

Virginia Regional Ballet **Handbook**

2018 – 2019 Dance Year



1228 Richmond Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185
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ABOUT Virginia Regional Ballet

In 2007, Heidi Robitshek, former artistic director and founder of the Chamber Ballet along with her protégée Adelle Carpenter founded the Virginia Regional Ballet to dedicate a school to the continued improvement and enhancement of classical ballet technique. Virginia Regional Ballet Academy sponsors the Virginia Regional Ballet, Inc., whose purpose is to bring to the community and develop among its citizens an educational and cultural program in dance. Virginia Regional Ballet is located in Williamsburg's Art District at 1228 Richmond Road adjacent to the Williamsburg Community Pool and is professionally designed and constructed to provide the best possible facilities for instruction. In 2013, Virginia Regional Ballet acquired a second location in Yorktown at 5315 George Washington Memorial Highway and 110-B Dare Road.

Virginia Regional Ballet Academy offers a beginning through pre-professional curriculum in all dance forms through a variety of weekly classes and performance opportunities. Professionally trained and experienced teachers qualified to teach classical ballet, contemporary, character, creative dance, jazz, tap, modern, hip-hop, and lyrical dance are available at all levels. Scholarships, through the Jenni Paddock Scholarship Fund, are available for deserving students interested in dance. The Virginia Regional Ballet is open to everyone regardless of race, gender, color, religion, and national or ethnic origin.

Virginia Regional Ballet, Inc. Virginia Regional Ballet Academy

1228 Richmond Road
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

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Yorktown, VA 23692

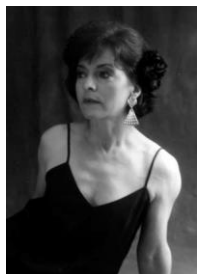
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FOUNDERS

Heidrun S. Robitshek, Artistic Director & Instructor



Ms. Heidi began her studies in Classical Ballet and Character in Heidelberg, Germany under the direction of Tatiana Sawitzkaya and Henryk Szymczak. She took the examination to be certified as a professional in Stuttgart, Germany and studied with Anne Wooliams of the Stuttgart Ballet. Ms. Robitshek danced professionally with the State Opera and the State Theaters in Pforzheim, and Heidelberg, Germany. Ms. Robitshek studied at the Palucca School in Dresden, Germany, with Gret Palucca, and in Cologne, Germany, with Ursula Borrmann. Since in the United States, Ms. Robitshek has studied with Gene Hammett, Susan

Borree, Teresa Martinez, Perry Brunson, Maggie Black, G.T. Darvash, Oleg Tupine, Gennadi Vostrikov and has danced professionally with the Richmond Ballet, Norfolk Civic Ballet, Annapolis Ballet, The Common Glory Outdoor Drama with Howard Scammon and Myra Kinch, Cumberland Dance Company, and the Chamber Ballet of Williamsburg. She has worked with choreographers Anton Dolin, Valerie Deakin, Edward Stewart, Luis Fuente, Dariusz Hochmona, Myra Kinch, Florin Scarlat, Robin Comissioni, and Enrique Martinez. As Artistic Director of the Chamber Ballet, Ms. Robitshek produced or choreographed *The Nutcracker*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *La Fille Mal Gardée*, *Les Patineurs*, *The Blue Danube*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Fairy Tale to Fairy Tale*, *The Secret Garden*, *The Magic Flute*, and *The Tales of Beatrix Potter*. In alternating years Ms. Robitshek accompanies selected students to Heidelberg, Germany, where they participate in *L'Art de la Danse*, a cultural exchange program. This is a tradition Ms. Robitshek started in 1993. Ms. Heidi also teaches seminars in Mexico, the United States, and Germany. She teaches Intermediate-Advanced Ballet, Character Dance, Pas de deux, Beginning Pointe, and Intermediate Adult Ballet.

Adelle Page Carpenter, Studio Director & Instructor



Ms. Adelle began her training at the age of ten as a protégée of Heidi Robitshek at the Chamber Ballet. She studied dance at Old Dominion University and has participated in numerous productions of *The Nutcracker* and other classical ballets for Chamber Ballet and other companies. Ms. Adelle attended summer studies at Ballet West and the Joffrey Ballet. She has competed in international dance competitions in Peru and Moscow and is a member of the Robitshek Dance Ensemble that performed in Heidelberg, Germany. Her full-length ballet roles include Swanhilda in *Coppelia* and Alice in *Alice in Wonderland*. In pas de deux,

Ms. Adelle has danced *Le Corsaire*, peasant pas de deux from *Giselle*, the Snow pas de deux with the Old Dominion University Ballet and the grand pas de deux in Chamber Ballet's 1995 performance of *The Nutcracker*. She worked one season with Busch Gardens in the *Festa Italia* show. She was on the teaching staff of the Chamber Ballet from 1994 to 2006 and performed many principal roles in Chamber Ballet's productions. Ms. Adelle has been teaching dance for more than fifteen years. She teaches Mommy & Me, Intro to Dance, Pre-Ballet, Ballet I-III, Intermediate Ballet, Beginning Pointe, and Teen/Adult Ballet. She is the proud mother of three.

THE ACADEMY

Admission

Virginia Regional Ballet Academy is open to anyone who wishes to train at its studios in Williamsburg & Yorktown, Virginia. Students must complete a registration form and submit the annual registration fee. Virginia Regional Ballet Academy is an equal opportunity school and does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, age, color, religion, national or ethnic origin.

Class Placement

Class placement is based on ability and age appropriateness of the techniques being taught. New dancers will be evaluated by an instructor in a trial class to determine proper class placement. Current students will receive class placement for the new dance year prior to the summer class session.

Registration & Tuition

Virginia Regional Ballet Academy Tuition is calculated by the total number of class hours per week per family. The special Unlimited and Family Unlimited plan rates apply when taking 7 hours or more per week. Payment is due the first week of each month. **First month's tuition is due at the time of registration.** Payments may be made by cash, check, or Visa/MasterCard. Payments made after the 15th will be charged a late fee of \$10.00 unless prior arrangements have been made with the studio director. *Returned checks for insufficient funds: \$20.00 fee.*

Registration fees*: \$40.00 for first dancer, \$20.00 for each additional dancer in the same family

Tuition, paid monthly (September – June), is based on a 35-week dance year. Tuition is due the first week of the month regardless of the week of your first class. Ask about discounted annual and biannual tuition payoffs. VRB offers an optional automatic payment program. Please contact VRB for details and to complete the required paperwork to enroll.

Please see the current tuition rates and class schedule online at www.dancevrb.com. Email or call 757-229-2553 for additional information.

