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Four new dancers to join PBT for 2016-17 season

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Courtesy of Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre

Yuto Ideno of Japan will join Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre's corps de ballet for the 2016-17 season.

By Sara Bauknecht / Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

When Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre returns to the stage for its 2016-17 season, four new dancers — one male and three females — will be joining its roster. They'll make their company debut at PBT's annual "Ballet Under the Stars" performance at Hartwood Acres on Aug. 21.

Yuto Ideno is a native of Japan and comes to PBT from California's Silicon Valley Ballet with a diverse repertoire of classics ("Don Quixote," "Giselle," "Swan Lake" and "La Bayadere") and contemporary pieces (Jiri Kylian's "Evening Songs" and Ohad Naharin's "Minus 16"). He's danced as an apprentice with Ballet Dortmund in Germany, where he also trained with

the John Cranko School. He also trained with the Mie Hatanaka Ballet School. Mr. Ideno's summer intensives include San Francisco Ballet, the Hamburg Ballet and Canada's National Ballet School. In 2014, he placed first in the senior category of the prestigious Youth America Grand Prix and second in the Japan Grand Prix.

The rest of the new hires are alumni of Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School's graduate program. Daniela Moya of Mexico City has trained with PBT since 2013, performing with the corps in "La Bayadere," "Western Symphony," "Beauty and the Beast," "Swan Lake" and "The Sleeping Beauty." Previously, she spent time in Joffrey Ballet's trainee program and a summer performance course with London's Royal Academy of Dance. She's also the recipient of the international Solo Seal Award.

Amanda Potts of Marshall, Texas, trained with the Martelly School of Ballet and studied with Longview Ballet Theatre in Texas. She completed several summer intensives, including The Rock School for Dance Education in Philadelphia, Boston Ballet, Carolina Ballet and PBT. At the PBT School, she danced in "Le Corsaire," "Peter Pan" and "The Nutcracker" and accompanied PBT on tour at last summer's Chicago Dancing Festival.

Victoria Watford of Cleveland has trained with PBT since 2014 and has danced in its mainstage productions of "The Sleeping Beauty," "La Bayadere," "The Nutcracker," "Beauty and the Beast" and "Western Symphony." She joined PBT on tour last summer. For more than a decade, she studied at the Cleveland School of Dance and also performed with Cleveland Youth Ballet.

PBT also recently announced that next season Hannah Carter, Alejandro Diaz and Luca Sbrizzi — all soloists — will be promoted to principal, the company's highest rank.