

MIGNON FURMAN'S

# Performance Awards



115  
Choreographies  
12 Levels ages 5-18  
8 Awards & Certificates  
Performances  
DVDs, CDs,  
& Notes



# AAB

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF BALLET



# MIGNON FURMAN

Founder of the AAB Performance Awards, Teacher, Choreographer, Educationist.



**W**ith her talents, courage, and determination to give definition to her vision for ballet education, Mignon Furman started the American Academy of Ballet Performance Awards program.

It is taught all over in the USA, and is an international phenomenon, praised by teachers in USA and in other countries. Its success is due to Mignon's choreography: She was a superb choreographer. Her many compositions are free of cliché. They have logic, harmony, style, and intrinsic beauty.

**M**argot Fonteyn, with whom she was friendly, gave her invaluable advice, during several discussions about the technical, and artistic aspects of classical ballet. Mignon had the good fortune to benefit from the wisdom, and unique experience of the most famous ballerina of the 20th century.

Mignon also composed seven instructional DVDs for the teaching of classical ballet. She was a remarkable teacher. Her prodigious knowledge, and classical style gave her dancers the recognizable "Furman" look. She was also qualified to teach ballroom and Victorian dance.

**B**efore coming to New York, Mignon was the Director of the University of Cape Town Ballet School, with special responsibility for teacher-training. She formulated the program for the 80 trainee teachers, and 400 students at the Ballet School. She was nominated for the Distinguished Teacher Award from amongst the entire university's academic staff of professors, and lecturers.

**S**he also formulated the syllabus for ballet in the public schools; was the head-examiner for many years; and was president of the dance section of the city's performing arts program. She was awarded a Fellowship for her work for the RAD, and was the National Organizer for the United States before she left the RAD to start the American Academy of Ballet.



# WHAT ARE THE MIGNON FURMAN PERFORMANCE AWARDS?



## 10 REASONS TO PARTICIPATE:

*A New Program Brings New Enthusiasm Into Your School!*

- 1** Classical ballet over 12 Levels from age 5. The Performance Awards are all over the United States, and in other countries. Teach them at your own pace.
- 2** The beauty of the Performance Awards is that they easily supplement the Vaganova, Balanchine, RAD, or Cecchetti method – if that is your curriculum.
- 3** EACH dancer dances a solo, and in pairs, and is awarded a medal and a certificate: a great incentive to achieve personal best.
- 4** Not only for “studio stars.” A moment of glory for the once-a-week dancer, and the serious dancer.
- 5** Dancers perform before an audience of parents and friends. Applause, flowers, and cameras add to the excitement of this special achievement.
- 6** Each Level is a study in the superb choreography of Mignon Furman that is:  
A delight to teach, • a joy to dance, and • a pleasure to watch.
- 7** One of our teachers (who is teacher - and dancer - friendly) from another city will visit your school and award the medals and certificates. No costumes, traveling, and hotels.
- 8** A ready-made gradated program of instruction and music. The 115 choreographic compositions give choices at each Level. No need to worry about music. The music that Mignon selected after hours of listening, fits her choreography beautifully.
- 9** As the dancers progress from Level to Level, their enthusiasm continues from year to year. Many dancers have danced all 12 Levels. Parents are delighted with the progress that they can see.
- 10** Dancers who excel may be awarded a scholarship for the AAB Summer School at Purchase College, State University of New York – a wonderful prize.

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***The Performance Awards are an inspiration for me! – Tova Tsoubery, Tel Aviv, Israel***

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***A wonderful program. The kids just love it! What an amazing ‘gift’ Mignon gave teachers. Her choreography, and choice of music are quite remarkable. – Lyndette Galen, Texas Ballet Theater School, Dallas, TX***

# HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS WINNING PROGRAM:



**1** Study the program from the DVDs and notes. If there are any questions, call or email the office. The program is also taught at our annual Summer School, where teachers are certified.

**2** Teach the Levels that are appropriate to the capabilities of your dancers — the “stars” and the average dancers.

**3** When your dancers are ready, call or email the office to arrange a date for the Performance Awards. These may be held in your studio or in a dance space. An audience is essential.

**4** One of our 10 judges will attend the performance and award the certificates and medals amidst the great excitement generated.

**Un programa de excelencia. La coreografía perfecta es una maravillosa plan para las clases, y las metas de mis bailarines en un clima no competitivo.** – Maria Jose Cimino, Free Estudio de Baile CIMDIP School, Buenos Aires

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**My dancers have an objective. Once they have achieved one Level, they are eager to move to the next Level.** – Gina Chiavelli, Hopewell Junction, NY

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# PROGRAMS

## **PRE-Level 1** (Suggested ages 5 to 6)

For dancers who are not confident to perform a solo. They will perform in a group. Each dancer receives the same award – a silver star.

