

# Dance Data Project® Data Byte

## Global Resident Choreographers 2023

The position of resident choreographer<sup>1</sup>, while it does not exist at every company and varies between organizations, represents job stability, resources, and artistic opportunity for choreographers, who otherwise tend to operate as freelancers or gig-workers. Benefits of the resident choreographer position may include the practical: job security, stable income, health benefits, as well as the artistic: consistent commissions, talented dancers, provided production elements, a built-in audience base. In certain cases, the job is also quite lucrative. New York City Ballet, the largest ballet company based on budget by expenditure, reported a FY2020 compensation of \$352,808 for their resident choreographer<sup>2</sup>.

With this Data Byte, Dance Data Project® examines the role of resident choreographers at prominent dance companies for the fourth year annually. New additions to this year's report include the Additional 50 U.S. Ballet & Classically Based Companies and an expanded global company sample. As a result, DDP analyzes 348 companies, a significant increase from the 270 companies previously studied. Companies were sourced from the following lists, as defined by DDP in 2022:

- Largest 150 U.S. Ballet & Classically Based Companies & Financial Scope of the Industry
- Largest 50 U.S. Contemporary and Modern Dance Companies
- Global Sample of 148 non-U.S. Ballet Companies

Of the 348 companies examined, DDP identified 89 companies employing a total of 116 resident choreographers (an increase from 79 at 55 companies in 2022). Of the 116 resident choreographers, 42 are women (36%) and 74 are men (64%). In the 2022 study, DDP determined that women comprised 32% of resident choreographers and men comprised 68%. These findings indicate there has been little change in the gender distribution of resident choreographers between 2022 and 2023.

<i>Global Resident Choreographers</i>	
Women	42 (36%)
Men	74 (64%)
Total	116

<sup>1</sup> The following alternative titles to resident choreographer, or additional artistic creative positions were included: associate choreographer, artist in residence, associate artist, choreographer-in-residence, artistic associate, choreographic associate, director/choreographer, chief choreographer, artistic collaborator, and house choreographer.

<sup>2</sup> For more information on compensation, see DDP's [2022 Artistic & Executive Leadership Report](#), page 22.

The following breakdown shows how resident choreographers are distributed within the categories of dance companies.

	<i>Largest 50 U.S Ballet &amp; Classically Inspired Companies</i>	<i>Next 50 U.S. Ballet &amp; Classically Inspired Companies</i>	<i>Additional 50 U.S Ballet &amp; Classically Inspired Companies</i>	<i>Largest 50 U.S Contemporary &amp; Modern Companies<sup>3</sup></i>	<i>Global Ballet Companies</i>
<b>Women</b>	8 (35%)	7 (64%)	5 (62.5%)	6 (66.7%)	16 (25%)
<b>Men</b>	15 (65%)	4 (36%)	3 (37.5%)	3 (33.3%)	49 (75%)
<b>Total</b>	23	11	8	9	65

Although men largely outnumber women in the overall category of resident choreographers, it is important to note that there has been progress within the individual categories of companies examined. In this year’s report, three of the five categories comprise more female resident choreographers than male resident choreographers: Next 50 U.S Ballet & Classically Based Companies, Additional 50 U.S. Ballet & Classically Based Companies, and the Largest 50 U.S. Contemporary and Modern Companies. In the 2022 report, there was only one category where the men did not outnumber the women (Largest 50 U.S. Contemporary & Modern Companies), and even in this instance, there was an equal number of male and female resident choreographers. Furthermore, DDP’s research shows that all three categories operate with much smaller budgets than the Largest 50 U.S. Ballet & Classically Based Companies (which comprised 91% of the overall combined expenditures in FY2020):

1. In FY2020, the Next 50 U.S. Ballet & Classically Based Companies operated with approximately **8% of the aggregate expenses of the Largest 50**
2. In FY2020, the Additional 50 U.S Ballet & Classically Based Companies operated with only **2.5% of the aggregate expenses of the Largest 50.**
3. In FY2019, the Largest 50 U.S. Contemporary & Modern Companies operated with approximately **23% of the aggregate expenses of the Largest 50.**

**These findings indicate that companies with smaller operating budgets are managing to equitably<sup>4</sup> hire female resident choreographers despite having more limited resources.**

<sup>3</sup> The total number for Resident Choreographers in the Largest 50 U.S. Contemporary & Modern companies has decreased from 10 to 9, despite the same companies being sampled for both research studies. This decline indicates that within the last year, two companies have not appointed a new resident choreographer.  
<sup>4</sup> “Equity” here means the rate of including women in a roster of resident choreographers.

