



SAINT LOUIS **BALLET**

*presents*

The  
Gen Horuchi's  
*The Nutcracker*

Touhill Performing Arts Center  
November 26-27 and December 16-23, 2022

# SAINT LOUIS **BALLET**

## ***EXECUTIVE AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR***

**Gen Horiuchi**

## ***THE COMPANY***

Mark David Bloodgood, Michael Burke, Lauren Christensen,  
Rebecca Cornett, Amy Herchenroether,  
Matthew Rusk, Lori Wilson

Colin Ellis, Emily Fugett, Rachel Harrison, Lauren Kot,  
Sean Sessions, Roxy Shackelford

Olivia Cornelius, Charles Cronenwett, Abby Hannuksela,  
Julia Heiss, Ethan Maszer, Zoe Middleton, Elaine Rand, Fletcher Weld

## ***Rehearsal Director***

CiCi Houston Sudholt

## ***Assistant Rehearsal Director***

Christine Settembrino

## ***Teaching Associates***

Donna Patzius, Lisa Wolfsberger

## ***Founders***

Antoni Zalewski and Ludmila Dokoudovsky

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Cover Photo: SLB Dancers Rebecca Cornett and Michael Burke, Photo by Kelly Pratt

SAINT LOUIS **BALLET**

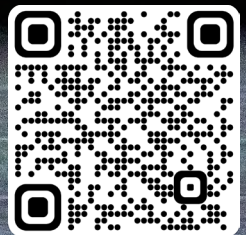
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SLB Dancers Lori Wilson and Mark David Bloodgood in Martins' "Hallelujah Junction"  
Photo by Kelly Pratt

# THE **DIRECTOR**



## **GEN HORIUCHI**

Executive and Artistic Director

Gen Horiuchi, originally from Tokyo, Japan, moved to the United States after winning the Prix de Lausanne, the international ballet competition in Switzerland in 1980, and receiving a scholarship to study at the School of American Ballet. In 1982, the great George Balanchine invited him to join the New York City Ballet, where he became a principal dancer in 1989. He performed many ballets with the renowned company; Balanchine created the role of Mercury in the ballet *Perséphone* especially for him. Peter Martins, ballet master-in-chief, created ballets *Eight More* and *Les Gentilhommes* for Horiuchi as well.

Gen Horiuchi's Broadway musical credits include Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Song and Dance* and the role of Mr. Mistoffelees in *Cats*. He went on to perform that role in London's production of *Cats* and became the first performer to play the lead on both Broadway and in the West End in 1998. That same year, he choreographed the magnificent Opening Ceremony of the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan.

Horiuchi became Executive and Artistic Director of Saint Louis Ballet in 2000 and created more than 20 original works including seven full-length ballets for the company.

In 2010, he founded "Ballet for the Future" which tours Japan's major cities each summer with a company of professional ballet dancers. In 2016, the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology awarded Horiuchi the prestigious Art Encouragement Prize in recognition of his work with "Ballet for the Future."



# The Nutcracker

A ballet in two acts based on E.T.A. Hoffman's tale

**"The Nutcracker and the Mouse King" (1816)**

**Music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**

**Choreography by Gen Horiuchi**

Original Production Conceived by Ludmila Dokoudovskiy and Antoni Zalewski

Lighting Design by Maureen Berry

Scenery Courtesy of The Butler Ballet, Butler University, Indianapolis, IN

Costumes by Susan Erhart

## **Act I, Scene I: "The Party"**

It is Christmas Eve in the town of Nuremburg, Germany. Festivities begin as Doctor and Mrs. Stahlbaum put the finishing touches on the Christmas tree and prepare to welcome their guests. Their children, Clara and Fritz, burst gleefully into the room and the party begins. Refreshments are served, gifts are exchanged, and the spirited fun continues until the arrival of the mysterious Herr Drosselmeyer. His gifts for the children quickly allay their initial fear of him. To everyone's delight, life-size, mechanical dolls perform lively dances. The children are disappointed as the dolls are carried off, but Herr Drosselmeyer has another surprise; he produces a colorful Nutcracker for Clara. Fritz, in a fit of jealousy, grabs the Nutcracker and breaks it. Herr Drosselmeyer tenderly repairs it and Clara rocks the wounded Nutcracker in her arms. Fritz and his friends make mayhem at the party by blowing their horns and banging their drums. As the evening ends, the older guests join the parents in a traditional folk dance before everyone departs for home.

