

OUT OF TOWN FACULTY



CHRISTINE SPIZZO

Certified, ABT National Training Curriculum; Adjunct faculty, UNC School of the Arts; Ballet faculty, Dancers' Edge (Kernersville & WS)

Born in Belleville, Illinois, dancer Christine Spizzo trained at the San Francisco Ballet School, the NC School of the Arts (now UNCSCA), and at the School of American Ballet in New York. Upon graduation, she joined the National Ballet of Washington (DC), and the Ballet Repertory Company (NY), ultimately joining American Ballet Theatre in 1975. A soloist with ABT, Spizzo appeared in numerous Live From Lincoln Center and Dance in America telecasts, as well as the Herbert Ross films "The Turning Point" and "Dancers," and in Baryshnikov's "Nutcracker" and "Don Quixote" video films. Spizzo was a Principal dancer with Ballet Arizona from 1988-1990, and with the *Nureyev & Friends* North American tour in 1990. She performed in the

Broadway company of "Phantom of the Opera" from 1990-2000. Also during that time, she was an adjunct professor at both NYU and SUNY/Purchase.

In 1996, she served as Artistic Coordinator of ABT's inaugural Summer Intensive Program, and has remained a principal teacher in all subsequent ABT Summer Intensives (NYC, NC, TX, ALA). She is a certified *ABT National Training Curriculum* Instructor, Primary-L8.

In 2000, Spizzo joined the dance faculty at UNCSCA, where she worked for 10 years, receiving the Excellence in Teaching Award in 2006. She taught in the School of the Arts' Preparatory Dance Program for several years, and, periodically, still teaches ballet at UNCSCA. She is also on faculty at the Dancers' Edge dance studio in Kernersville and Winston-Salem. Christine is actively engaged as a Guest teacher and stager of classical ballet repertoire at various schools throughout North Carolina, as well as in New York, New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, and California. She has been on the ballet faculty of the Southeast Regional and Southwest Regional Ballet Festivals since 2014. Spizzo is the owner and co-founder, along with Mark McCullough, of Studio Elevé.



JOCK SOTO, who is half Navajo Indian and half Puerto Rican, was born in Gallup, New Mexico, and raised in Phoenix, Arizona. At the age of five, he began studying ballet with local teachers after seeing a television special featuring Edward Villella in the Rubies section of George Balanchine's *Jewels*. Mr. Soto continued his studies at the School of American Ballet (SAB), the official school of New York City Ballet. While at the School, Mr. Soto danced the role of "Luke" in Peter Martins' *The Magic Flute*, which was choreographed for the School's 1981 Workshop performances. That year, Georges Balanchine invited him to become a member of the Company's corps de ballet. In

June 1984 he was promoted to the rank of soloist, and one year later, he became a principal dancer.

Mr. Soto's extensive repertory includes featured roles in many of George Balanchine's ballets, including *Agon*, *Allegro Brillante*, *Brahms-Schoenberg Quartet* (first, third, and fourth movements), *Bugaku*, *Cortege Hongrois*, *Dances Concertantes*, *Donizetti Variations*, *Episodes*, *Firebird*, *The Four Temperaments*, George Balanchine's

The Nutcracker, Glinka Pas de Trois, Rubies from Jewels, Kammermusik No. 2, Liebeslieder Walzer, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Movements for Piano and Orchestra, Mozartiana, Orpheus, Robert Schumann's Davidsbundlerdanze, Scotch Symphony, La Sonnambula, Stars and Stripes, Stravinsky Violin Concerto, Symphony in C, Symphony in Three Movements, Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux, Union Jack, Vienna Waltzes, and Western Symphony. He has also danced featured roles in a number of ballets by Jerome Robbins, including Afternoon of a Faun, The Cage, Dances at a Gathering, The Four Seasons, Glass Pieces, I'm Old Fashioned, In the Night, Moves, Opus 19/The Dreamer, and West Side Story Suite, as well as Peter Martins' Barber Violin Concerto, Swan Lake, Symphonic Dances, and Valse Triste, and Robert La Fosse's Concerto in Five Movements.