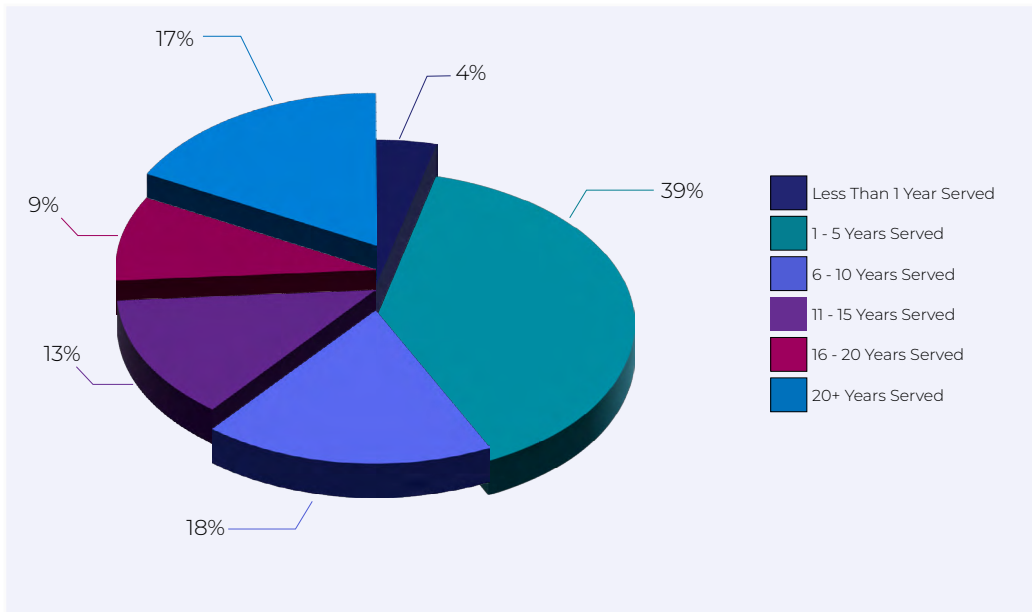
# Resident Choreographer Tenures for the Largest 50 U.S. Ballet & Classically Based Companies

The following graph and table showcases a breakdown of tenures served by the resident choreographers at the Largest 50 U.S. Ballet & Classically Based Companies. There were 23 resident choreographers analyzed in this section. DDP determined that the largest proportion of resident choreographers have served in this role for 1-5 years (9 resident choreographers, 39%). The longest serving resident choreographer is Stoner Winslett; however, this tenure is influenced by Winslett's other role as Artistic Director. With the exception of Stoner Winslett, all of the longer tenures are served by 11 male resident choreographers (ranging from 9 years to 28 years).

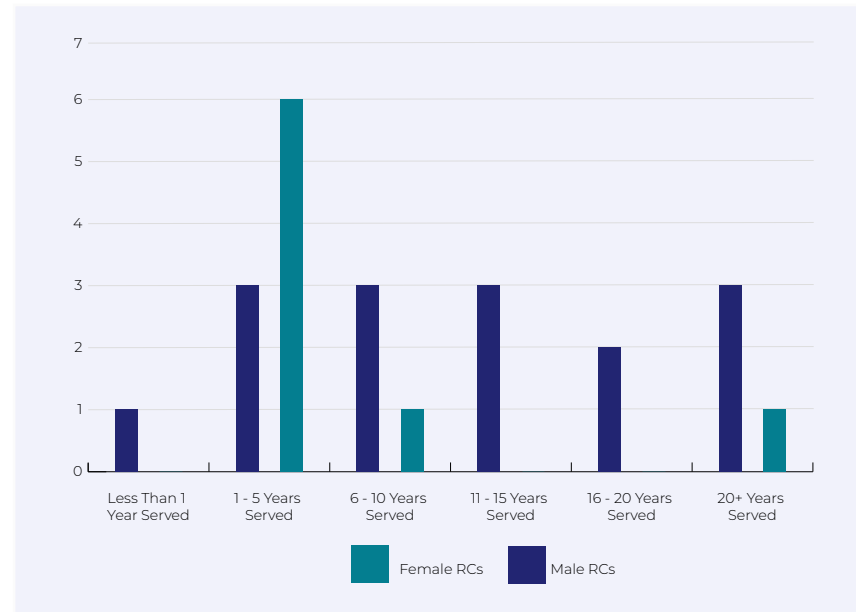
## Resident Choreographer Tenures By Gender Distribution