## **Act I, Scene II: "The Battle"**

Later that night, while everyone is asleep, Clara feels drawn to making sure her Nutcracker is safe and so she goes back to the living room to look for him. After finding her Nutcracker, she becomes tired and falls asleep. A magical spell begins, giant mice appear, the Christmas tree seems to grow...and the toys even come to life! Clara's Nutcracker becomes real and leads the toy soldiers and bunnies in battle against the mice. When Clara sees that the mice are winning, she joins the fight. Courageously, she jumps on the Mouse King's back, startling him, and the Nutcracker is quickly able to slay him. Suddenly, the Nutcracker changes into a prince and he and Clara journey to his kingdom. Snow begins to fall and the Snow King and Snow Queen and their swirling snowflakes escort Clara and the Prince on their journey through the Palace of Snow.

## **Act II: "The Palace of Sweets"**

As Clara and the Nutcracker Prince approach the Palace of Sweets, they are met by charming Christmas angels and the beautiful Sugar Plum Fairy. Clara and the Prince are led to a place of honor where they are entertained by the sweets, spices, and flowers of the court. The act concludes with the romantic pas de deux of the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier. The entire court joins in the final tribute to Clara. Clara awakens...was it a dream?... or did it all really happen on that magical Christmas Eve?



**The performance on December 16 at 11am, *The Nutcracker: A Shorter Tale* is narrated by Tom Sudholt, Program Director for Classic 107.3**

# The Nutcracker

## Act I, Scene I: "The Party"



Clara*	Brynn Carney <sup>B</sup> , Lauren Temme <sup>A</sup>
Herr Drosselmeyer	Mark David Bloodgood <sup>A2, B2</sup> , Michael Burke <sup>B1</sup> , Matthew Rusk <sup>A1</sup>
Mrs. Stahlbaum	Amy Herchenroether <sup>A1, A2</sup> , Lori Wilson <sup>B1, B2</sup>
Dr. Stahlbaum	Octavio Nieto
Fritz*	Victoria Anderson <sup>A</sup> , Maggie Kiefer <sup>B</sup>
The Maid*	Alexis Monsey <sup>A</sup> , Ellie Tilton <sup>B</sup>
Guests (Ladies)	Lauren Christensen <sup>B1, B2</sup> , Michelle DeVillar, Abby Hannuksela <sup>A1, A2</sup> , Kendall Heuman, Zoe Middleton <sup>B1, B2</sup> , Elaine Rand <sup>A1, A2</sup> , Roxy Shackelford <sup>B1, B2</sup>
Guests (Gentlemen)	Mark David Bloodgood <sup>B1</sup> , Charles Cronenwett <sup>A1, A2</sup> , Colin Ellis <sup>B1, B2</sup> , Ethan Maszer <sup>B1, B2</sup> , Sigmund Mulnik, Matthew Rusk <sup>B2</sup> , Sean Sessions <sup>A1, A2</sup> , Fletcher Weld <sup>A1, A2</sup>
Party Girls*	Kiley Boyle, Colette Croissier, Giselle Lund, Peyton Simmons, Kirsten Ward, Isabel Wichmer
Party Boys*	Victoria Anderson <sup>B</sup> , Petra Curtis, Gabreilla Doerr, Maggie Kiefer <sup>A</sup> , Adelaide Lottes, Amalya Prodaneshsky, Adarah Sanders
Columbine Doll	Olivia Cornelius <sup>A1, A2</sup> , Julia Heiss <sup>B1, B2</sup>
Harlequin Doll	Ethan Maszer <sup>A1, A2</sup> , Fletcher Weld <sup>B1, B2</sup>
Toy Soldier Dolls	Emily Fugett <sup>A1, A2</sup> and Colin Ellis <sup>A1, A2</sup> or Lauren Kot <sup>B1, B2</sup> and Charles Cronenwett <sup>B1, B2</sup>

