

## 2019 Guest Artists



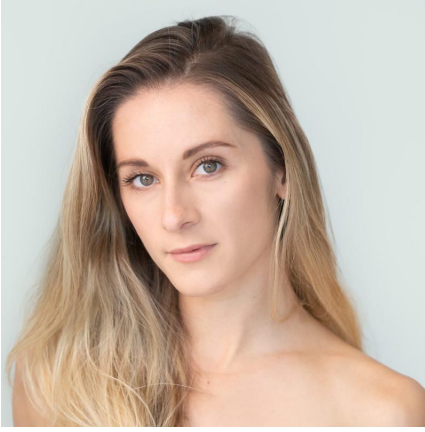
**Jorge Barani** was Born in Matanzas, Cuba and graduated from the National School of Art Ballet in Havana, Cuba. In 2010, he joined the Ballet de Monterrey Company in Mexico. Barani came to the United States in August 2012. He was invited to the final YAGP gala in New York, dancing with Maria Kochetkova from San Francisco Ballet. In 2013, he won two Gold Medals at the World Ballet Competition USA and joined the Kentucky Ballet Theatre in 2014, as a Principal Dancer. He has danced leading roles in Peter Pan, The Nutcracker, Cinderella, The Little Mermaid, Beauty and the Beast, Paquita, La Sylphide, Le Corsaire,

Harlequinade, Don Quixote, Paris Flames, Talisman, Diana and Actaeon, Laurencia, and contemporary and neoclassical works. In 2015, Barani won the Silver Medal at The Korea International Ballet Competition, in 2016 he won the Gold Medal at Vienna International Ballet Competition and the Silver Medal at Varna International Ballet Competition. Barani has also been invited to dance in international galas in Europe, Asia, Canada, and Mexico .



**Katia Carranza**, born in Monterrey, MX, graduated from the Escuela Superior de Musica y Danza de Monterrey in 1996 and joined Ballet de Monterrey as a soloist. In 1998, Ms. Carranza was hired by the Miami City Ballet as a Corps de Ballet and in 2004, was promoted to Principal Dancer. In 2007, she rejoined Ballet de Monterrey as a Principal Dancer and stayed as a guest dancer with Miami City Ballet. In 2017, she rejoined Miami City Ballet full time to the present.

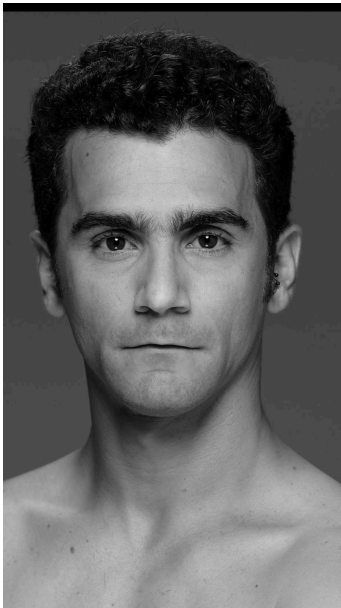
During her career, Ms. Carranza has participated in national and international ballet competitions such as the Concurso Nacional in Guadalajara, Mexico (1994) and the Concurso Internacional in Cuba (1995) where she won silver medals in both competitions. In 1998, she was a finalist at the International Ballet Competition in Jackson, MS and in 2002 won the bronze medal in the same competition.



**Melissa Gelfin** began her ballet training with Lisa Collins Vidnovic at Metropolitan Ballet Academy and continued with Barbara Sandonato and Andrea Long-Naidu at Barbara Sandonato School of Ballet. She joined the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School at American Ballet Theatre in 2009, under the direction of Franco De Vita and Raymond Lukens, and was awarded a National Training Scholarship with ABT.

Prior to dancing with Cincinnati Ballet, Ms. Gelfin danced for Orlando Ballet II and Orlando Ballet Company from 2011-2014. Gelfin joined Cincinnati Ballet as a New Dancer for the 2014-2015 Season and was promoted to Corps De Ballet in February of 2015. She was promoted to Senior Soloist in 2017 and Principal Dancer in 2018.