Registration and tuition fees are non-refundable. Refunds will only be given when VRB Academy cancels a class. All class changes must be submitted in writing to VRB by the 1st of the month. ***The family is responsible for tuition until written notice of withdrawal from the academy is received.*** Virginia Regional Ballet Academy has the right to remove any student from class and/or student performance if account payment arrangements are not kept.

Online Account Access

Dancers and parents may register and enroll for classes and maintain their account online by visiting www.danceVRB.com and selecting *Customer Portal*. You can add students, classes, and make payments through this account.

Scholarship Program

Scholarships, through the Jenni Paddock Scholarship Fund, are available to children residing in Williamsburg, James City County, and York County. Our scholarship is intended to allow students to have the opportunity to learn the art of dance through ballet class. It is the goal of the scholarship program to promote and advance the art of dance and to provide a low- or no-cost opportunity for any family who otherwise could not afford dance lessons.

Full and partial tuition scholarship opportunities are based on available funding per calendar year. Consideration for full or partial scholarship is based on aptitude, dedication, and financial need. Any child under the age of eighteen, regardless of race, creed, religion, or sex, may be eligible for consideration. An audition is required for all applicants and will be scheduled following submission of scholarship application documents. Auditions are arranged and reviewed by our teaching staff and Artistic Director. The amount of each scholarship depends upon: total funds available; number of successful applicants; technical level of applicant; number of required classes; and financial need. Scholarship awards are distributed based upon the Artistic Director's and teaching staff's evaluations.

Scholarships are funded in part by the Junior Women's Club of Williamsburg, private donations, and studio fundraisers. All scholarship applicant and recipient information is kept confidential. Scholarship applications are due yearly at the end of August and awarded the first week of September.

General Information

Every student is expected to follow all regulations and behave in a disciplined, responsible and courteous fashion. The Directors reserve the right to dismiss any student whose attitude conflicts with these standards or whose actions are deemed detrimental to other students of the academy.

Please inform the office of any known absences ahead of time. Excused absences need to be made up within two weeks of the absence. Examples of excused absences include: church events, family obligations, mandatory school functions, and illness. School dances and birthday parties are not excused absences. Class make-ups are to be in the same or lower level classes only.

Information regarding class changes, rehearsal schedules, performance dates, and related information will be posted on the website (www.danceVRB.com) and on the information bulletin boards in the hallway. Please check weekly for new and updated information.

Please arrive at least 15 minutes before class time. This will ensure that classes begin and end on time. Dancers should prepare and stretch until class begins. The dressing room is available to students for quiet conversation between classes. All street apparel should be left neatly in this room and not taken into the studio, except by permission from the instructor. No personal items should be left in the lobby at any time.

Parents are not allowed to observe classes in the studios without special permission from the instructor. Check the calendar for special parent observation days. You may schedule a conference with your dancer's instructor by calling or emailing VRBA.

Please do not eat or drink in the studio classrooms (including water bottles, unless permitted by the instructor.) You may eat and drink in the lobby or outside on the tables or benches. Please, no open containers in the dressing room. Please clean up after yourself. Snacks are available in the lobby. Filtered water is available from the sink in the girls' dressing room.

Parents are reminded that small children must be watched at all times while not in class. Please keep young ones from going upstairs at the Williamsburg location — this is personal space for faculty, staff, and guest artists.

Parents are asked to wait in the lobby for their dancer. Parents may leave the premises while their dancer is in class, but please return before the classes scheduled end time. Please supervise all children who are waiting for their siblings. VRB is not responsible for students who leave the building in between classes. VRB is not responsible for lost or stolen items. The lost and found is located in the girls' restroom in Williamsburg and the girls' dressing room in Yorktown.

Inclement Weather: In case of inclement weather, the academy will use email and follow Williamsburg James City County and York County Public Schools cancellation policy.

Code of Conduct

Every dancer and parent will need to be respectful of all students, instructors, and staff members. We will not tolerate any physical or verbal abuse, including “name calling” or “bullying” by any student. If a student and/or parent disrupts the safety of other students in the class they will be asked to leave without refund. All students and parents must show respect to the property of others. Any intentional damage to or theft of such property or class equipment will not be tolerated and could result in dismissal from the academy. All VRBA instructors will make sure the classroom is a safe environment by upholding these rules and regulations. If a student does not abide by these rules they may be asked to discontinue dance classes until they can use appropriate behavior. At any time, **we reserve the right to refuse service** based on the above mentioned.

We request that you contact all faculty through the methods listed on our website: email – dance@dancevrb.com or phone – (757) 229-2553, leave a message if no answer, or a personal note addressed to the recipient, left in the office mailbox. Please use these methods for the purposes of reporting absences, class changes, scheduling private lessons with instructors, meeting request with faculty or staff to discuss classes or productions or to make dance attire appointments. Communications should not be made via personal devices of faculty or staff; to ensure their privacy and respect of their personal time.

Class/Rehearsal Rules

- Talking is not permitted during class or rehearsals.
- Chewing gum is not permitted in class or rehearsals.
- Students must follow the dress code for all classes and rehearsals.
- Students should show respect for themselves, others, and the facility.
- Food and drink are not permitted in the studios (including water bottles, unless permitted by the instructor).
- If you are late, please wait to be welcomed into class by the instructor.
- If you are more than 10 minutes late you may be asked to observe class, due to risk of injury.
- If you know that you will have to leave class early, please notify your instructor before class begins. Please leave discreetly.
- Wait to be dismissed from class, and then thank your instructor appropriately.
- If you have any injury or special need please tell the instructor before class begins

Class Descriptions

Ballet

Pre-Ballet, Ages 5-6: An introduction to basic ballet techniques through beginning barre and center work. Foundation class emphasizing proper posture, coordination, and music awareness.

Ballet 1: Classes are designed to give a good foundation in proper ballet technique using more barre and center work.

These classes emphasize the development of a good work attitude while promoting self-confidence.

Ballet 2-5/Int/Adv: Classes are divided by ability and experience with an emphasis on barre technique, center, and performance. Vaganova I syllabus.

Pointe, Ages 10 & up: Prerequisite: previous ballet training and evaluation by instructor. All students taking Pointe are required to take a minimum of 2 ballet technique classes per week.

Variation/Adage/Pas de Deux: From classical ballets offered to advanced level ballet dancers who take unlimited level ballet classes. Good, strong technique is required to participate in partnering. All students must be evaluated by instructor before attending class.

Teen/Adult Ballet: This class is for those students who wish to begin or begin again at an older age. Emphasis is on basic technique development. It is a good class for those who wish to get in shape, just for fun, and not follow a more serious course of study.