## Act I, Scene II: "The Battle"



Nutcracker Battle Prince	Ethan Maszer <sup>B1, B2</sup> , Fletcher Weld <sup>A1, A2</sup>
Nutcracker Prince	Miguel Guevara
Mouse King	Michael Burke <sup>A1, A2</sup> , Sean Sessions <sup>B1, B2</sup>
Clock Mice*	<b>Cast A:</b> Scarlett Horiuchi, Srijana Shreshtha
	<b>Cast B:</b> Katarina Oelschlaeger, Ella van Bergen
Mice*	<b>Cast A:</b> Claire Branson, Esther Chen, Aurora Crees, Kaitlyn Delaney, Lucy Erbe, Brody Frank, Mina Hot, Cora Lewis, Naomi Liang, Margaret Rector, Athena Sit, Isabella Stevens, Ellie Suk, Evelyn Warner
	<b>Cast B:</b> Madison Billings, Eden Conway, Maya Greninger, Emilia Masterson, Eloise Morris, Kate Otis, Millie Pellegrin, Hadley Pellegrin, Miriam Peregrin, Anna Riley, Victoria Schoen, Julianna Simon, Colette Theiss, Brooklyn Wall
Lady Mice*	Anjali Bharadwaj, Lola Harper, Izzy Jones, Alexis Monsey <sup>B</sup> , Ellie Tilton <sup>A</sup> , Evana Vrhovac
Bunnies*	<b>Cast A:</b> Lauryn Crenshaw, Willie Hartman
	<b>Cast B:</b> Imogen Rye, Kylee Wunderlich
Red Soldiers*	Natalie Chandler, Gwendolyn Evans, Evelyn Fitzpatrick, Simone Glasser, Shauni Kruger, Lilia Oulamine, Tatiana Petroni, Leah Weisenberg
Blue Soldiers*	Lucy Branscum, Isabel Cepeda <sup>B</sup> , Caroline Gibbs, Carissa Mitchell, Kendall Mosley, Chloe Sehy <sup>A</sup> , Zoe Skidis, Elizabeth Workman, Katherine Zender



## Act I, Scene III: "The Palace of Snow"



Snow Queen	Lauren Christensen <sup>A1</sup> , Rebecca Cornett <sup>B1</sup> , Emliy Fugett <sup>B2</sup> , Roxy Shackelford <sup>A2</sup>
Snow King	Mark David Bloodgood <sup>B1</sup> , Colin Ellis <sup>B2</sup> , Matthew Rusk <sup>A2</sup> , Sean Sessions <sup>A1</sup>
Snowflakes	Annabelle Cook <sup>A</sup> , Olivia Cornelius, Greer Den Houter <sup>A</sup> , Hadley Drake <sup>B1, B2</sup> , Emily Fugett <sup>A1, A2</sup> , Abigail Hannuksela, Rachel Harrison <sup>A1, A2</sup> , Julia Heiss, Lauren Kot, Sydney Maddox <sup>A1, A2</sup> , Sydney Marsh <sup>A1, A2</sup> , Ella Martin <sup>B1, B2</sup> , Zoe Middleton, Elaine Rand, Roxy Shackelford <sup>B1, B2</sup> , Clara Wichmer <sup>B1, B2</sup>



