



"First Look" New Season Report

MAY 2019

Report Summary

The following is a report on the gender distribution of choreographers in the upcoming seasons of the fifty largest ballet companies in the United States that have been reported so far this year (38 out of 50 as of May 23, 2019). The data is separated into subsections, focusing on different aspects of the distribution of male and female choreographic work included in the upcoming seasons. DDP cites sources and discusses limitations and important disclaimers at the end of the report.

Introduction

The following report contains two sections. Section I details the total distribution of male and female choreographic work for the 2019-2020 (or equivalent) season. It also discusses the gender distribution within programs, defined as productions made up of full-length works or triple-bill/single-act works. Section II consists of the distribution of male and female-choreographed world premieres for the upcoming season of the same companies.

The Top 50, as we named them in early 2018, are the companies that domestically operate with the greatest expenditures, according to publicly-released Forms 990.

DDP's list of the Top 50 companies remains consistent in this report with the Executive & Artistic Leadership Report, released in February 2019. Our team tracks expenditures yearly and will update the new Top 50 distribution in January 2020.

The present research study provides notes and limitations of collected data. DDP obtains all findings via public records. Sources are detailed at the end of the report. DDP rounds all percentages up to the nearest whole number.

Top 50 Domestic Companies

DDP refers to the fifty domestic companies operating with the greatest expenditures (as of data obtained in October 2018) as the **Top 50**. These companies represent a diverse pool of repertoires and leadership, operating on both regional and international scales. DDP typically orders them from largest to smallest expenditure:

New York City Ballet	Richmond Ballet
San Francisco Ballet	Oregon Ballet Theatre
American Ballet Theatre	Milwaukee Ballet
Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater	Carolina Ballet
Houston Ballet	BalletMet Columbus
Boston Ballet	Orlando Ballet
Pacific Northwest Ballet	Nashville Ballet
Joffrey Ballet	Ballet Hispanico of New York
Miami City Ballet	Dance Theatre of Harlem
Pennsylvania Ballet	Alonzo King LINES Ballet
Ballet West	Aspen Santa Fe Ballet
Kansas City Ballet	Nevada Ballet Theatre
Atlanta Ballet	Ballet Memphis
Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre	Smuin Ballet
Washington Ballet	American Repertory Ballet
Cincinnati Ballet	Los Angeles Ballet
Dayton Ballet	Louisville Ballet
Hubbard Street Dance Chicago	Oklahoma City Ballet
Ballet Arizona	Grand Rapids Ballet
Texas Ballet Theater	Sacramento Ballet
Colorado Ballet	Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre
Sarasota Ballet of Florida	Eugene Ballet Company
Ballet Austin	California Ballet
Charlotte Ballet	Alabama Ballet
Tulsa Ballet	LA Dance Project

Section I: Gender Distribution In Seasonal Repertoire

The statistics in Section I are divided into categories of gender and program type (full-length or triple-bill/single-act).

In addition to calculating the *total* number of announced productions and creating metrics for their gender distributions, DDP calculated the *average* gender distributions within the sample's upcoming season.

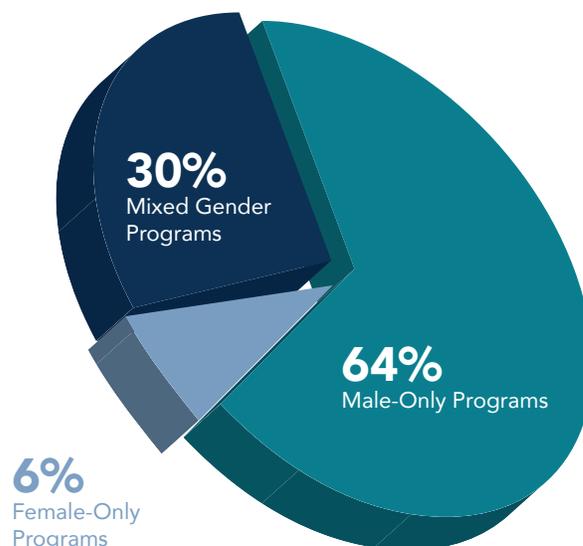
Gender Distribution Within Programs

DDP breaks down the gender distribution in company programs. DDP defines a program as a combination of single-act works (typically three, known as a triple-bill) or a full-length production performed by a company. For example, a full-length *Swan Lake* is one program and an evening of three single-act works, like *In the Upper Room*, *Rubies*, and *Bliss!*, is also one program.

