

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 Ballet Theatre of Victoria (now Ballet Theatre Australia) under the direction of Leanne Rutherford. In 2000, Kristy began a 10 year professional career as a soloist and Principal Dancer with Charleston Ballet Theatre, Augusta Ballet, Ballet Idaho/Eugene Ballet and as a freelance artist. During this time she 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

From Winter Park, Florida in the U.S., Rider began his training with the School of Southern Ballet Theatre (now Orlando Ballet), going on to full time training at the Virginia School of the Arts and Boston Ballet summer programs.

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.



Julie Wells ARAD Solo Seal - Classical Ballet Full time Program

Julie trained and performed with the Australian Ballet School and Company, before moving to Sydney to teach for Lorraine Norton, one of Australia's leading teachers and a Royal Academy of Dance Examiner.

Julie was founder and principal of her own studio, with many of her students going on to professional careers in Australia, Europe, UK and the USA.

She is a Tutor with the Royal Academy of Dance and specialises in the training and coaching of students undertaking Royal Academy of Dance Vocational Graded examinations including Solo Seal.

Her continuing international involvement includes preparation of pre-professional students prior to auditions for overseas and local finishing schools and company placement. She is experienced in preparing students through private coaching for events including City of Sydney Eisteddfod, Alana Haines Awards, Prix de Lausanne, Genée International Ballet Competition and Youth America Grand Prix.

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Isabelle Leonard - Contemporary

Belle began her training in Taree at Andrea Rowsell Academy of Dance at age 5. In 2010, she went on to study Fulltime training at the National College of Dance under the direction of Marie Walton-Mahon and Brett Morgan, graduating in 2012 with a Diploma in Dance. She also spent a year studying at NIDA in Sydney completing the Young Actors Studio Course. Isabelle had previously taught at the National College of Dance for 5 years teaching mainly RAD ballet classes, contemporary classes and private lessons, whilst also guest teaching at several workshops and choreographing small contemporary projects. The most recent being for Dance Architect in Melbourne performed at Gasworks Arts Park, 2017. Between 2013 and 2016, Isabelle was the Resident Choreographer for The National Theatre Company working on productions such as Alice in Wonderland.



Bronte Della Bosca - Jazz, Contemporary, Pilates

Bronte completed her formative dance training years with Letitia Polinelli in Cairns before moving to Sydney to focus on Classical and Contemporary Dance training under Janece Graham and Tanya Pearson. During her high school years she performed with the State Dance Company and was awarded Excellence for her NSW HSC Dance results and selected to perform in the Callback Showcase.

Bronte has been an active Dance Teacher working on Sydney's Northern Beaches and completed her Masters in Secondary Dance Education at Deakin University and Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Performance at the Victorian College of The Arts. During her time at VCA she performed in a number of professional Contemporary Dance performances choreographed by Stephanie Lake, Lina Limosani, Rebecca Hilton, Natalie Cursio, Gerard Van Dyck and Rochelle Carmichael. She has also performed in Lucy Guerin's Pieces for Small Spaces in 2013, under the choreographic direction of Rebecca Hilton. Bronte was the recipient of the Lionel Gell Foundation Scholarship in Dance at the Victorian College of the Arts in 2013.

Bronte recently completed her Pilates training with a Diploma in Studio Pilates with Polestar.



Olivia Pickard - Qualifications Coordinator, Academic Support

RAD trained from Tiny Tots to Advanced 1, completing all examinations with distinction. Trained in jazz and contemporary. Competed in the Isabelle 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.



Suzanne Tancred - Administrator