Intermediate Adult Ballet: This class is for adult students who have completed two years of ballet. This class moves at a faster pace than Teen/Adult Ballet

Character

Character is the study of Folk Dance from various countries. Character provides a foundation for classical ballet performance where elaborated folk dancing is used. Ballet 2 and up. Co-requisite: minimum of 2 ballet classes per week.

Lyrical

Co-requisite: Must attend at least one ballet class per week.

Lyrical is a fusion of ballet, jazz, and contemporary movement with an emphasis on portraying the story of a song. Pre-req: Ballet 2 and above

Contemporary

Co-requisite: Must attend at least one ballet class per week.

A class in which students learn interpretive dance -- a fusion of ballet and jazz technique. Pre-requisite: Ballet 2A and above.

Modern

Co-requisite: Must attend at least one ballet class per week.

Modern dance is free and expressive movement. Students will learn improv, floor work and partnering. Co-req: Ballet 2A and above.

Tap & Jazz

Tap/Jazz Combo: An introduction to basic tap and jazz movements. Foundation class emphasizing proper posture, coordination, and music awareness.

Tap & Jazz 1-2: Basic level classes designed to give a good foundation in proper jazz and tap technique with emphasis on "Broadway" or theatrical styles.

Tap & Jazz 3, Int./Adv. Tap & Jazz: Co-requisite: must attend at least one ballet class per week. Adv. Level prepares dancers for competition, college, and/or professional career opportunities.

Teen/Adult Tap & Jazz: These classes are for those students who wish to begin or begin again at an older age. Emphasis is on basic technique development. Good classes for those who wish to get in shape, just for fun, and not follow a more serious course of study.

Hip Hop

Hip Hop incorporates jazz technique with contemporary social dance movement.

Early Childhood

Mommy & Me, *Ages 18 mos –3 yrs*: A special class for toddlers and their caregivers to explore dance, gymnastics and musical rhythm through simple movements. This class teaches appreciation for sound and body coordination while promoting the child-to-adult and child-to-child bonds.

Introduction to Dance, *Ages 3-4, 4-5*: An exploratory class combining tap, jazz, and ballet preparing students for basic ballet, jazz and tap techniques. Designed to promote basic motor skills development while teaching coordination, confidence, and music appreciation. A great first class!

Summer Programs

Each summer Virginia Regional Ballet Academy offers a full range of dance classes, camps, workshops, and intensive seminars for dancers of all ages and abilities.

VRBA provides Summer Intensive Seminars for dancers at Intermediate and Advanced levels. Without the pressures of school, summer seminars provide a good opportunity to focus on strength, technique, and artistic expression. Seminar classes are taught by guest instructors from around the U.S. and world.

Dance Camps for ages 4-9 include instruction in ballet, tap, jazz, crafts, nutrition, water ballet, etc., and conclude with a performance for family and friends.

Tween Dance Camps for ages 10-14 include ballet basics, hip hop, Broadway-style jazz, choreography, water ballet, daily nutrition & injury prevention lessons, and self-esteem training. Each week of camp concludes with a performance for family and friends.

Fitness Dance Camps for ages 11-16 include three (3) weeks of multi-discipline training. Session leaders encourage healthy living and fitness through Zumba (Latin dance aerobics), yoga, strength-building exercises, aquatic exercises, Bollywood, plus tap and hip hop, and daily nutrition lessons. Camp culminates with a performance for family and friends at the end of the three weeks. Scholarships for fitness dance camp are available for eligible students. Contact VRB for information.

Dress Code

A neat appearance helps students with their attitude and performance in class. All students must furnish their own attire and shoes for classes and shoes and tights for performances, unless otherwise specified by VRBA. Students are required to have appropriate attire by the second week of classes. No dangling earrings, watches, necklaces, or bracelets are to be worn in class. No fingernail polish or long nails. Absolutely NO STREET CLOTHES are to be worn during class. This includes loose fitting t-shirts, shorts, etc. The teacher has the right to dismiss any student from class who does not adhere to the dress code.

Dancers should arrive at the studio with street clothes covering their dance attire. Please do not allow your dancer to wear their dance shoes outside. It tracks in dirt and makes the dance floor very slippery.

Ballet

Girls: Black (single strap, tank, short or long sleeved) leotard, pink footed/convertible tights, pink ballet slippers, hair neatly secured off of the neck in a bun (no hanging hair or bangs). No leotards with attached skirts. Underwear is NOT to be worn under ballet attire.

Boys: Black tights, stretch pants, or shorts above the knee, white t-shirt tucked in or rolled with 1" elastic belt, white socks, black ballet shoes, hair neatly combed back out of face.

Note: All warm-up attire is to be removed after barre exercises or at the request of the teacher.

Character

Girls: Black leotard, pink footed tights, black character shoes, black character skirt, hair neatly secured off of the neck in a bun.

Boys: Black tights, stretch pants or shorts above the knee, white t-shirt tucked in or rolled with 1" elastic belt, white socks, black character shoes.

Tap/Jazz

Tight fitting black jazz clothing, black tap/jazz shoes, hair off the face and neck

Lyrical/Contemporary/Modern

Tight fitting clothing, bare feet or foot paws type footwear, hair off the face and neck.

Hip Hop

Dance or aerobic clothes, dance sneakers or jazz shoes. No street clothes. Hair off the face and neck

Intro to Dance—Pre-Ballet

Girls: Pink leotard, pink tights, pink ballet slippers, black tap shoes, hair neatly secured off of the neck in a bun.

Boys: Black stretch pants or shorts above the knee, white t-shirt tucked in or rolled with 1" elastic belt, white socks, black ballet shoes, black tap shoes.

Mommy & Me

Comfortable clothing for child and adult; socks or ballet slippers.

Rehearsal Attire

Girls: Any color leotard, pink tights, and proper footwear for rehearsal piece. Skirts are only allowed with the permission of the choreographer.

Boys: Any color dance attire-tight fitted and proper footwear for rehearsal piece.

About Shoes

The instructor must check all ballet shoes before sewing on elastic or ribbon. Taps should be checked once a week and tightened when need to avoid causing injury and damaging the floor surface.

Chamber Dance Attire



Dance attire is available for sale at the Chamber Dance Attire, located in our Williamsburg facility. See Mr. Bob for help with your dance attire needs. Payment is separate from VRBA payments. Cash or check is the preferred method of payment.

PERFORMANCES & PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

The Nutcracker

Virginia Regional Ballet is home to Heidi Robitshek's annual production *The Nutcracker*. Virginia Regional Ballet Academy's students join area professionals to perform Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* under the artistic direction of Heidi Robitshek, a Williamsburg tradition for over 30 years.