Year Range	Male Resident Choreographers	Female Resident Choreographers	Total Resident Choreographers
Less Than 1 Year Served	1	0	1
1 - 5 Years Served	3	6	9
6 - 10 Years Served	3	1	4
11 - 15 Years Served	3	0	3
16 - 20 Years Served	2	0	2
20+ Years Served	3	1	4

## Resident Choreographer Tenures (Overall)



## Resident Choreographer Tenures by Gender Distribution



## Full Resident Choreographer Tenure Overview\*

\*This chart is grouped chronologically by the number of years served, then ordered alphabetically by company name.

Company	Resident Choreographer	Gender	Appointed Year	Years Served
New York City Ballet	Alexei Ratmansky	Male	2023	Less than a year (will begin in August 2023)
Carolina Ballet	Amy Hall Garner	Female	2022	1 year
Nashville Ballet	Mollie Sansone	Female	2022	1 year
Philadelphia Ballet	Juliano Nunes	Male	2022	1 year
American Repertory Ballet	Gillian Murphy	Female	2021	2 years
Atlanta Ballet	Claudia Schreier	Female	2021	2 years
Pacific Northwest Ballet	Alejandro Cerrudo	Male	2020	3 years
Richmond Ballet	Ma Cong	Male	2020	3 years
Eugene Ballet	Suzanne Haag	Female	2018	5 years
Louisville Ballet	Andrea Schermoly	Female	2018	5 Years
Cincinnati Ballet	Jennifer Archibald	Female	2017	6 years
New York City Ballet	Justin Peck	Male	2014	9 years
The Sarasota Ballet	Ricardo Graziano	Male	2014	9 years
Ballet Arizona	Nayon Iovino	Male	2013	10 years
Ballet West	Nicolo Fonte	Male	2012	11 years
Milwaukee Ballet	Timothy O'Donnell	Male	2012	11 years
American Ballet	Alexei Ratmansky	Male	2009	14 years (final season)
San Francisco Ballet	Yuri Possokhov	Male	2006	17 years
Boston Ballet	Jorma Elo	Male	2005	18 years
Tulsa Ballet	Ma Cong	Male	1999	24 years
Alabama Ballet	Roger VanFleteren	Male	1996	27 years
Dance Theatre of Harlem	Robert Garland	Male	1995	28 years
Richmond Ballet	Stoner Winslett	Female	1980	43 years

# Company Appendix

\*Resident choreographers highlighted in red also attain the position of artistic director