64% of the upcoming programs will be exclusively male choreographed.

The graphic below shows the percentage of programs that feature exclusively female works, exclusively male works, and mixed-gender works (or unannounced rosters).

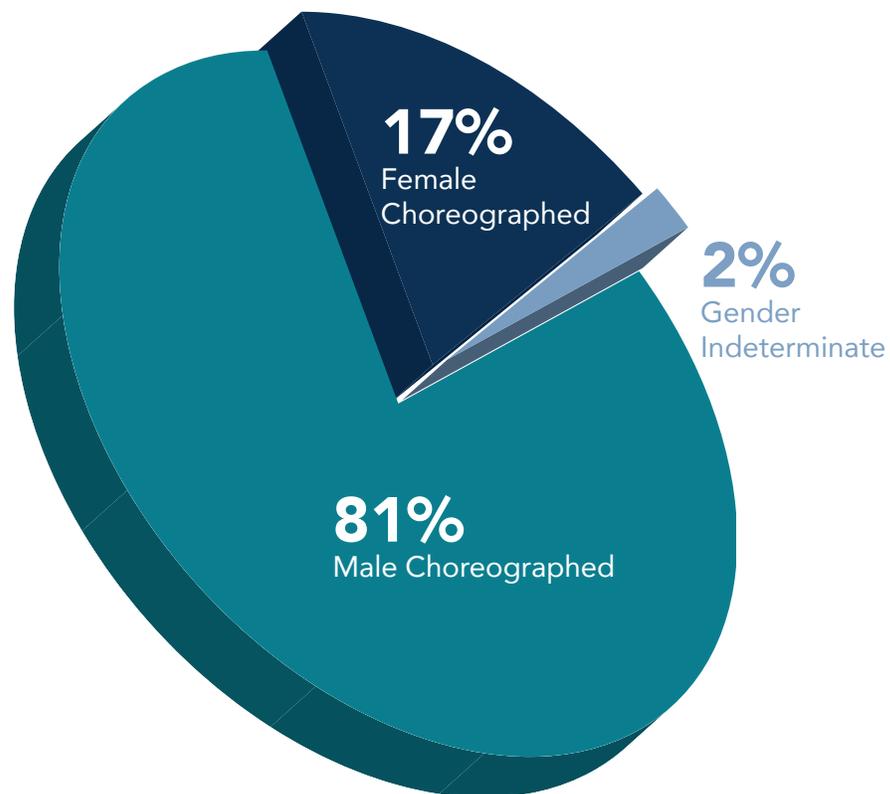
Program Choreographer Roster
Gender Distribution



2019-2020 Season Gender Distribution

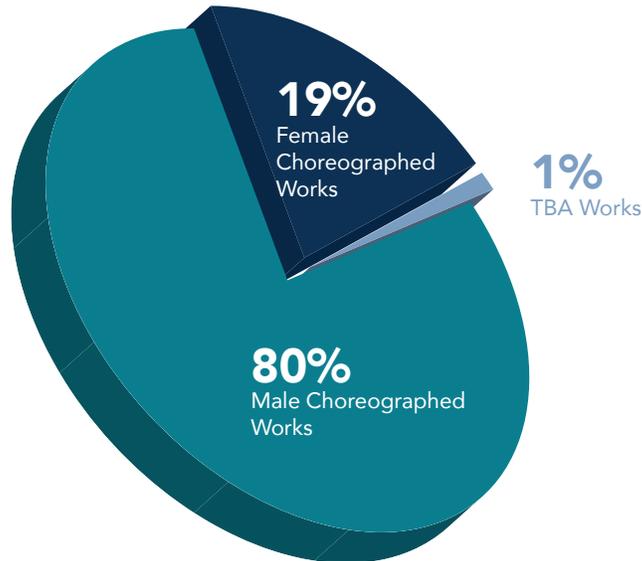
Amongst all 432 works announced for 2019-2020 seasons, 352 are choreographed by men and 72 are choreographed by women. (The choreographers of eight announced works are either yet to be announced or works are by multiple choreographers of different genders.)