Virginia Regional Ballet holds open auditions for *The Nutcracker* each year in the summer. Dancers must be at least 6 years of age at the time of audition and have completed at least one year of ballet at the pre-ballet or higher level. All dancers are required to take summer ballet classes. VRBA's summer intensive seminar is *strongly* recommended for those dancers at the Ballet 3 level and above. VRBA dancers that are performing in *The Nutcracker* are required to take the following minimum number of classes during the dance year:

Pre-Ballet & Ballet 1: *one ballet class per week*

Ballet 1A/2: *two ballet classes per week*

Ballet 2A: *two ballet classes and one character class per week*

Ballet 3: *three ballet/beg/pre-pointe classes and one character class per week*

Ballet 4 & up (Int/Adv Ballet): *four+ ballet classes and one character class per week*

VRBA's Annual June Performance

Each year Virginia Regional Ballet Academy students perform in our annual production in June. Students from Intro to Dance to advanced levels perform. Each year a Family June Show Production fee is due in December and costume fee deposits are due in January with the remaining balance due in March. June Show costume prices range from \$50-\$85. The majority of the costumes are to be purchased by the student. Most intermediate/advanced ballet and character costumes are rental costumes. Dancers perform in Williamsburg and the Yorktown area over two weekends. Some dancers will perform in both theatres.

Community Performances

Virginia Regional Ballet Academy students perform in area senior living and care centers and local festivals such as An Occasion for the Arts, James City County Family Fun Fest, and the James City County Fair.

INSTRUCTORS & GUEST INSTRUCTORS

Instructors

Heidi Robitshek,

See *Founders*.

Adelle Carpenter,

See *Founders*.

Teanna Devnew

Ms. Teanna began taking ballet lessons at the age of 3 per her doctor's request. She had a slight pigeon toe, and he knew ballet would naturally correct her problem. She hasn't stopped dancing ever since. Growing up military, she got her training from all over the country until she settled in Virginia during high school. She began working at Busch Gardens as a dancer at the age of 16 and continued to perform there for 8 years. While at Busch Gardens, she also acted as dance captain, rehearsal technician and did casting on their audition tour. Teanna began her education at Point Park University as a jazz dance major but left in her junior year to get her BA in Communication Studies from Christopher Newport University. While at CNU, she helped started Dance Fusion, a dance club, and choreographed a contemporary piece that was showcased in their dance concert. She has been teaching for VRB since 2009 and loves watching her students improve! While teaching for VRB, she is also able to pursue her other love of event planning while working as the Guest Services Manager for Waters Edge Church.....all while juggling a 3 year old and husband!

William Sterling Walker

William Walker began dance training at the age of 14, at the Chamber Ballet (now the Virginia Regional Ballet) in Williamsburg, Virginia. He went on to receive the Artist Merit Award from the Virginia School of the Arts, and was a Regional Dance America scholarship recipient. He also trained with the Allegheny Ballet Company, and Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet. He has danced professionally with the Richmond Ballet, Starr Foster Dance Project, Chris Burnside and Dancers, Charisma Dance Theater, and has guest taught and performed throughout Virginia and beyond as far reaching as central Mexico, the coast of Columbia South America and Southern Spain. He is a certified teacher in the Wolf Trap teaching method for children. William taught for eleven years Ballet, Jazz, Modern, Latin, Flamenco and Techno Hip-Hop at Henrico County High school's Center for the Arts, and The School Of The Latin Ballet Of Virginia in which he was the Junior Company Director and veteran dancer of it's professional company The Latin Ballet Of Virginia. He is most pleased to be returning full circle to teach at the studio where he was first given the opportunity to discover the world of dance and to pass along the joys and strength that it has given him to aspiring young people

Cayley Mooney

Ms. Cayley started dancing when she was just 3 years old at The Chamber Ballet. While with The Chamber Ballet, which then became Virginia Regional Ballet, she trained in various forms of dance including - Ballet, Pointe, Jazz, Tap, Contemporary, Modern, Lyrical, Hip-Hop, and Celtic. She has performed in several classical ballet productions and excerpts to include The Nutcracker, Coppelia, and Paquita. She performed leading roles in Virginia Regional Ballet's Nutcracker to include Dew Drop, Tirolese, Lead Russian, Mouse King, and Klara. At the age of 17, she was offered three full ride scholarships for dance - The Joffrey Ballet, Interlochen School for the Arts, and Shenandoah University. She went to New York City and attended The Joffrey Ballet. At the end of her study there, they offered her a position as a trainee within the company. Ms. Cayley's passion for teaching dance started in high school when she helped as a teacher assistant at Virginia Regional Ballet. She also assisted Ms. Adelle teach the SHIP program after school. After high school, Cayley went to college to become a nurse, which is her current full time job. While attending school in Jacksonville, NC, she taught dance at Diana's Dance Academy, Swansboro Dance Studio, Emerald Isle Dance Studio, and Dance Theatre of Jacksonville. She has now been back in

Williamsburg for about 2 years with her son and husband. She loves the opportunity to be back with her VRB family!

Cathy Leach

Ms. Cathy has been performing, teaching, and sharing her love of dance for the past 35 years. She studied dance at the Tidewater Ballet in Norfolk, VA and was in the first company of the Richmond Ballet. In the 1980s, Ms. Cathy initiated the dance program for Newport News Parks and Recreation. She has taught beginner to advanced ballet, tap, and jazz, beginner to intermediate baton, beginner tumbling, Zumba, and ballroom. She has directed marching units for numerous parades and has been a guest adjudicator for the VA State Pageant. Mrs. Leach became a Zumba Fitness Instructor in 2010. Currently, Ms. Cathy teaches Intro to Dance, ballet, tap, and jazz, as well as teaching dance in local schools as part of Virginia Regional Ballet's outreach programs.

William Sterling Walker

William Walker began dance training at the age of 14, at the Chamber Ballet (now the Virginia Regional Ballet) in Williamsburg, Virginia. He went on to receive the Artist Merit Award from the Virginia School of the Arts, and was a Regional Dance America scholarship recipient. He also trained with the Allegheny Ballet Company, and Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet. He has danced professionally with the Richmond Ballet, Starr Foster Dance Project, Chris Burnside and Dancers, Charisma Dance Theater, and has guest taught and performed throughout Virginia and beyond as far reaching as central Mexico, the coast of Columbia South America and Southern Spain. He is a certified teacher in the Wolf Trap teaching method for children. William taught for eleven years Ballet, Jazz, Modern, Latin, Flamenco and Techno Hip-Hop at Henrico County High school's Center for the Arts, and The School Of The Latin Ballet Of Virginia in which he was the Junior Company Director and veteran dancer of it's professional company The Latin Ballet Of Virginia. He is most pleased to be returning full circle to teach at the studio where he was first given the opportunity to discover the world of dance and to pass along the joys and strength that it has given him to aspiring young people.