Mr. Martins has created principal roles on Mr. Soto in a number of his ballets, including Adams Violin Concerto, Bach Concerto V, Concerto for Two Solo Pianos, Delight of the Muses, Ecstatic Orange, Fearful Symmetries, A Fool for You, Guide to Strange Places, Harmonielehre, The Infernal Machine, Jazz (Six Syncopated Movements), Morgen, A Schubertiad, Sinfonia, Songs of the Auvergne, Them Twos, and Thou Swell. During New York City Ballet's Spring 1988 American Music Festival, Mr. Soto originated featured roles in Mr. Martins' Black and White, Robert Weiss's Archetypes, Laura Dean's Space, and Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux's Five, and performed in Richard Tanner's pas de deux Sonatas and Interludes. In addition, he originated roles in Miriam Mahdavian's Urban Dances; Kevin O'Day's Huoah; Mr. Tanner's Ancient Airs and Dances, Operetta Affezionata, and Schoenberg/Wuorinen Variations; Lynne Taylor-Corbett's Chiaroscuro; Christopher Wheeldon's After the Rain, Liturgy, Mercurial Manoeuvres, Morphoses, Polyphonia; Shambards, and Slavonic Dances; and Damian Woetzel's Ebony Concerto.

Mr. Soto has appeared as a guest artist with the Kirov Ballet in Jewels in 2003 and at the Bolshoi Theatre with stars from New York City Ballet and American Ballet Theatre in 2003. In addition to his guest appearances, Mr. Soto has staged numerous ballets around the World, including works by Balanchine, Robbins, Martin, and Wheeldon, and many more.

Mr. Soto's television appearances with New York City Ballet include five Live from Lincoln Center broadcasts on PBS: "A Choreographer's Notebook: Stravinsky Piano Ballets by Peter Martins," "Balanchine's A Midsummer Night's Dream, "Swan Lake" choreographed by Mr. Martins; Ray Charles in Concert with the New York City Ballet, reprising his role in A Fool for You; New York City Ballet's Diamond Project: Ten Years of New Choreography, dancing in Chiaroscuro, Mercurial Manoeuvres, and Them Twos; and Lincoln Center Celebrates Balanchine 100, dancing in Liebeslieder Walzer. Mr. Soto also appeared in Mr. Bonnefoux's Five, as part of the Guggenheim Museum's Works in Process series on PBS. He has appeared on seven episodes of Sesame Street, including three in which he appeared with former NYCB principal dancer Lourdes Lopez. Mr. Soto was a celebrity guest-chef on the TV Food Network's Talking Food, hosted by Robin Leach, and has appeared as a celebrity judge on Channel 13's Masterchef. He has also been featured on A&E's Breakfast with the Arts as Artist of the Week.

In addition to his performing career, Mr. Soto served as a member of SAB's permanent faculty from 1996 to 2015.

Mr. Soto serves as a visiting instructor at Banff Centre for the Arts for the Indigenous Dance Residency program. He has also been invited to teach at prestigious dance departments in colleges and universities around the country such as Washington University, Oklahoma State, and many others.

Mr. Soto was the recipient of the Casita Maria Award for Hispanics and The First Americans in the Arts Trustee Award. Friends In Deed recognized Mr. Soto for his patronage of AIDS research, and in 2002, the School of American Ballet presented him with the

Mae L. Wein Award for Distinguished Service.

During the 2017 New Mexico State legislative session, Mr. Soto received the State's Certificate of Appreciation from Senator John Pinto for his contribution to the arts.

Mr. Soto resides in Eagle Nest, NM with his husband Luis Fuentes and his pet beagle "Bandit".

Our Meals, a cookbook written by Mr. Soto and former NYCB principal dancer Heather Watts, was published by Riverhead Books in 1997.

Water Flowing Together, a feature documentary on Mr. Soto was aired on PBS in 2006.

Every Step You Take, Mr. Soto's critically acclaimed memoir, was published by Harper Collins in 2011.



JEFFERSON BAUM

After graduating from the North Carolina School of the Arts, Jefferson Baum was awarded a full scholarship to the School of American Ballet in New York City. Mr. Baum started his career with the Pennsylvania Ballet Company and subsequently was a soloist with the Ballet de Monte Carlo touring Europe for two years. Upon his return to the United States, and for the next 12 years, Mr. Baum performed as a principal with the New Jersey Ballet, Ballet Arizona, Milwaukee Ballet, Cleveland Ballet, Santa Fe Opera Ballet, New York City Opera Ballet and the Metropolitan Opera Ballet. Mr. Baum has been a principal guest performer, teacher and choreographer with numerous regional, civic and New York City companies and ensembles in North America, South America, Asia, Africa, and Europe including a 6-week tour of China with the Los Angeles Ballet, a 4 -week tour of Russia with Stars of American Ballet and a 3-week tour of Spain and Portugal performing on stage with Rudolf Nureyev. Throughout his career, Mr.