Gender Distribution of all
Announced 2019-2020 Works



Triple-Bill Productions & Single-Act Works

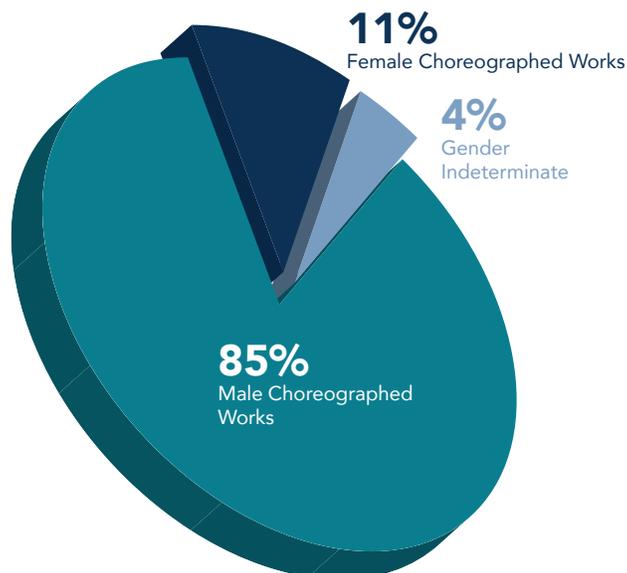
Gender Distribution within Single-act Works



*TBA Works indicates unknown choreographer for single-act productions (four such works were present; the companies are detailed in the limitations section)

Full-Length Productions

Gender Distribution within Full-length Works



*Gender Indeterminate indicates unknown choreographer for full-length production or multiple choreographers of different genders (four such works were present; the companies are detailed in the limitations section)

Average Company Distribution

The average company within this sample will present 12.7 works in the upcoming season. An average of 10.4 of those are choreographed by men, with 2.6 of those being full-length. An average of 2.1 of the total works are choreographed by women, with none* of those being full-length. The choreographer would be unannounced or indeterminate for .2 works.

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DDP obtained sufficient data from 38/50 companies. The average works within each categorical variable (male-choreographed; female-choreographed; single-act; full-length) varied. Below are the total sample's average percentage of works within each category (note all percentages and counts are rounded up to the nearest whole number):

76% of a company's total count of single-act works will be choreographed by men.

22% of a company's total count of single-act works will be choreographed by women.

2% of a company's total count of single-act works are to be announced.

84% of a company's total count of full-length works will be choreographed by men.

12% of a company's total count of full-length works will be choreographed by women.

4% of a company's total count of full-length works have unlisted choreographers or are works with multiple choreographers of different genders.

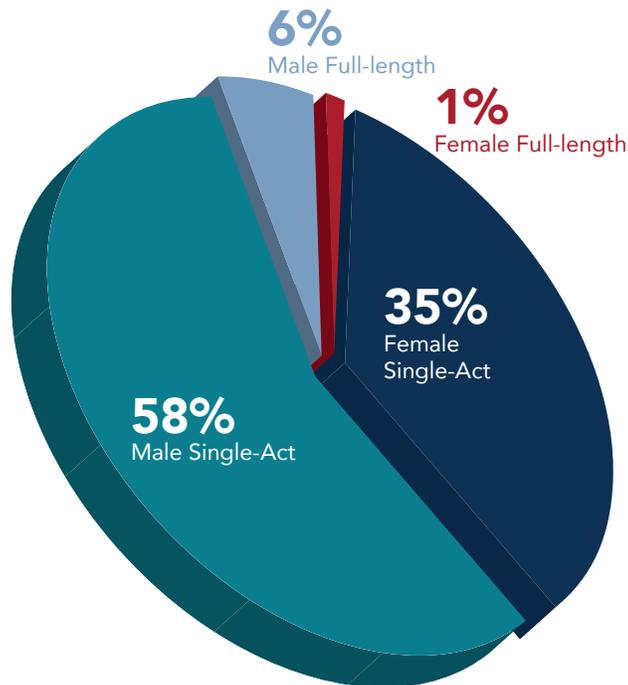
Based on information to date, for the **average** Top 50 company's upcoming season, it is **nearly two times** (~1.83) as **likely** that a **woman's work** will be **single-act** rather than **full-length**.

