



## **SUMMER INTENSIVE 2010 FACULTY**

### **BETSY CARR, DIRECTOR**

Betsy Carr has a Master's in Dance Performance & Choreography from the University of Michigan, an Undergraduate Degree in Dance from Eastern Michigan University, and has served on the teaching faculties of both institutions. While living in New York City, Carr was on scholarship at Steps on Broadway, where she served as an assistant manager. After performing and training in New York City, Carr moved to Ann Arbor to dance professionally with the Parker Copely Modern Company, as well as Jazz Dance Theater. One of her career highlights was being named "Michigan Dance Teacher of the Year" in 2001. In 32 years of teaching, she has won numerous National and Regional Honors, and has students dancing in Ballet & Modern Companies, as well as Broadway Shows and National Tours. Carr also has numerous students with studios and companies of their own. She is in demand as a Guest Teacher and has taught for the Michigan Youth Arts Festival, Cecchetti Summer Workshops at Michigan State University, Hope College, and Cleveland Ballet, Detroit Windsor Dance Company, South Dayton Dance Theater, Macomb Arts Festival, Badgerette Dance - Milwaukee, and Performing Arts Dance Theater.

### **SUSAN BUCK, DIRECTOR**

Susan Buck has her undergraduate and Masters Degree in Ballet from Indiana University. Her early training was with Marjorie Randazzo, numerous Cecchetti Conferences, the University of Michigan, and she attended high school at the National Academy of Arts in Champaign, Illinois. Sue has completed her Cecchetti Ballet Exams highly commended, and completed the Vaganova Teacher's Training. She danced professionally with the Texas Ballet in Houston and was a guest artist with many Ballet companies throughout the U.S. She has danced roles as diverse as leads in Othello, Trojan Women, Paquita, Cinderella, Don Quixote, Giselle, and The Nutcracker. She has studied with Bill Martin-Viscount, Jean Pierre Bonnefoux, Gwen Ashton, and Michael Maule among others. Her high energy teaching, nurturing of young children and outstanding ballet technique have given her quite a following in the Grand Traverse Area.

**MELINDA BAKER** has spent 30 years performing and teaching throughout the U.S. and abroad. Her training includes The Baker School, Washington School of the Ballet and American Ballet Theatre. She has appeared with Chicago Ballet, Ballet Hispanico, Eglevsky Ballet, BalletMet Columbus, Deutsche Oper am Rhein in Dusseldorf, and is a founding member of Columbus Dance Theatre. She appeared in the role of "Coquette", in the Ruth Page production of "Die Fledermaus," filmed for PBS. She has taught for the pre-professional programs at Ballet Met and Columbus Dance Theatre, at Kenyon College and Farleigh Dickinson University, and was the Ballet Mistress for Garden State Ballet. Melinda founded the Lancaster Ballet in 1986, and Melinda Baker and Company in 1993. Her choreographic work has been presented each year at the nationally recognized Lancaster Festival. In addition to nurturing the Ballet Program at Dance Arts Academy, Melinda co-founded the Michigan Dance Collective, Northern Michigan's only professional dance company.

**MELISSA RAY** is also the Associate Director of Company Dance Traverse. Her choreography has won the highest honor in several competitions - "Critics Choice", as well as other honors. This is her 11th year teaching at Dance Arts Academy. Melissa has her Associates Degree from Northwestern Michigan College. She received her early training in Ludington, and later at Dance Arts Academy. She danced professionally in Chicago, and has trained at the Lou Conte Dance Center in Chicago, as well as Steps and Broadway Dance Center in New York City. Melissa has completed the STOTT PILATES Intensive Mat Plus, Advanced Mat Plus and Reformer courses and is a Level 2 certified STOTT PILATES instructor, as well as a certified Pilates Reformer Teacher. She is also recently certified in Zumba Technique and Zumbatomic for kids. A former CDT dancer of the year, Northern Michigan Dance Council Scholarship Winner, DAA Distinguished Student Scholarship Winner, Melissa was the first dancer to be inducted into the Company Dance Traverse Hall of Fame.

