

American Academy of Ballet

Mignon Furman, Director



Summer School of Excellence

Purchase College SUNY, Purchase, NY
June 29 – August 10, 2008

American Academy of Ballet

Summer School of Excellence 2008

at Purchase College SUNY
Purchase, NY

Mignon Furman
Director

Brian Loftus
Associate Director

Programs

6 weeks

June 29 - August 10

5 weeks

July 6 - August 10

3 weeks

July 20 - August 10

2 weeks

July 6 - July 20

1 week

Technique Intensive

June 29 - July 4

Welcome

Why our Summer Schools are so great.

I have organized 27 Summer Schools in the past, and each one has been a success.

Great Faculty

I always invite a Faculty which is at the top of the teaching profession. Many teachers on the Faculty have danced with famous international ballet companies, and all have a comprehensive understanding of instruction for students. Their many years of teaching experience are an assurance of the high quality of instruction that is characteristic of our Summer School.

Great Programs

Ballet is the main focus: technique, repertoire, pointe, pas de deux and variations. There are also classes in Jazz, Modern, and Character. All these programs will challenge and stimulate the dancers to develop a flexibility of style that is so important in today's dance world.

Great Performances

I realize that the purpose of dance training is performance, so I have organized seven performance opportunities over the six-week period. See "General Information" for details.

Great Outings & Activities

Interesting and exciting field trips in addition to other relaxation activities are on the leisure program.

Great Supervision

This will please the parents! Campus security is provided by the College. In addition, we have our own housemothers and student counselors. A registered nurse is in attendance to take care of any aches and pains. The students are required to observe a high standard of social conduct, and a diligent approach to their classes. They are also required to conform to the rules for the day-to-day organization of our program. Our summer school is not a "play-camp" but a serious school whose aim is to improve the dance abilities of the students in a nurturing and positive manner.

Two Special Programs

These have been devised especially to meet the needs of students. They are the Performance Awards and the Technique Intensive. See "Special Programs" for details.

Musicians

I believe that music is an important part of ballet education. We maintain a roster of fine musicians who will accompany the ballet classes.

Great Experience

The experience of our Summer School is unforgettable. For this reason, so many students return again and again to realize the sense of achievement that comes when challenges are met and personal best sets new levels of excellence. One-third of our enrollment consists of students who have attended in previous years. There is no Summer School that is quite like a Summer School of the American Academy of Ballet.

Mignon Furman



About Mignon Furman

Mignon Furman has, over a period of years, organized no less than 27 Summer Schools. She has been teaching ballet for more than 40 years. She was the Director of the University of Cape Town Ballet School with special responsibility for teachers' training. At the University she formulated the programs to be used by 80 trainee teachers and 400 students. She was nominated for the Distinguished Teacher Award from amongst the entire University faculty of 1,500. She is a choreographer and educator, and has studied or been guest teacher in New York, London (England), Tel Aviv, Paris, and Cannes. She has served on city, state, and federal arts and education committees.

Program

- Classical Ballet
- Pointe
- Pas de Deux
- Repertoire
- Variations
- Special Male Classes
- Character
- Modern
- Pilates
- Jazz
- Mime
- Stagecraft
- Special Programs

A Typical Day...

Morning

Breakfast

2 hour ballet technique class

1 hour Pointe Work or

Repertoire or

Variations or

Rehearsal

Lunch

Afternoon

2 classes e.g.: Pilates or Modern
and Jazz or Character

Dinner

Evening

Optional Ballet Class or
Performance Awards Coaching

Classes are held

6 days per week

Intensive for Serious Dancers

Ballet (Variations, Pointe, Repertoire & Pas de Deux) • Jazz • Modern • Character • Mime • Special Classes for Boys • Performances • Housing and Meals on Campus • Leisure Activities • Well Supervised

Performance Awards

This program is the unique concept of the American Academy of Ballet, and is part of the regular curriculum of many teachers throughout the United States, Japan, South Africa, Spain, Bahamas, Mexico, Holland, Ireland, England and Israel. Students receive special instruction in the program which consists of several short dances. These are danced as solo dances by the students during the Summer School Awards Nights, at which medals and certificates are awarded to each student. The program is a remarkable incentive to enhanced achievement. It is optional, and additional, to the scheduled classes. Students benefit tremendously if they participate in it. No other summer school in the United States offers this program.

One Week Technique Intensive

This program is intended to improve the fundamental basis of the classical ballet technique: turn-out, port de bras, footwork, placing, elevation, pointe, pirouettes, and presentation. Students will develop self-confidence and style in their dancing, knowing that their technique is sound. The admissions are limited, and will be streamed into six levels. Teachers, highly experienced in the teaching of technique, will give the classes. Many advanced students also enroll in this program to give finesse to their dancing.