Stephanie Delneky

Stephanie began dancing at the age of 10. She is a self-taught hip hop dancer whose passion for dance was ignited by watching Step Up movies and YouTube videos. Stephanie is a graduate of Christopher Newport University, with a degree in psychology and minors in leadership and sociology. She continued her education with a Masters in Sports Psychology and is moving forward to start a doctorate in Clinical Psychology. While at Christopher Newport University, Stephanie decided to create a hip hop dance club from what had previously been a group that died out. In 2012, she rebuilt the group to be what it is today, comprising of 50 dancers. The group performs on campus and she continues to be a part of their choreography team even after graduating. In addition, Stephanie is currently the Assistant Coach for CNU Storm, the university's elite competition dance team.

Miryam Mendelson

Miryam is new to VRB and Williamsburg this year. She studied Musical Theatre Dance at the Chicago College of Performing Arts for the past two years, and she is now at William and Mary studying Public Policy. She is so excited to be a part of VRB!

Christine Matter

Chris teaches the original Aerobic Dancing program choreographed by Jacki Sorensen. For all ages shapes and sizes, this progressive course incorporates the criteria for fitness: stretching and flexibility, muscle toning and strengthening, and a cardiovascular workout.

Marcus Rivera PT, DPT, SCS

Marcus Rivera received a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Christopher Newport University before earning his Doctor of Physical Therapy from Old Dominion University. He is board-certified as a Sports Clinical Specialist by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties. A highly trained Physical Therapist with specialty expertise in sports rehabilitation and injury prevention. He believes that every movement has a purpose - either for sport, leisure or work. Restoring the body to that optimal function is his goal, achieved by a personalized plan for exercise, manual therapy or combination of methods. He

graduated from Lafayette High School and remained in Hampton Roads for his undergraduate and post-baccalaureate education. He gives back to the community volunteering with Warhill High School Football team coaching offensive line and leading strengthening conditioning. Marcus donates his time to our studio, conditioning and training dancers. His knowledge of motion, kinesiology and overall mechanics benefits the classical Vaganova Ballet foundations our studio teaches. Marcus works several training sessions during the dance year with our dancers correcting strengthening and increasing range of motion. He is on sight during Nutcracker performances and rehearsals to aid and prevent injury with assessment. We are so grateful to have him on the VRB team.

Guest Instructors/Choreographers

Nicole Lorah

Nicole grew up in Williamsburg, Virginia, studying classical ballet and various other forms of dance at Eastern Virginia School for the Performing Arts under the tutelage of Sandra Balestracci. She also trained with Adrienne Dellas-Thornton and Ludmilla Morkovina at the Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington D.C.. She has also trained in gymnastics, aerial hoop and other circus arts, and enjoys singing and musical theater as well. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy with a Minor in Dance from Christopher Newport University and has performed with numerous local dance and theatre companies including Busch Gardens Williamsburg, Virginia Shakespeare Festival, Virginia Opera Association, Virginia Musical Theatre, and Todd Rosenlieb Dance Ensemble. She has also taught for various local dance studios and gyms including Margie Williams Studio of Dance, SI Dance, Airotique Movement, and WISC Gymnastics. She loves teaching and is very excited to work with Virginia Regional Ballet!

Desiree Moore

Ms. Desiree was 6 years old when she began her dance training at Diggs School of Dance. She has been dancing with Virginia Regional Ballet since 2010 and has been a part of VRB's Nutcracker since 2006. Desiree has attended summer dance programs with the Virginia School of the Arts in Lynchburg, Virginia, Common Thread in Missouri, and Cleo Parker Robinson Dance in Colorado.

Noelle Schatzel

Ms. Noelle began her dance training as a dedicated student of Chamber Ballet, under the instruction of Heidi Robitshek. In the summer of 2000 and 2004, Noelle participated in cultural exchange programs to Germany with the Robitshek Dance Ensemble. She was awarded a dance scholarship to Butler University. After finishing her sophomore year at Butler, she took a semester off and performed as a trainee with the Richmond Ballet in 2007. Noelle returned to college and earned her BA in Dance at Old Dominion University and Masters from William & Mary. She is a member of Sigma Rho Delta, the honorary dance fraternity. In 2009, Noelle began teaching for Newport News Public Schools as a dance teacher for physical education courses, as well as helping coordinate the dance program for NNPS Summer Institute for the Arts. Noelle has performed leading roles with Chamber Ballet and Virginia Regional Ballet, including Lisette in The Magic Flute, and the Snow Queen and Dewdrop in The Nutcracker.

Caitlin Hanacek

Ms. Caitlin's passion for dance was ignited at the age of four when she started dancing at the New Hampshire Academy of Performing Arts (NHAPA). While at NHAPA, she trained in many forms of dance including; Ballet, Jazz, Contemporary, Hip Hop and Tap. While at NHAPA, Caitlin was a member of the Seacoast Civic Dance Company and served as captain of the company from 2004 to 2006, traveling nationwide for competitions, performances and intensive workshops. In 2006, she was named NHAPA's Student of the Year for her dedication and leadership. Caitlin went on to study at the University of New Hampshire where she was a member of the UNH Competitive Dance Team. After completing her freshman year, Caitlin was given the opportunity to move to New York City to intern at the acclaimed Broadway Dance Center. While at Broadway Dance Center she trained with many renowned choreographers while focusing her intensive training in contemporary jazz. After auditioning and training in New York, Caitlin finished her degree at the University of Maryland graduating in 2010 with a BA in Psychology. Since graduating she has developed a great passion for teaching and has taught and choreographed for competitive contemporary and jazz teams in the DC area while continuing her own training at various conventions and seminars. Caitlin has just recently moved to the Williamsburg area

and looks forward to sharing her passion for dance and her exceptional training with students at the Virginia Regional Ballet.

