

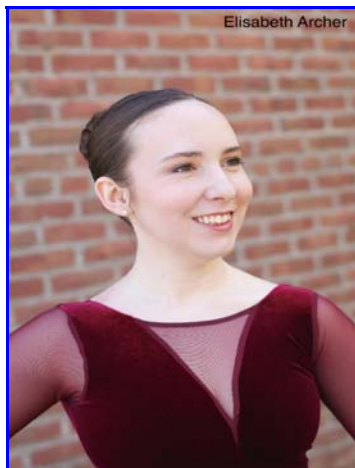
# The Cast of “La Zambra del Zorro”

## AMERICAN LIBERTY BALLET - THE COMPANY



**Chloe Aiello- *The Lady in White*** - Chloe Aiello is a Brooklyn- based ballet dancer, originally from Troy, Michigan. She is a soloist at American Liberty Ballet has performed with CityDance in New York City. Chloe graduated from Columbia University with a Master of Science in Journalism and the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance and a Bachelor of Arts in political science. She spent summers studying at School of American Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Miami City Ballet and Orlando Ballet before graduating from North Carolina School of the Arts’ high school conservatory program.

**Marcos Antonio - *Diego de la Vega / El Zorro*** – Marcos Antonio is a dance teacher, and choreographer from Los Angeles, CA. He studied ballet and modern dance under Amy Nakamura & Yvonne Racz Key. He has performed works by Austin McCormick, Linda Diamond, Edward Truitt, and Nyiki Swain. He performed as “Adam” in Company XIV’s Seven Sins, and the Cavalier in Nutcracker Rouge. As a teacher, he has shared dance with communities in Texas as the Director of Community Outreach for Ballet Lubbock, and Notes in Motion/YAI in NYC. He choreographed “Seven Brides for Seven Brothers” for Lubbock Moonlight Musicals, “CLICK” for Ballet Lubbock and ‘A Momentary Lapse of Reason’ for Dali Ballet. After performing “Giselle” for American Liberty Ballet, he is excited to return as Zorro in this new production.



**Elisabeth Archer - *Sofia (Roma/Gypsy Tavern Girl)*** - A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Elisabeth Archer received her dance training from Alabama Ballet, Orlando Ballet, and Huntsville Ballet. She later joined the Alabama Ballet company as an apprentice, and danced roles such as The Young Girl in Agnes DeMille’s The Other, Columbine in George Balanchine’s The Nutcracker, and Little Swan in Swan Lake. Elisabeth went on to graduate Magna Cum Laude from the Conservatory of Dance at Purchase College, SUNY. While there, she was honored to have performed works by Gabrielle Lamb, Manuel Vignouille, and Kimberly Bartosik. Now NYC based, Elisabeth has made appearances with Durang Dance Collective, International American Ballet, Brooklyn Irish Dance Company, and last but not least, American Liberty Ballet, in addition to presenting her own choreography around the Tri-state area.



**Ciara Cicalese - Victoria (Roma/Gypsy Tavern Boss)** - Born in Bethesda, Maryland, Ciara cannot remember when or where she started dancing, but she knows why she dances: it brings joy! A graduate of Butler University's dance program, she currently dances with American Liberty Ballet and other companies in & near NYC. *The Nutcracker* is her easy choice of favorite ballet, and one of her dream roles is the Bluebird Princess in *The Sleeping Beauty*. She is very excited to perform as Victoria the Tavernkeeper in *La Zambra Del Zorro!*

**Alex Haquia - Capitán Rafael Enrique Franco** - Alexander Haquia grew up in Morris County, New Jersey, and began dancing at the age of 15 under the direction of Ashley Hosbach and tutelage of Tracy Badini. He performed internationally at the Holland Dance Festival, as well as in Alvin Ailey's ballet *Memoria* at New York City Center before joining Ballet Hispánico in 2021 as a company member. After graduating Summa Cum Laude with Distinguished Honors in Dance from the Fordham/Ailey Program in 2022, he danced another season with Ballet Hispánico before joining Complexions Contemporary Ballet in 2023. He has had the pleasure of working with choreographers including Francesca Harper, Twyla Tharp, Sonya Tayeh, and Pedro Ruiz.