## U.S Companies with Resident Choreographers

Company	Resident Choreographer(s)	Gender	Size (# of dancers)
American Ballet Theatre	Alexei Ratmansky (leaving June 2023)	Male	75 - 99
New York City Ballet	Justin Peck (Resident Choreographer)	Male	75 - 99
	Alexei Ratmansky (Artist-in-Residence; joining June 2023)	Male	
San Francisco Ballet	Yuri Possokhov	Male	75 - 99
Boston Ballet	Jorma Elo	Male	50 - 74
Alabama Ballet	Roger Van Fleteren	Male	25 - 49
Atlanta Ballet	Claudia Schreier	Female	25 - 49
Ballet Arizona	Nayon Iovino	Male	25 - 49
Ballet West	Nicolo Fonte	Male	25 - 49
Ballet 58	Juliana Rubio Slager	Female	25 - 49
Carolina Ballet	Amy Hall Garner	Female	25 - 49
Cincinnati Ballet	Jennifer Archibald	Female	25 - 49
Maine State Ballet	Linda MacArthur Miele	Female	25 - 49
Nashville Ballet	Mollie Sansone	Female	25 - 49
Pacific Northwest Ballet	Alejandro Cerrudo	Male	25 - 49
Philadelphia Ballet	Juliano Nunes	Male	25 - 49
The Sarasota Ballet	Ricardo Craziano	Male	25 - 49
Tulsa Ballet	Ma Cong	Male	25 - 49
Ajkun Ballet Theatre	Chiara Ajkun	Female	0 - 24
American Repertory Ballet	Gillian Murphy	Female	0 - 24
Ballet Fantastique*	Donna Marisa Bontrager (Choreographer-Producer)	Female	0 - 24
	Hannah Bontrager (Choreographer-Producer)	Female	0 - 24
Charlottesville Ballet	Keith Lee	Male	0 - 24
City Ballet of San Diego	Elizabeth Wistrich (Resident Choreographer)	Female	0 - 24
	Geoff Gonzalez (Resident Choreographer)	Male	
Columbia Classical Ballet	Simone Cuttino	Female	0 - 24
Dance Theatre of Harlem	Robert Garland <sup>5</sup>	Male	0 - 24
Dissonance Dance Theatre	Kareem Goodwin	Male	0 - 24
Eugene Ballet	Suzanne Haag	Female	0 - 24
Festival Ballet Providence	Viktor Plotnikov	Male	0 - 24
GroundWorks DanceTheater	Antonio Brown (Artist-in-Residence)	Male	0 - 24
	Amy Miller (Artistic Associate)	Female	
Hubbard Street Dance Chicago	Aszure Barton	Female	0 - 24
L.A. Dance Project	Bobbi Jene Smith (Artist-in-Residence)	Female	0 - 24
	Or Schraiber (Artist-in-Residence)	Male	
Louisville Ballet	Andrea Schermoly	Female	0 - 24
Lula Washington Dance Theatre	Tamica Washington-Miller	Female	0 - 24
Milwaukee Ballet	Timothy O'Donnell	Male	0 - 24
New York Theatre Ballet	Richard Alston	Male	0 - 24
Newport Contemporary Ballet	Danielle Genest	Female	0 - 24
NW Dance Project	Ihsan Rustem	Male	0 - 24
ODC/Dance Company	Kimi Okada	Female	0 - 24
Paul Taylor Dance Company	Lauren Lovette	Female	0 - 24
Postballet	Moscelyne ParkeHarrison (Resident Choreographer 2022-24)	Female	0 - 24
	Vanessa Thiessen (Resident Choreographer)	Female	
Richmond Ballet	Stoner Winslett	Female	0 - 24
	Ma Cong (Associate Artistic Director & Resident Choreographer)	Male	
State Street Ballet	William Soleau	Male	0 - 24
Terpsicorps Theatre of Dance	Heather Maloy	Female	0 - 24
Texture Contemporary Ballet	Alan Obuzor (Resident Choreographer)	Male	0 - 24
	Kelsey Bartman (Associate Artistic Director & Resident Choreographer)	Female	
The Tallahassee Ballet	Kathryn Karrh Cashin	Female	0 - 24
Anaheim Ballet	Sarma Lapenieks Rosenberg	Female	N/A

5 Newly appointed Artistic Director for the 2023/24 season.

\*Ballet Fantastique reached out to DDP to clarify that the role of "Choreographer-Producer" held by Donna Marisa Bontrager and Hannah Bontrager, is Ballet Fantastique's equivalent of resident choreographer. This is a late addition, and therefore, DDP has not changed the data calculations in the report. The role and title of resident choreographers are often described differently between companies, and because of this, DDP had not originally included them in the Data Byte. DDP acknowledges this omission and will be sure to include them in future iterations of the report.