Cornelius Bartlett

Mr. Bartlett trained with Heidi Robitshek at the Chamber Ballet before attending the Kirov Academy in Washington, D.C. as a scholarship student and North Carolina School for the Arts. At the Kirov Academy he studied with Ulena Vinogradova and Rudolph Kharatian and danced with the Kirov Ballet in *The Nutcracker*. He began dancing with Virginia Ballet Theatre in 2003. He has since performed as the Prince, Cavalier and Russian in *The Nutcracker*, the Court Jester in *Cinderella*, and the Cobbler in *Twelve Dancing Princesses*. He also performed in *Allegro Brillante*, *Serenade*, *Irish Ode*, *Mr. Evil & the Forever Diamond*, *Kettentanz -- Eisel und Beisel Sprung*, *Suite Saint-Saens* and *The Firebird*. Other professional affiliations include Busch Gardens Williamsburg, Busch Gardens Tampa, The American Music Theatre in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and Oak Ridge Civic Ballet in Tennessee.

Sandra Carlino

Sandra Carlino began her dance training at age nine with the Norfolk Civic Ballet under the direction of Gene Hammett and Perry Brunson. Her eight years of study included five years of performing with the Company. Ms. Carlino has an extensive performing repertoire, including memorable roles in *Paquita*, *Raymonda*, *Spring Waters*, *Graduation Ball*, *La Bayadere* and *Swan Lake* as well as major classical and contemporary works. At age 17, she was offered a position with Joffrey II, where she studied for three years.

Ms. Carlino has over 25 years teaching experience for regional companies and festivals, as well as the Virginia Governor's Magnet School, Virginia Ballet Theatre (formerly Norfolk Civic Ballet), Harrisburg Ballet, Joffrey Ballet School Summer Program, Baltimore School for the Arts and served as temporary Ballet Mistress for Cedar Lake Ensemble's premiere touring season.

She began her association with Pennsylvania Regional Ballet (formerly Cumberland Dance Company) in 1989, becoming Ballet Mistress in 1991 and was named Artistic Director in 2000.

In addition to her work as Artistic Director, Ms. Carlino serves as a master teacher and rehearsal director throughout the country, as well as the Northeast Coordinator to the National Board of Regional Dance America and as a panel member for the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

Danile Giesy

Ms. Danile began her training in Norfolk, Virginia. She has been performing professionally since 1981 and teaching dance since 1983. Danile has performed with Chamber Ballet, Ballet Tidewater, Young Audiences of Virginia and Richmond Ballet. She has taught for Tidewater Ballet, Chamber Ballet, and the Governor's School for the Arts, and Margie Williams Studio of dance. Danile is a third generation certified classical Pilates instructor and was recently certified as an EBAS (Elemental Body Alignment System) instructor.

Alexis Hopkins

Miss Hopkins studied a wide array of technique and performance styles at the Chamber Ballet in Williamsburg, VA, the Richmond Ballet, and Point Park University's Conservatory for Performing Arts in Pittsburgh. She performed in full-length classical ballets including *The Secret Garden* as well as many productions of *The Nutcracker*, plus numerous festivals and cultural events throughout her home state of Virginia.

In the summer of 2006, Alexis was invited to Germany to perform as part of the touring Robitshek Dance Ensemble, where she was part of a cast of talented dancers from around the world. As a dancer at Busch Gardens Europe in Williamsburg, VA, she spooked in the magical *Rockin' Eve's Countdown to Midnight*, polka'd in *This is Oktoberfest*, and scared in *Frightnight in the Festhaus*. Alexis also completed her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology summa cum laude at the College of William and Mary.

After moving to New York, Alexis delved further into international dance styles as part of Valeria Entertainment, a world dance company. Performing bellydance, Brazilian samba, Bollywood, jazz, and traditional gypsy was a blast. Miss Hopkins traveled with Valeria Entertainment throughout the northeast including the five boroughs of New York, plus Long Island, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut. Alexis also performed in the all-original *The Little Mermaid's Maid* with the Pink Pig Ballet in downtown Manhattan. Since returning to Virginia, Miss Alexis has enjoyed embarking upon her sixth year teaching. She

has taught in the Williamsburg/JCC and Newport News school systems, at the Chamber Ballet, and the William and Mary tap club. She is also a licensed Zumba instructor

Leda Meredith

Ms. Meredith's dance career spans classical ballet, modern dance and theater. She was a principal dancer with American Ballet Theatre II, Edward Villella, Manhattan Ballet, Ohio Ballet, Ballet du Nord and others. She toured as Louise in San Francisco Opera Ballet's *Carousel*, and appeared as Columbine for the Walter Verdehr Trio's PBS presentation of *Pierrot*. Leda is currently Rehearsal Director of Dances Patrelle, and originated numerous roles for that company including her critically acclaimed *Lady Macbeth* in Francis Patrelle's *Macbeth*. She was a company member of Jennifer Muller/*The Works* for over eight years and returned as Artistic Associate Director for *The Works* 25th anniversary season.

Leda is one of the few officially accredited teachers of the Muller modern dance technique, as well as teaching ballet, partnering, composition and performance skills. She is an Adjunct Professor for Adelphi University's Dance Department, and the recipient of Adelphi's 2007-2008 Teaching Excellence Award. She holds an Honorary Doctorate in the Arts from La Universidad Leonardo Da Vinci in San Salvador. Leda is a returning guest instructor for Pennsylvania Regional Ballet, the Henny Jurriens Stichting in Amsterdam, Western Washington University, Koelnertanz in Cologne, and the Dance Loft in Rorschach, Switzerland, among others. She has taught for the *Iles de Danse* in France, for the Artist's Trust International Course in England, and as a guest instructor for Carolyn Carlson's *Atelier de Paris*. Other dance programs she has taught for include the California State University at Los Angeles, SUNY Purchase, SUNY Oswego, and Brigham Young University in Hawaii. She has been a featured instructor for the Northeast Regional Dance Festival and the American College Dance Association.

A published author on many subjects, her writing has appeared in *Pointe Magazine*, *European Dance News*, *The Herb Companion*, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's *All-Region Guides*, and *The-Vu*, among others. Leda is also a professional gardener and botanist and teaches for the New York Botanical Garden and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

Victoria Schneider

Victoria Schneider studied with Fred Danieli at the School of the Garden State Ballet in New Jersey. She danced professionally with the Garden State Ballet as a soloist, and with the Pennsylvania Ballet. She then taught at the School of the Pennsylvania Ballet for seven years, before moving to Italy where she worked as principal teacher at La Scuola di Danza Classica in Florence. After returning to the United States, she established the School of the Tampa Ballet and served as ballet mistress of the Tampa/Colorado Ballet. Ms. Schneider studied the teaching syllabus of Russian Classical Ballet with her late husband, Jurgen Schneider, and with Janina Ciunovas. In addition, she completed the two-year pedagogy program at the Vaganova Academy of Ballet in St. Petersburg, Russia. (She is one of only three Americans to be certified through this prestigious and demanding program.) Her students have won major awards in numerous ballet competitions and can be found dancing in major ballet companies in the United States and abroad. Ms. Schneider has served as a jury member for the Japan Grand Prix ballet competition since its inception in 2002. She is currently a faculty member at the Harid Conservatory in Boca Raton, Florida.