Baum has had numerous roles created for him; in addition to performing works by a vast array of choreographers including, Balanchine, Petipa, DeMille, Arpino, Ailey, Limon, Weiss, Comelin, Martins and Fokine. Mr. Baum has had the privilege of being trained and coached by some of the ballet world's most distinguished figures including George Balanchine, Rudolf Nureyev, Sir Stanley Williams, Duncan Noble, Alexandra Danilova, Frederick Franklin, Lupe Serrano and Paul Sutherland. Mr. Baum is an internationally acclaimed master teacher and choreographer. He has been the subject of features in the following publications: Dance Magazine, Dance Teacher, Dancer, Newsweek, The New York Times and The New York Times Magazine. Photos of Mr. Baum may be seen in the dance books, Tradition, On Your Toes, Off Balance and Dancer, Men in Dance. He served on the faculty at Steps on Broadway of New York City from 1993 until 2000 and on the guest faculty roster from 2000 to 2004. In 2013, Mr. Baum was invited by Peter Martins, Ballet Master in Chief of New York City Ballet, and Kay Mazzo, School of American Ballet Director, to the "Teaching Excellence Conference" in New York City. For 18 years he successfully headed the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp Dance Department, touching the lives of thousands of young dancers. Providing top-notch training and choreography with the top Ballet Ensemble touring Europe for three weeks annually, he transformed the Blue Lake program into a highly respected national-level summer dance department. Mr. Baum served as Director of Dance, Associate Professor at Grand Valley State University from 2000 to 2007. Given the task of developing this university dance program, Mr. Baum, at the helm from its inception, focused on teaching, choreographing, directing and producing dance performances of the highest quality with an absolute commitment to excellence. Since moving to Santa Fe, Mr. Baum has been Director of Dance at The National Dance Institute, and Master Teacher at the School of the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet. His students have gone on to professional careers with

major companies including: Pacific Northwest Ballet, Washington Ballet, Momix, Pittsburg Ballet Theatre, Milwaukee Ballet, Dutch National Ballet, Ballet Tucson, Nashville Ballet, Columbia City Ballet, Cleveland Ballet, Miami City Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, Boston Ballet and most recently Alberta Ballet and the New York City Ballet.



RUTH HULETT: YOGA FOR DANCERS

As a Doctor of Oriental Medicine and Certified Yoga Therapist, Ruth Hulett brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her teaching. Having studied ballet since childhood, she was inspired to develop a method of teaching yoga to dancers in order to help them refine their technique, while preventing injury. Her classes focus on increasing strength and flexibility, improving balance and moving with greater awareness. She has taught master classes at New Mexico School for the Arts as well as private dance studios throughout the country. In her home studio in Santa Fe, she is grateful for the opportunity to work with retired dancers from companies such as New York City Ballet, Ballet de Monte Carlo, Joffrey Ballet, and Pennsylvania Ballet. She also works privately with dancers who are recovering from injuries or wanting to enhance technique through yoga. Her extensive background in anatomy and movement enables her to tailor a yoga practice to each

individual dancer. Ruth's students appreciate her encouraging approach to teaching as well her attention to detail. Ruth's background in yoga and ballet includes studying with the following teachers and schools:

Yoga: Ginger Garner, Professional Yoga Therapy Institute Dr. Timothy McCall, Yoga as Medicine Tias Little, Prajna Yoga Judith Hanson Lasater, Experiential Anatomy

Ballet: David Howard Perry Mansfield Performing Arts School and Camp Stephens College Harkness Center for Dance Injuries (Dance Medicine)



MARK E. MCCULLOUGH – Yoga (Vinyasa), and Tai Chi (Yang style)

Certified, YogaFit, Inc., Fitness First, Inc.; Yoga and Tai Chi Instructor, The Fitness Center at Kernersville; Yoga Instructor, Gramercy Research Group; Yoga and Tai Chi Instructor, ABT Summer Intensive Programs (at UNCSCA)