*Port de bras, allegro combination, solo dance.*

## **PRE-JUNIOR: Levels 1 to 3**

(Suggested ages 5 to 10)

*Port de bras, allegro combination, solo dance.*

## **JUNIOR: Levels 4 to 6**

(Suggested ages 10 to 13)

*Port de bras, adage, allegro combination, solo dance.*

## **PRE-SENIOR: Levels 7 to 9**

(Suggested ages 13 to 15)

*Port de bras, pirouette combination, adage, allegro combination, solo dance.*

## **SENIOR: Levels 10 to 11**

(Suggested ages 14 to 17)

*Port de bras, pirouette combination, adage, petit allegro (including batterie), grand allegro, solo dance. Pointe is an option in this setion.*

## **GRADUATE: Level 12**

(Suggested ages 15 and over.)

*Port de bras combination, a solo dance, a variation from a classical ballet (choice of two), and 3 codas.*

This Level is the finale of the Performance Awards. Only dancers who have the requisite ability should dance this Level.



# AWARDS

Each dancer will receive a certificate and an attractive medal on a ribbon. These are awarded at the end of the performance. There are 8 possible awards at each Level (except in pre-Level 1).

➤ **Gold with distinction**

➤ **Gold**

➤ **Silver with distinction or double distinction**

➤ **Silver**

➤ **Bronze with distinction or double distinction**

➤ **Bronze**



***My dancers enjoy the Performance Awards so much. It makes them proud of their dancing. – Keiko Mineta, Tokyo, Japan***



***No ballet program has had a more profound impact. How marvelous and innovative it is! It has led to growth in technique and performance. – Carol James and Linda Inboden, Warren OH***



# HERE IS WHY THE PERFORMANCE AWARDS ARE SUCH A GREAT SUCCESS FOR:

## You, the Teacher

- ✓ The ready-made choreography is a wonderful teaching program – loved by dancers, and parents.
- ✓ Easily phases into your curriculum, for the once-a-week dancers, and for serious dancers.
- ✓ You can teach the program at your own pace. When your dancers are ready for the Awards, call or email the office for a date.
- ✓ Study the program from the DVDs and notes. You can also attend the Teachers' Seminar at our Summer School and receive certification.
- ✓ The 12 Levels are a continuous attraction for your dancers that will maintain their enthusiasm year after year.
- ✓ Your dancers will improve their technique, and performance.

## Your Dancers

- ✓ Every dancer receives an award – the average and the exceptional. Do not have to be "stars" to enjoy their moment of glory.
- ✓ Improve at an amazing rate, and enjoy the program immensely. The 12 Levels are a measure of their progress.
- ✓ The medal and certificate are incentives to achieve personal best.
- ✓ Dancers who excel can be awarded a scholarship for our Summer School – a wonderful prize.

## Their Parents

- ✓ Enjoy the pleasure of seeing their children dance on their own – even if they are not "stars."
- ✓ No outlay, as in a competition, for costumes, traveling and hotels. The whole family can watch the performance.



***My dancers get better. Parents appreciate their progress. Miss Furman's choreography is perfect. I enjoy teaching it!*** – Karla Peniche, Cancun Escuela de Ballet, Mexico

***Gives my dancers confidence in their performance, knowing that they are developing their skills.*** – Gail Smith, Durban, South Africa



**A Personal Note (Re-Printed from a Previous Brochure)**

from **MIGNON FURMAN**

*When I attend Performance Awards in the United States and in other countries, teachers tell me of the progress of their dancers, and of the enthusiasm in their schools. Some teachers have told me that their teaching has improved as well!*



*Tremendous creative energy was infused into the awards. The results are:*

- **For teachers:** *An innovative and systematic methodology.*
- **For dancers:** *A stimulating achievement.*
- **For parents:** *A source of great satisfaction.*

*I see dancers grow positively tall with pride. Their parents are delighted when their children perform with such obvious enjoyment.*

*I have been teaching ballet for more than 30 years to children; professional dancers; university students; and ballet teachers. I was the Director of the University of Cape Town Ballet School in charge of teacher-training before coming to New York.*

*I have put my knowledge and experience into the formulation of this program, which has been proven to be of great value to teachers.*

*Mignon Furman*

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**A series of steps is a series of steps. That is not ballet. It is the artist within the dancer that gives harmony and mood to the picture drawn by the body.** – Anna Severskaya, my teacher in London

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American Academy of Ballet

# MIGNON FURMAN PERFORMANCE AWARDS 1000S OF DANCERS!

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