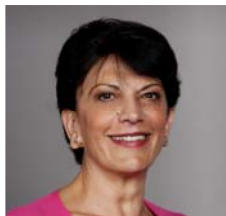


## Ballet Society of Colorado Springs Summer 2015 Guest Faculty



**Ahita Ardalan Bergman** (Permanent Guest Faculty) Former Ballet Mistress, San Diego Ballet, currently teaches master classes and teacher training for dance organization throughout the United States. For ten years, she performed across Europe and the USA with the Paris Opera Ballet. She studied music and ballet in Paris from the Conservatoire de Regional de Paris and later became stage manager and assistant choreographer for the Ballet Monte Carlo. In 1991, Mr. Roland Petit asked her to join Ballet National Marseille as his artistic assistant and stage manager.



**Dana Benton** (*Classical Ballet*) was born in Canada, where she began her training with Lou and Pauline Zamprogna. At the age of 9, she was accepted to the National Ballet School in Toronto where she trained for eight years. Dana graduated from the National Ballet School with Honors in Academics and was awarded the Peter Dwyer Award for Excellence in Dance. Upon graduating in 2000, Dana received a contract with the Alberta Ballet Company in Canada. She spent one year with the company as an apprentice. In 2001, she joined Colorado Ballet as a Corps de Ballet member. In 2007, she was promoted to Soloist and in 2014, she was promoted to Principal. With Colorado Ballet, Dana has worked with many well-known choreographers and repetiteurs including Val Caniparoli, Bronwen Curry, Judith Fugate, John Gardner, Thierry Michel, Darrell Grand Moultrie, Jessica Lang, Edwaard Liang, Donald Mahler, Amanda McKerrow, Michael Pink, Brian Reeder, Domy Reiter-Soffer, Dwight Rhoden, Amy Seiwert, Paul Sutherland, Lynn Taylor-Corbett, Doug Varone, Shelly Washington, Septime Webre, Christopher Wheeldon and Lila York. Since joining Colorado Ballet, she has performed many Soloist and Principal roles. Her notable roles include Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*, Swanilda in *Coppélia*, Cow Girl in *Rodeo*, *Ave Maria* Pas de Deux, Sugar Plum and Clara in *The Nutcracker*, Gulnara in *Le Corsaire*, Tinker Bell in *Peter Pan*, Pink and Aqua in *Bruch Violin Concerto No. 1*, Red Girl in *Celts*, Lucy in *Dracula*, Princess Florine and Diamond Fairy in *The Sleeping Beauty*, Pas de Trois in *Swan Lake*, Peasant Pas in *Giselle*, Flower Girl and Cupid in *Don Quixote*, Hermia and Peaseblossom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Flames of Paris* Pas de Deux, Bomb Squad in *In The Upper Room*, Lead Souvenir Lady in the *Great Galloping Gottschalk*, and the featured role in Amy Seiwert's *Traveling Alone*. This is Dana's 14th season with CB.



**Lawrence Jackson** (*Jazz and Contemporary Dance*) is an Assistant Professor of Dance at the U of Alabama. Lawrence received a BFA in Dance from the University of Southern Mississippi and an MFA in Dance from Florida State University. For several years, Lawrence was a principal dancer with the internationally known modern dance company, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble. He has also performed as a guest artist in a variety of venues; on the concert stage, PBS television programs, dinner theatres, and summer dance intensives. In addition, he has choreographed and received choreography awards, such as the Extraordinary Merit Award in Choreography from the Kennedy Center for over 75 original works for the concert stage. Lawrence was also an Associate Professor of Dance at the University of Wyoming and continues to guest teach and choreograph at various universities, academies and summer workshops throughout the U.S. and abroad. Lawrence has published in many scholarly journals in the field of Black Dance. Most recently, he co-edited and published a special edition devoted to Black Dance in the Journal of Pan African Studies. This edition marked the second occurrence in history, where an academic journal edition was committed solely to Black Dance.



**Britta Heermann-Wynne** (Feldenkrais Instructor), originally from Hamburg, Germany studied at the Ballet Academy of the University of Music and Performing Arts in Munich, the International Centre of Dance in Cannes, France and the Hamburg Ballet School, Germany. Following her training, she began her professional career in Cologne, Germany. Moving to the USA in 1994, Britta co-founded the Philadelphia based contemporary company *At Marah Dance Theatre*. She continued to work as a soloist, Assistant Artistic Director, and Trainee Program Instructor. In 2003 she relocated to Jackson, MS, where she taught at Belhaven University. In May of 2010, Britta began her education of the **Feldenkrais Method** at The Institute for the Study of Somatic Education in Houston, TX. She graduated December 2013, as a registered Feldenkrais Practitioner. Britta served as Ballet and Feldenkrais Instructor, as well as Rehearsal Assistant, for the Sangre De Cristo Ballet in Pueblo, Colorado, for two and a half years. Currently, Britta resides in Littleton, Colorado; she is a member of the Feldenkrais Guild and is working as a freelance Feldenkrais Practitioner® as well as Dance Instructor.