## Intermission

### Act II: "The Palace of Sweets"



The Sugar Plum Fairy Cavalier Angels*	Rebecca Cornett <sup>A2, B2</sup> , Amy Herchenroether <sup>B1</sup> , Lori Wilson <sup>A1</sup> Mark David Bloodgood <sup>A1</sup> , Michael Burke <sup>A2, B2</sup> , Matthew Rusk <sup>B1</sup> Anastasia Alve, Grace Boyle, Madeline Burnette, Finley Edwards, Andrea Go, Lauren Grube, Claire Masterson, Jane Marie Mathis
Chocolate (Spanish)	Zoe Middleton <sup>A1, A2</sup> and Fletcher Weld <sup>A1, A2</sup> or Roxy Shackelford <sup>B1, B2</sup> and Charles Cronenwett <sup>B1, B2</sup>
With^	Cast A1, A2: Annabelle Cook, Hadley Drake, Sydney Maddox, Cora Miller Cast B1, B2: Greer Den Houter, Cecilia Draper, Eva Gervich, Liliana Lorenz
Coffee (Arabian)	Rachel Harrison <sup>A1, A2</sup> and Michael Burke <sup>A1</sup> or Charles Cronenwett <sup>A2</sup> or Lauren Christensen <sup>B1, B2</sup> and Sean Sessions <sup>B1, B2</sup>
With^	Cast A1, A2: Julianna Barrus, Avery Murray, Paris Tabor, Grace Thomas Cast B1, B2: Hadley Drake, Lola Harper, Izzy Jones, Kailey Luebrecht
Tea (Chinese)	Lauren Kot <sup>A1, A2</sup> and Ethan Maszer <sup>A1, A2</sup> or Olivia Cornelius <sup>B1, B2</sup> and Colin Ellis <sup>B1, B2</sup>
With*	Dragon Dancers: Lillian Brine, Isabella Cavalieri, Sarah Cepeda, Hannah Liang, Lucy Osiek, Isha Rangineni
Candy Cane (Russian)	Colin Ellis <sup>A1, A2</sup> or Fletcher Weld <sup>B1, B2</sup>
With*	Anjali Bharadwaj, Lucy Branscum, Lola Harper <sup>A</sup> , Alexis Monsey, Caitlyn Ng, Ellie Tilton <sup>B</sup> , Evana Vrhovac <sup>A</sup> , Katherine Zender <sup>B</sup>
Polichinelles (French)*	Isabel Cepeda, Kendall Mosley <sup>B</sup> , Chloe Sehy, Elizabeth Workman <sup>A</sup>
Small Polichinelles*	Sheena Chen, Ruby Morris, Caroline Oelschlaeger, Ava Phillips, Catherine Rachmiel, Samantha Stortzum
The Clowns	Charles Cronenwett, Miguel Guevara <sup>A</sup> , Sean Sessions <sup>A1, A2</sup> , Ethan Maszer <sup>B1, B2</sup>
Marzipan (German)	Amy Herchenroether <sup>A1, A2</sup> , Elaine Rand <sup>B1, B2</sup>
With	Cast A1, A2: Olivia Cornelius, Emily Fugett, Abigail Hannuksela, Roxy Shackelford Cast B1, B2: Rachel Harrison, Julia Heiss, Lauren Kot, Zoe Middleton
Waltz of the Flowers	
Dew Drop Fairy	Julia Heiss <sup>A1, A2</sup> , Emily Fugett <sup>B1</sup> , Lori Wilson <sup>B2</sup>
Flower Soloists	Abigail Hannuksela <sup>B1, B2</sup> , Ella Martin, Sydney Maddox <sup>B1, B2</sup> , Sydney Marsh, Elaine Rand <sup>A1, A2</sup> , Clara Wichmer <sup>A1, A2</sup>
Flowers Ensemble^	Cast A1, A2: Greer Den Houter, Cecilia Draper, Eva Gervich, Izzy Jones, Liliana Lorenz, Kailey Luebrecht Cast B1, B2: Julianna Barrus, Annabelle Cook, Cora Miller, Avery Murray, Paris Tabor, Grace Thomas

Finale

Entire Cast

\* = Saint Louis Ballet School Student

^ = Professional Training Program Student

All casting is subject to  
change due to injury or illness.

#### Saint Louis Ballet Company dancers cast schedule:

A1= 11/26 @2:30p, 11/27, 12/16 @7pm, 12/18, 12/22 @7p

A2= 11/26 @7p, 12/21

B1= 12/16 @11a, 12/17 @7p, 12/20, 12/22 @2:30p, 12/23 @2:30p

B2= 12/17 @2:30p, 12/23 @7p

#### Saint Louis Ballet School Students cast schedule:

Cast A: 11/26, 11/27, 12/16 @7p, 12/18, 12/21, 12/22 @7pm

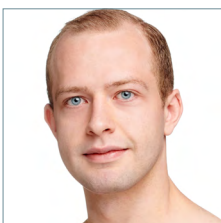
Cast B: 12/16 @11a, 12/17, 12/20, 12/22 @2:30p, 12/23

# COMPANY **DANCERS**

Joined 2008-2016



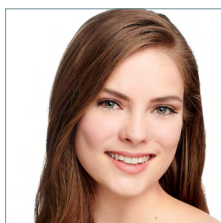
**Mark David Bloodgood**  
Seattle, WA  
Joined 2016



**Michael Burke**  
Mexico, MO  
Joined 2016



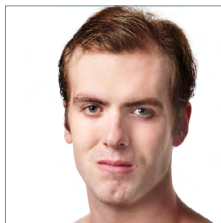
**Lauren Christensen**  
Kansas City, MO  
Joined 2013



**Rebecca Cornett**  
Simsbury, CT  
Joined 2014



**Amy Herchenroether**  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Joined 2013



**Matthew Rusk**  
Tuscon, AR  
Joined 2016

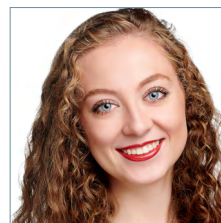


**Lori Wilson**  
Lubbock, TX  
Joined 2008

Joined 2017-2019



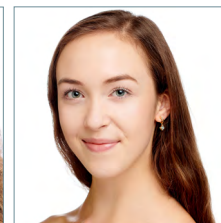
**Colin Ellis**  
McHenry, IL  
Joined 2017



