

GOLD COAST DANCE FESTIVAL 2026

Performers



Dream/Existence, Lorenzo Pagano

Lorenzo Pagano is an international award-winning contemporary performer whose career has spanned across Concert Dance, Theatre and Opera.

He started his career by joining the Martha Graham Dance Company in 2012, becoming a Principal Guest Artist and Assistant Rehearsal Director in 2023. He has embodied the most iconic male roles of the repertory and originated starring roles for new works by Lucinda Childs, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Nacho Duato, Andonis Foniadakis, Pontus Lidberg, Hofesh Shechter among others. In addition, Pagano is a regisseur for the Martha Graham Center and just restaged ballets for UNCSA North Carolina, Rome Opera Ballet School and Joffrey Ballet in Chicago.

In 2024, Pagano was part of the original cast of the musical GATSBY choreographed by Sonya Tayeh, directed by Rachel Chavkin with music by Florence Welch and Thomas Bartlett.

He performed during the 24/25 season at the Metropolitan Opera Ballet in the productions Ainadamar (Deborah Colker) and Anthony and Cleopatra (Annie-B Parson).

He has been a Guest Artist for the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, La Compañía Nacional de Danza de Costa Rica and he danced in “Unveiling” choreographed by Sonya Tayeh with music by Moses Sumney.

He has danced with Paris Opéra former Étoile and Artistic Director Aurélie Dupont in Martha Graham’s Lament, partnered Royal Ballet Principal Dancer Joseph Sissens in US by Christopher Wheeldon at PAAX in Mexico.

In 2023, he was Assistant Choreographer for the Holiday Event in collaboration with Christian Dior and Martha Graham Company at Sack’s NYC.

Mr Pagano was honored with the Italian International Dance Award as “Male Rising Star” in 2016 and the Premio Nazionale La Sfera d’Oro in 2022.

Ne me Quitte Pas & Streamliner Swing, Jaileen Vargas

Jaileen Vargas began her dance career under Balanchine training at the late age of 14 years old. She trained at The Ballet Center, in Old Bethpage, and later expanded her technique under former artistic director and founder Frank Ohman from 16 to 21 at The Ohman School of Ballet. Jaileen continued her studies at Adelphi University as an English/ Education major with a minor in dance. In the dance program, Jaileen broadened her technique in both Ballet and Modern through Vaganova, Graham, Taylor, and Forsythe style training under Orion Duckstein, Frank Agustyn, Adelheid B. Strelick and Jen Kreichman. During her time at Adelphi University, Jaileen was featured in guest pieces, choreographed by Rasta Thomas and Joy Douglas and dance films, choreographed and directed by Sarah Rehm. It is an annual tradition for Jaileen to be involved in NYDT’s Nutcracker since 2016. She has danced in lead roles, such as Arabian Coffee, and as Dew Drop. In 2022, her training expanded into American Rhythm Ballroom dance mentored under Stephanie Falciano at Dance With Us Long Island. Jaileen, and her professional dance partner Bob Gai, compete in major ballroom competitions throughout the east coast in both the rising star and open professional divisions. Today, Jaileen uses her wide repertoire of training in ballet, modern, and ballroom dance to expand and shape her movement styles and creative choices.

