

## FACULTY



**Nao Kusuzaki:** Nao Kusuzaki was born in Ehime, Japan and began her ballet training at Yatsuzuka Ballet in Japan. In the U.S., she trained with The Washington School of Ballet in Washington D.C. and with Boston Ballet School in Boston, MA. She joined Boston Ballet as corps de ballet in 2001, then was offered a position with Houston Ballet in 2004 where she was a soloist from 2009-2016. Her featured roles include: The Sugarplum Fairy, The Snow Queen, Nikiya, Madame Butterfly, Suzuki, Odette/Odile, and The Lilac Fairy as well as in contemporary works by Jiří Kylián, William Forsythe, Stanton Welch, Twyla Tharp, Mark Morris, Christopher Wheeldon, and other renowned choreographers. Nao produced *Dance for Hope*, a benefit concert in response to the 2011 Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. She is a ballet instructor and coach in the Greater Houston area and is passionate about sharing her knowledge of dance to the next generation of dancers.



**Adrian Ciobanu:** Adrian Ciobanu was born in Cluj, Romania, where he graduated with honors from the Liceul de Choreografie, Octavian Stroia, under the direction of his father, Florin Ciobanu. He performed with the Romanian Opera Ballet for one year then moved to the Hungarian Opera for five years, where he achieved the rank of principal dancer. He toured throughout Europe including France, Hungary, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Romania, and the Czech Republic. In 1996, Mr. Ciobanu became a member of the Sarasota Ballet, dancing major principal roles as well as creating many roles. Beginning in 2002, he taught and coached for Sarasota Ballet School, Dance the Next Generation, and local and regional schools throughout Florida. In 2003, Mr. Ciobanu was promoted to Principal of Academy, Sarasota Ballet and in 2008, was promoted to Ballet Master of Sarasota Ballet. Since relocating to Houston, Mr. Ciobanu has been the Co-Director of Uptown Dance Centre and Uptown Dance Company for the past seven years.



**Chloe Jenson:** Chloe Jenson was born and raised in Edmond, Oklahoma. She began her dance training in 2000 at the age of three at Studio J School of Dance and was a member of the Studio J Company from 2008-2015. In addition to her training at Studio J, Chloe was pleased to have been convention assistant to Soul de Soul Dance Convention co-founder and CEO Mackenzie Martin in Oklahoma City, Denver, Dallas, New York City and Los Angeles and to assist her in many master classes. In 2015, Chloe began training in New York City at The Joffrey Ballet School in their Pre-professional Jazz and Contemporary Program. In 2016, Chloe began studying dance performance at the University of Central Oklahoma where she was a member of, and rehearsal director for, Kaleidoscope Dance Company. She graduated in May of 2020 with her BFA in Dance Performance. Chloe is still currently a faculty member at Studio J as a teacher and choreographer. Chloe is also on faculty with the Oklahoma City Ballet's Yvonne Chouteau School and Oklahoma State University's Department of Theatre. Chloe is a member of a local dance company, Bloom Dance Company, and trains remotely as a member of G2 with Geometry Dance Company in Los Angeles.