In 2010, McCullough established the Mobile Yoga Company, with the intention of bringing yoga to forward-thinking individuals and corporations, at their homes and places of business. His Winston-Salem clientele included Orthopaedic Specialists of the Carolinas, NC Baptist Hospital, Bishop McGuinness High School (women's basketball team), Gateway YWCA, Fulton YMCA, and Gold's Gym. Currently, in addition to his Studio Elevé' classes, Mark teaches yoga at The Fitness Center @ Kernersville, the Gramercy Research Group,

and occasionally at the UNC School of the Arts. He is the yoga instructor for American Ballet Theatre's Summer Intensive Programs at UNCSCA (2012-2016). Mark also teaches yoga-for-dancers at various dance schools throughout North Carolina (Charlotte, Monroe, Chapel Hill, Apex, Wilmington), as well as in New Mexico and Arizona, and 2018 Southwest Regional Ballet Festival in Dallas.

Mark's yoga practice is primarily influenced by the traditional Vinyasa style of yoga. His classes are intended for student practitioners of all levels and sports interests. He, himself, continues to take classes in yoga and Tai Chi, in order to expand and share his knowledge of the physical and philosophical aspects of holistic health.

Mark is the co-founder, along with Christine Spizzo, of Studio Elevé.



SELENA MOSHELL began dancing at the age of four in Orlando, Florida at the School of Performing Arts. She continued her training at the Royal Center for Dance Russian Ballet School and graduated Cum Laude with a degree in Environmental Studies and a minor in Dance from Rollins College. She has performed as a dancer and aerialist with Walt Disney World, Universal Studios, Sea World, the Orlando City Ballet, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, The Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, as well as studied with the Limon, River North, and Alvin Ailey Companies. Most recently she completed over eight years of touring with the first national tour of the Lion King, and completed a documentary for Disney Theatricals covering the fifteen year run of the national tour. She will be seen next in Los Angeles in Beauty and the Beast Live at the Hollywood Bowl.

<http://www.selenamoshell.com>

LOCAL FACULTY



PATRICIA DICKINSON Artistic Director of Festival Ballet Albuquerque, has been Director/Owner of Dance Theatre Southwest since 1995. She began training with Nancy Robison Stone and the Southern Ballet of Atlanta under Karen Conrad, formerly with American Ballet, and Pittman Corry. She was a scholarship recipient at the North Carolina School for the Arts studied at the Graham Conservatory in New York, and received a BFA degree with honors from Southern Methodist University. During these years, she studied with Madame Valentine Belova, and Nikita Talin of Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. Ms. Dickinson danced with Dallas Opera and the Dallas Ballet, where she worked with such choreographers and teachers as George Skibine, Marjorie Tallchief, Arthur Mitchell and James Clouser. She was a founding member and co-Artistic Director of Dancers Unlimited in Dallas for ten years where she performed the works of Judith Jamison, Moses Pendleton, Bill Evans, Bill T. Jones, Matthew Diamond, Peter Pucci, and others. Her diverse training has allowed her to move comfortably in roles from the Sugarplum Fairy in *The Nutcracker* to more contemporary ballets. She performed in film

and commercials and has produced fifteen record albums for the ballet classroom and three instructional videos. She served as Artist-in-Residence for the Dallas Black Dance Theatre and as Artist in the Schools for the Texas Commission for the Arts. She continues the “History of Dance and Discovery Workshops” program with live performances workshops she created for Texas and New Mexico elementary schools. She teaches master ballet classes throughout the country, and has served as a guest instructor at the University of New Mexico. Ms. Dickinson’s continuing teaching and choreographic career spans the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and Europe. She lives in New Mexico with her husband, Larry Wells, and son, Nicholas. She founded Southwest Civic Ballet in 1994 as a forum for young New Mexico dancers to come together and learn performance skills. In 1997, she became Artistic Director for the New Mexico Ballet Company, serving over eleven years in this capacity until 2009. She founded Festival Ballet Albuquerque in the fall of 2009 where she has choreographed and produced such epic ballets as *Nutcracker in the Land of Enchantment*, *Dracula*, *A Love Story*, *Firebird Ballet*, *Billy the Kid*, *Coppelia*, *Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *Blue Jean Blues*, and many more. Patricia has choreographed *Firebird Spectacular* for New Mexico Symphony Orchestra, *Merry Widow* for Opera Southwest, produced and co-choreographed *Peter and the Wolf* for NM Philharmonic, and choreographed *The Soldier’s Tale* and co-choreographed *Creation of the World* for the Figueroa Arts and Music Project. In 2011, she was presented with the *Bravos Award* by Creative Albuquerque and the *Dance Teacher Magazine Award* for Excellence in Teaching (the only winner in the Private Studio/Conservatory category). She continues to travel nationally, choreographing and teaching classes.