## Global Companies with Resident Choreographers

Company, Country	Resident Choreographer(s)	Gender	Size (# of dancers)	Company, Country	Resident Choreographer(s)	Gender	Size (# of dancers)
Ballet of the National Opera of Ukraine, Ukraine	Viktor Laremenko (Choreographer-director)	Male	100+	Ballett Zürich*	Cathy Marston (Chief Choreographer)	Female	25 - 49
	Victor Lytvynov (Choreographer-director)	Male		Györi Ballet, Hungary	András Lukács	Male	25 - 49
Bolshoi Ballet, Russia	Yuri Grigorovich	Male	100+	Hong Kong Ballet, China	Hu Song Wei Rick	Male	25 - 49
National Ballet of China, China	Fei Bo	Male	100+	Leipziger Ballett, Germany	Mario Schröder	Male	25 - 49
	Zhang Zhenxin	Male		Les Ballets de Monte Carlo, Monaco	Jean - Christophe Maillot	Male	25 - 49
	Wang Sizheng	Male		Moldova National Opera Ballet, Moldova	Igor Gherciu	Male	25 - 49
	Li Yang	Male		Nederlands Dans Theater (NDT), Netherlands	Crystal Pite (Associate Choreographer)	Female	25 - 49
Stanislavsky Ballet, Russia	Peng Jie	Male			Marco Goecke (Associate Choreographer)	Male	
	Maxim Sevagin	Male	100+	Northern Ballet, England	Kenneth Tindall	Male	25 - 49
Australia Ballet, Australia	Alice Topp	Female	75 - 99	Queensland Ballet, Australia	Natalie Weir (Resident Choreographer)	Female	25 - 49
Bayerisches Staatsballett, Germany	Andrey Kaydanovskiy	Male	75 - 99		Jack Lister (Associate Choreographer)	Male	
Het Nationale Ballet, Netherlands	Hans van Manen (Resident Choreographer)	Male	75 - 99	Royal New Zealand Ballet, New Zealand	Loughlan Prior (Choreographer-in-Residence)	Male	25 - 49
	David Dawson (Associate Artist)	Male			Shaun James Kelly (Choreographer-in-Residence)	Male	
The Royal Ballet, England	Wayne McGregor (Resident Choreographer)	Male	75 - 99		Sarah Foster-Sproull (Choreographer-in-Residence)	Female	
	Christopher Wheeldon (Artistic Associate)	Male		Scottish Ballet, Scotland	Sophie Laplane	Female	25 - 49
	Joseph Toonga (Emerging Choreographer)	Male		Sibiu Ballet Theatre, Romania	Aleisha Sibhoun Gardner	Female	25 - 49
Vienna State Ballet, Austria	Martin Schläpfer	Male	75 - 99	Staatstheater Karlsruhe, Germany	Kevin O'Day	Male	25 - 49
Dresden Semperoper Ballett, Germany	David Dawson	Male	50 - 74	West Australian Ballet, Australia	Sandy Delasalle-Scanella	Female	25 - 49
English National Ballet, England	Stina Quagebeur	Female	50 - 74	Alberta Ballet, Canada	Jean Grand-Maitre	Male	0 - 24
Hamburg Ballet John Neumeier, Germany	John Neumeier	Male	50 - 74	Atlantic Ballet Atlantique Canada, Canada	Igor Dobrovolskiy	Male	0 - 24
National Ballet of Canada, Canada	Gretta Hodgkinson (Artist-in-Residence)	Female	50 - 74	Ballet BC, Canada	Margaret Grenier (Artist-in-Residence)	Female	0 - 24
	Robert Binet (Choreographic Associate)	Male			Starr Muranko (Artist-in-Residence)	Female	
	Guillaume Côté (Choreographic Associate)	Male		Ballet Cymru, Wales	Marcus J. Willis (Resident Choreographer)	Male	0 - 24
Norwegian National Ballet, Norway	Alan Lucien Øyen (House Choreographer)	Male	50 - 74		Marc Brew (Associate Artist)	Male	
	Jo Strömgren (House Choreographer)	Male			Krystal S. Lowe (Associate Artist)	Female	
	Emma Portner (Associate Artist)	Female		Ballet Jörgen du Canada	Hanna Kiel	Female	0 - 24
	Marit Moum Aune <sup>6</sup> (House Director)	Female		Ballet Kelowna, Canada	Cameron Fraser Monroe	Male	0 - 24
Star Dancers Ballet, Japan	Minoru Suzuki	Male	50 - 74	Ballet Victoria, Canada	Paul Destrooper	Male	0 - 24
Stuttgarter Ballett, Germany	Roman Novitsky	Male	50 - 74	Ballett Dortmund, Germany	Zing Peng Wang	Male	0 - 24
Ballett Am Rhein, Germany	Demis Volpi	Male	25 - 49	Balletto del Sud, Italy	Fredy Franzutti	Male	0 - 24
Ballet Theater Basel, Switzerland	Richard Wherlock	Male	25 - 49	Batsheva Dance Company, Israel	Ohad Naharin	Male	0 - 24
				City Contemporary Dance Company, Hong Kong	Sang Jijia	Male	0 - 24
				Mainfranken Theatre Würzburg, Germany	Kevin O'Day	Male	0 - 24
				Thüringer Staatsballett, Germany	Silvana Schroder	Female	0 - 24
				Ballet Philippines, Philippines	Joseph Phillips	Male	N/A

6 Marit has a background in theatre and was therefore given the term "House Director" (or "Husregisser" in Norwegian). Marit has been responsible for producing many ballets, site specific projects, and is the mentor for Norwegian National Ballet's female choreographer program, "Artemisia."

\*Cathy Marston reached out to DDP to clarify that she holds the role of "Chief Choreographer" at Ballet Zürich, which is their equivalent of resident choreographer. This is a late addition, and therefore, DDP has not changed the data calculations in the report. DDP acknowledges this omission and will be sure to include them in future iterations of the report.