Fees

Residential Students The fee includes classes, housing, 3 meals a day, outings and other events.

6 weeks	June 29–August 10	\$ 5,100
5 weeks	July 6–August 10	\$ 4,575
3 weeks	July 20–August 10	\$ 3,070
2 weeks	July 6–July 20	\$ 2,050
1 week	June 29–July 4	\$ 1,020

Day Students The fee includes classes, lunches, dinners, outings and other events.

6 weeks	June 29–August 10	\$ 4,000
5 weeks	July 6–August 10	\$ 3,500
3 weeks	July 20–August 10	\$ 2,200
2 weeks	July 6–July 20	\$ 1,470
1 week	June 29–July 4	\$ 730

Notes:

- (1) Payment is due in full by May 31, 2008. If payment is received after this date, add \$50.
- (2) If payment is by a credit card, add 3%.

Improve your
technique and
performance
beyond
recognition.

You will not
believe
the progress
that you
will make.

You will
return home
a confident and
inspired dancer,
dancing with
renewed energy
and purpose,
and with
enhanced
artistry.



Faculty

Susie Cooper

(Classical Ballet, Creative Dance & Choreography) Danced in several companies in England. Tutor at the RAD College in England and Head of Dance at The Urdang Academy, London.

Olga Dvorovenko

(Classical Ballet & Repertoire) Trained in the Ukraine. Now teaches the Studio Company of American Ballet Theater.

Mignon Furman

(Repertoire & Classical Ballet) Was Director of the University of Cape Town Ballet School in charge of teacher training and Founder-Director of its Youth ballet company. Now Director of the American Academy of Ballet.

Nadiene Gibney

(Classical Ballet) A graduate of the Teacher Training program of the National Ballet School of Canada and is currently teaching in Toronto.

David Howard

(Classical Ballet) Danced with the Royal Ballet (soloist). Now teaching in New York. An international guest teacher and guest teacher for ballet companies world-wide.

Mark Jaster

(Mime) Trained by Marcel Marceau. An international performer and teacher.

Jay Jolley

(Classical Ballet) Was principal dancer with the New York City Ballet and the Royal Ballet. Now Assistant Director of the Royal Ballet School.

Lynnette Kelley

(Classical Ballet) Teaches in British Columbia. International guest teacher.

Sara Knight

(Character) Trained at the Royal Ballet School and at the Vaganova School. Danced with the Eifman Ballet Company in St. Petersburg and the Northern Ballet Theater in England. Now teaching in the USA.

Lucia Kuimova

(Character) Was trained in Russia. Now teaching in Louisiana.

Sean Lavery

(Classical Ballet) Was Principal Dancer with the New York City Ballet. Now assistant to Ballet Master-in-Chief, Peter Martins.

Brian Loftus

(Classical Ballet and Pas de Deux) Was Director of Dance for the Arts Educational School in London. Danced with Sadlers Wells Opera Ballet, and La Grand Ballet Classique de France. An international guest teacher.

Lonné Moretton

(Floor barre) A graduate of universities in San Jose and New York. Has taught and choreographed for many universities and ballet companies in the USA, Stockholm, Lisbon and Tokyo.

Megan Richardson

(Pilates) Certified through Polestar Education. Currently on staff of the Harkness Center for Dance Injuries.

Steve Rooks

(Modern Dance) Was a Principal Dancer with the Martha Graham Dance Company. Now an international guest teacher and Assistant Professor of Dance at Vassar College.

Stephanie Saland

(Classical Ballet) Was Principal Dancer with the New York City Ballet. Now teaching in Seattle.

Galina Samsova

(Classical Ballet and Repertoire) Trained in Kiev. Was Principal Dancer with the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet and London Festival Ballet. Now an international guest teacher and répétiteur for many international companies.

Merle Sepel

(Classical Ballet) Director of American Pacific Ballet Company and Academy of Dance California. On faculty of the California State University at Fullerton.

Bettijane Sills

(Classical Ballet) Was a soloist with NY City Ballet. Now Professor of Dance at Purchase College. Has choreographed for several companies in America and Hong Kong.

Rebecca Tsivkin

(Classical Ballet and Repetiteur) Graduate of the RAD College, London. Now teaching in New York.

Violette Verdy

(Classical Ballet) Was a principal dancer with The New York City Ballet and director of the Paris Opera Ballet. Now teaching at the University of Indiana at Bloomington. International guest teacher.

Dean Vollick

(Classical Ballet) Has danced with several companies in the USA and Canada. A graduate of the Teacher Training Program of the National Ballet School (Toronto). Teaches at Boston Ballet School.

Septime Webre

(Classical Ballet) Director of the Washington Ballet and School in Washington, DC.

Heather White

(Jazz) A graduate of the University of South Florida. Teaches at her own school in Florida.