KEVIN GALLACHER teaches Stage Combat, Acrobatics, Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Lindy Hop, and Modern Dance. As a professional dancer, Kevin has performed as a Principle and Soloist with Park Avenue Dance Works receiving intensive ballet training with Valeria Madonia and faculty, Festival Ballet Albuquerque directed by Patricia Dickinson, and Moving People Dance Santa Fe where he studied with elite artists such as Jock Soto, Michael Vernon, Sam Watson, and Dudley Davis. His theatrical repertoire includes featured roles in the Carnival of Wonders created by award winning magicians Mark Kalin and Jinger Leigh, as well as five seasons with the world renowned Santa Fe Opera in the productions La Traviata, The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein, and Lucio Silla. One of Kevin's favorite performances was with Susan Graham at Lincoln Center for the Richard Tucker Gala. In October 2015, he was cast as "Mike" in Landmark Musicals production of A Chorus Line. In addition to professional performing, Kevin also studies Shotokan Karate and Stage Combat through the Society of American Fight Directors. Kevin is an assistant choreographer at the

Santa Fe Opera for Don Giovanni and Romeo and Juliet for the summer 2016 season. He has added several film and television credits recently to his never-ending resume



BETH GRIFFIN began her ballet studies with Terrell Paulk of the Atlanta Ballet and Sonia Manzi of the Vienna State Opera Ballet. She danced with Mr. Paulk's regional ballet company before continuing her dance studies in college where she earned a BSEd in biology education. She had the privilege of performing in many classical and contemporary works, including Swan Lake, Cinderella, Les Sylphides, Nutcracker, Giselle, Graduation Ball, and Paquita. She continued study with Duncan Noble (North Carolina School of the Arts), Andree Harper (Ballet El Paso), Marc Ligon (American Ballet Theater) and Maria Hirsch (Ballet de San Juan). In 1994 she and Ms. Hirsch co founded the Columbus Ballet in Georgia where Beth served as assistant artistic director, artistic director and executive director for over 10 years. In 2003 Beth founded the Columbus Ballet Conservatory at Columbus State University where she organized a training program that served as a school to the Columbus Ballet. For over 30 years Beth has taught and directed classical ballet, served as choreographer for the Miss Columbus and Miss Georgia

pageants, served as choreographer for the Springer Theater and Columbus University Theater department working on such productions as A Christmas Carol, A Doll's House, and Nunsense. During her time in Albuquerque she has had the privilege of serving as ballet mistress and rehearsal coach for area companies and continuing to train dancers in classical ballet. Beth is currently on faculty at Dance Theatre Southwest and serves as a primary rehearsal coach for Festival Ballet Albuquerque.



KYLE LINZER started dancing as a senior in high school in California and has now been dancing for over 25 years. He started the dance program at Cleveland High School in Rio Rancho after teaching in the dance program at Rio Rancho High School for 10 years and has now been teaching dance for the Rio Rancho schools for 19 years. He has worked with many dance companies over the years including Festival Ballet Albuquerque, New Mexico Ballet Company, Ballet Theatre of New Mexico, and as a guest artist with many others in New Mexico and California. He currently teaches all of the dance classes at Cleveland High School and the Advanced Partnering

(Pas de Deux) class for Dance Theatre Southwest. In addition to teaching dance and performing, Kyle teaches Yoga for the Rio Rancho Schools, Defined Fitness, and Blissful Spirits Hot Yoga, where he has the pleasure of training other instructors. He also teaches yoga workshops and trainings nationally and internationally, most recently in Alaska, Cancun, and Jamaica.



