

American Academy of Ballet

Mignon Furman,
Director



**Teachers
Intensive
2009**

**Purchase College
SUNY**

Purchase, NY

August 7-12, 2009

A Personal Note From the Director

I believe that teaching is a practical art that needs a practical approach whether to a new class of five year olds or to teenagers with stars in their eyes who have other options for their energy.

Theorizing about the teaching of ballet does not pay the rent.

Very often, teachers need to be inspired. Ask yourself:

- Is my teaching methodology still valid?
- What new ideas can I incorporate in my teaching?
- Do my classes have enthusiasm and energy?
- Are my students up to standard?
- Are their parents satisfied with their progress?

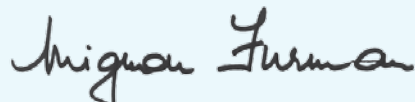
The Teachers Intensive will provide answers, both practical and positive. Included is the Performance Awards program which has been proved to be of great value to teachers. See inside for details.

This note cannot describe the feeling of “being there”, the self-confidence that knowledge brings; and the inspiration that the Teachers Intensive infuses into all those who attend.

I have made attendance easy - choose the days you want to attend.

If five or more students from your school attend our Summer School, you pay only half of the Teachers Intensive fee.

It is my sincere belief that the Teachers Intensive of the American Academy of Ballet is an important feature that is of immeasurable value to teachers. I look forward to welcoming you at our Teachers Intensive.



Why You Should Attend

The Teaching of Young Children

We now offer twelve programs that focus on young children, the most important people in many of your studios. See page 6 for details.

Observe the Best

Master teachers teach the students. Note the exercises, combinations the structure of the class, images and methods that inspire the dancers to dance their personal best in each class.

Performance Awards Program

I initiated this program twelve years ago. It is now part of the curriculum of about 100 teachers across the United States, in England, Japan, Spain, Ireland, South Africa, the Bahamas, Holland, Mexico and Israel. See page 8 for more information.

Special Faculty

I have invited a Faculty which has an enormous amount of expertise in teaching methodology and will share their knowledge generously.

Make Contact

Do not teach in isolation, unaware of the ballet developments going on around you. Teachers need other teachers for the sharing of knowledge. Every profession is updated from time to time. *Update your teaching!*

Summer Break

Give yourself a break! You deserve to get away from your daily routine. Apart from the continuing education aspects, Teachers Intensive is a very enjoyable experience. I have arranged a special low rate at an up-market Hilton Hotel. See back page of this brochure for details.

Faculty

Mignon Furman

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.

Olga Dvorovenko

Trained in the Ukraine. Now teaches the Studio Company of American Ballet Theater.

Claudia Folts

Danced with the Harkness Dance Theatre, Baltimore Ballet and The New York City Opera. She founded the Charlotte City Ballet and The Charlotte City Ballet School. Holds seminars on costuming.

Brian Loftus

Was Director of Dance for the Arts Educational School in London. Danced with the Sadlers Wells Opera Ballet and La Grand Ballet Classique de France. An international guest teacher. Is a judge for the American Academy of Ballet Performance Awards in Europe.

Pamela McCray

Teaches in Virginia. Is a judge for the American Academy of Ballet Performance Awards.

Merle Sepel

Director of the Academy of Dance in Santa Ana, CA and Artistic Director of the American Pacific Ballet Company. On faculty of the Cal State University, Fullerton. Is a judge for the American Academy of Ballet Performance Awards.

Gretchen Ward Warren

Was a soloist with the Pennsylvania Ballet and Ballet Mistress of ABT II. Now, Professor of Dance at the University of South Florida. She is the author of two best-selling books, "Classical Ballet Technique" and "The Art of Teaching Ballet" and is an international guest teacher.

More TBA



Mignon
Furman



Galina Samsova



Brian
Loftus



Merle Sepel



Jay Jolley



Olga
Dvorovenko



Violette Verdy



Brian Loftus



Pamela
McCray

Program for Teachers

Enchanted Doorway

4-6 year olds

- The Magic Carpet
- The Jungle Adventure
- The Fantasy Sea Adventure
- The Toy Shop Adventure

3-4 year olds

- The Fun Faire Adventure



The Magic Carpet

The originator, Merle Sepel, worked with her brother, Brian, who composed the music and sound effects for these novel, innovative and age-appropriate adventures in fun and dance.

- The content varies between 30 and 45 minutes.
- Can be presented at an informal performance for parents and friends.
- Each Program includes a CD of the music and the special sound effects.
- Each package includes several props essential to the program.

“I have incorporated these programs into my studio and I am so impressed with the response. The children keep asking, ‘Can we do it again?’”

—Colleen Rogers & Bernadette Campbell of Buford, GA



Terri the Tarantula



Betty the Blowfish



Officer Octopus

From my many years of experience in the teaching of ballet to children as well as to students and trainee teachers at university graduate level, I have devised a program of teaching that simplifies movements into a progression.

The performance of steps is made easier and stress free, developing at the same time the technique that should be acquired at each age.

From the basic concept of turn-out; stance, and port de bras, the Steps Program gives teachers a co-ordinated plan for the development of technique and performance at each age.

The programs consist of CDs, DVDs and teachers notes.

Steps Programs

First Steps	ages 5 to 8
Second Steps	ages 6 to 9
Third Steps	ages 7 and over
Junior Steps	ages 8 to 12
Between Tot and Teen	ages 8 to 10
Now I Am a Teen	ages 11 to 13



First Steps



Now I Am a Teen



Second Steps

Are you searching for a new program that will enthuse your school, improve you students and delight your parents? Your search is over.