**Lizanne McAdams-Graham** (*Classical Ballet and Variations*) has over 25 years experience as a professional dancer and instructor. She received her early training from her mother, Lorraine McAdams, founder of the National Ballet of New Jersey. Over the years, Ms. McAdams has been associated with the National Ballet of New Jersey as a prima ballerina, teacher and choreographer. At age 15, she won scholarships to Joffrey Ballet, Harkness House, Pennsylvania Ballet, and Craft of Choreography NARB workshops. She was invited to join the National Ballet of Zagreb, Yugoslavia as a soloist at age 17. In 1987, she went on to San Francisco to dance with the San Francisco Dance Theatre and then became a principal dancer with the ODC/San Francisco, completing tours through Russia, Southeast Asia, Hawaii, and Australia. She has danced for Los Angeles, Santa Fe, Pittsburgh, and San Francisco Opera ballet companies and appeared in the PBS televised production of "Dance in America" as well as the motion picture "The In Crowd." Ms. McAdams served on the faculty for Pittsburgh Ballet, Pittsburgh Youth Ballet, Point Park College, Carnegie-Mellon University, Drexel University and the San Francisco Institute of Choreography. She has set ballets for Charleston Ballet,

Ithaca Ballet and Walnut Hill. Upon retiring from performing in 1997, she founded the High Pointe Dance Academy. She currently teaches company class for Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Company, Ballet Arts in Denver and master classes for Boulder Ballet.



**Kerina McAdams-Connor** (*Musical Theatre Dance*) made her mark with the National Ballet of New Jersey and many other dance companies both here and abroad as a teacher and choreographer for over four decades. She has staged the most famous and familiar full-length ballets as well as produced her own world premieres for Rowan University (formerly Glassboro State College), Drexel University, St. Joseph's University, PA; Walnut Hill Performing Arts, MA; Princeton Opera Society, Tanssikeskus, R.Y., Helsinki, Finland; and the National Ballet of New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Dept. of State; best jazz work at the Kuopio Dance Festival, Finland; and the Monticello College Foundation Award for Women Choreographers for two consecutive years. She was also elected and nominated by Robert Baxter (music & arts critic: Courier-Post) for leadership women artists of New Jersey at the South Jersey Performing Arts Center. Ms. Connor received the Burlington County Outstanding Women Achievement Award for Arts & Entertainment. The prestigious accolade pays tribute to her meritorious record of service, leadership and commitment in the performing arts. In addition, she was the only woman elected on that occasion to receive a Congressional Commendation by the Hon. Senator Thomas Kean, Jr. for Outstanding Achievement in Choreography Staging of West Side Story by the Paper Mill Playhouse 2010 'Rising Star' Award. Many of her students have been accepted into major institutions, including the Joffrey Ballet, Boston Ballet, Central Penn Youth Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Alvin Ailey, Suny Purchase, University of the Arts, PA, Rowan University, Montclair State, and Julliard. Her dancers have appeared or hold professional appointments with national touring companies including, Showboat, Sound of Music, Company, Shrek, the Christmas Spectacular at the Radio Music Hall, NYC, St. Louis Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, BalletMet, Ohio, First State Ballet, DE, as well as Donald Byrd's 'The Nutcracker'. Ms. Connor holds a BA in Arts with a major in Theatre and Dance from Thomas Edison State College. She and her Company have been featured in three occasions in the national publication, Dance Magazine in 2000/2001.



**Patricia Hoffman**, (*Director, Principal Teacher, and Choreographer*) founded Ballet Society of Colorado Springs in September of 1997. Before moving to Colorado Springs, she was the founder and Director of La Jolla Festival Ballet and Dance Center in Southern California for 10 years. She began her studies in Monterey, California, with Patricia Wester. At age 16, Ms. Hoffman began to study full time with England's Ballet Rambert. She received her MFA in classical ballet from U.S. International University where she also later joined the faculty. Ms. Hoffman performed principal roles created for her with Ballet International and San Diego Ballet. She also directed and taught in London; was principal at the San Diego Ballet School; and directed the USIU Conservatory of the Arts.



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