

Marin Ballet Faculty Biographies

School-year 2008-2009

Cynthia Lucas, *Artistic Director/Full-time Faculty*, was born in San Rafael and trained by Leona Norman at Marin Ballet. Ms. Lucas joined the National Ballet of Canada in 1972 and was widely recognized as a dramatic ballerina during her stellar 18-year performance career. Ms. Lucas became Ballet Mistress in 1989 and was promoted to Principal Ballet Mistress in 1996, teaching company class, re-staging the company repertoire, and assisting Artistic Director James Kudelka on many of his creations. In this capacity, she also advised the community outreach program, *Bits & Pieces*, and developed a valuable relationship with the National Ballet School, creating and expanding the Apprentice Programme. After 26 years with the National Ballet of Canada, Ms. Lucas was appointed MB School Director in 1998 and promoted to Artistic Director in 2000.

Leslie Crockett, *Full-time Faculty*, was trained by her parents, Barbara and Deane Crockett and on scholarship at San Francisco Ballet School. She danced professionally with SFB and on Broadway in musical comedies. She joined the faculty of San Francisco Ballet School in 1982, where she taught for thirteen years. Ms. Crockett has taught master classes for the Pacific Regional Ballet Festival, Contra Costa Ballet, Deane Dance Center, and City Ballet School, among others. She has choreographed several ballets with support from grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. In 2004 and 2006, Ms. Crockett was chosen by Regional Dance America to be the adjudicator for their annual ballet festivals. She was invited back to adjudicate the 2007 National Festival. She joined the faculty of Marin Ballet in 1995, serving as Acting Artistic Director in 1998 and Performance Director in 1999.

Laurie Klein, *Full-time Faculty*, was trained by Leona Norman at Marin Ballet and participated in many Pacific Regional Ballet Festivals and Craft of Choreography Conferences. She performed with Western Dance Theatre under the direction of Norbert Vesak, where she studied as a teacher-in-training. She joined the Marin Ballet faculty in 1972, developing the Pre-Ballet Division and its syllabus.

Signe Lando, *Full-time Faculty*, earned a B.A. in child development from San Jose State University, and studied dance with Jody White, Margie Belrose, Francesca and Dimitri Romanoff, Alvin Ailey, Margot Jones and Rec Russell, among others. She danced with the Marin Chamber Dance Co. under the direction of Juliana Sakowsky. Mrs. Lando developed a rhythm and movement program for pre-schools and joined the Marin Ballet faculty in 1988, specializing in pre-ballet classes and scholarship training to outreach communities. She has also choreographed a dance based on Madeleine L'Engle's book *Dance In The Desert* with composer Philip Lee Hahn at St. John's Church in Ross.

David Kato trained at Marin Ballet and holds a B.A. in dance from Dominican University. He danced professionally with Empire State Ballet in New York and has danced as a guest artist with many Bay Area companies including Oakland Ballet, Western Ballet, Berkeley Ballet Theater and Margaret Wingrove Dance Company. He has taught technique, pas de deux and boys' training in schools throughout the Bay Area and is currently also on faculty at Berkeley Ballet Theater. He joined the MB faculty in 2003.

Yuko Katsumi was born in Toyko, Japan and received her training in West Germany, Japan, Zimbabwe and at the Royal Ballet School in London. She has danced professionally with the Matsuyama Ballet, Tampa Ballet and Colorado Ballet, where she was a principal dancer. She has taught and coached ballet around the U.S., Taiwan and Japan. In the Bay Area, she has taught at Shawl-Anderson Dance Center since 1998. Ms. Katsumi joined the MB faculty in the fall of 2005.

Stephanie Lando trained at Marin Ballet for 11 years, studying with Svetlana Afanasieva, Leslie Crockett, and Shannon Bresnahan. She has danced with the College of Marin Dance Company, performing various works by choreographers Kristi Kuhn, David Jones, and Ellen Bauer. She graduated Cum Laude from the University of San Francisco with a B.A. in Performing Arts & Social Justice with an emphasis in dance. Ms. Lando joined the Marin Ballet faculty in 2003.

Malarie Whiting trained with STARS national dance program in Utah for 13 years competing and placing in national competitions. While pursuing her degree in secondary education at Utah Valley University, she took several higher level dance classes and taught at STARS for 3 years. Since moving to the Bay Area, she has taught preschool-focused ballet/jazz combo classes at several dance studios.