

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

27th Annual CORPS de Ballet International Inc. Conference  
*Choreographing Community: Innovations & Collaborations in Ballet Education*  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
June 18-20, 2025

## Conference Schedule

\*All times listed in Mountain time zone\*

### WEDNESDAY JUNE 18, 2025

Registration table opens at 8:00 AM

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| 8:15 AM   | Welcome<br>Melonie Murray, CORPS President  |
| 8:35-8:55 | <i>Not Flyover Country: How Midwestern Ballet Companies are Shaping the Communities They Serve</i><br>Jennifer Weber, Associate Professor<br>Utah Tech University<br>Kristin Marrs, Associate Professor<br>University of Iowa |
| 8:55-9:15 | <i>Character Dance as a Bridge Between Ballet and a Global Dance Community</i><br>Justine Sheedy-Kramer<br>Adjunct Associate Professor<br>University of Utah  |
| 9:15-9:35 | <i>What the *%#@# is community? Ballet binaries and the pseudo-liminal in a social media world</i><br>Julia Gleich, independent scholar<br>Molly Faulkner, Professor<br>Palomar College                                       |

- 9:35-9:55 Q&A for Webber and Marrs; Sheedy-Kramer; Gleich and Faulkner
- 10:10-10:55 *Ballet Across Communities: Socio-Cultural Comparisons and Institutional Practices in Higher Education* (Panel)  
Colleen Barnes, Assistant Professor  
University of Akron  
Ilana Goldman, Associate Professor  
Florida State University  
Jamie Johnson, Associate Professor  
Utah Valley University  
Christa St. John, Assistant Professor  
Utah Valley University
- 11:10-12:00 PM *Guest Artist Conversation* with  
Salt Lake Ballet Cooperative  
Michaela Gerard, Sierra Govett, Molly Korzep,  
Carly Schaub, Ashley Jian Thomson  
Facilitated by Thea Patterson and  
Tyler Schnese
- 1:00-1:45 *Guest Performance*  
Salt Lake Ballet Cooperative
- 2:00-3:15 Membership Meeting #1  
All conference participants are invited to attend!  
Learn more and get involved with the organization.
- 3:30-4:30 *In conversation with Lifetime Achievement Awardee Brenda Dixon Gottschild*
- 6:00-8:00 Annual CORPS Awards Reception  
All conference participants are invited to attend a cocktail reception honoring our Lifetime Achievement Awardee Brenda Dixon Gottschild. The event includes a light buffet and cash bar with conference registrants receiving one free drink ticket.

THURSDAY JUNE 19, 2025

Registration table opens at 8:00 AM

8:15-8:45 AM

*Beyond Muscle Memory: Fascia, Embodied Knowledge, and Cultivating Care in Ballet Communities* (Workshop)

Ashley Parov, Assistant Professor  
Brenda Critchfield,  
Director of Dance Medicine  
Brigham Young University

9:00-10:15

*Open Ballet Technique Class*

All conference participants are welcome to take a ballet technique class.

9:00-11:00

*Utah Ballet Summer Intensive Class Observations*

All are welcome to observe ballet technique classes offered as part of UBSI. Instructors include Megan Fairchild, Christina Johnson, Anthony Krutzcamp, Kevin Thomas, and Rex Tilton.

11:15-11:45

*Consent in Ballet: are educators prepared to hear "no"?* (Workshop)

Beth Twigs, Lecturer  
University of Wyoming

1:00-2:15 PM

*Guest Artist Conversation* with  
Adam Sklute, Artistic Director  
Ballet West

Kevin Thomas, Artistic Director  
Collage Dance Collective  
Facilitated by Caroline Rocher Barnes and  
Nancy Dobbs Owen