CHRISTO MCMASTER began dancing in 2012 when he participated in Festival Ballet Albuquerque's production of *Billy the Kid*. He began his formal ballet training at Dance Theatre Southwest with Dominic Guerra and Patricia Dickinson Wells. He has since been performing with Festival Ballet Albuquerque. Christo has recently performed with other companies such as Louisiana Delta Ballet, as a guest artist in their production of *Beauty and the Beast*, and more extensively with Connecticut Ballet, in the productions of *Giselle* and *The Nutcracker*, as well as various outreach programs. With his apprenticeship and trainee scholarship he studied under Mr. Brett Raphael, Director of Connecticut Ballet.



JONATHAN RAGSDALE is a professional actor, singer, dancer and choreographer with a full decade of experience as a teaching artist. After achieving his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Musical Theatre & Dance from UNM, he has performed in National Tours of musicals (*Memphis*, *Elf*, *Fame*) and at regional theaters (*Cats*, *Mamma Mia*) as well as on television (*Breaking Bad*, *In Plain Sight*) all while maintaining a teaching presence here in New Mexico. Jonathan teaches classes at Dance Theater Southwest, UNM, and The Growing Stage. He also creates choreography for musical theatre and show choirs. For more information, check out his website at jonathanragsdale.simdif.com or follow on Instagram: @JRags



ANTIONETTE SEGURA a native of Albuquerque began her dance training at the age of three with Fishback Studio of The Dance in ballet, jazz, tap, acrobatics, hip hop and contemporary. She has competed regionally and nationally with Fishback's dance team, receiving numerous awards and titles, including Youth America Grand Prix 3rd place contemporary winner and IDC Junior Miss Global. In 2005, Antionette joined NMBC, then under the direction of Patricia Dickinson Wells, where throughout the years she has performed in various roles in the productions of *The Nutcracker Ballet*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Spartacus*, *Pucci Sports*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Dracula*, and *Don Quixote*. She has performed in George Balanchine's *Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux*, *Serenade* and *Valse Fanatisie*. Antionette has trained with various artists and is currently a dance instructor for Kids Love to Dance and for NDI-NM. This is Antionette's fourth performance and second full season with FBA.



JORDAN SLOCUM has trained at Lana's School of Dance, Tara's Dance Academy, the National Dance Institute of New Mexico (NDI), Keshet, East Mountain Dance (EMD), Alwin School of Dance, and Dance Theatre Southwest (DTSW). She was also a member of Manzano High School's Dance Team, and studied dance at the University of New Mexico (UNM) with Simone and Vladimir Conde Reche, Eric Newton, and Donna Jewell.

Since studying at UNM, Jordan has received training from Zippora Karz, Jock Soto, Sheila Rozann, Christine Spizzo, Alex Ossadnik, Jefferson Baum, and many other nationally

renowned master instructors.

Jordan teaches all ages and levels of ballet and jazz, along with beginning and intermediate pointe, hip-hop, lyrical, and modern/contemporary. She has participated as a dancer and dance captain for Landmark Musicals, and currently serves as Office Administrator, Assistant to the Director, Rehearsal Coach/Director, and dancer for Festival Ballet Albuquerque, along with Office Administrator and Dance Instructor for Dance Theatre Southwest.

Jordan completed her bachelor's in Criminology with two minors, studied abroad in Brazil and Cuba, and recently completed a Masters of Science in Information Systems and Assurances at the Anderson School of Management, where she was also a Graduate Assistant. This is going to be her sixth season with Festival Ballet Albuquerque where she has performed George Balanchine's *Serenade* and *Valse-Fantaisie* along with many other works, and has been cast as a principle by Mel Tomlinson and soloist by David Chavez.



LORA STURM has been dancing for nearly her entire life. She has studied ballet, modern, and flamenco in Albuquerque and bharata natyam, South Indian classical dance, in Middletown, Connecticut and Paris, France. When she was ten years old, she began studying with Patricia Dickinson and her company and performed many roles, including Swanhilda in *Coppelia*, Sugarplum and Dewdrop in *The Nutcracker*, Mina in *Dracula*, *A Love Story*, and corps parts in Balanchine's *Serenade* and *Valse-Fantaisie*, to name a few. Ms. Sturm holds a B.A. in French Studies from Wesleyan University and is a licensed massage therapist.