

# NZ 7<sup>th</sup> International Summer School 9-21 Jan 2012

## Performance Course • Graded Courses • Teachers Course

### Biographies: All Faculty

#### **Janne Blanch ARAD Dip Arts (Classical Ballet Teaching)**

##### **Classical & Repertoire - Performance Course**



Janne Blanch graduated from New Zealand's National School of Ballet into the RNZB where she attained the rank of Principal. Following a contract with the Queensland Ballet as Principal Ballerina, Janne joined the Australian Ballet as a Senior Soloist dancing a wide range of principal roles and touring extensively internationally. Upon retirement as a performer, Janne completed, with distinction, her Diploma of Arts at the VCA School of Dance majoring in Classical Ballet Teaching. Until December 2009 she was associated with the School of Dance in a variety of roles including Artistic Assistant to the Dean, Anne Woolliams, Ballet Mistress of the Vic Arts Dance Company, Assistant Head of Dance (VCASS) and Lecturer in Classical Ballet, teaching across all levels from Year 7 VCASS to the Postgraduate Diploma in Classical Ballet Teaching.

Some teaching highlights include involvement with the initial Art-Ed program at the Victorian Arts Centre which was affiliated with the Lincoln Centre, New York, and instrumental in establishing movement programs in primary schools, an invitation to develop a children's training program for the Bangkok Music and Arts School, guest teaching opportunities throughout Asia, Australia and New Zealand, completion of a Professional Certificate of Adolescent Counselling through the professional development program at Monash University, a visit to Le Conservatoire de Danse in Paris and study of the Russian training system at the Vaganova Ballet Academy, St Petersburg. Currently Janne teaches at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School in Melbourne and is Coordinator of RAD@VCASS particularly enjoying the coaching role that teaching in the RAD program involves. Although Janne's primary focus is on the training of young dancers, she has frequently choreographed and reproduced works for the VCASS performance program.

#### **Peter Boyes**

##### **Introduction to Benesh Movement Notation – Teachers Course**

Peter began dancing in Wellington with Dorothy Daniels, Sara Neil and Walter Trevor before attending the Royal Ballet School, London. Upon graduation he joined Dutch National Ballet, where apart from the standard classical repertoire he had roles created for him, notably by Rudi van Dantzig and Toer van Schaijk. Peter returned to London to study choreology (dance notation) and subsequently worked as Choreologist with Dutch National Ballet before returning to New Zealand as Ballet Master of the Royal New Zealand Ballet and later Assistant Artistic Director. In his time with the Royal New Zealand Ballet, apart from being responsible for maintaining the Company's repertoire, he danced in many productions and also choreographed original works and productions of *Coppelia* and *The Nutcracker*. Peter took leave of absence from the Company, spending the 1988/89 season in Florence as Assistant Artistic Director of Maggiodanza at the invitation of Eugene Polyakov. Since leaving the Royal New Zealand Ballet Peter attended Massey University and is now an architectural technician but still maintains dance world connections with occasional teaching commitments and is Chairperson of the National Dance Archive. For the New Zealand School of Dance's 2007 Graduation programme Peter mounted the first pas de trios from Balanchine's "Agon" using a notation score he had written whilst with Dutch National Ballet.

## Libby Calder

### Hip Hop – Performance Course



Libby Calder is the director of the Wellington based hip hop dance company, Pump Dance Ltd, which she created in 2001 at the age of 16. Today there are over 370 students, 11 dance crews and 15 dance instructors at Pump Dance Studios, who are involved in competitions and performances throughout New Zealand. Since 2002, Libby has regularly conducted hip hop dance workshops at schools and dance studios in Wellington as well as judging Stage Challenge competitions throughout New Zealand.

Pump Dance has achieved national acclaim through events such as What Now TV, Good Morning, Top of the Pops, International Rugby Sevens, Parachute Music Festival, the Fringe Festival and Wellington City Council events. Libby has been teaching hip hop for over 11 years and is currently the coach of Infinite Dance Crew, ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the world at the FISAF World Hip Hop Championships.

## Richie Cesan

### Hip Hop - Grades Course and Performance Course



Richie has been dancing since he was 5 and has studied Ballet, Tap Jazz Contemporary and Hip Hop completing major exams in Jazz and Tap. At age 14 he was selected to be part of Black Grace Urban Youth Movement and he performed with them for three years, joining the company as an apprentice when he left school. After leaving Black Grace, Richie attended Auckland University, graduating in 2007 with Bachelor of Performing Arts (Dance). In 2006 with his brother Andrew and friend Simon he formed TMC Dance Crew, which became one of NZ's foremost Hip Hop Dance Crews. TMC represented NZ at World Hip Hop Champs in 2007 and again in 2009 after they took the NZ title. Richie has also gained recognition as a choreographer and has been nominated three years for the TEMPO Dance Festival emerging choreographer award winning this in 2009. As well as teaching in the private sector Richie works in schools as an Itinerant teacher, teaches Hip

Hop and Contemporary dance at EXCEL School of the Performing Arts and regularly performs and choreographs with Prestige Dance Crew. Last year he travelled to the BodyRock Festival in San Diego with Prestige Dance Crew where they placed in the top 4 among the best hip hop dancers in the world. Richard was an assistant choreographer for the Rugby World Cup opening ceremony.

