

NBT Full Time Faculty



Kristy Tancred ARAD - Classical Ballet

Kristy commenced her early training with Dance Unlimited under Tanya Hearne-Keenan. In 1996 she started full time training at Tanya Pearson Classical Coaching Academy and then went on to study at Ballet Theatre of Victoria (now Ballet Theatre Australia) under the direction of Leanne Rutherford.

In 2000, Kristy travelled to the US to take part in Artisan Dance Theatre's summer program and went on to a 10 year professional career as a soloist and Principal Dancer with Charleston Ballet Theatre, Augusta Ballet and Ballet Idaho/Eugene Ballet and as a freelance artist. During this time she has performed many soloist and principal roles. Most notably, The Sugarplum Fairy in The Nutcracker, Odette in Swan Lake, Mina Murray in Dracula, The Queen in The Three Musketeers, Le Corsaire Pas de Deux, and Lar Lubovitch's My Funny Valentine.



Rider D Vierling - Classical Ballet, Boys Coaching

From Winter Park, Florida in the U.S., Rider began his training at a young age with the School of Southern Ballet Theatre (now Orlando Ballet), training under Russell Sultzbach, Eliza Harwood, Barbara Riggins and Cynthia Roses-Thema. At 15, he left Orlando to train full time at the Virginia School of the Arts studying with former Royal Ballet soloist Petrus Bosman and David Keener.

During that time, he also trained at the Boston Ballet summer programs, working with Devon Carney, Bruce Marks, and Yacov Sharir among many others.

Beginning his professional career with Charleston Ballet Theatre, and later moving on to the Augusta Ballet, Eugene Ballet/Ballet Idaho and as a freelance artist, Rider danced in numerous ballets including the title roles in Romeo and Juliet and Dracula, Prince Siegfried in Swan Lake, Cavalier in The Nutcracker, Pas de Deux and Pas de Trois from Paquita, Grand pas Classique, Lar Lubovitch's My Funny Valentine, and principal roles in Balanchine's Serenade, Tarantella, Allegro Brillante, and Who Cares?



Margaret (Meg) Akerman - ARAD Solo Seal - Classical Ballet

Born in Newcastle, Meg studied with Tessa Maunder. She was awarded her Solo Seal aged 15 before winning a scholarship to finish her studies at London's Royal Ballet School. While at the School Meg demonstrated the Solo Seal syllabus for the Royal Academy of Dancing and was chosen to perform in 'Pineapple Poll' for the annual School Performance at Covent Garden.

Shortly afterwards Peggy Van Praagh invited Meg to be a founding member of The Australian Ballet. She initially danced in the corps de ballet, progressing to soloist roles and performing with guest artists including Eric Bruhn, Sonia Arova, Margot Fonteyn, Rudolf Nureyev, and Robert Helpmann before leaving the company to marry and settle in Sydney.

Meg then danced for a few years in a small Sydney based company which is now known as Sydney Dance Company before retiring from the stage and beginning a family.

For the next decade Meg worked in various wardrobe departments for stage, film and television programs and was wardrobe mistress at NIDA for 6 years.



Olivia Pickard RTO Administrator - Theory Full Time Student Support

RAD trained from Tiny Tots to Advanced 1, completing all examinations with distinction. Trained in jazz and contemporary. Competed in the Isobelle Anderson awards, Society of dance Australia (S.O.D.A), Sydney eisteddfod and numerous local eisteddfods. Have attended several workshops with the Australian Ballet, Sydney Dance Company, Sarah Boulter and Debbie Linnert (Ellis). Performed in Hunter Dance Festival, State Dance Festival, Starstruck, School Spectacular as well as other school concerts, also selected and performed for HSC dance.

Four years formal teaching experience and choreographing for junior jazz groups, solos, contemporary groups and tiny tot ballet classes at various schools in Newcastle/Maitland.

Attended Hunter School of the Performing Arts, majoring in dance. Has obtained her Certificate IV in Dance and Certificate IV in Dance Teaching and Management.

Completed Australian Conservatoire of Ballet, Classical Ballet Training and Assessment Program Pre-primary to Level 4.