

Katherine Barkman – San Francisco Ballet, Principal Dancer

Katherine Barkman is an American ballerina who is currently a Principal Dancer with the San Francisco Ballet.

Katherine joined San Francisco Ballet as a soloist in 2022 prior to which she spent four seasons dancing principal roles with The Washington Ballet and three years as principal dancer of Ballet Manila.

She joined The Washington Ballet in October 2018, soon after winning consecutive Silver Medals from two of the world's most prestigious ballet Olympiads -- the XI USA International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Mississippi, and the XXVIII Varna International Ballet Competition in Bulgaria.

Originally from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, she moved to the Philippines in 2015 to begin her professional career as a principal dancer with Ballet Manila, one of the most eminent classical ballet companies in Asia. At 18, she was the youngest artist to assume this position with the company.

Since then, Barkman has debuted in the classical roles of Odette/Odile in *Swan Lake*, Kitri in *Don Quixote*, Giselle in *Giselle*, Aurora in *The Sleeping Beauty*, Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Nikiya in *La Bayadere*, Medora in *Le Corsaire*, Swanhilda in *Coppélia* as well as the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Snow Queen in *The Nutcracker*. In 2026, Katherine originated the role of Tatiana in Yury Possokhov's *Eugene Onegin*. She has performed the principal lead in popular masterpieces such as *Grand Pas Classique*, *The Dying Swan*, *Paquita*, *Esmeralda*, *Diana & Actaeon*, as well as in iconic works by George Balanchine, Sir Frederick Ashton, MacMillian, William Forsythe, Hans Van Manen, Liam Scarlett and Christopher Wheeldon. She has thrived in contemporary works by Justin Peck, Akram Khan, Annabelle Lopez-Ochoa, Jessica Lang, Dana Genshaft, Robert Garland, Mthuthuzeli November, and Aszure Barton.

Her major awards from international competitions include: Grand Prix Cup, 2015 Asian Grand Prix (Hong Kong); Gold Medal, Senior Women's Classical Division, 2015 Valentina Kozlova International Ballet Competition (New Orleans, USA); and Gold Medal, Senior Women's Classical Division, 2015 TANZOLYMP Festival (Berlin, Germany).

As an international guest principal, Barkman has performed in festivals, galas, and full-length productions in Russia, Latvia, Australia, Canada, Spain, Mexico Argentina, Paraguay, Costa Rica, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and in major cities across the United States.
