

## **Shelby Williams**

Shelby first fell in love with ballet while studying at The Dancer's Workshop at Baton Rouge Ballet Theatre. She later received professional training year-round on scholarship at the Washington School of Ballet and the Houston Ballet Academy. She previously danced with Houston Ballet 2, Dresden Semperoper Ballett (Germany), Ballet d'Europe (France), and Barcelona Ballet (Spain), and as a soloist with Ballett Mainz and the Hessisches Staatsballett in Germany. There she performed leading roles in works by Crystal Pite, Ohad Naharin, Douglas Lee, Alexander Ekman, Pascal Touzeau, Georg Reichel, Richard Siegel, Marco Goecke and Cayetano Soto.

In 2016, she joined the Royal Ballet of Flanders (Opera Ballet Vlaanderen) in Antwerp, Belgium, where she has danced featured roles in works by director Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui as well as in works by William Forsythe, Pina Bausch, Hofesh Schechter, Johan Inger, Akram Khan, Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, Benjamin Millepied, Andonis Foniadakis, Jeroen Verbruggen, Edouard Lock, Meryl Tankard, Anne Teresa De Keersmaecker, Jermaine Spivey, and Alan Lucien Øyen amongst others.

In Dance Europe Magazine (October 2017), she was nominated in the category "Outstanding Performance of a Female Dancer" for her performances in "Approximate Sonata 2016" by William Forsythe and "Café Müller" by Pina Bausch, portraying "Steely strength in the Forsythe, and all vulnerability in the Bausch".

In 2023, Shelby joined Ballett Zurich in Zurich, Switzerland as a soloist under the artistic direction of Cathy Marsten. Since moving to Zurich, Shelby has originated leading roles in works by Cathy Marsten, Meryl Tankard, and Kim Brandstrup in addition to performing soloist roles in works by Marcos Morau, Marco Goecke, and Patrice Bart.

Beyond her role as a dancer, Shelby has worked as a stager for Richard Siegal, a choreographic apprentice under Kim Brandstrup, a motivational speaker at events such as the European Lotteries Congress and the P(o)ur Symposium, choreographed her own works. She has organized the 'Upcoming Choreographers' evening for her fellow colleagues in Ballett Mainz, managed two editions of the creative performance platform *Läd Naid Sürpries* for the dancers of the Hessisches Staatsballett, directed Opera Ballet Vlaanderen's *Dag Van De Dans* choreographic production in 2023, and produced installation performances in various venues around Antwerp, Belgium.

Since 2020, Shelby has been a student at Northeastern University, majoring in management with a concentration in digital marketing and a minor in organizational communications. In 2024, she joined Carta Blanca Dance as a production manager.

Shelby's work with Biscuit Ballerina has been featured in the New York Times, Pointe Magazine, Dance Europe, and Dance Spirit Magazine.