Donald Tolj

Donald Tolj is currently an instructor at the Harid Conservatory in Boca Raton, Florida. Prior to Harid, he was director of ballet at New Tampa Dance Theatre and the choreographer in residence for Dance Theatre of Tampa. He returned to Florida after four years in the UK from 2006 to 2010 where he was Artistic Administrator and faculty member at the Elmhurst School for Dance in Association with the Birmingham Royal Ballet. While in the UK Mr. Tolj was a panel member on the first international symposium on Dance Psychology hosted by the University of Birmingham, UK, a dance and movement consultant for the Bio-mechanics of Dance Project at Coventry University, and completed his Level 2 Certification in Pilates.

He started his career at the Cincinnati Ballet while attending the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. Don received a BA in Visual and Performing Arts from The University of Maryland, Baltimore County in 1977. During his 20 year international performing career, he worked with the Who's Who of both Ballet and Contemporary dance. He was a dancer with Maryland Ballet, Richmond Ballet and Southern Ballet Theatre, dancing Principal and Soloist roles in the most of the Classic repertoire as well as having roles created for him by leading choreographers.

Donald has been the Artistic Director of The Chamber Ballet and Evansville Dance Theatre, Louisville Ballet's Civic Company, as well as the Director of their affiliated schools. Concurrently he spent 14 years on the summer faculty of the prestigious Governors School for the Humanities and the Visual and Performing Arts in Richmond VA, instructing a range of interdisciplinary arts and humanities subjects as well as dance. He has many former students in companies world wide, including, New York City Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Singapore Dace Theatre, Estonian National Ballet, Teater (Theatre) Vanemuine, Magdeburg Ballet, Sacramento Ballet, Tulsa Ballet, Slovak National Ballet and others.

Lauren Fadeley Veyette

Lauren Fadeley was born in Orlando, FL, where she began her dance training at age four. She trained at the Orlando Ballet School and the School of Performing Arts in Florida, along with summer intensives at The Rock School for Dance Education and The School of American Ballet. In 2000 at age 15, after attending SAB for three consecutive summers, Ms. Fadeley moved to New York City to study there full-time.

Once completing a year at SAB, Ms. Fadeley was invited by Peter Martins to join New York City Ballet. While there, she performed in numerous works by George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, Peter Martins, and Christopher Wheeldon. After two years with New York City Ballet, Ms. Fadeley decided to further her academic and dance education by attending Indiana University. While at IU, she performed principal roles in *Serenade*, *Sonatine*, *The Nutcracker*, *Spring Waters*, *Cinderella*, *Who Cares?*, *Paquita*, *Napoli*, and *Allegro Brillante*. In May 2007, she graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Ballet Performance with an outside field in Kinesiology.

Since joining Pennsylvania Ballet in fall 2007, Ms. Fadeley has originated featured roles in Peter Quanz' *Jupiter Symphony*, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's *Requiem for a Rose*, and Matthew Neenan's *Pampeana*, *Keep, At the border*, and *Beside them, they dwell*. She has performed principal roles in *Giselle*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Titania, *Divertissement Pas de Deux*), George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*™ (Sugarplum Fairy, Dewdrop), *Slaughter on Tenth Avenue* (Striptease Girl), Christopher Wheeldon's *After the Rain* (Pas de Deux), and Trey McIntyre's *Peter Pan* (Wendy). Ms. Fadeley also has performed featured roles in *The Four Temperaments* (First Theme, Third Theme, Sanguinic), *Agon* (Pas de Deux), *Ballo della Regina*, *Messiah*, *Kazimir's Colours*, *Cinderella* (Summer Fairy), *Octet for Strings*, *Five Tangos*, *La Sylphide*, *Barber Violin Concerto*, *N.Y. Export: Opus Jazz*, *The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude*, *In the middle, somewhat elevated*, *Twyla Tharp's Push Comes to Shove*, *Jiří Kylián's Forgotten Land*, and *William Forsythe's Artifact Suite* (Pas de Deux 2).

In March 2011, Ms. Fadeley premiered as Odette/Odile in Christopher Wheeldon's *Swan Lake*. She was also one of fourteen Pennsylvania Ballet dancers who performed in the Academy Award-winning film *Black Swan*. She has appeared as a principal guest artist with Carolina Ballet at An Appalachian Summer Festival in Boone, NC in 2012 and with BalletX at the Vail International Dance Festival in 2012 and at The Joyce Theater in New York City in 2013. Ms. Fadeley was promoted to Soloist for the 2011-2012 Season and to Principal Dancer for the 2012-2013 Season. She is married to Pennsylvania Ballet Principal Dancer Francis Veyette.

Francis Veyette

A California native, Francis Veyette began his dance training at age 10 at Dance Arts in Visalia, CA. He also studied at Westside Ballet in Santa Monica and took summer sessions at The School of American Ballet in New York City and The Rock School for Dance Education in Philadelphia.

Mr. Veyette began joined Pennsylvania Ballet as an Apprentice in 1997 and was promoted to the Corps de Ballet in September 1999. His featured roles included Candy Cane and Tea in George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*™, Bluebird in *The Sleeping Beauty*, Petruchio in *The Taming of the Shrew*, and Titania's Cavalier in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In August 2003, Mr. Veyette joined Kansas City Ballet under the artistic direction of William Whitener, where he danced for two seasons. His featured roles included the principal couple in Balanchine's *Square Dance* and *Theme and Variations*, Cavalier and Drosselmeyer in *The Nutcracker*, the Husband in Jerome Robbins' *The Concert*, the principal couple in *Paquita*, and the Peasant Pas de Deux in *Giselle*. He appeared as a guest artist for Pennsylvania Ballet on three occasions during the 2004-2005 Season, before returning to the Company for the 2005-2006 Season as a member of the Corps de Ballet. Mr. Veyette was promoted to Soloist for the 2007-2008 Season and to Principal Dancer for the 2011-2012 Season.

Mr. Veyette's principal roles include Prince Siegfried in Christopher Wheeldon's Swan Lake, the Pas de Deux in George Balanchine's Agon, Colas in Sir Frederick Ashton's La Fille mal gardée, and Pas de Deux 2 in William Forsythe's Artifact Suite. In 2012, Mr. Veyette danced the role of Count Albrecht in Giselle opposite former Principal Dancer Arantxa Ochoa in her final series of performances. He has created featured roles in Jorma Elo's Pulcinella, Benjamin Millepied's This Part in Darkness, and several Matthew Neenan ballets including 11:11, As It's Going, Penumbra, and Pampeana No.2.