**SAHRA SINGER** is a native of Australia where she was a serious ballet student for 16 years. Sahra performed with the Australian Ballet Company before moving to Northern Michigan. In addition to her training in Australia, Sahra has also studied with Susan Buck, Betsy Carr, and Melinda Baker. She has been teaching at DAA for 10 years. Sahra serves as a Rehearsal Director for Company Dance Traverse, and our Nutcracker performances. Everyone at DAA values her attention to detail in her student's early training. Sahra's students are known for their lovely training, and fun, yet disciplined work ethic. We are thrilled with all that Sahra has to offer our dancers!

**RACHEL JAMES** is a Graduate of The National Ballet School of Canada with a degree in Teaching. Rachel performed with the National Ballet School, as well as the Zhang Company in Toronto. In Seattle, she danced with the Deborah Birrane and Unexpected Guests and the ARC Company. Before moving to Traverse City, she was a member of the faculty at Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, Washington and Ballet Mistress for the Evergreen City Ballet Company. She has completed the STOTT PILATES Intensive Mat Plus and Advanced Mat Plus, and Reformer courses and is a Level 2 certified STOTT PILATES instructor, as well as a certified Pilates Reformer Teacher. Rachel currently teaches at Interlochen Arts Academy and summer camp and has been a faculty member at DAA for 6 years. Her knowledge and use of anatomy, Pilates, and floor barre has played a vital part in the success of our dancers.

**KRISTI EPPING** has a degree in Dance from Oklahoma City University, a highly acclaimed dance program. After graduation, Kristi was hired by Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, and spent time performing throughout the Caribbean. Kristi also served as the Dance Captain on the ship. Her early training was in Minneapolis, where she spent a year competing with the National Champion Larkin Studio, as well as training at her home studio, Victoria's. She most recently ran a dance program in the Outer Banks in North Carolina. Kristi's talent and enthusiasm, as well as her versatility as a dancer have inspired and challenged our students!

**MARIA WEST** has her BFA Summa Cum-Laude in Dance Performance and Choreography with a minor in Dance Education from Marymount Manhattan College in New York City. Maria received more training as a scholarship student and teaching assistant at NYC's Broadway Dance Center, and as student at the Paul Taylor School in New York. As a gifted performer, Maria danced professionally throughout the US, and Japan, as well as for Carnival Cruise Lines. She has been teaching in New York City, and on Long Island for the past several years. She has also choreographed for several high school musical productions, and Long Island studios. Maria is a certified personal trainer specializing in core strength and flexibility coaching, as well as a licensed Zumba® teacher. Maria is looking forward to sharing her great knowledge and love of dance with all of our students at DAA.

**JENNIFER TURNER** is a Professional Ballet Dancer and Teacher from New York City. She is on the faculty at Ballet Academy East, and has been the Guest Artist for the San Angelo Civic Ballet Company. She received her early training in NYC, and was on scholarship at the prestigious North Carolina School of the Arts. Her summer program study included SAB, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, and Boston Ballet. Jennifer danced professionally with Miami City Ballet, and Ballet Austin, performing such diverse Ballets as: Napoli, Tarantella, Five Concerti, Serenade, Balobile, Raymonda Variations, Stars and Stripes, George Balanchine's The Nutcracker, Sleeping Beauty, Swan Lake, Emeralds from Jewels, Twinkliana, and The Magic Flute. Jennifer is also a certified Pilates Instructor.

**MICHAEL PHILLIPS** currently dances professionally in New York City with the Pascal Rioult Dance Company. He has toured all of Europe, Asia and the US with this company. In addition, Michael does commercial work (most recently for Adidas), and video dance choreography. Michael received his early training from Betsy Carr, and was a principal dancer with her company in Howell, Performing Arts Dance Theater. He won numerous scholarships to Interlochen, Tremaine in Hollywood, and The University of Michigan. He graduated from the University of Michigan Dance Program, and danced professionally in Ann Arbor with the Dance Gallery Company. He has spent part of the past 7 summers teaching at DAA, and we are excited to welcome him back! Michael will be honored this fall as The University of Michigan's Distinguished Alumni Award.