## Merenia Gray

### Contemporary - Performance Course



Merenia commenced her RAD classical ballet training with Lynne Harrison at four years of age, after being inspired to dance, from watching the Royal New Zealand Ballet perform Swan Lake at the Wellington Opera House. She has had 23 years professional experience as a director, choreographer, dancer and teacher, since graduating from the New Zealand School of Dance in 1989. She has performed and staged works in Hong Kong, Spain, France, Denmark and the United States. Merenia performed for Footnote Dance Company, Auckland Dance Company, and Artgenossen in Munich and Upper Cut Danse Teatre in Copenhagen. Her choreographic works of note are Andrew Lloyd Webber's

*Song and Dance, Māui–One Man against the Gods, The Montana World of Wearable Arts and Entangled* for the Royal New Zealand Ballet and Te Mana for Footnote and MGD. Over the years, Merenia has received many awards including a CNZ grant to study choreographic theatre with Enrique Pardot in Paris; the USIS scholarship to participate in the International Choreographers Program at the American Dance Festival in Duke University in 1992 and a Rotary Exchange Scholarship to Toronto in 1986.

One of the principal elements that influence Merenia's Choreography is tikanga Maori (customs). Of Ngai Tahu, Waikato and Rangitane descent, she is inspired by the dance potential of Kapa Haka. She believes Maori culture has the potential to play a profound role in dance theatre because of its spiritual energy. Merenia is currently the Artistic Director of MGD, her freelance dance Company, she recently co-directed and curated *Kōwhiri Dance 2011*, a Maori and Pacific Island Contemporary Dance Festival, and she helped establish *Raising the Barre* – freelance classes for professional dancers held at The Royal New Zealand Ballet Studios.

## **Tanemahuta Gray**

### **Contemporary - Performance Course; Creative Dance – Grades Course**



Tanemahuta Gray graduated from the New Zealand School of Dance in 1994. Since then, he has worked professionally as a dancer, choreographer, aerialist, director, teacher and producer in New Zealand and internationally. Tanemahuta Gray is the artistic director of the cultural stage spectacle "Māui – One Man Against The Gods" that has performed to over 75,000 New Zealanders nationwide. He is also the co-curator and director of Kowhiti Dance 2011 that presents NZ's top and emerging Maori & Polynesian Contemporary Dance choreographers, which this year performed at the Wellington Opera House as a part of the REAL NZ Festival.

Tanemahuta also directed and co-choreographed the Oceania work combining opera, violin and Kapa Haka at the China World Trade Expo "Opening Ceremony" in Shanghai, alongside Jackie Chan, Andrea Bocelli and Quincey Jones in 2010 and is a director of the South Pacific Section of World of Wearable Art Awards (WOW) and a garment choreographer for the UV and NZ Icons section this year. He has performed worldwide with world class aerial theatre company De La Guarda from 1999-2004 in London, Las Vegas, Amsterdam, Berlin, Seoul, Sydney and Buenos Aires. Finally he is artistic director of the Te Matatini National Kapa Haka Society's first foray into theatre with the Kapa Haka stage production "Arohanui – The Greatest Love" performing in Wellington and Auckland during the Rugby World Cup alongside co-directors Jim Moriarty and Annette Wehi of Te Waka Huia Kapa Haka group. Tanemahuta was recently nominated in the Arts Category of the Wellingtonian of the Year award 2011.

## **Lisa Howell**

### **Flexibility & Prepointe Workshops – Teachers Course**



Lisa Howell is the owner and creator of Perfect Form Physiotherapy, a center dedicated to the education treatment and development of dancers, located in North Sydney. She started the practice in 2005 with the mission to create the highest quality physical therapy care in a nurturing environment. As well as developing the clinic, Lisa has created an extensive series of workshops, online resources and dance education programs to educate and inspire young dancers to become the best that they can possible be. Lisa has a strong history in classical dance and is well respected both nationally and internationally for her work with young dancers, professional dancers and dance teachers. She has lectured throughout Europe, The United Kingdom, The United States and Australasia on Dance Anatomy, Injury Prevention, Recovery and Performance Enhancement. Lisa's focus is on education to prevent injury and maximise performance rather than waiting for injury to occur.

