

PACIFIC ARTISTS DANCE CENTER

Teacher Biographies

2006-07

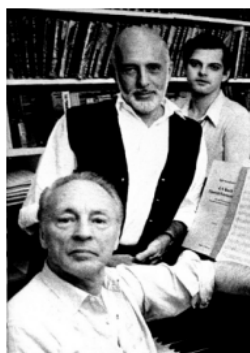
Nancy Davis – Artistic Director/Ballet Mistress/Teacher



Nancy Davis began her life in ballet at the age of six with Natalia Clare of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. At fourteen she received a Ford Foundation scholarship to study at George Balanchine's School of American Ballet in New York City. There she trained with Mr. Balanchine, Alexandra Danilova, Antonina Tumkovsky, Felia Doubrovskaya, Andre Eglevsky, Stanley Williams and Suzanne Farrell, among others. Nancy joined the National Ballet of Washington, D.C. where she worked closely with director Ben Stevenson and Margot Fonteyn who toured with the company. With the company Nancy toured and explored classical ballet, dancing soloist roles in many ballets including *Sleeping Beauty*, *Cinderella*, *Swan Lake* and *Giselle*. In 1974 Ms. Davis returned to L.A. to help form the Los Angeles Ballet, directed by John Clifford, who helped her develop her "Balanchine" style. Ms. Davis has been

on the faculty of numerous schools in California and Oregon, including the Stanley Holden Dance Center, Oregon Ballet Theatre and The Northwest Academy, in addition to extensive guest teaching. In June of 2001, Ms. Davis and her husband, Jim Lane, created Pacific Artists Dance Center. The academy consists of 3,500 sq ft of studio space, 15 teachers, over 150 curriculum ballet students and 8 adult ballet classes per week.

John Clifford – Artistic Advisor/Guest Ballet Master/Choreographer



Balanchine, Robbins & Clifford

John Clifford is best known as founder and artistic director of the original Los Angeles Ballet, and a principal dancer and choreographer with New York City Ballet. He is widely considered to be Balanchine's choreographic protégé. Trained in Los Angeles, John Clifford's early work was for the Western Ballet Association, where he was a principal dancer and choreographer. After viewing rehearsals of Mr. Clifford's ballets, George Balanchine invited Clifford to move to New York and choreograph for his School of American Ballet. In 1966, at the age of 19, John Clifford joined the New York City Ballet. Mr. Clifford quickly became a principal dancer and resident choreographer. During his tenure there he choreographed numerous ballets and danced leading roles in many ballets. Mr. Clifford was the first American male guest-artist in history to dance with the Paris Opera Ballet. Last April Mr. Clifford premiered his new ballet "Casablanca, the Dance" based on the Warner Bros. movie classic at The Great Hall of The People in Tiananmen Square.

This project is Warner Bros. first venture into live theater. Tours of Australia, Europe and the United States are scheduled to follow this year.

Carol Shults – Artistic Advisor/Teacher



Ms. Shults received her ballet training from Mia Slavenska and Vincenzo Celli. She danced with the Fort Worth Ballet under Slavenska's direction. Carol was Ballet Mistress for Portland Ballet Company and Ballet Oregon prior to joining OBT. After eight years with OBT as Company Instructor and Historian, Ms. Shults retired in 1997. Since then she has been very active teaching ballet locally, lecturing and writing dance history. Ms. Shults is a répétiteur for the Dennis Spaight trust, staging the works of the late choreographer for professional companies and student groups.

Alexandrous Ballard – Ballet Master/Resident Choreographer/Teacher



Alex Ballard began ballet at the age of eleven in New Plymouth, New Zealand. After several years of training, he moved to New York to study with Margaret Craske, the Joffrey, SAB and Paul Taylor. Alex began his professional ballet career with Joyce Trisler Danscompany, New York Theatre Ballet, and Redbank Ballet. After appearing as a soloist with Cythia Gregory, he was asked to join the Cleveland/San Jose Ballet, where he met his wife to be, Leslie Braverman. Mr. Ballard also performed with Ballet Royale de Wallonie, Richmond Ballet and OBT, with whom he danced for seven years as a principal dancer. While there he taught boys and technique classes, and choreographed "Iggity" and "Oubliette" for OBT's Moving Signatures series. After retiring, Mr. Ballard became a certified

Alexander Technique teacher. Alex teaches technique classes for advanced levels, and is a founding teacher of the Men's program at PADC.