*As reported so far, for the 38 of Top 50 companies announcing their new seasons, there will be 32 full length evening works.

SECTION II: WORLD PREMIERES

Section II contains the gender distribution of world premiere choreographers within the 2019-2020 seasonal repertoire. DDP defines world premieres as brand-new works of either single-act or multi-act duration commissioned by a company.

World Premiere Gender Distribution by Duration



58% of the upcoming world premieres of the 2019-2020 season will be male-choreographed single-act works.

35% of the world premieres of the 2019-2020 season will be female-choreographed single-act works.

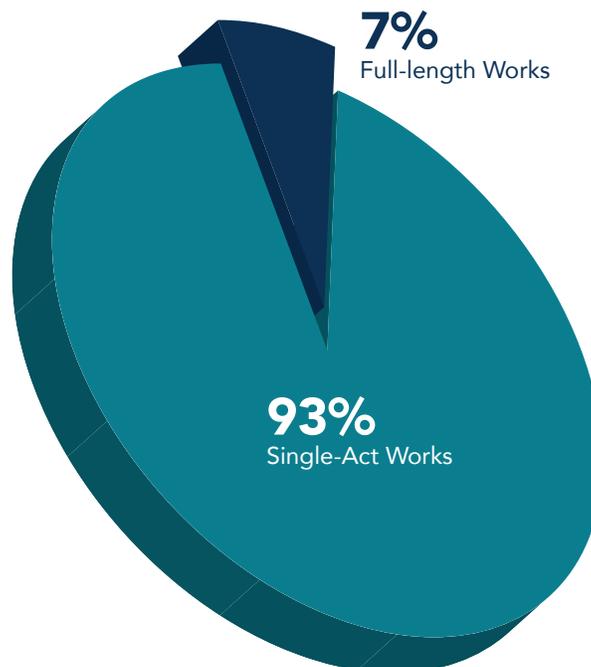
6% of the world premieres of the 2019-2020 season will be male-choreographed full-length productions.

There was one announced female-choreographed full-length world premiere for the 2019-2020 season as of 5/23/19, and this work was a second company production.

100% of the main company full-length world premieres announced for the 2019-2020 season are choreographed by men.

That being said, of note are Cathy Marston's recent Canadian commission, *Jane Eyre*, with US premieres in New York this June and Chicago this October. The main companies of American Ballet Theatre and Joffrey Ballet will stage the work. BalletX, a company not included in the Top 50, is commissioning a new full length work from Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, *The Little Prince*, which will premiere this summer.

