

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

The Margo Marshall School of Ballet, founded in 1958 by Margo Marshall, is a "professional school that has trained and produced more than two hundred professional dancers, teachers and choreographers." The school is the home of City Ballet of Houston, an honor company of Regional Dance America/Southwest.

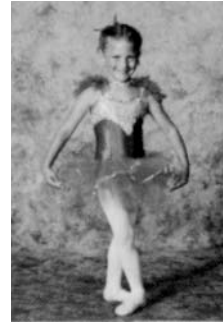
Affiliation with the School and Company provides the serious intermediate, advanced and professional level students with training and performing experience plus opportunities to work with internationally known teachers and choreographers.

Professional companies such as Boston Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, the Joffrey Ballet, North Carolina School of the Arts, and the Pennsylvania Ballet hold annual auditions at the school, scholarshiping and accepting students into their summer workshops, giving students further professional exposure.

The School's curriculum offers complete training for dancers from preschool to the professional level. Classes are available for preschoolers, children, teenagers and adults. All students are given the opportunity to participate in a stage performance every other year. In alternate years special class demonstrations are presented in the studio for parents and friends. Students, ages six and above, may audition for City Ballet of Houston's annual production of "Nutcracker."

Classes are offered year-round in spacious studios, equipped with specially designed floors ensuring the physical comfort and correct training of the dancers. All classes are taught by professional teachers under the supervision of Margo Marshall.

CHILDREN'S DIVISION



The Children's Division begins with an introduction to ballet in the Preschool Level, including tap and tumbling classes for rhythm and coordination. Basics of ballet technique continue in Levels A, B and C. The Intermediate Levels are for students who have progressed beyond the basic levels and require a minimum of three ballet classes per week. Jazz classes are offered for ages 6 and up.

TEEN & ADULT DIVISION

Teen/Adult Beginner Ballet classes are offered in the mornings and evenings for those with little or no ballet training. Intermediate and Advanced Level ballet classes are offered in the mornings and evenings for the advanced professional dancer, teacher or adult wanting to maintain and/or continue the development of their technique. Teen/Adult classes in jazz are also available.



PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

The Professional Division offers daily intensive instruction at an advanced level for the serious student who wishes to pursue a career in dance, or for professional dancers to continue their training. An extension of this program includes performing opportunities with City Ballet of Houston.



Margo Marshall School of Ballet - DIRECTORS - Margo Marshall AND Dennis Marshall



Margo Marshall, Artistic Director of Margo Marshall School of Ballet and City Ballet of Houston, began training in Washington, D.C. and continued in Chicago with Edna McRae and with the Christensen brothers in San Francisco. Moving to New York with her family, she studied with the Ballet Russe School and the Ballet Theatre School. While attending the University of Houston, she began teaching dance in the early 1950s. She has owned and operated her own school since 1958 and has served City Ballet of Houston as Artistic Director since 1967.

Ms. Marshall has been a guest teacher for many schools in the U.S. and Europe, including the Joffrey School in New York, the International Academy of Dance in Portugal, The Louisville Ballet, the 1981-1985 Boston Ballet's Summer Workshops, and "The Place" in London. She has served as part-time faculty member of the High School of the Performing Arts (Houston) and Sam Houston State University.

Formerly a member of the Dance Panel on the Cultural Arts Council of Houston, Ms. Marshall is an officer with Regional Dance America - Southwest and has served the Texas Commission on the Arts in an advisory capacity. She has served on the Houston Grand Opera Board of Trustees and is a member of the International Committee for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. She continues to teach the Intermediate Advanced and Advanced levels in the school.

Margo Marshall is recognized as one of the outstanding ballet teachers in the United States. She was selected the 1986 Adjudicator by Mid-States Regional Ballet Association and continues to be included in RDA's recommended list of Adjudicators.



Dennis Marshall, Artistic Advisor to Margo Marshall School of Ballet and City Ballet of Houston. He was born in Houston, Texas, and began his dance training at the age of five with his mother, Margo Marshall. He continued to train, with scholarships, at some of the most prestigious dance academies in the world, including the Kirov Ballet in St. Petersburg, the Royal Ballet in London, the School of American Ballet and the Joffrey Ballet School. Upon graduation from the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Houston, he was asked to join the American Ballet Theatre under the direction of Lucia Chase, where he performed solo and principal roles. His highly acclaimed career continued when he joined the San Francisco Ballet under the direction of Lew Christenson and Michael Smuin.