Elizabeth Guerin – Ballet Mistress/Teacher



Elizabeth Guerin trained at the School of American Ballet and the Joffrey Ballet School. She became a principal dancer with Princeton Ballet. In 1983 she joined the Washington Ballet in Washington, D.C. dancing soloist and principal roles. Five years later Elizabeth was invited to be a principal dancer with Oregon Ballet Theatre. At OBT she created the role of Juliet in Canfield's Romeo and Juliet, danced Concerto Barroco and Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux, and also worked with contemporary choreographers Paul Taylor, Bebe Miller, Donald Byrd and Val Canaparoli. After retiring from OBT she continued dancing as a guest artist for several years with companies in Washington, California and Colorado. Elizabeth has taught at The Northwest Academy, the School of Oregon Ballet Theatre, and Ballet Arte Dance Theatre in San Diego, California.

Heather Jackson – Teacher

Heather was a full scholarship student at the Ballet West Academy in Utah and at the Rock School of Pennsylvania. At age 14 she entered the University of Utah as a ballet major, where she later earned her BFA. Heather has danced with Utah Ballet, Ballet West, and most recently with Bodyvox and the Bound Dance Company. Prior to settling in Portland, Ms. Jackson had been teaching for the Ballet West Academy in Salt Lake City.

Kristin Lucas – Teacher

Kristin, a native of Tacoma, WA, began her ballet training with Joanne Willoughby in British Columbia. She spent five years with Conservatory Ballet Theatre. While there she performed soloist roles in Copellia, Midsummer Nights Dream, Giselle, and The Nutcracker. Kristin received her BFA in Dance from Cornish College of the Arts, where she was introduced to modern dance and studied with Patricia Hon, Bill T. Jones, Ralph Lemon, Wade Madsen, Bebe Miller, Mark Morris, and Deborah Wolfe. Recently she has performed with Bodyvox, The Portland Opera, Imago Theatre, Northwest Academy and The Broadway Rose Theatre Company.

Jason Davis – Teacher

Jason received his ballet training at the San Francisco Ballet School, the Universal Ballet Academy, SAB, PNB, Ballet Arts, and Ballet Aspen. In 1993 Jason was apprenticed to the San Francisco Ballet and in 1994 he joined the company. While with SFB he performed in numerous classical ballets including Swan Lake, Giselle, Don Quixote, and Romeo and Juliet. Jason was a soloist and demi-soloist in ballets such as Symphony in C, "Rubies" Stars and Stripes, Who Cares and the Nutcracker. Mr. Davis has taught at Ballet Arts, Ballet Theater of New Mexico, and Stites Performing Arts Center.

Zachary Carroll – Teacher

Zach Carroll began his training with George Zoritch in Tucson AZ. He then received a full scholarship to attend the National Ballet School in Toronto, Canada. Zachary has performed with the Festival Ballet of Oklahoma, Ballet Michigan, Minnesota Dance Theater and was a soloist with OBT and Ballet West. Zach has worked with George Balanchine, Paul Taylor, Hansvan Manen, Lila York, Val Canaparoli, Anthony Tudor, John Butler, and Fredrick Ashton. Mr. Carroll's principal roles include the male lead in Giselle, Paquita, Le Corsair, Balanchine's Theme and Variations and Stravinsky Violin Concerto. Zach has taught at Ballet Arts, the Ballet School, and Central West Ballet. He currently dances with Bodyvox in Portland.

Joseph Wyatt – Teacher

Joseph Wyatt was born in Trinidad, West Indies. He started dancing at Brockport State University under Jim and Susannah Payten. In 1973, following a summer scholarship to Jacob's Pillow, he joined the Dance Theatre of Harlem (DTH) where he premeired Paquita, toured the USA and Europe. He became a principal dancer with La Compania Nacional De Danza in Mexico City. There he danced lead roles in Giselle, La Fille Mal Gardee, Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, and Coppelia. In 1982 he joined Pacific Ballet Theatre. Later Mr. Wyatt became director of the school of Pacific Ballet Theatre and of OBT. Mr. Wyatt is currently an Elementary school principal with the Beaverton School District.

Robert Huffman – Principal Pianist

Trained as a concert pianist, Mr. Huffman holds a Bachelors Degree in Music and a Masters Degree in Performance, from the University of Oregon. He studied in Paris for 3 years with Noel Lee and in 1969

was the Principal Pianist for The Congregation of the Arts in Dartmouth College, NH, under Masrio DeBonventura. Robert has worked as an accompanist in the Northwest since 1973 with Fine Arts organizations such as: Jefferson High School of the Performing Arts, Summer Dance Lab in Walla Walla, Washington and Oregon Ballet Theatre accompanying the Company and School. In 2001 Robert joined the founding staff at Pacific Artists Dance Center as Principal Pianist.

