

BALLET INSTRUCTORS 2010/2011

MARION CHAEFF, DIRECTOR received her professional training at American Ballet Theatre in New York under world renowned teachers: Alexandra Danilova, Igor Schwezoff, Anatole Vilzak, Ludmilla Schollar, Yurek Lazovsky and Valentina Pereyaslavcev. She received her teacher's training in Vienna, Austria and is accredited to teach the Bolshoi School (Moscow Choreographic School) syllabus. After dancing professionally, she directed her own School and company in Oakland, New Jersey for 9 years and currently is Artistic Director of San Jose Ballet Association, a non-profit performing organization.

RIMA CHAEFF, DIRECTOR began her studies with her mother and was later a government sponsored scholarship student in Vienna, Austria for 3 years studying with Irina Borovska-Musil. She has studied with Rosella Hightower in Cannes, Zurich Opera Ballet, Saile Academy in Sydney, Australia, Boston Ballet and in New York with Sulamith Messerer, David Howard and the Joffrey School. She completed 3 years in the professional division of San Francisco Ballet School and danced in their Nutcracker and Showcase performances. She appeared as soloist with San Jose Dance Theatre and toured Europe with Ballet San Jose as Principal dancer. She is presently dancing with Pacific Ballet Theatre. She has created original roles with choreographers Lawrence Pech, Audrey King and Harold Lang and danced the roles of Giselle, Odette in Swan Lake, Nikiya in La Bayadere, and leading roles in Les Sylphides and Paquita.

BRIANNE ACKROYD danced professionally for 7 years in companies in West Germany and toured in France and Sweden. She holds a teaching degree in Ballet and Character Dance from the Hanover University of Music and Theatre and is a member of R.A.D., London. She taught ballet at San Jose State University for two years and in Bay area schools for many years.

SARAH ARNOLD trained in the Bay Area and danced professionally with Sacramento Ballet, Oakland Ballet, and in Europe. She directed ballet schools for 25 years in Boise, Idaho, and has trained many students who have gone on to dance professionally in major companies. In Idaho, she won several grants and formed a pre-professional ballet company that was part of the Regional Dance America. She is very pleased to be returning to the Bay Area and to be teaching for us.

KARAH ABIOG danced with Ballet San Jose (aka San Jose Ballet Association), and Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble in Denver and was one of the original members of the Complexions Contemporary Ballet in NYC. She specializes in modern dance and has a degree in dance from Loyola Marymount in LA.

KIMBERLY BOMAN received her advanced ballet training at the Walnut Hill School for Performing Arts in Boston. After studying with the Heinz Bost Stifting Ballet Academy in Munich, Germany, she joined the Bavarian State Opera Ballet Company at age eighteen and danced with them for 3 1/2 years. She then joined Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre where she danced for 3 years. She danced Sugar Plum in our 2003-2005 productions of Nutcracker.

AMANDA GARRETT BAN was trained at the Pacific Ballet Academy and San Francisco Ballet School. She has appeared in San Francisco Ballet's Nutcracker and was a solo dancer with Ballet San Jose, touring Europe and the Soviet Union. She will be teaching on a limited basis this year.

MAXIMO CALIFANO graduated from the Colon Theatre Institute of Fine Arts in Buenos Aires, Argentina and joined Colon Theatre Ballet. He has danced with the Royal Ballet in London, Stuttgart Ballet in Germany, Buenos Aires Neoclassic Ballet, Argentine Ballet Company, and Santiago Ballet in Chile. He currently dances with Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley as a principal dancer.

KAREN DYCAICO was a Founder and Executive Director of Westlake School for the Performing Arts in Daly City and is a Ballet Instructor at Cisco Systems Preschool Center. She trained under Malu Rivera and trained under the Royal Academy of Dance syllabus. Karen specializes in teaching young children in Pre-Ballet through Ballet III, and is the Director of our Summer Dance Camp program for young children.