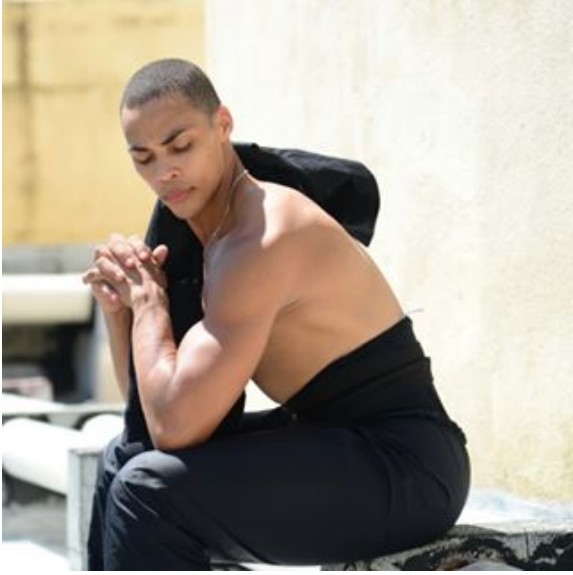
As a dancer with Cincinnati Ballet, Gelfin's repertoire includes classical and contemporary works by Septime Webre, Yuri Possikov, Victoria Morgan, Val Caniparoli, Jerome Robbins, George Balanchine, Nicolo Fonte, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Adam Hougland, and Ma Cong. She has danced Principal roles in Septime Webre's Alice in Wonderland, Victoria Morgan's The Nutcracker, King Arthur's Camelot and Romeo and Juliet, Kirk Peterson's Coppélia, George Balanchine's Rubies and Serenade, Devon Carney's The Sleeping Beauty and originated roles in Penny Saunders Nannerl, Myles Thatcher's Anamoly, and several works by Jennifer Archibald.



**Eduardo Pi Iglesias**, born in Habana, Cuba, graduated from Escuela Nacional de Ballet de Cuba in 2005. In 2003 he won the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize at International Ballet Competition in Habana. After competition, he joined company PRO DANZA, working with Laura Alonso, Fernando Alonso and Frank Andersen for two years. In 2009, he joined Ballet de Monterrey.

His roles with the company include the Basilio in Don Quixote the pas de trois in Swan Lake, Franz in Coppelia, the peasant pas de deux and Hilarion in Gisele, the Flames of Paris pas de deux, the Tchaikovsky pas de deux, the Nutcracker and sugar plum prince in the Nutcracker, Golden Idol in Bayadere, Mercutio in Jorge Amarante's Romeo and Juliet, 4<sup>th</sup> movement soloist from Yuri Posokov's Diving in to the Lilacs, soloist from Bruch Violin Concerto, Six dans by Jiri Kylian, Torero as Carmen Ballet and many soloist roles of neoclassical and contemporary repertoire of the company. In 2012 became a soloist and was promoted to principal in 2014. In 2017, he joined Mobile Ballet Company as a Ballet Master for the entire season. He danced as a guest artist in different performances and festivals, in 2018 he danced in the Joyce Theatre with Dimensions Dance Theatre and in the Jacobs Pilow festival with the same company. Currently he is a freelance artist.

## BALLET NACIONAL DOMINICANO DANCERS



**Reynaldo Alexander Duval**, born on May 24, 1991, began his career as a dancer at the Teatro Popular Danzante of Prof. Nereida Rodriguez where he now serves as First Dancer and Instructor of Jazz and Folklore. In 2000 he joined the Ballet Alina Abreu where he received a scholarship to study Classical Ballet with Prof. Armando Gonzalez, who is currently the Artistic Director of the Company. In 2009 he arrived at Ballet Folklórico Nacional as Soloist, and in 2011 he became part of the National Dominican Ballet. Winner of the 2013 Sovereign Award, he was part of the Hispanic Ballet of New York in 2013 until 2015.

International Participations: International Folklore Festival/Venezuela, Festival de Cuadrilla/Martinica, Festival de Janguí/Haiti, International Ballet Festival/Colombia, Alicia Alonso Festival/Nicaragua, International Ballet Festival 2012/El Salvador.



**Maria Garcia Portela**, began her studies at the Institute of Culture and Art of Santiago under the direction of Professor Norma Garcia. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Choreography and Interpretation, Master's Degree in Scenic Arts and Masters Degree in Cultural Management from the Rey Juan Carlos University of Madrid, Spain. She is currently dancer at Ballet Nacional Dominicano, teacher of corporal expression at the Academy of Amaury Sanchez (AFA), and founder and manager of the ArtMo Movement Company, an entity that creates artistic events.

Ms. Garcia Portela has participated in international festivals and contests in Mexico, Peru, Costa Rica, Colombia and Havana, Cuba and cultural representations as choreographer, dancer and actress.

She has interpreted different roles in works such as Coppelia, Pajaro de Fuego, Chicago, Nutcracker, The Colors of Dance, Ballad for a Madman, Sleeping Beauty, Don Quixote, Alice in Wonderland, Image MAC products, Friend D Film among others.



**Hybrido-FDT Dance Company** has as an objective to incite Mexicans to exploit their talent as dancers and choreographers, diving into the massive diversity of dance styles and proposals. The goal of Hybrido is to create an identity as a company, a stage concept and a dance program that represents us as a community with diverse individuals.

With the purpose of contributing to the evolutionary process of art, Ivan Freeman and Rolando Ramirez create this company looking forward to the integration of ideas and proposals of artists.