Patricia Brewer-Jones – Guest Teacher

Patricia (Patti) Brewer-Jones studied ballet at North Carolina School of the Arts and at the School of American Ballet in New York City. Patti studied at SAB for two years until she accepted a contract with Le Grand Ballet de Geneve (Switzerland) where she danced a varied Balanchine repertoire, including The Four Temperaments, Symphony in C, Ballet Imperial, Apollo and The Nutcracker. Patti taught ballet at the University of Utah while studying Cecchetti in the Dance Department under Matylin Gavers. It was there she developed her great love for teaching. She then moved to Portland, Oregon where she danced with Portland Ballet Company and taught company class. Patti has been an instructor for Portland Ballet School, Pacific Northwest Ballet School, Fort Worth Ballet School, School of Oregon Ballet Theatre, Burklyn Ballet Theatre and The Northwest Academy. Mrs. Jones is currently on staff at Beaverton Arts and Communications Magnet Academy and at Pacific Artists Dance Center.

Robert Guitron – Guest Teacher/Guest Choreographer

Robert Guitron has performed, taught, and choreographed throughout the USA and internationally with such companies as Bodyvox, Pacific Dance Ensemble, OBT, and numerous Opera companies including Omaha, Utah and Minnesota Operas. Recent performances include Carmine Burana, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, and A Midsummer Night's Dream. Aside from his repertory work Mr. Guitron is also involved in musicals, music videos and television commercials. Some of his recent projects include; works with local opera and musical theater companies, Nike, Columbia Sportswear, Vidal Sassoon and the Cascade AIDS Project benefit. In addition to teaching locally, Mr. Guitron is also the Artistic Director of Polaris Dance Company.

Clinton Rothwell – Guest Teacher

Clinton Rothwell received a Ford Foundation scholarship to the San Francisco Ballet School and later an E.M.I. scholarship to the Royal Ballet School. He has trained and worked with numerous world-renowned dancers and choreographers including George Balanchine, Madame Nijinska, Rudolph Nureyev, Anthony Tudor, Anton Dolan, Lew and Harold Christensen. He was a principal dancer with the National Ballet of Canada, the National Ballet of Holland, and the San Francisco Ballet. Mr. Rothwell's performing experience includes Balanchine's Apollo, Serenade, Symphony in C, Nureyev's Giselle, Ashton's Midsummer Night's Dream, Romeo and Juliet, and Don Quixote to name a few. Clinton has choreographed for the Alberta Ballet Company, National Ballet of Canada, San Francisco Ballet. He has also taught at several schools including the Alberta Ballet Company, and the National Ballet of Canada. He was the Artistic Director of the Edmonton Festival Ballet and Mount Royal College Conservatory and the Director of the Professional Program with the Edmonton School of Ballet.

Sara Anderson – Guest Teacher

Originally from Rochester, MN, Sara has been dancing in Portland since 1990. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Dance from Luther College. Her dance training includes ballet, modern, jazz, musical theatre and hip-hop. Sara has performed with many companies including Bodyvox, Portland, Minnesota and Utah Operas, American Dance Theatre, Portland Musical Theatre Company, and Dance CO-Motion. Aside from her stage productions, she has appeared in several fitness videos, print advertisements, television commercials and a 32- episode season of the Body Shoppe television series.

Yelena Foley – Guest Teacher

Yelena graduated from the dance department at Altay Institute of Culture, in Siberia, Russia, where she studied ballet, character, folk, historical, and ballroom dance. Before and during her college years, she performed with the ballet company of the Moscow Circus, Barnaul Ballet Company, Barnaul Musical Comedy Theater and the Ensemble of Folk Music and Dance of Siberia Military District. After graduation, Yelena worked as a dance instructor and choreographer with Children Dance Theater and with the school of Rhythmic Gymnastics. Yelena has lived in the US since 2000.

Margo Yohner – Guest Teacher

Margo Yohner was a full scholarship student at the South Dayton School of Dance in Centerville, OH. She also received scholarships to attend programs with the Tremaine Dance Center and Alvin Ailey

School, and later the University of Ohio. Margo performed for several years with the South Dayton Dance Theatre where she was given principle roles in numerous original works. She has had the opportunity to work with master teachers and choreographers from all over the country including Jeraldyne Blunden, Terence Greene, Cecil Slaughter, Savion Glover, Doug Elkins, and Terry Lindholm.