

2021 ALUMNI HONOREES

CELEBRATING INSPIRING CREATIVE THINKERS AND LEADERS

With each impressive ASA student who has turned their tassel as a graduate, ASA's legacy of pioneering an innovative curriculum that interweaves college preparation with the boost of performing arts education continues to grow. As part of a new tradition at ASA, we will honor three distinguished alumni representing the school's past, present, and future during ASA's annual year-end performance. We are delighted to shine a light on our 2021 honorees:

DAVID HALLBERG - Class of 2000



Perhaps Arizona School for the Arts' most famous alumnus, **David Hallberg** has led a storied career in the world of dance. Coming to ASA as a tap dancer, he quickly found his milieu in ballet and there has been no stopping him since. From School of Ballet Arizona to the Paris Opera Ballet School to the American Ballet Theatre's Studio Company, he went from strength to strength to strength as a student until joining ABT in 2001 and becoming a Principal Dancer in May 2005. David made history as the first American to become a Premier Dancer with the Bolshoi Ballet in 2011, dancing the role of the Prince in *The Sleeping Beauty* at the first ballet performance in the renovated Bolshoi Theatre. He has performed with the Paris Opera Ballet and the La Scala Ballet and won several prizes for his art including the 2010 Benois de la Danse Prize as best male dancer for his performance as Albrecht in *Giselle* with American Ballet Theatre.

David has been a guest artist with several international ballet companies culminating in being named Resident Guest Artist with The Australian Ballet in 2017. Retiring from the stage last year, David took up his new role as Artistic Director for The Australian Ballet in January of this year and will give a farewell performance during ABT's 2021 Metropolitan Opera House season as it was not possible to do so during the pandemic.

In his work as Artistic Director, and with ABT Incubator and The David Hallberg Scholarship through the School of Ballet Arizona, David mentors and inspires the next generation of dancers and choreographers.

KELSEY JENNINGS ROGGENSACK - Class of 2009



Currently, a second-year PhD student in the Department of History at Cornell University, **Kelsey Jennings Roggensack** credits ASA's creative thinking strategy with how she approaches her education to this day. After receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree at Williams College in 2013 Kelsey explored opportunities in and around Boston and then worked as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Indonesia. After working in Indonesia for almost two years, she returned to the United States and received her Master's Degree in Education from Harvard University, Graduate School of Education in 2018. Kelsey says that attending ASA since the 6th grade left her with the feeling that she is free to explore her educational opportunities without being defined by any one direction.

A 2021 recipient of the Charles Redd Fellowship Award in Western American History, Kelsey believes that her historical study of Black migratory communities relocating to the American West between 1860-1960 may eventually lead to her pursuing a university professorship. However, she also has a strong interest in education equity. Her work teaching in carceral centers has been interrupted by the pandemic, but she is hopeful that she can get back to it soon.

STEVEN DABROWSKI - Class of 2018



Arizona School for the Arts' 2018 Valedictorian, **Stephen Dabrowski**, was very excited to come to ASA as a 6th grader. Throughout his tenure here, Stephen felt that being surrounded by so many talented people inspired him to work his hardest in school in order to expand his own capabilities. From Mock Trial Finals at Yale University to representing his school as a Lead Ambassador, he always strove to do his best work.

Now as a Neuroscience student at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, Stephen says there is a definite intersection between science and music. Music and the arts are strongly connected to how the brain functions and his first exposure to that theory was put into practice right here.

Stephen says that a career in the medical field is definitely feasible, but after earning his Bachelors of Science he will take a gap year to explore the possibilities, just as he was taught at ASA.