Note: Subject to change when necessary. Additional faculty to be announced. Not all faculty will be present for all six weeks, but at the time of going to press, dates were not finalized.



Audition Requirements

If attending an audition:

- The auditions takes the form of a class. No solo variation is required.
- Please arrive and register at least 30 minutes before the scheduled time.
- Neat ballet attire to be worn. If on pointe, bring pointe shoes.
- Please bring a small head shot. A school picture or regular camera shot will suffice.
- Please bring an audition fee of \$30.00 in cash.
- All dancers will complete the full audition class.
- Notice of acceptance will be mailed within two weeks of the audition date.

If mailing a video or DVD:

- Videos must be VHS or DVD format.
- Print name, address and age on the label of the video or DVD
- Notice of acceptance will be mailed within two weeks of receiving the video or DVD
- Videos or DVDs must be received before March 31, 2008
- A \$30.00 audition fee should accompany the video or DVD

In the video audition, no barre work should be shown. Please show:

- 1a. 1st arabesque a terre and en l'air
 - 1b. A la seconde position tendu a terre and en l'air.
 2. An adage combination to include a balance, arabesque line, and a developpe.
 3. A pirouette combination
 4. Petite allegro combination
 5. Grand allegro showing moving steps.
- For girls:
6. A still position showing the feet en pointe in a la seconde.
 7. A pointe combination

Audition Times & Locations

Sun, January 13

11-13 yrs 12 :30 pm
14 yrs. & older 2:30 pm

Fri, January 18

7:00 pm

Sat, January 19

4:30 pm

Sun, January 20

11-13 yrs 2:00 pm
14 yrs. & older 4:00 pm

Fri, January 25

6:30 pm

Sat, February 2

11-13 yrs 2:00 pm
14 yrs. & older 4:00 pm

Purchase, NY

SUNY Purchase College
735 Anderson Hill Road

Seattle, WA

Pacific Northwest Ballet
The Phelps Center
301 Mercer Street

San Jose, CA

San Jose Ballet
40 North First Street

Santa Ana, CA

Saint Joseph Ballet
1810 North Main Street

Dallas, TX

Texas Ballet Theater
2379 Promenade
Richardson

Mahwah, NJ

Angelica & Russ Perf Arts Ctr
Rehearsal Room BC216
Ramapo College
505 Ramapo Valley Road

Sun, February 3

4:30 pm

Sat, February 9

11-13 yrs 3:15 pm
14 yrs. & older 5:00 pm

Sun, February 10

2:00 pm

Sat, February 16

11-13 yrs 4:30 pm
14 yrs. & older 6:15 pm

Sun, February 24

1:30 pm

Washington, DC

The Washington Ballet
3515 Wisconsin Ave NW

New York, NY

School of American Ballet
70 Lincoln Center Plaza
(165 west 65th Street)

Saratoga Springs, NY

National Museum of Dance &
Hall of Fame
99 South Broadway

Boston, MA

Boston Ballet School
19 Clarendon Street

Inverness, FL

School of Dance Arts
301 North Apoka Ave



How to Apply

1. Attend an audition, or mail your video. See “Audition Requirements.”
2. You will be advised of the results of the audition within two weeks.
3. If accepted, you will be mailed an application form.
4. Return the application form, together with your check(s) or credit card details. It is suggested that you return this as soon as possible. In past years, the applications of many students were returned as they were received after the enrollment was full.
5. You will then be mailed travel information and details of check-in, a list of what to bring, etc.

General Information

Housing

An entire dormitory building on the Purchase College SUNY campus is allocated to Summer School. The students are housed in double rooms. All rooms are air-conditioned. Housing, meals, laundry and outings, etc. are included in the tuition. (Three meals daily are provided on campus by our own caterers). Bedding and towels are not supplied. Students should bring their own.

Campus Facilities

Purchase College SUNY is well-known for its performing arts programs. The dance building has nine beautifully equipped air-conditioned studios. Among other facilities, there is an ATM, a general store and art gallery. The tranquil surroundings provide an ideal environment for the students.

Supervision

House-mothers and student counselors will supervise the students. Mignon Furman, the Director of the American Academy of Ballet, will also be present on campus. A registered nurse and a certified physiotherapist are also in attendance.

Performances

There are several theaters on the campus. A small theater—the Dance Lab—will be used for the Performance Awards and other events. Every student has the opportunity to dance in several performances, depending on their length of stay at Summer School. There are two Demonstrations; two sessions of the Performance Awards; and three performances. Parents and friends may attend these events. The Gala Performance in the large theater is always so exciting! It wraps up the weeks

of hard work in a marvelous production that includes excerpts from the classical ballets and specially choreographed items that are rehearsed during Summer School in addition to the regular classes. Costumes are supplied at no charge to the students. Each student receives a certificate. Scholarships and prizes are awarded to students who have excelled.