In 1979, he was the winner of the Bronze Medal at the First International Ballet Competition, USA. He then served as a guest teacher at the Fourth International Ballet Competition in 1990.

Mr. Marshall has been a guest teacher for many schools around the country including the Boston Ballet School, Ballet Dallas, the Southwest and Mid-States Regional Ballet Festivals and the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Houston and Dallas. He was on the faculty of North Carolina School of the Arts for one year. He then became Ballet Master of North Carolina Dance Theatre for their 1988-1990 seasons. Mr. Marshall served as Ballet Master to the Tulsa Ballet Theatre for their 1991-1992 season. He was Ballet Master for Boston Ballet from 1996-2000. He is currently a Professor at the University of Oklahoma Dance Department, but continues to teach for Margo Marshall School of Ballet and City Ballet of Houston.

Margo Marshall School of Ballet - TEACHING STAFF

Mary Elizabeth Arrington started ballet at the age of seven years. She began her training at the Virginia Ballet School under the direction of Oleg Tupine and continued study at various workshops including School of American Ballet, North Carolina School of the Arts, Chataqua Institute and City Ballet of Houston.

Ms. Arrington danced with Tulsa Ballet Theatre for three years. As a Demi-Soloist, she performed many roles in such ballets as *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake* and *Giselle* and has guested with the Reno Ballet Theatre and Ballet Arkansas. In 1992 she moved to Houston to continue to study and teach with Margo Marshall School of Ballet and to perform as an Artist-in-Residence with City Ballet of Houston. She has re-staged *Don Quixote*, *Les Sylphides*, *Swan Lake* and *Giselle* for City Ballet of Houston.

Ms. Arrington has taught summer workshops for Power and Grace in Shreveport, LA as well as company classes for Chrysalis Dance Co. and Kinkaid School. She has also served as a dance panelist for the Houston Cultural Arts Council.

Ms. Arrington is the principle teacher for Margo Marshall School of Ballet and Associate Artistic Director for City Ballet of Houston.

Ginny Jackson began her life-long love affair with dance as a young gymnast at the age of five. Later in her childhood years, her gymnastics training propelled her to study ballet with Natalie Skelton in Dallas, Texas. During her college years, as a Fine Arts major at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Ms. Jackson was mentored by former Ballet Russes soloist, Nikita Talin, and was chosen to attend a summer workshop where she trained with the Joffrey Ballet. Ms. Jackson has danced on stage in productions of "Caligula," "Stop The World...", "The King and I," and "Gypsy" and has performed with stage and screen personalities including Bob Hope, John Davidson and Michelle Lee. Since moving to Houston in 1979, Ms. Jackson has studied with the Houston Ballet and the Margo Marshall School of Ballet and has regularly appeared in the City Ballet of Houston's annual performances of "Nutcracker." She has been teaching ballet at the Margo Marshall School since 1995.

"Miss Betty" Laughlin didn't begin her "dance career" until she was a Mom (having grown up in a very small West Texas town where Ballet was not an option!) When she first enrolled her daughter Karen (at five) for ballet (with a certain teacher we all know and love), the result was that Karen became a ballerina, even graduating from college with a degree in dance. Of course, it was a little late for "Miss Betty" to become a ballerina, but she did begin taking adult classes and fell totally in love with ballet. Later, when her teacher suggested that she might want to teach some of the younger classes, she accepted and THEN, fell totally in love with teaching! And now, even as a Granma, she is still enjoying it! She has been teaching for Margo Marshall since 1970.

Madonna Mabry-Macdonald American born Madonna MacDonald began her early training in Hollywood under David Lechine, Carmelita Maracci and Michael Panieff. She graduated with honors from the world famous Pasadena Playhouse, College of Theatre Arts in California. She received her professional training at the London Dance Center, Covent Garden, England; and in Paris, France with the Academic Choreographic de Franchetti. As principle ballerina of the Queensland Ballet Co., Ms. MacDonald danced the premiere of some of Australia's best known ballets. She worked under the direction of the famed Frederic Franklin; dancing the leading role of Swanhilda in Coppelia. Later she joined the French company, Le Theatre D' Art Du Ballet, based in Paris. As principal dancer she twice toured the world.

