



JOFFREY BALLET
CHICAGO

Ashley Wheater, Artistic Director

Born in Scotland and raised in England, Mr. Wheater was trained at the Royal Ballet School. Mr. Wheater began his professional career with The Royal Ballet, and danced at the London Festival Ballet, The Australian Ballet, The Joffrey Ballet and San Francisco Ballet. In 1997, he became Ballet Master at San Francisco Ballet, and in 2002, Assistant to the Artistic Director.

In 2007, Mr. Wheater was appointed Artistic Director of The Joffrey Ballet. New work is the life blood of a company, and he has introduced numerous premieres to the repertoire. In 2008, the Boeing Corporation recognized his commitment to community outreach and diversity in the world of dance, presenting him the “Game Changer” award. In 2010, Mr. Wheater, representing The Joffrey Ballet, was named Lincoln Academy Laureate, the highest honor presented by the State of Illinois. The Chicago Tribune selected Mr. Wheater as 2013 “Chicagoan of the Year” for his contributions to dance. In 2014, Mr. Wheater accepted the Chicago Spirit of Innovation Award for The Joffrey Ballet. Earlier this year, Wheater received the University of Chicago Rosenberger Medal for Outstanding Achievement in the Creative and Performing Arts.