Age and Admission

Students must be between the ages of 11 and 22. A minimum of 4 years ballet training is required. Admission is by audition or video. (See “Audition Requirements”)

Placement

Placement classes will be assessed by several faculty teachers to place students in levels which will be most advantageous to them. This assessment is reviewed after two days. The Faculty has had many years of experience in assessing students and will not discuss placement with any parent or teachers of the students. Parents and teachers must be confident that students are given much consideration and opportunity in the placement process.

Day Attendance

Students who live near the campus may attend Summer School without living on campus. A reduced fee is payable. See “Fees” schedule.

Boys

Boys will have instruction in special classes in addition to joining in the technique classes.

Payment

Payment may be made by credit card or check for the full amount or by not more than three installments by post-dated checks or credit card. In this case, at least 1/3 of the full amount must be paid with the completed application form. Post-dated checks must be included with the application. The final payment must be dated before May 31, 2008. A charge of \$50 will be made for unpaid checks. A surcharge of 3% will be made for credit cards.

Refund Policy

No refunds will be made of any amounts paid unless a medical doctor's certificate evidencing the inability of the applicant to attend Summer School is submitted. The certificate must be received before June 15, 2008. In such cases, a refund less 30%, will be made. **No refunds** will be made if the application for a refund is received after **June 15, 2008**.

Arrival by air

Students travelling by air may arrive at Westchester airport, La Guardia, JFK or Newark and must make their own arrangements for transport to Purchase College. The name of a reliable car service will be supplied on request to the office. **Westchester:** This airport is about 10 minutes by car from Purchase College. **La Guardia, JFK, & Newark:** These airports are about 1 hour by car from Purchase College.

Photos by Costas.

Brochure by Matthew Fass.

Where Are They Now? Some of Our Alumni

Stella Abera ABT Soloist	Alex Dutko Miami City Ballet
Fuzuki Ishizaki Hong Kong Ballet	Maya Storseth Norwegian Ballet
Martyn Garside San Francisco Ballet	Or Sagi Trocadero
Joseph Calley Birmingham Royal Ballet Soloist	Aviad Herman Gothenburg Ballet
Thomas Forster ABT Company	Jordan Moser Austin Ballet
Sabina Westcombe Royal Ballet	Ryan Carroll Was in "Fosse" Touring Company now Teaching
Rie Ichikawa Boston Ballet Soloist	Kate Reigler Texas Ballet Theater
Danny Scott Was Boston Ballet	Alpha Ng Singapore Ballet Theatre
	Lucas Jerklander Slovenia Ballet

Quotes From Faculty Teachers

"The whole program is absolutely irresistible. Not only is it the perfect organization, but there is a respect, care and knowledge that surrounds and acknowledges everyone involved, from the teachers to the helpers and all of the dancers. The working conditions and the lodgings are extremely good for everyone. The fact that all of the different groups perform is remarkable, but even more so is how well the choreography is adapted to make all of the students feel recognized and look their best. It is a source of delight to see the result and the tone of the program for the dancers."

Violette Verdy, was Principal Dancer NYC Ballet and Director of the Paris Opera Ballet, now on the faculty of the University of Indiana, Bloomington

"The best teachers can be found at The American Academy of Ballet's summer program. Mignon Furman directs the greatest program every year with a worldwide faculty. AAB will give you the best summer experience."

**David Howard
International Guest Teacher**

"Working with students at the American Academy of Ballet Summer School is a highlight of the year for me. There is a great sense of camaraderie not only between the students but also the faculty. It is a great pleasure to be part of this wonderful program."

Jay Jolley, Assistant Director of The Royal Ballet School

"The opportunity for students to work with such renowned teachers and accomplished musicians will broaden horizons and enhance their futures. The inspiration of the director, Mignon Furman, coupled with her progressive innovative ideas make this a true Summer School of Excellence."

**Brian Loftus
International Guest Teacher**

"Working with a faculty of such a high caliber is an inspiration both to me as well as to the students. My admiration and thanks go to Mignon Furman for having the vision and knowledge to bring such wonderful people together."

Merle Sepel, Director of the American Pacific Ballet Company and faculty member of Cal State University at Fullerton

"It is a joy to teach at the AAB Summer School of Excellence. The students are wonderfully responsive and I am proud to be part of such an illustrious international faculty which Mignon Furman has gathered together. There is a great sense of artistic endeavour at the highest level and it is also a lot of fun!"

Susie Cooper, Head of Dance at Urdang Academy, London

"I highly recommend The American Academy of Ballet's summer school. The international faculty and the training and care each student receives makes for a summer of learning and fun."

**Sharon Wagner
Artist Services**



For Further Information

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