

# PALM DESERT <sup>festival</sup> choreography

## Workshop Facilitators



**Jessica Liu and Albert Galindo** are a creative duo based in Germany. From Salt Lake City, Utah, and Barcelona, Spain, respectively, they began collaborating at the Nationaltheater Mannheim under the direction of Stephan Thoss. Prior to crossing paths, Jessica performed with BODYTRAFFIC, Oakland Ballet Company, and SALT Contemporary Dance and graduated cum laude from the University of Utah with a BFA in Ballet and BS in Exercise

Physiology. Albert performed with Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company, Of Curious Nature, and Ballet BC following the completion of the Arts Umbrella Graduate Program. Palm Desert Choreography Festival marks their choreographic partnership's international debut.



**Franco Nieto**, Princess Grace Award Winner, was born and raised in the Pacific Northwest. He made the unconventional switch from football to ballet in his teenage years and has now taught and danced internationally. Nieto was a principal dancer with NW Dance Project in Portland, Oregon, where he toured the world and worked with leading minds to

create countless original works. His early training came from the Vancouver School of Arts & Academics, Columbia Dance, and mentor, Tracey Durbin. He graduated from Point Park University with a BFA in Jazz. Nieto founded and is now Artistic Director of Open Space Dance.