In addition, Mr. Veyette has made guest appearances with Massachusetts Youth Ballet, Westside Ballet, and Festival Ballet Theatre. He appeared in Japan during the summers of 2002 and 2004, dancing Balanchine's Tschaikovsky Pas de Deux, Giselle, and Le Corsaire. He also has had the opportunity to work with cutting-edge choreographers as a guest artist with Matthew Neenan and Christine Cox's BalletX and has created several of his own works for both Shut Up and Dance and Kansas City Ballet's "In the Wings" program. Mr. Veyette is married to Pennsylvania Ballet Principal Dancer Lauren Fadeley Veyette.

Gennadi Vostrikov

Gennadi Vostrikov was born in Siberia, Russia. He received his early training in Perm. Mr. Vostrikov studied with the renowned ballet teachers Plaht and Asaular. Gennadi was awarded the first degree diploma in the Leningrad Ballet Competition. Upon graduation, he was asked to join the Moiseyev Classical Ballet Company. While with the Moiseyev Company he was coached by the legendary ballet masters, Igor Moiseyev, Asaff Messerer, and Sulamif Messerer.

The Moiseyev Classical Ballet Company traveled worldwide. It was during one of their many tours that Mr. Vostrikov saw the possibility for freedom and defected while in Mexico. The Mexico Ballet Company prompted him to join their company as a principal and teacher. Nicholas Petrov, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre director, heard about his defection and requested that Gennadi join PBT. While with PBT, Gennadi performed numerous principal roles in such ballets as The Nutcracker, Prince Igor, Rite of Spring, Spectra de la Rose, Carmina Burana, Coppelia, Cinderella, Giselle, Swan Lake, Les Sylphide, Romeo and Juliet, Corsaire Pas de Deux, La Bayadere, and Don Quixote, as well as having performed with the Pittsburgh Opera. Mr. Vostrikov also was a principal with Chicago Ballet and Milwaukee Ballet. Gennadi was an associate professor of dance with the University of Alabama in Birmingham, Shenandoah University, as well as Director of Ballet Zulia in Maracaibo, Venezuela.

Mr. Vostrikov is currently director of the Virginia Youth Ballet and Vostrikov's Academy of Ballet. He is also a guest teacher and choreographer with Cumberland Ballet, New Castle Ballet, Virginia Regional Ballet, Louisiana Dance Theatre, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School, Pittsburgh Youth Ballet, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, and master teacher with national and regional ballet festivals.

Ricky Wallace

Ricky Wallace Jr began dancing at the age of 17 as a freestyle Hip-Hop dancer. With no actual professional training experience, at 18 he decided to audition for the Stuttgart New York City Dance School (NYCDS) Professional Dance Academy (PDA) and was accepted. While studying at NYCDS, Ricky learned basics in ballet, jazz, modern, tap, and grew tremendously in hip hop. Also while attending NYCDS, Ricky performed in a flash mob promoting the clothing line S.Oliver, a backup dancer for 2 concerts hosted by a popular radio station called SWR 1 & 2, and as a dancer promoting the car company Mercedes Benz. After graduating in March 2012 from NYCDS and receiving his certification to teach, Ricky returned to the states and with his family, moved to Newport News, Virginia. In October of 2012 Ricky received his first job as a teacher, teaching at the Margie Williams Studio of Dance. Ricky has a huge passion and love for dance, and feels blessed to be able to share that passion with others. Ricky also attends Saint Leo University and is pursuing a major in business management with hopes of owning his own dance studio in the future.

Elbert Watson

Mr. Watson studied classical ballet at the New York Conservatory of the Arts and at The John Cranko Schule in Stuttgart, Germany. Mr. Watson is a former principal dancer with The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, The Staatstheater of Kassel, Germany, The Pearl Primus Earth Theater, and The Joan Miller Dance Players. He is a master teacher for the City of Norfolk Dance program and the Ballet Virginia International School and Company. Mr. Watson also serves on the Norfolk Commission of Arts and Humanities for the City of Norfolk and has participated in and led numerous collaborations with the Virginia Symphony, the Chrysler Museum,

the Attucks Theater, and Portsmouth Redevelopment. Mr. Watson is the co founder of the “Kinetics of Stone” fine arts collaborative in Christchurch, New Zealand, and the founder of the Tidewater Dance Collective and the Elbert Watson Dance Company. Mr. Watson is the dance master at Norfolk Academy and has been a dance instructor there for over twenty-five years.

Kristen Weiser

Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, Cumberland Dance Company (now Pennsylvania Regional Ballet), and The Julliard School.

Anton (Tony) Wilson

Anton is a graduate of the North Carolina School of the Arts. Anton T. Wilson was born in Annapolis, MD where he began his studies with Anne Waugh Allen and Edward D. Stewart. He has performed with: Ballet Theatre of Maryland; Parnassus Dance Theatre, Japan; Djazzex, Holland; Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo; Martita Goshen's Earthworks; Jennifer Muller/The Works, New York, among others. He has taught, choreographed and toured internationally for twenty-three years. Anton is a 2007 and 2009 recipient of the Maryland State Arts Council's Individual Artist Award for choreography. He is currently an instructor for the Baltimore School for the Arts.

Nanako Yamamoto

Nanako Yamamoto was born and raised in Japan, where she began her training at the Geijutsuza Ballet Studio "Jardin des Arts," performing such roles as Clara in The Nutcracker, Rose Adagio in The Sleeping Beauty and the title role in Cinderella. In 2005, she was selected to attend the prestigious Royal Ballet Summer School, then auditioned for and was accepted to the Elmhurst School for Dance in Association with the Birmingham Royal Ballet. While a student, she performed in the Birmingham Royal Ballet's National Tour of Firebird, Fokine's Petrushka, Petipa's Raymonda, and David Bintlye's Beauty and the Beast. She performed for his Royal Highness Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall and for the grand re-opening of Birmingham's town hall. Since graduating in 2009, she has performed with New Tampa Dance Theatre, Dance Theatre of Tampa, Ballet Fleming, in Giselle with Boca Ballet Theatre alongside Julie Kent and Marcelo Gomes, and as soloist in La Bayadere with Gillian Murphy, Jose Manuel, and Daniel Ulbricht. In 2013, Ms. Yamamoto joined American Repertory Ballet. While with the company she has performed soloist roles in The Nutcracker, Fantasy Baroque, Romeo and Juliet and Rite of Spring and has danced in world premiers, including the ARB's production of Firebird.