



## ↑ Kara Wilkes

In a performance of Balanchine's *Raymonda Variations*, North Carolina Dance Theatre's Kara Wilkes' lithe arms and eloquent hands appeared to gather the space around her before gliding through the air. Wilkes' long legs further accentuate a heavenly marriage of stately beauty and precise technical skill. Her dancing reveals each step as natural and elegant. NCDT artistic director Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux says of Wilkes, "She brings an imagination and marvelous sense of humor to her dancing that inspires choreographers and dazzles audiences."

Before joining NCDT in 2007, the 27-year-old danced with Milwaukee Ballet and Ballet Victor Ullate in Madrid. This year, Wilkes will perform soloist and lead roles in all of NCDT's productions, including the world premiere of Dwight Rhoden's *Othello*, May 14–16 at Charlotte's Belk Theater. —Steve Sucato