

Shannon Quirk

Shannon Brienne Quirk began her dance training at the age of three with Helen Clarke, Jenny Backhaus, and Kristen Olsen Potts at Orange County Regional Ballet in her hometown of Orange, California. Ms. Quirk spent her summers training at various programs across the country, including Alonzo King's LINES Ballet, American Ballet Theater, and Ballet Austin. She would enter the Bachelor of Fine Arts program at the University of California, Irvine, where she would receive her degree. During her tenure, she would work closely with faculty members David Allen, Evelyn Cisneros, Jodie Gates, and Molly Lynch; performing original works by Gates and Lynch. She was also selected to perform *Artifact Suite* and an excerpt of *In The Middle Somewhat Elevated* by the world renowned choreographer, William Forsythe.



Ms. Quirk would begin her professional career with Pasadena Dance Theater, under the direction of Cynthia Young and Laurence Blake. After one season, she moved to Madison, Wisconsin to work with W. Earle Smith and Madison Ballet. During her four season, she has been honored to perform lead roles in George Balanchine's celebrated works *Elegie*, *Four Temperaments*, *Tchaikovsky Pas De Deux*, and *Who Cares?* Ms. Quirk has also performed lead roles in W. Earle Smith's *Cinderella*, *Dracula: A Rock Ballet*, and *The Nutcracker*. In addition to performing, Ms. Quirk is on faculty at The School of Madison Ballet and a facilitator in Madison Ballet's Outreach program, which engages the community through dance and creative movement in head start programs.