World Premiere Duration in 2019-2020 Season

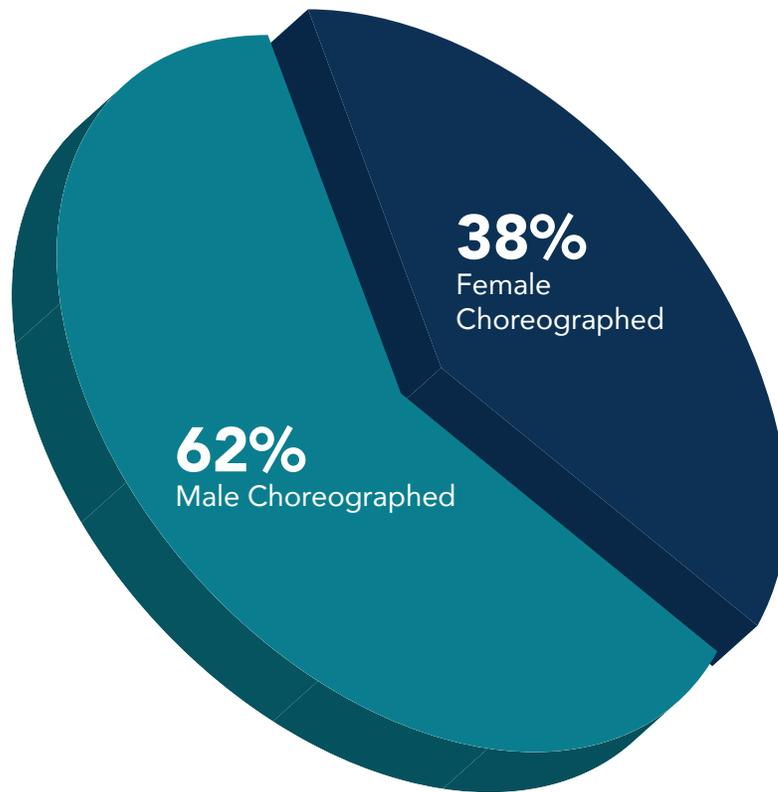


7% of the world premieres of the 2019-2020 season will be full-length productions.

- 100% of the main company full-length world premieres are choreographed by men, while one of the seven full-length world premieres will be a second company production, *Snow White*, choreographed by two women.

93% of the world premieres of the 2019-2020 season will be single-act works.

Gender Distribution in Single-Act World Premieres



62% of the single-act world premieres will be choreographed by men.

- 7 additional single-act works will be world premieres in the upcoming season, but choreographers of these works are still to be announced.

SOURCES

The research team obtained upcoming seasons exclusively from the websites and press releases of the Top 50 domestic companies (see full list in the introduction).

DATA LIMITATIONS & COMPANY NOTES

General Limitations

All the information detailed in the report is based on data collected before May 23, 2019. DDP excluded any 2019-2020 seasons announced after this date from the report.

Each company operates on its own calendar and within its own expenditure. DDP does its best to capture the most accurate data from each company's season and provide sample statistics for that data, despite the large amount of variation within company operations. When a company or a work does not meet the common parameters needed to include it in calculations, DDP excludes that company or work from calculations.

The majority of domestic companies follow the same seasonal schedule. Seasons are Fall/Spring in description and are labeled and announced as 2019-2020 seasons. DDP included repertoire of the following companies, although their operations do not occur within the traditional 2019-2020 season.

Irregular Seasons/Production Style:

- **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** (residency season at Lincoln Center)
- **Aspen Santa Fe Ballet** (rotating triple-bill productions)
- **Smuin Ballet** (rotating triple-bill productions)

Besides the seasons of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, and Smuin Ballet (listed above), DDP did not include non-regular season productions to avoid confounding results with extra productions and commissions. For example, American Ballet Theatre, which has not announced its upcoming Fall and Spring seasons, has a regular summer residency at the Metropolitan Opera House (Met Season). Because this season is not part of the regular fall/spring season, and it extends from the company's 2018-2019 regular season, DDP excluded ABT's Met Season productions from the 2019-2020 season report.

DDP excluded certain main-stage and in-studio specifications in the current report due to several productions with little detail of venue or scope.

In total, 38 companies had announced their upcoming seasons May 23, 2019. DDP excluded the data of four of the companies from the calculations of gender distribution in seasonal repertoire because of incomplete choreographer rosters but included the companies in gender distributions of world premieres. The four companies were:

- **Dayton Ballet**
- **Orlando Ballet**

- **Milwaukee Ballet**
- **Colorado Ballet**

As of May 23, 2019, 12 companies had not yet announced their upcoming seasons. These companies are:

- **American Ballet Theatre**
- **Hubbard Street Dance Chicago**
- **Ballet Hispanico of New York**
- **Dance Theatre of Harlem**
- **Alonzo King LINES Ballet**
- **Ballet Memphis**
- **American Repertory Ballet**
- **Los Angeles Ballet**
- **Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre**
- **California Ballet**
- **Alabama Ballet**
- **LA Dance Project**

DDP included only 34 of the companies that had announced upcoming seasons in calculations for Section I of the report due to the details discussed in the sections below. DDP included only the 36 companies that had announced world premieres with choreographer names as of May 23, 2019 in calculations for Section II of the report.