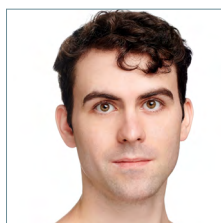
**Emily Fugett**  
Chicago, IL  
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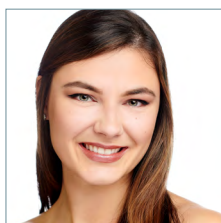
**Rachel Harrison**  
Arlington, MA  
Joined 2019



**Lauren Kot**  
Howell, MI  
Joined 2019



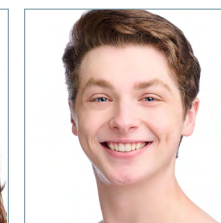
**Sean Sessions**  
Baltimore, MD  
Joined 2018



**Roxy Shackelford**  
Macon, GA  
Joined 2019



**Olivia Cornelius**  
Melrose, MA  
Joined 2020

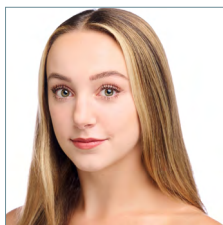


**Charles Cronenwett**  
St. Louis, MO  
Joined 2022

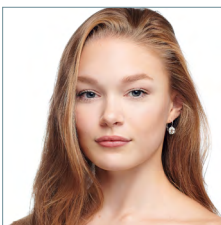
Joined 2020-2022



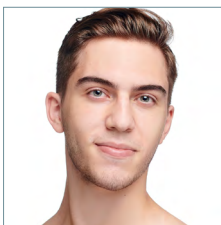
# COMPANY **DANCERS**



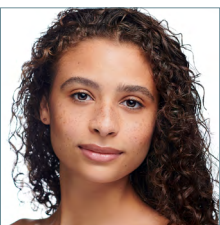
**Abby Hannuksela**  
Seattle, WA  
Joined 2022



**Julia Heiss**  
Dallas, TX  
Joined 2020



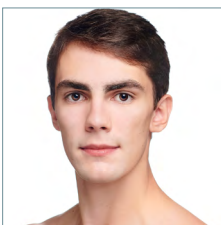
**Ethan Maszer**  
Andover, MA  
Joined 2021



**Zoe Middleton**  
Oak Park, IL  
Joined 2021



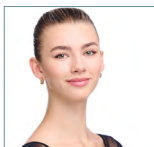
**Elaine Rand**  
West Lafayette, IN  
Joined 2020



**Fletcher Weld**  
Seattle, WA  
Joined 2021



*SLB Dancer Headshots by Kelly Pratt*



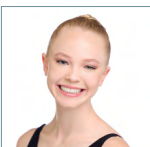
Julianna Barrus



Annabelle Cook



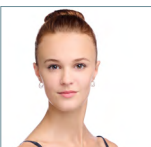
Greer Den Houter



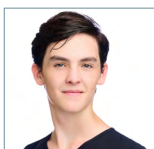
Hadley Drake



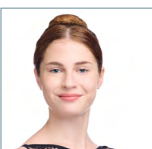
Cecilia Draper



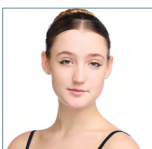
Eva Gervich



Miguel Guevara



Lola Harper



Izzy Jones



Liliana Lorenz



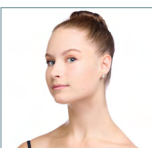
Kailey Luebrecht



Sydney Maddox



Sydney Marsh



Ella Martin



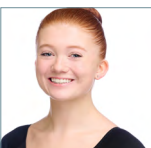
Cora Miller



Avery Murray



Paris Tabor



Grace Thomas



Clara Wichmer

SAINT LOUIS **BALLET**

*Professional Training Program*

# STUDENT CAST **DANCERS**



*Claras*  
Brynn Carney, Lauren Temme



*Top Row: Party Girls*  
*Bottom Row: Party Boys and Fritz*



*Cast A Mice*



*Cast B Mice*



*Red Soldiers*



*Bunnies*



*Blue Soldiers*



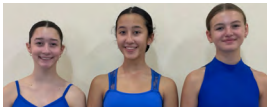
*Bunnies*



*Angels*



*Dragon Dancers*



*Polichinelles*



*Small Polichinelles*



*Dragon Dancers*

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Pictured: SLB Dancers in "THE NUTCRACKER"  
Photo by Kelly Pratt