As part of her tenure with various ballet companies she taught Master Classes; and through government programs such as Artists in the Schools in America and The Arts Council in Australia, Ms. MacDonald has brought ballet to students of all ages, and helped to create new dancers and audiences for Ballet Festivals and Dance Seminars. She has also made two "Magnum P.I." episodes with Tom Selleck. She has been teaching for the Margo Marshall School of Ballet since 1996 and serves as assistant to City Ballet of Houston Artistic Directors.

Lesa Mueschke has taught dance for the past 33 years. Ms. Mueschke began her training at the age of 4, at the Virgie Lee Emmons Studio and continued her training with Hallie R. Pritchard and Margo Marshall. Ms. Mueschke has studied all phases of dance in New York, Los Angeles and New Orleans. She is a graduate of the Dance Educators of America, a national dance organization based in New York City and a member of the Dance Masters of America, where she earned a certification by both prestigious organizations to teach. Ms. Mueschke has worked with Spring Branch ISD on designing and teaching mini courses in dance.

She has been on staff at the Margo Marshall School of Ballet since 1992.

Beverly Williams is a gifted teacher with a diverse background in ballet, jazz, modern, tap and musical theater dance styles. She is the dance master for the Kinkaid School in Houston, Texas and holds a MFA and BA from the University of Houston. She is currently seeking options to work on her doctorate degree.

Ms. Williams has been a long time dedicated instructor for the Royal Academy Of Fine Arts, Delia Stewart Dance Center and for the Margo Marshall School of Ballet. Most recently, Ms. Williams co-directed a performing tour for high school students to perform for private schools in the British Isles. During the summers, she enjoys traveling as an instructor for Cross Jazz Tours and teaching in workshops throughout the United States.

Ms. Williams was chosen as a choreographer for Regional Dance America's Craft of Choreography Conference. She created Global Experiences, a program designed for the elementary age students, using creative movement. She is an avid volunteer in many "save the world" projects and dedicated to the enrichment of the fine arts.

Saili Arvola at the age of eight was accepted to the Ballet Academy of the National Opera House in Helsinki, Finland. After graduating from the Academy at the age of 17, she was invited to join the National Ballet of Finland, and toured with the company around the world. Among her numerous honors, Miss Arvola won a Bronze Medal and a diploma for high artistic achievement in Women's Senior category (professional category) at the prestigious 1972 International Ballet Competition in Varna, Bulgaria. She has appeared as a guest ballerina with the Finnish National Ballet, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Chicago Ballet, Houston Ballet, London's Royal Ballet Choreographic Group, Indianapolis Ballet Theatre, Ballet International de Ochi of Japan, and with numerous civic Ballet companies throughout the United States and abroad.

Miss Arvola is married to her partner, Leo Ahonen, and on the Day of Constitution in 1976, they became Citizens of the United States.

Leo Ahonen was accepted to the Ballet Academy of the National Opera House in Helsinki, Finland at the age of six. He joined the National Ballet of Finland at the age of 14, and at 17 years of age guest performed with the Kirov Ballet in Leningrad and the Bolshoi Ballet in Moscow.

At the age of 25 he was already a recognized teacher in Europe. He received the coveted "Golden Achievement Award for International Pedagogues." Mr. Ahonen won a Bronze Medal in the Men's Senior category at the Second International Ballet Competition in Varna, Bulgaria. He was a principal dancer and the company teacher for the National Ballet of Holland, Royal Winnipeg Ballet and the National Ballet of Finland. With his wife, Saili Arvola, he danced as a principal dancer with the San Francisco Ballet and was noted by the critics as "The Flying Finn," "West Coast Nureyev," "Finntastic Finn." His dancing career includes over 300 roles, 3000 performances in 34 countries. Ms. Marshall, Ms. Arvola and Mr. Ahonen have had a 25 year personal and professional affiliation.