelor's Degree at the University of Michigan in 2021 and currently is working on his Master's degree in Violin and Chamber Music Performance in the same.

Carter Van Erp (Door Guard/Ensemble) is a sophomore student in the Department of Theatre & Drama, minoring in the Dance Department. His previous dance work includes; dance captain on Horizons of Gold: A Musical Premiere (Summer 2023) and performing in Brooke Taylor's (Michigan Dance Alumni '23) senior thesis AlmosTill. After years of watching his big sisters shine in the Nutcracker (and throwing lobby tantrums because he wanted to dance too), Carter is overjoyed to be getting to dance in his first Nutcracker(ish). Thank you Mom, Dad, and Grandma for showing up to every show and being there after every rehearsal, I hope I've made you proud:) Romans 5:13

Angelica White (Ensemble/Understudy) is a freshman student at University of Michigan school of Music, Theatre & Dance where she is pursuing a B.F.A in Dance and a minor in Performing Arts Management and Entrepreneurship. She also is planning on getting a degree in Psychology with a teaching certification for Secondary Education. For the last 16 years, she trained with Stage Door Dance Academy where she did Ballet, Pointe, Jazz, Tap, and Hip Hop. She has also trained at Debbie Allen Dance Academy, Butler Ballet, New York Dance Project and more. She hopes to use her B.F.A to become a choreographer and dance studio owner, and she wants to use a psychology degree to educate others on the importance of their mental health and wellness. She aspires to help the next generation of kids get an opportunity to fall in love with the art of Dance.

Abby Widlak (Ensemble/Understudy) is a junior dance major at the University of Michigan. She grew up training at Rhythm Dance Center in Grand Rapids, MI. She is a member of the professional tap company Tap 24.7, as well as Outrage Dance Company at U of M. Abby has trained across various styles including jazz, tap, contemporary, hip hop, Bollywood, and modern. During summer 2023, Abby studied abroad in Spain with the Marcat Dance Company. In addition to performing, Abby teaches at Performers Edge Dance Company in Northville, Michigan and has choreographed multiple contemporary and jazz pieces.

Natalie Yu (Cardinal/Ensemble) is a first year student studying dance and movement science. She has trained at Amirian Ballet Academy back at home in Los Angeles, California studying various dance techniques before attending college. She has competed and placed in various competitions such as the Youth America Grand Prix and Universal Ballet Competition.

Production Team Bios:

Kara Roseborough (Director, Choreographer, Writer, Sound Designer) a second-year Dance MFA Candidate, Graduate Student Instructor, World Performance Studies Fellow and Rackham Merit Awardee at the University of Michigan. Previously, Kara was the Artistic Director of the Evanston Dance Ensemble 2 (ede2). She is certified to teach Cecchetti Grades I-V and holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Utah. Her performance credits include work with Charleston City Ballet, The Ruth Page Civic Ballet of Chicago, South Chicago Dance Theatre, Studio5 and the New Dances Festival, Pittsburgh Public Theatre and Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre. She has presented choreography across the United States and recently choreographed on the Dutch National Ballet. She's thrilled to revive this production for U of M and would like to thank her parents for all their support!

Chelsea Hamm (Production Stage Manager), a proud alumni of University of Michigan, reveled in her time as a multi-disciplinary undergrad, immersing herself in a range of disciplines including dance, theatre, and business. She soon discovered she could connect her multiple interests through producing and discovered a quick passion for it. Post-graduation, she honed her skills at MBM Entertainment as an associate producer, staging high-profile one-night galas on Broadway with renowned artists like Taylor Swift and Lana Del Rey. Chelsea came home to Ann Arbor to research business models to create thriving artists. She is thrilled to support the Nutcracker-ish cast and creative team.

Gabriella Boutiette (Assistant Stage Manager) is a senior undergraduate student at the University of Michigan pursuing her BFA in Dance and her BS in Biology, Health, and Society. She grew up dancing at The Gold School Dance Art in Brockton, MA and has trained in various dance styles including contemporary, modern, ballet, and tap. She is Treasurer of the Michigan Chapter of Ballet & Books and a member and Director of Social Relations of Cadence Dance Company.

Patricia Branam (Costume Designer) focuses on creating costumes that work both aesthetically and functionally to support the theme and plot of a performance, whether that takes place on a festival stage, an Ann Arbor street or the post-industrial shore of Lake Michigan. Dance: Ann Arbor Dance Works, People Dancing, Dancing Strong and Academy of Dance, U of M Dance Department's showcase football halftime performance, ChavasseDance&Performance and The Dance Legacy Project. Theater: Michigan Shakespeare Festival, Wild Swan Theater, Ann Arbor Civic Theater.

Emerson Granillo (Set Designer), an independent artist and curator with an MFA from U-M's Stamps School and a BFA from SAIC, weaves their first-generation immigrant and queer identity into impactful art and curatorial practices. Their work explores identity and displacement, promoting communal healing. Emerson's commitment extends to empowering diverse voices in art and education, fostering empathetic, inclusive environments for creative expression and cultural dialogue.

Katie Gunning (Administrative Support) has been the Administrative Specialist for the Dance Department for eight academic years now. As a recent grad stated last year, "The world may run on Dunkin but the Dance Department runs on Katie Gunning." It is through the inspiration and

efforts of Katie and Kara Roseborough that the idea to form a departmental chapter of Ballet & Books came to be. Katie has put in an enormous amount of effort to get this chapter off the ground and running. She is so excited to see the culmination of all the hard work everyone has put into this first semester of "Ballet & Books" and into the production of "Nutcracker(ish)". I love you all!

Sean Hoskins (Graphic Design) is a choreographer, teacher, multimedia artist, and event producer originally from Vermont. He began dancing in the richly experiential program at Middlebury College and received his MFA from the University of Michigan, where he specialized in choreography and dance for the camera. His dance work has been presented in New York City, Detroit, Boston, and San Francisco, as well as at the National College Dance Festival in Washington, D.C. Sean performed with Leslie Seiders' little known dance theatre, ChavassDance&Performance, and Peck Peck Dance, as well in works by Paul Matteson, Peter Schmitz, Jessica Fogel, Terri Creach, Susan Sgorbati, Melissa Beck, and Esduardo Mariscal. Hoskins is a lecturer in dance at Hillsdale College, an SMTD media consultant at U-M, founder of the Ann Arbor Dance Network, and the director of shape//matter Movement Showcase.