Performance Awards

This program, backed by videos, DVDs, teachers' notes, cassettes and CDs, is now being taught across America, and in nine overseas countries. You will be amazed at the results. Technique and performance improve immensely; students are more enthusiastic; and parents are delighted.

The basic concept is that all students – not only the “stars” – need acknowledgement for their endeavors, an opportunity to perform a solo dance, and a stimulus to progress.

Starting at age 5-6, the program develops over 12 levels of short choreographed compositions that will challenge and encourage the students up to pre-professional level.

Each level consists of port de bras, adage, allegro and a solo dance of increasing complexity to include pirouettes and batterie. Choices throughout the program results in a total of 103 choreographic compositions.

Every student has the opportunity to dance in pairs and in a solo before an audience. The awarding of medals and certificates to EACH student does wonders for their self-esteem and determination to achieve personal best.



Performance Awards Level 1

Performance Awards are

- Encouraging.
- Easy to teach within any curriculum.
- An incentive to attract new students.
- Student – and teacher-friendly.
- Proven to improve technique and performance.
- Loved by parents, students – and teachers.

At the Teachers Intensive:

- You will have special instruction in the program.
- Observe the coaching classes for the students.
- Attend a Performance Awards session where the students dance the program before an audience.

For further information about this unique program, please call, write, or fax the office. (See contact information on the back page of this brochure).



Performance Awards Level 3

Performance Awards Level 3



Program (subject to change if necessary)

Friday, August 7th

- 9:30 - 11:30 Observe Student Classes
- 11:45 - 12:00 Welcome — Mignon Furman
- 12:00 - 1:00 New Program, The Toy Shop Adventure — Merle Sepel
- 1:00 - 2:00 Lunch
- 2:00 - 3:00 Classical Variation—adapted for 11-13 year olds — Olga Dvorovenko
- 3:15 - 6:00 Revamping tired, used costumes — Claudia Folts

Saturday, August 8th

- 9:30 - 11:30 Observe Student Classes
- 11:45 - 1:00 Choreography 101 - choreographed enchainments (combinations) in various time signatures suitable for different age groups. These enchainments are developed to be used in solo or group dances. — Mignon Furman
- 1:00 - 2:00 Lunch
- 2:00 - 3:00 Focus on the Upper Body: Teaching Placement and Classical Port de Bras — Gretchen Ward Warren
- 3:45 - 5:30 Reprise selections of Enchanted Doorway series — Merle Sepel
- 7:30 Student Demonstration of Character Dance in the Dance Lab Theater

Sunday, August 9th

- 9:30 - 11:00 Observe Gretchen Ward Warren apply the methodology discussed on Saturday in a class of pre-teens
- 11:15 - 12:15 Observe the teaching of a ballet class of young boys — Brian Loftus
- 12:15 - 1:00 A discussion of “The Steps” program and how to introduce them into your studio schedule — Mignon Furman
- 1:00 - 2:00 Lunch
- 2:00 - 3:30 Anatomy for Ballet: What Every Young Dancer Should Know — Gretchen Ward Warren
- 3:45 - 5:45 Ask our panel. Send your questions to our panel, relating to the teaching of Pointe Work or any other problems that you need feedback on. Please respond before Friday, August 7th. If time allows, verbal questions will be answered

Program (continued)

Monday, August 10th

- 9:30 Performance Awards Levels 1, 2 & 3
- 11:45 Performance Awards Level 4
- 2:00 Performance Awards Level 5
- 3:30 Performance Awards Level 6 & 7
- 7:00 Observe Student Coaching

Tuesday, August 11th

- 9:30 Observe Student Classes
- 11:45 Performance Awards Level 7
- 2:00 Continue Performance Awards Level 8
- 3:00 Performance Awards Level 9

Wednesday, August 12th

- 9:30 Observe Student Classes
- 11:45 Performance Awards Level 10
- 2:00 Continue Performance Awards Level 10
- 3:00 Performance Awards Level 11
- 6:45 Performance Awards Evening

All Performance Awards Classes Taught by Pamela McCray



All photos in
this brochure (except
teacher headshots)
by Costas



Fees

If five or more students from your school attend our Summer School of Excellence, deduct 50%.

One or Two Days

Per Day \$130 affiliates / \$150 non-affiliates

Three or more days

Per Day \$110 affiliates / \$130 non-affiliates

Observation of Student Classes during Summer School of Excellence

Per Day \$60 affiliates / \$70 non-affiliates

Fees are exclusive of materials. Materials (DVDs, manuals, CDs, etc.) will be available for sale at the Teachers Intensive.

Accommodations

Option 1: The Hilton Rye Town is about a 10 minute drive from the campus. This is an “up-market” hotel with a swimming pool, fitness center and two restaurants. A limited number of rooms have been reserved at a very discounted price for participants in the Teachers Intensive for \$155 per night which includes breakfast for one person. Regular price is \$269 per night without breakfast. Teachers must make their reservations with the hotel by calling (914) 939-6300 or faxing (914) 939-5328. Quote code #AAB when making reservations. **Reservations must be made before June 6, 2009.**

Option 2: A limited number of double occupancy Purchase College dormitory rooms are available including private bathroom and breakfast. \$50 per night if sharing or \$60 if not sharing.

Option 3: If you are unable to confirm your hotel reservation as in Option 1, please call the office for suggestions of other hotels in the area.

American Academy of Ballet

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