Lisa is also a qualified instructor in The Pilates Method and has had extensive personal involvement in various forms of Dance and Yoga. Throughout her professional studies and career she has continued her involvement with dance and uses her personal experience as a constant learning tool to advance her knowledge.

## **Tomoko Furuya Hristov PDTD**

### **Classical & Repertoire - Performance Course; Ballet – Grades Course**



Born in Japan, Tomoko started ballet at the age of 7 and attended Suzuki Classic Ballet Academy at age 10. She won the Espoir prize at Prix de Lausanne in 1991, and received a scholarship to Hamburg Ballet School and later to the Royal Ballet School. Joining the Royal Ballet in 1993 Tomoko had a successful 10 year career with the company. Having qualified with the Professional Dancers Teaching Diploma (PDTD) at the Royal Academy of Dance and the ISTD Imperial Ballet (A.I.S.T.D.), Tomoko is currently teaching in London and also frequently teaches at the RAD summer schools. She has taught at K-Ballet School, Suzuki Classic Ballet Academy and many other schools and seminars.

## **Paula Hunt ARAD Chair of International Panel of Examiners**

### **Grades Syllabus Surgery – Teachers Course**



Paula Hunt is a Grades, Vocational Grades and Standardisation Examiner, as well as a Dance Educator and Tutor for the Royal Academy of Dance. She has contributed to the development of International dance standards, has taught on many Summer Schools and Teacher's Courses throughout the world and has created courses for the Academy. Paula contributed to the development of the National Dance Unit Standards for the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA), contributed as a Professional Advisory Committee Member and Board of Studies member for the New Zealand School of Dance and has served on the Board of DANZ (Dance Aotearoa New Zealand). Paula is the current Chair of the International Panel of Examiners of the Royal Academy of Dance, overseeing the development of examining standards and the training of new examiners. She has taken part in the development and trialling of

the new syllabus programmes *Pre-Primary in Dance, Primary in Dance, Intermediate Foundation, Intermediate, and most recently Grades 1 – 3*. She is currently taking part in the development and trialling of *Grades 4-5, as well as Advanced Foundation (Male and Female) and Advanced 1 and 2 (Female)*.

## **Andrew McBirnie BA MMus PhD LTCL Director of Examinations**

### **Discussion – Teachers Course**



Andrew was appointed Director of Examinations at the Royal Academy of Dance in January 2010. Previously he was Chief Examiner in Music for London College of Music Examinations, based at the University of West London, where he also taught on the BMus course. Subsequently he spent some time in the USA, where he was syllabus consultant and North American promotions officer for LCM Examinations, and an adjunct professor in music at Oklahoma City University. He remains a Senior Examiner for LCM Examinations. He studied music at the University of Bristol, gaining a BA with first class honours, followed by postgraduate study in composition at the Royal Academy of Music. He was awarded a PhD in composition from the University of London in 1997.

He taught music in the UK independent schools sector, and was Director of Music at The Oratory School, Reading. As a composer, Andrew has received commissions, performances, broadcasts and recordings by a variety of professional orchestras, ensembles and soloists, both in the UK and worldwide.

## **Joanne Murphy**

### **Musical Theatre – Grades Course**



Joanne is originally from Bristol in England, where she grew up doing ballet, jazz and tap and went on to gain a BA Honors Degree in Creative Arts, specializing in contemporary dance and visual art. She then completed a full time Post Graduate Musical Theatre Diploma and was cast as lead role, witch Jane Smart in the musical 'The Witches of Eastwick'. She has many years experience as a professional singer and musical theatre teacher. Working as a singer with a number of well-respected bands and choirs across the UK at numerous high-profile events, including opening the 2007 WOMAD festival, with the Blind Boys of Alabama, performing at a charity gig with artist such as Jamie Cullum and singing at the wedding of BBC's Natasha Kaplinsky. Joanne has spent several years teaching dance, singing and drama to children believing that their lives are enriched through the arts. Having fun through education and performance, children build confidence and gain training for life. In 2003 Joanne became the Principal of two Stagecoach Theatre Arts Schools in the UK, working with children aged 4 to 16 years of age. During her time running the schools Joanne worked with over a 130 students at a time, producing excellent full scale shows and workshops. Since emigrating to Wellington, Joanne has toured New Zealand as a actor/performer with Capital E's National Theatre for Children and worked with girl band Avidia based in Wellington. Joanne has also recently trained as a performing and visual arts teacher at Victoria University, and works in both the public and private sector teaching drama, dance, singing and visual arts.