**Allie Hutchins - Señorita Fiorella Torres** - Allie Hutchins is originally from Mobile, Alabama and began her training at Sheffield School of the Dance and Mobile Ballet under direction of Winthrop Corey. She went on to work as a convention teaching Assistant touring the U.S. for the Tremaine National Performance Company while dancing Corps and Demi Soloist roles with Mobile Ballet (*Don Quixote*, *La Bayadere*, *Snow White*, *Swan Lake*, *Nutcracker*, *Stars of American Ballet*, *Sleeping Beauty*.) Each summer she trained with Northwest Florida Ballet and in Los Angeles on full scholarships from Break the Floor and Tremaine Dance. She trained with SLK Ballet (NY) briefly before joining American Liberty Ballet as a Willis (*Giselle*), and was quickly promoted afterwards to soloist in 2018 and Principal in 2021. She has been featured in both *DANCE* and *Pointe Magazine* and notable roles include *Giselle* (title), *Clara*, *Snow Pas de Deux*, *Rat Queen*, and *Dewdrop* (*Nutcracker*), *Lucy* (*Dracula*, *Michael Buoni*), *Fairy of Song* and *Precious Stones* (*Sleeping Beauty*), along with *Grand Pas de Deux* and *Principal Soloist* variations in *Original works* (*Spirits of a Summer Day*, *Evening of Repertoire*, *Valerie Browne*). She has also guested with *Victoria Ballet Theatre* and danced the role of *Stepsister* (*Cinderella*) for *CityDanceNY*.



**Yuna Khawaja - *Sister Eulalia*** - Raised and educated in Tokyo and Dallas, Yuna enjoyed gymnastics and flamenco dancing. Yuna's classical ballet training began in her late 20s in Palos Verdes, CA. She relocated to New Jersey and began attending American Liberty Ballet as a student. After becoming a trainee, Yuna has performed in ALB's original Nutcracker "In A Nutshell", The Dying of Swan Lake, An Evening of Repertoire, Sleeping Beauty, Dracula, Giselle, and Don Quixote.

**SangHee Lee - *Señorita Esperanza de la Cruz*** - SangHee Lee is originally from Seoul, South Korea and holds BA in Dance while currently studying for her Masters Degree in Dance Convergence Contents from Dongduk Womens University. She graduated from Deokwon Arts High School, majoring in ballet, after starting her training at Vaganova Ballet Academy in Seoul with perfect attendance in every workshop/ class. Sanghee is also trained in "Dance and Arts effects" and holds Arts and Culture Education Instructor Certificates in Expressive Arts Therapy, Dance Movement Therapy, and as an Expressive Arts Counselor. Sanghee performed many roles in both classic ballet and contemporary dance pieces with SEO Ballet Company. With other dance companies she has performed solos and pas de deux roles. In addition, she has choreographed many pieces in drama ballet and contemporary ballet. Sanghee recently trained at Broadway Dance Center in New York, had danced with Roxey Ballet, and is currently dancing with ALB.



**Ricardo Lopez - *Don Luis Quintero, Alcalde*** - Dancing with ALB since 2015, Ricardo studied ballet starting 2007 with Part Dokoudovsky, Kat Wildish and others, performed several roles and solos with prestigious ballet companies in CT, NY, and NJ. He danced folklore with Mazarte and Calpulli dance companies.

Ricardo received his acting training from Wilma Theater in Philadelphia and Mexico. He stated his ballet regiment in 2007 when studied in The Ballet Conservatory NY, Alvin Ailey and Steps on Broadway extension schools. Since 2009, he has danced solos and serval roles with The Connecticut ballet, Lumiere ballet, American Liberty ballet, Jersey City ballet, on productions of Nutcracker, Don Quixote, Giselle, Sylvia, Peter and the Wolf, and Dear Nadezhda. He also participated in several showcases for Coppelia and Swan Lake. Ricardo also danced folklore with Calpulli Dance and Mazarte dance companies. He helped founder of the latter; served as Treasurer in the

Board of Directors. Ricardo enjoys advising and serving on the Boards of Non-profit companies. He holds an MBA; he is the CEO of RL Consulting -IT and business transformation services.