ANTON PANKEVICH trained at the Vaganova Academy in St. Petersburg and School of American Ballet in NYC. He has danced with New York City Ballet, Dutch National Ballet, the Royal Ballet in London, and Pacific Northwest Ballet. He is currently a soloist with Ballet San Jose. He has guested with us in our Nutcracker and Showcase productions and is a member of our permanent faculty.

LAWRENCE PECH was trained at American Ballet Theatre and School of American Ballet and danced with American Ballet Theatre, and as Principal dancer with San Francisco Ballet. He was Artistic Director and Founder of Diablo Ballet in Walnut Creek. Larry is currently Ballet Master of the San Francisco Opera Ballet and also is Director of the Lawrence Pech Dance Company. Larry has performed, choreographed and taught for us for since 1987.

MARIA VEGH directed Harkness Ballet in New York and the Marin Ballet School and Company for many years. She is well known for her unique and superior teaching and coaching skills and her ability to develop young dancers into professional artists. She will be spending extended teaching time with us as her international teaching schedule permits.

NICOLE CUNHA has trained with Pacific Ballet Academy and spent two summer with ABT's Orange County program. She has danced many lead roles with us, including Sugar Plum. She has taught at all levels and is a permanent member of our faculty.

LAUREN WRAY has trained with Pacific Ballet Academy and has been a teacher's assistant for several years. She has taught our lower level students and is a permanent member of our faculty.

GUEST FACULTY

AESHA ASH danced with the New York City Ballet, Lines Ballet, and recently danced with Morphoses, Christopher Wheeldon's company in Australia.

JULIA JAMES danced with New York City Ballet for 2 seasons. She trained at Ballet West Conservatory, and School of American Ballet, and attended summer programs at Pacific Northwest and San Francisco. She taught for us for two years and specializes in the Balanchine style and repertoire.

ASHLEE KNAPP danced with the New York City Ballet and has been guest teaching for us for the past year.

ANTONIO MARK LOPEZ was a Principal dancer with San Francisco Ballet creating the leading role in Michael Smuin's choreography in "Song for a Dead Warrior". He has appeared as Guest Artist with many companies in the U.S. and taught for us during our past Summer Sessions.

JAMES STRONG received his BFA in Ballet at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and has danced for Eugene Ballet, Lawrence Pech Dance Company, Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley, and Smuin Ballet. He has performed for us in the past and is a welcome addition to our staff. He will be guesting this year.

KIM SAUNDERS received her training as at SAB, Steps and Broadway Dance Center in NYC. She was a principal dancer with The Empire State Opera, The Oregon Shakespeare Company and Janlynn Dance Company. She is involved with many musical theater productions in the area.

LISA SUNDSTROM danced with American Ballet Theater under Baryshnikov's and Kevin McKenzie's directorships. She was a principal dancer with Pennsylvania Ballet and has taught at Rock School, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, and has taught extensively for us.

MIRIAM WENGER danced with Miami City Ballet and Ballet West and trained at the School of American Ballet. She was on our faculty for several years and specialized in the Balanchine repertoire and style.

Pacific Ballet continues to bring in internationally known Guest Teachers. Past Guest Teachers have included:

BRIAN BERTSCHER danced with the Royal Ballet and Sadlers Wells in London, England, **RICARDO BUSTAMANTE**, former Director of Teatro Colon in Argentina and was a Principal Dancer with American Ballet Theatre and Guest Artist around the world, including Kirov Ballet and the Royal Ballet, and is now Ballet Master at San Francisco Ballet, **KRISTINE ELLIOTT**, former soloist with American Ballet Theatre, **AUDREY KING** was one of Margot Fonteyn's early teachers and had her own Youth Ballet Company in South Africa, **CATHERINE RYAN**, former dancer with New York City Ballet and San Francisco Ballet. **DANIEL SIMMONS** danced and taught for Joffrey Ballet and San Francisco Ballet and most recently with Cincinnati Ballet School, **NOEMI NARGIZIAN** trained and danced with the Armenian National Ballet in the Russian/Soviet style and also danced with both the Kirov and Bolshoi Ballet Companies. **FRANCES TSHUDY** has an MA in Theater Arts, Dance Emphasis, and has taught for us for many years.