## **Karen Nimmo MSc, PGDipClinPsych, DipPhysEd**

### **Sports Psychology – Teachers Course**



Karen is a registered clinical psychologist with a private practice in Wellington who specialises in the science of peak performance. She combines psychology with a background in physical education in working confidentially with elite athletes, teams, coaches and officials. She also offers treatment for depression, anxiety, trauma, alcohol and drug problems, weight and body image problems and relationship difficulties. A former journalist and communications consultant, Karen assists with media training and advice for individuals facing the challenges of high-profile life.

## **Darren Parrish PDTD, DPBMN**

### **Classical & Repertoire – Performance Course**



Australian born, Darren trained with Jennifer Johnson in Cecchetti Method before studying full time at the Australian Ballet School. His career spanned over 20 years dancing as a Soloist and Senior Artist with Queensland Ballet (Australia), Bonner Ballet (Germany), Basel Ballet (Switzerland), Gothenburg Ballet (Sweden), Royal New Zealand Ballet (New Zealand), guest artist Arena Di Verona (Italy), English National Ballet and Scottish Ballet. Darren received the male dancer of the year (Sweden) 1995 and Critics Awards in 1996 (Sweden). He is a graduate of the RAD Professional Dancer's Teaching Diploma 2003 and the Benesh Movement Notation Diploma 2005. Freelance teaching has taken Darren to ballet companies and schools throughout the UK, Europe and Asia. He has held teaching posts at Elmhurst School (Head of Boys) and Laban Institute. Darren also guest performs character roles – recent roles include 'Drosselmyer' *Nutcracker*, 'Captain Hook' *Peter Pan*, 'King' *Sleeping Beauty*. He has also worked in television, film and pop concerts. Darren regularly works on RAD Summer Schools worldwide. As a notator, Darren has collaborated on new creations by Wayne Macgregor, *Chroma*, *Nimbus* and *Infra* and Christopher Wheeldon's additional choreography in *Sleeping Beauty* for the Royal Ballet Company.

## Sir Jon Trimmer

### Make-up & Mime – Grades Course



Sir Jon Trimmer has been a mainstay of the Royal New Zealand Ballet for 48 of the company's 53 years. He started dancing at his sister's ballet school in Wellington at the age of 12. He studied at the Royal Ballet School in 1959 and danced with both The Australian Ballet and the Royal Danish Ballet. He has performed with Dame Margot Fonteyn, Rudolf Nureyev, Erik Bruhn and many other of the world's top dancers. Some career highlights include being nominated for the best actor award in the *Fire-raiser* television series (1986) and dancing the title role in *Petrouchka* and the role of Albrecht in *Giselle*. The last 20 years have seen Jon performing many character roles with the RNZB, alongside dramatic roles in television and stage plays. In 2004 he toured New Zealand with the play *Meeting Karpovsky*.

Jon was awarded an MBE in 1974, was a recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship in 1981, and in 1986 was the third recipient of the Turnovsky Award. He received a knighthood in 1999 for services to ballet.

## Lynn Wallis FISTD RAD Artistic Director

### Classical Ballet Technique and Syllabus Revision - Teachers Course



Photo: FA

Lynn Wallis graduated from the Royal Ballet Senior School in 1965 into the Royal Ballet Touring Company, becoming Ballet Mistress at the school in 1969, a position she held until 1982, when she was made Deputy Principal. During this time she reproduced a great many ballets from classical repertoire for the school performances at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and other venues. In 1984, at the invitation of Erik Bruhn, she joined the National Ballet of Canada, as Artistic Co-ordinator, and in 1986 she became Associate Artistic Director, with Valerie Wilder, and Co-Artistic Director from 1987 to 1989. In 1990, she was appointed Deputy Artistic Director of English National Ballet with special responsibility for Mid-scale touring, the Education and Community Unit, Choreographic workshop and English National Ballet School. Lynn joined the Royal Academy of Dance in 1994 as Artistic Director and is responsible for setting and

maintaining the standards of dance training worldwide, developing the RAD's Syllabus and planning courses internationally for students. Lynn led the Creative Panel for *Pre-Primary in Dance*, *Primary in Dance*, *Grades 1-3*, *Intermediate Foundation* and *Intermediate* and chaired the Artistic Panel of Dance Professionals who wrote *The Foundations of Classical Ballet Technique* and *The Progressions of Classical Ballet Technique*. She is currently working on *Grades 4-5*, as well as *Advanced Foundation (Male and Female)* and *Advanced 1 and 2 (Female)*. In 2001 Lynn was nominated and shortlisted for the European Women of Achievement Awards. In 2004 she was nominated for an Isadora Duncan Dance award in the category of Reconstruction/Revival/Restaging for her work on *Monotones I and II*, Sir Frederick Ashton, San Francisco Ballet.