**Nicole Mandy - *Sister Bartolomea*** - Nicole Mandy is excited to join ALB in the world premiere of *La Zambra del Zorro*. She has been dancing since she was four under the late Barbara Crockett with Sacramento Ballet, Deane Dance Center, and Sacramento Civic Ballet. She is a recent graduate of Hofstra University where she studied multiple dance styles under Robin Becker, Robbie Cook and others. She has also been in multiple theatre productions with Sacramento Theater Company and American River College. She wants to thank her parents for always supporting her dreams.

**Quimen Sanches - *Sergeant Pedro Garcia Gonzales*** - Quimen Sanchez is Principal Dancer and Ballet Master for American Liberty Ballet. Quimen brings his great skill and talent as both dancer and actor to *La Zambra del Zorro* in the dramatic and comedic role of Sergeant Gonzales.



**Lucie Schultz - *Valeria (Roma/Gypsy Tavern Girl)*** - From North Jersey, Lucie trained at Petrov Ballet studio. Lucie graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance and minor in Exercise Science at Mercyhurst University. At Mercyhurst, Lucie participated in student and guest choreography as well as choreographing pieces herself. Lucie has had the opportunity to dance with SoMar Dance Works, the Erie Bayhawks, interned and performed with Ballet Concerto in Fort Worth for their 2019 summer performance. Lucie was an RA and participated in Orlando Ballet Summer intensive 2019. She also participated in Zion Dance Project's Summer Series, Ballet Hartford's summer projects *Awakening*, and New England Ballet Theatre of CT. Lucie is currently a free lance dancer in the New York, New Jersey area including American Liberty Ballet and City Dance NY. She also has guested in Dallas with Ballet Papillon, and Connecticut with Connetic Dance.

**Alejandra Villela - *Doña Isabel Torres & Toypurina Regina de la Vega***

Alejandra Villela is from Mexican and Colombian descent. She started her training in Colombia where she later worked in small companies and projects. She moved to New York in 2018 to continue her professional dance training at the Joffrey Ballet School after being accepted in their Ballet Trainee Program. In 2020, Alejandra was accepted to Atlantic City Ballet as an apprentice and stayed with them for 2 years in which she performed ballets such as Dracula, Nutcracker, Carmen, Carmina Burana, A Midsummer Night's Dream, and more, on the Caesar's Circus Maximus Maximus Stage and in Stockton University. Currently, Alejandra is a soloist with American Liberty Ballet with whom she performs in different venues in Manhattan and New Jersey.



**Osamu Uehara & Mark A. Sullivan - *Bernardo de la Vega & Padre (Fray) Felipe***

The partnership of Uehara & Sullivan created *La Zambra del Zorro\** with music selection & original choreography by Osamu, & original libretto by Mark. Osamu created the post- card & T-shirt designs for the production, while Mark produced the illustrated companion booklet & exhibit.

A ballet professional since the 1980s, Osamu currently works with several dance companies – in various creative capacities both on- and off-stage – including American Liberty Ballet, City Dance NY, Karen Lynch Ballet, Performing Arts Ensemble of New Jersey, Ballet & Body, and Great Neck School of Dance. Mark, Osamu's sidekick, has volunteered for these same companies (both off-stage and on). He writes, edits and publishes an email PDF quarterly, *Heresy! A Journal for Free Spirits*.

**Valerie Mae Brown - *Director of American Liberty Ballet***

Valerie Mae Browne is a native San Diegan who graduated from UC Irvine in 2008 and moved to New York in 2009. In 2011, she co-founded (with Rebeccah Bogue) Pink Pig Ballet, which later became American Liberty Ballet. She has premiered seven original full length ballets, and created many new works for ALB. Her work has been featured in international films, TV programs, and rock concerts. Valerie is a passionate proponent of health and inclusivity in the dance community and is incredibly proud of ALB and it's exciting future.



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