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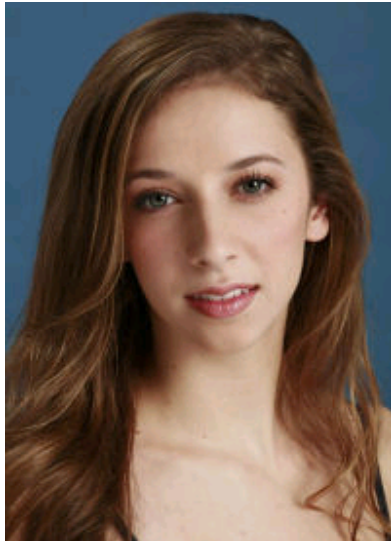


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Background Gretchen Smith was born in Evansville, Indiana, and began her dance training at the age of seven with Evansville Dance Theatre. Ms. Smith began studying at the School of American Ballet (SAB), the official school of New York City Ballet, during the 2003 summer course and enrolled as a full time student that fall.

Ms. Smith became an apprentice with NYCB in October 2005, and in February 2006 she joined the Company as a member of the corps de ballet.

"THE HOME OF THE
CLASSIC BALLET IS
NOW AMERICA."

— George Balanchine