2:30-2:50

*Integrating Afrocentric Principles and Gaga Methodologies in Ballet Education*

Rebekah Joann Guerra, Adjunct Professor  
Weber State University

- 2:50-3:10 *Breaking Pointe: 2020 Cultural Disorientation and the Relevé of the Ballet-Activist*  
Jodie Nunn, Lecturer  
Royal Academy of Dance
- 3:10-3:30 *The Construction of Credibility and Expertise: Black Teachers of Classical Ballet*  
Monica Stephenson,  
Director of Preparatory Dance  
North Carolina School of the Arts
- 3:30-3:50 Q&A for Parov and Critchfield; Twigs; Guerra; Nunn; Stephenson
- 4:00-5:00 *Guest Artist Conversation* with  
Allison DeBona and Rex Tilton  
Artistic Directors  
artÉmotion  
Facilitated by Deborah Knight and Christine McMillan
- 5:30-6:30 CORPS social & networking hour

FRIDAY JUNE 20, 2025

Registration table opens at 8:00 AM. Petite Allegro (Poster) presentations will be on display all day Friday.

- 8:15-8:45 AM *Dragons and Superheroes in Ballet: Visceral Imagery for 21st Century Dancers (Workshop)*  
Madeline Jazz Harvey, Associate Professor  
Julia Cooper, Instructor  
Colorado State University
- 9:00-10:00 *Guest Artist Conversation* with  
Elizabeth Yntema, President & Founder  
Dance Data Project  
Facilitated by Anjali Austin

10:15-11:15

Allegro Presentations

*The Non-Major Matter: Building Adult Ballet Communities Beyond the Performance Track*

Thea van Warmerdam Patterson, Lecturer  
University of California Berkeley

*The Creative Mother Paradox: Exploring the intersections between Motherhood and Balletic Practices*

Hilary Wolfley, Assistant Teaching Professor  
Brigham Young University

*Traditional steps, places, and people - Ballet as Folk Dance*

Deborah Ward, PhD Student  
Royal Conservatory of Scotland

*Subverting the Ballet Hierarchy Through Online Communities*

Tanya Berg, Faculty  
York University

Q&A for Allegro Presentations

11:30-1:00 PM

Lunch & Membership Meeting #2

Lunch will be provided. Petite Allegro (poster) presentations will be on display throughout the space. All conference attendees are invited to attend.

1:15-2:00

*Shear Wave Tensiometry in Ballet Dancers: Creating Care-Based Practices and Pedagogies Through Innovations and Collaborations in Ballet Education (Panel)*

Steven Allen, Assistant Research Professor  
Shayla Bott, Professor  
Christopher Dillon, Assistant Professor  
Wayne Johnson, Professor  
Brigham Young University

- 2:15-2:35 *Erasing Excellence: Resituating Catherine Littlefield's archival absence to reveal feminism in the formation of American Ballet Modernism*  
Catherine Greyjoy, PhD Student  
University of California Santa Barbara
- 2:35-2:55 *Dancing with the Archives: Embodied Explorations of Early 20th Century Mail Order Ballet*  
Chelsea Hilding, Lecturer  
University of North Carolina Greensboro
- 2:55-3:10 Q&A for Allen, Bott, Dillon, and Johnson;  
Greyjoy; Hilding
- 3:20-4:20 Choreographic Sharings  
*¿eso querías? / is that what you wanted?*  
Rebekah JoAnn Guerra
- Daughter*  
Hilary Wolfley
- This is the Reactability of the Appetizer*  
Beth Twigs
- Rewritten Positions*  
Lani Johnson
- Convergence*  
Caroline Rocher Barnes
- 4:20 Closing Remarks  
Melonie Murray, CORPS President
- 5:00-6:00 CORPS social & networking hour

Petite Allegro (poster) Presentations  
Poster presentations will be on display all day Friday.

*Gyrokinesis® in Ballet: the Art of Breathing*  
Caroline Rocher Barnes, Assistant Professor  
Towson University

*How Does the Age Dancers Began Pointe  
Affect Bone Density?*  
Abigail Wardle, Undergraduate Student  
Brigham Young University

*Collaborate or Get Cut: How Sharing  
Resources Can Save a Dance Program*  
Colleen Barnes, Area Chair of Dance  
University of Akron

*Classical Ballet Forms: A Course Redesign  
with Active Learning Pedagogical Innovations*  
Lisa Fusillo, Professor  
University of Georgia

*Vantage Pointe: An Examination of Evolving  
Pointe Techniques and Technologies*  
Emma Capen, Graduate Student  
University of Utah

*Schedule is subject to change.*