TBA Works

The upcoming seasons of the following companies include TBA works of unknown duration. DDP included the TBA works in the counts of total works but excluded them from gender distribution calculations:

- **San Francisco Ballet**
- **Sarasota Ballet of Florida**
- **Charlotte Ballet**
- **Tulsa Ballet**
- **Milwaukee Ballet**

TBA Premieres

The following companies listed single-act world premieres with unannounced choreographers as of May 23, 2019. DDP excluded these works from total counts of world premieres and all calculations:

- **BalletMet** (three works)
- **Milwaukee Ballet** (one work)
- **Tulsa Ballet** (one work)
- **Charlotte Ballet** (one work)
- **Dayton Ballet** (one work)

TBA Programs

The upcoming seasons of the following companies include TBA programs, all likely triple-bill productions. DDP excluded the TBA programs from all calculations (besides counts of total programs):

- **Kansas City Ballet** (one program)
- **Charlotte Ballet** (two programs)
- **Richmond Ballet** (one program)
- **Nashville Ballet** (one program)
- **Smuin Ballet** (one program)
- **Louisville Ballet** (one program)
- **Oklahoma City Ballet** (one program)
- **Grand Rapids Ballet** (one program)
- **Sacramento Ballet** (one program)
- **Nevada Ballet Theatre** (two programs)

Unknown Choreographers

The choreographers of the following productions were not detailed by company websites or press releases:

- *The Nutcracker*, **Colorado Ballet**
- *The Nutcracker*, **Milwaukee Ballet**
- *Coppélia*, **Milwaukee Ballet**
- *The Nutcracker*, **Carolina Ballet**

Multiple Choreographers with Mixed Genders

The following works have both male and female choreographers (two choreographers). DDP excluded these works from gender distribution calculations:

- *Don Quixote*; choreography by Gil Boggs, Sandra Brown, & Lorita Travaglia; **Colorado Ballet**
- *Swan Lake*; choreography by Denise Schultze and Louis Godfrey; **Eugene Ballet Company**
- **BalletMet** has announced a triple-bill program with choreographers Gabriel Gaffney Smith, Leiland Charles, Karen Wing, and Jarrett Reimers, but which choreographers will work together for which of the three works is TBA. DDP included this count of three works in the calculations for total programs, but excluded the program from gender distribution calculations, counts of total works, and gender distribution of world premieres.
- *Coppélia*; choreography by Julie Kent and Victor Barbee after Arthur Saint-Léon; **The Washington Ballet**
- *Swan Lake*; choreography by Julie Kent and Victor Barbee after Marius Petipa; **The Washington Ballet**

Second Company Productions

DDP included second company productions within the total counts of seasonal repertoire. Second-company productions are detailed below:

- **Ballet West II** will perform *Snow White*, choreographed by Pamela Robinson and Peggy Dolkas, both female-choreographers, in the 2019-2020 season. The production was labeled as a full-length, female-choreographed work and included in the report.
- **Cincinnati Ballet II** will perform *Snow White*, choreographed by Pamela Robinson and Peggy Dolkas, both female-choreographers, in the 2019-2020 season. The production was labeled as a full-length, female-choreographed work and included in the report.
- **Ballet Austin II** will perform *Snow White*, choreographed by Nelly van Bommel, a female choreographer, in the 2019-2020 season. The production was labeled as a full-length, female-choreographed work and included in the report.

To note: Many companies tend to use the same female choreographer more than once within a season. For example, San Francisco Ballet has two single-act, female-choreographed works in its upcoming season. These works were both choreographed by Cathy Marston, so 6% of the company's upcoming season is female-choreographed, but by only one female choreographer.

The DDP team is willing to discuss any further questions pertaining to the limitations and restrictions to findings. To request a discussion, please visit our Contact Us page on dancedataproject.com/contact-us.