

ARTS IN UTAH

Maybe you are at Ballet West Academy because your dancer is in the final phases of a long journey towards a professional career, or maybe you just love ballet and are hoping your child will too. Maybe you have a tiny one with a little too much energy and ballet sounded like a great way to channel it. Whatever your reason, it is great to part of this beautiful ballet family! Utah has a thriving arts community. Speaking by the numbers, in 2021 arts and culture represented an \$8.1 billion industry in Utah. That's a lot of jobs! But the arts mean so much more than economic growth.

Christie Porter of Salt Lake Magazine said, "Performing arts, at their core, are ways to tell our stories. Telling our stories allows us to connect and be understood and, in turn, understand others." What a thought! Our students are learning to tell stories through beautiful movements, and learning understanding. And don't we all need better understanding in our communities? There is incredible power and joy in art. We get the pleasure of experiencing this powerful joy with our dances every day in the studio! Check out Ms. Porter's Salt Lake Magazine article and see what is going on with the company, Ballet West, and in the broader Utah professional arts community [here](#).



Photo by Beau Pearson Photography

"reBloom"

Every once in a while, there is a full-circle moment that lets you know you are right where you were meant to be – doing exactly what you were meant to be doing. When everything feels purposeful and beautiful. Over 3 years ago Ballet West Academy full-time faculty Jessica Baynes started this journey to create something based on a moving experience with art. She was awarded a \$15,000 artist grant from the Salt Lake City Arts Council, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to choreograph and direct a large-scale arts production in downtown Salt Lake City which premieres this Friday, September 29, 2023. Today this 3-year journey comes full-circle.



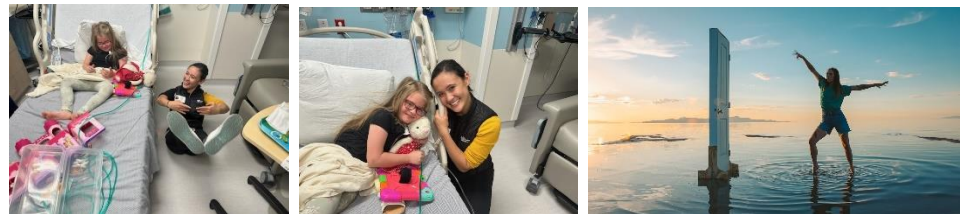
Baynes created a show titled, "reBloom", a live music and dance event specifically tailored for patients and families of Primary Children's Hospital (PCH). The event was inspired by her meaningful experiences teaching for the BWA program "Movement Mentor", specifically with a young Utah County Campus student named Sophia (pictured far right with Jessica - far left).

"reBloom" is a multidisciplinary performance that explores themes of personal growth through the metaphor of Utah's abundant and biodiverse landscape. The concert features eleven artists presenting in various mediums ranging from dance, music, digital media, and costume design.

One artist on the project is Ballet West Company Pianist, Nicholas Maughan, who has composed 20 minutes of classical piano for the choreography. He will be performing the composition live alongside pianist Ruby Chou, who played one the four pianos featured Ballet West's Les Noces last season.

The live performance featuring four professional contemporary dancers accompanied by two classical pianists will be followed by an interactive movement session taught by dance therapist Sara Schmidt, where children learn adapted excerpts of the choreography. Additionally, Intermountain Health will be livestreaming the performance to all rooms within the hospital.

We love you, Jessica! Thank you for sharing your art with BWA students and the community!



UPCOMING EVENTS AND PERFORMANCES

- **Parent Observation – Park City, Ballet Centre, Trolley Corners** – October 2-7. See campus for schedule.
- **Fall Break – Ballet Centre, Trolley Corners** – October 12 - 15, **no classes**.
- **Fall Break – Park City, Utah County** – October 19 - 22, **no classes**.
- **Ballet West Performs – Dracula** – October 20-28 at the Capitol Theatre.
- **Curtain Up!** – October 28 at Ballet Centre.
- **Halloween** – October 31, **NO CLASSES – ALL CAMPUSES!**
- **Ballet West Performs – Firebird, Stars and Stripes, and Fever Dream** – November 3-11 at the Capitol Theatre.