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July 1, 2021 - October 20, 2022

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Megan and Frank Cannistraro  
Vivianna Carter  
Courtney Christensen  
Dorene Cipriano  
Rob and Michele Clark  
Carol and Thomas Clear  
Robin and Michael Connelly  
Sara and Tom Deckelman  
Teresa Andreone and Jon Deuchler  
Kenneth Dobbins  
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Michele Eades

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Margaret and Donald Franz  
Richard Fugett  
Julie Gibbs  
Leigh Ellen and Raymond Griffiths  
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Gretchen Harrison  
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Kelly Cubellis  
Michelle DeVillar  
Michael Feldman and Jacob Laws  
Celia Gahagan  
Alexandra Goen

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Tracy Hannuksela  
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# Breaking Down Double Saut de Basque With Gen Horiuchi

# POINTE®

Katie Slattery of POINTE MAGAZINE

Published on September 27, 2022  
[pointemagazine.com/double-saut-de-basque-tips](http://pointemagazine.com/double-saut-de-basque-tips)



GEN HORIUCHI DEMONSTRATES DOUBLE SAUT DE BASQUE IN HIS BALLET TOVA/GEN APPASSIONATO

Gen Horiuchi, Saint Louis Ballet's executive and artistic director, achieved the type of storied career many dancers dream of: After growing up in a ballet family in Japan (both of his parents were professional dancers), he won the Prix de Lausanne and was offered a scholarship to train at the School of American Ballet. He soon joined New York City Ballet, where he became a principal dancer known for his explosive jumps.

Here, Horiuchi offers his expert advice for mastering a clean, dynamic double saut de basque—his favorite step!

## YOUR PREPARATION COUNTS

"When you execute jumps, the most important thing is the step before the actual step," Horiuchi says. "For double saut de basque, everyone thinks about the jump and turn, but what's most crucial is how you get there." Try not to tombé underneath yourself in the preparation. "Otherwise you will have trouble," says Horiuchi. Instead, prepare confidently by taking a big step out. "That sets up your placement so you can get into a strong position with your body," he says, adding that it also allows you to get more height in your saut de basque.

## 1.5 ROTATIONS VERSUS 2

"A lot of people think double saut de basque takes off facing the front of the room, but it is actually easier if you step to the side, brush and then jump," says Horiuchi. This way, you're already halfway around when you take off. "Saut de basque is more about height than the spinning motion itself—if you get into the air, the turn will happen naturally," Horiuchi says. "If you take off to the side, it's not really even a double—it's one and a half rotations. That takes the pressure off!"

## BE QUICK WITH YOUR PORT DE BRAS

Using your head and arms correctly will create a dynamic and controlled saut de basque movement. Horiuchi says it's important to take the arms into position with speed and precision.

"There is a tendency when you jump to hike the arms up, then they move with the turn," he says. Rather than letting your arms swing with the turning motion, get them quickly into position. "Let the waist, lower back and shoulder take you around." Anticipate your spot, as well: "You should look where you aim."

## NOT JUST FOR MEN

Double saut de basque is traditionally practiced as a men's step and is used in many male variations. But Horiuchi believes it is a good exercise for everyone to try. "In company class, whenever I give men double saut de basque, there are female dancers who are so willing to jump too, and I give them tips." He notes that women can apply the basics of saut de basque to other movements, like double step-overs (en dehors piqué turns).

## HORIUCHI'S ADDITIONAL TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Always master saut de basque with a single turn before attempting a second rotation.
- Aim for height in your jump; don't obsess over the turn.
- The preparation can be a tombé, a chassé or a "step-step" motion. A confident preparation makes a big difference!
- In your lower body, feel strength in your extended leg and a stretched foot. Make a high retiré position with the working leg.



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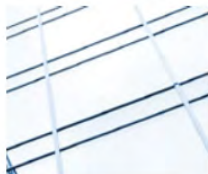
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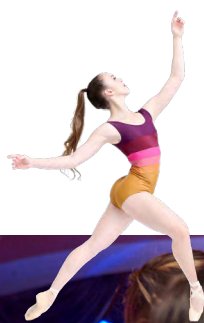
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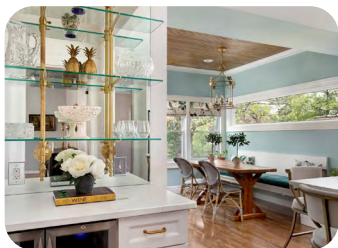


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