

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

28th Annual CORPS de Ballet International Inc. Conference

Once Upon a Ballet:

Storytelling in Ballet Culture Pedagogy, Production, and Scholarship

Irvine, California

July 23-25, 2026

All times listed in Pacific time zone

THURSDAY JULY 23, 2026

Registration table opens at 9:15 AM

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| 9:45 AM | Welcome
Melonie Murray, CORPS President |
| 10:00-11:30 | Ballet Technique Class
Observe a National Choreographers Initiative Class
<i>OR</i>
Take Technique Class (Instructor TBD) |
| 11:30-1:00 PM | Lunch Break |
| 1:00-1:45 | SPECIAL GUEST TALK with Molly Lynch
Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient
Facilitated by Elizabeth Gillaspay |
| 2:00-3:15 | Membership Meeting I
All conference participants are invited to attend! Learn more and get involved with the organization. |
| 3:30-4:15 | <i>Aging Gracefully, Teaching Powerfully: Menopause and Strength in Ballet Pedagogy</i> (Workshop)
Kristin Marrs, Associate Professor, University of Iowa
Jennifer Weber, Assistant Professor, University of Georgia |
| 6:00-8:00 | Annual CORPS Awards Reception
All conference participants are invited to attend a cocktail reception honoring our Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Molly Lynch at the Sonesta Irvine. |

FRIDAY JULY 24, 2026

Registration table opens at 9:00 AM

- 9:30-10:15 AM SPECIAL GUEST TALK with Silas Farley
Facilitated by Timothy Lynch
- 10:30-10:50 *Reworking the Swan through Possible Ballet*
Silvia Susana Wolff, Professor, Federal University of Santa Maria
- 10:50-11:10 *Updating the narrative of the traditional ballet technique class: how shifts in technique class structure can better meet the physical demands on dancers*
Jennifer Deckert, Associate Chair, University of South Carolina
Olivia Waldrop, Senior Instructor, University of South Carolina
- 11:10-11:30 *Stories Ballet Teachers Tell: bell hooks's "confessional narratives" as Liberatory Pedagogical Praxis in the Ballet Class*
Jessica Zeller, Professor, Texas Christian University
- 11:30-11:45 Q&A for Wolff, Deckert & Waldrop, Zeller
- 11:45-1:00 PM Lunch Break
- 1:00-1:45 *Laughter and the Mad Scene* (Workshop)
Beth Twigs, Assistant Lecturer, University of Wyoming
- 2:00-2:55 Allegro Presentations

After the Final Bow- Unspoken Stories of Career Transitions in Ballet
Liz Lloyd, Graduate Student, Washington University

Breaking the Cookie Cutter Nutcracker Mold for the 21st Century

Timothy Lynch, Assistant Professor, University of Utah

From Curiosity to Revision: Locating the Self Through Contemporary Ballet Course Development

Bruce McCormick, Associate Professor, University of Southern California

Affect, Feeling, and Emotion: The Heart and Art of Storytelling in Ballet

Fiona Scruggs, MFA Candidate, Sarah Lawrence College

Q&A for Allegro Presentations

3:10-3:55

Telling the Story of DTH: Arthur Mitchell's Love Letter
(Panel)

Joselli Deans, Associate Professor, University of Utah
Anjali Austin, Professor (Retired), Florida State University
Christina Pierangeli, Adjunct Faculty, Coppin State University
Keith Saunders, Associate Professor, Texas Christian University

4:10-4:55

Ballet's Storytelling Language: A Framework for Teaching Artistry (Workshop)

Chelsea Weidmann, Instructor, Project Move

5:30-6:30

CORPS Social & Networking Hour

Sonesta Irvine Hotel Bar

SATURDAY JULY 25, 2026

Registration table opens at 9:00 AM. Petite Allegro (Poster) presentations will be on display all day Friday.

10:00-10:20 AM

Reimagining Scheherazade: From Fokine to King

Caroline Rocher Barnes, Assistant Professor, Towson University

- 10:20-10:40 *Power, Peasants, and Practice-as-Research: Rechoreographing Giselle to explore ethical balletmaking conditions through transferable dancer-centered practices*
Julianne Cerreta, Independent Scholar
Steffi Carter, Independent Scholar
- 10:40-11:00 *Finding Balance: Connecting Ballet and Music Through Collaborative Storytelling*
Justine Sheedy-Kramer, Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Utah
- 11:00-11:15 Q&A for Barnes, Cerreta & Carter, Sheedy-Kramer
- 11:20-11:50 Q&A for Petite Allegro (Poster) Presentations
- Exploring Ballet-specific Identity through Dancers' Adolescent Experiences*
Erica Bauer, Graduate Student, Miami University
- Collaborative Storytelling Workshop: Weaving Together Voices of Loss and Hope*
Madeline Jazz Harvey, Associate Professor, Colorado State University
- Long Legs and Fat Heels*
Carolyn Pampalone Rabbers, Instructional Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University
- 11:50-1:20 PM Lunch & Membership Meeting #2
Lunch will be provided. All conference attendees are invited to attend.
- 1:35-2:40 Creative Sharings
M
Tyler Schnese

THICK SKIN

Caroline Rocher Barnes

Unspoken

Ilana Goldman

The Wild Little Horse

Madeline Jazz Harvey

The Magic of Trees

Elizabeth Gillaspay

2:55-3:15

Repertory as Memoir: The Life of Nicholas Magallanes as Seen Through His Roles

Steven Ha, Assistant Professor, University of Oklahoma

3:15-3:25

The Archive Isn't Straight: Reclaiming the Queer Legacy of John Lind

Chelsea Hilding, Assistant Professor, Wake Forest University

3:30-3:40

Q&A for Ha, Hilding

3:55-4:45

Allegro Presentations

Pas de Quatre: Embodied Stories in a Plotless Ballet

Emma Capen, Associate Instructor, University of Utah

A Lost Feminist Perspective: Re-examining the power of the Wilis

Julia Cooper, Instructor, Colorado State University

Ballet exceptionalism: how ballet became elitist and resistant to change

Jennifer Fisher, Professor, University of California Irvine

Transforming Ballet Education: Student Centered Pedagogy

Chris Kaiser, Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin Stevens Point

Q&A for Allegro Presentations

4:45

Closing Remarks & Leadership Transition

Melonie Murray, CORPS President

Diane Cahill Bedford, President-Elect

8:00

National Choreographers Initiative Performance

The Last Dance

Schedule subject to change