

The Studio & Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre | partners in excellence serving Santa Cruz County for over 30 years | scbt.org
Robert Kelley and Diane Cypher, Artistic Directors | Sandy Nelson, Academy Registrar | Mark Swan, SCBT Board President

SUMMER 2016 PROGRAMS ARE UNDERWAY

Our students are making great progress this summer. Many are working extra hard, taking 3 classes per day to hone their technique. We look forward to welcoming our illustrious guest instructors here soon: John Batchelor from Los Angeles, Jerome Begin from New York City, Deborah Hadley from Seattle, Erin Long Robbins from Dayton, Kaelyn Magee from Phoenix, Nahshon Marden from Seattle, Chris Pratorius from Santa Cruz, Debra Pearse Rogo from Tri-Cities Washington and Sarah Stein Eriksen from San Jose. These exciting instructors will teach Ballet, Pointe and Men's, Variations, Character, Social Dance, Modern and Music for Dancers. Get ready for a wonderful and challenging experience, dancers in Levels IIb and up who qualify!

CONGRATULATIONS NEW BEGINNING POINTE DANCERS!

Nine of our Level IIb dancers have arrived at a turning point in their ballet training (pun intended), and have begun pointework. This new exciting part of their training requires strength, dedication, and most of all, determination. Keep up the good work dancers!

EARLY FALL REGISTRATION

2:00-6:00 pm ~ Friday, August 5

INFORMAL SHOWING of Level IIb-VI students culminating the Intensive Program at 4:30 pm on the same date. Come in early or stay a few minutes to register for Fall and receive your discount.

CONGRATULATIONS TO AVA OWENS ON BEING THE FIFTH HONOREE OF THE ANNUAL LESLIE SWAHA AWARD

The Leslie Swaha Award is given at the culmination of each season to the dancer who best exhibits dedication, coupled with integrity and a positive disposition. Mentoring younger students is an important part of the consideration. Leslie Swaha was a champion of dance education and our good friend. She was Artistic Director of the modern dance company Crash Burn and Die in Santa Cruz for many years. We remember her contributions to the Santa Cruz dance scene each year when we honor one of our students with the award given in her name. Congratulations Ava!



*At left, a group of our Level IIb girls after their first pointe shoe fitting with McGarry Caven of Contra Costa Dancewear (who just happens to be one of Diane Cypher's former ballet teachers). Right, Ava Owens with a young dancer backstage at "The Nutcracker."
Photos contributed by L. Esthela Bañuelos and Amanda & Ava Owens.*

TIME TO PLAN FOR FALL

It's time to plan for Fall. Level Placements will be mailed home mid-month with our 2016-2017 brochure and forms. Please check your enrollment form carefully and make changes before initialing, signing and returning to the office with your first payment to complete enrollment. A Registration contract must also be signed and returned. Remember to include the annual Registration fee: \$75 for Professional Training Program and Extended Dance Program; \$50 for Pre-Ballet Program and Teen Program.

Enroll for Fall on or before Friday, August 5 and receive a 10% discount on your first month's payment. The offer is good for the 9-installment payment amount of your level, regardless of your chosen payment plan, and is not combinable with any other discount. Mail in your enrollment, or submit prior to August 5 to receive the discount. Complete enrollment includes signed forms, registration fee and first payment.

BEGINNING ADULT/TEEN CLASS RETURNS

The Beginning Adult/Teen class will resume this Fall. Come join other beginners on Thursdays 7-8:00 pm. This class can serve as an extra class for dancers age 11 and up (younger dancers may be allowed when/if space allows). If you have never tried even one step of ballet, this class is for you. Some students continue in the Beginning Class for a second term, however, the basics are what are studied. Reward yourself with a fun, challenging hour each week. Instructor Diane Cypher will lead you through the elementary positions, posture and skills. Contact our Registrar to enroll, or go to our website to print an enrollment form and bring it to class with you. The first class is always free. We look forward to seeing you in the studio!

CONGRATULATIONS CHOREOGRAPHERS!

We are so proud of our three young choreographers who presented new pieces at the June 4 concert at Cabrillo College. What wonderfully inventive works from each of them. Emma Williams presented her second creation "Felices Machina," featuring music by Zoe Keating.

She cast all Senior Company girls, which was quite ambitious. Two other Senior Company dancers — Carolyn Jones and Lauren Hood — presented their first pieces and both did an excellent job. They also both worked with large groups of dancers. All three new pieces are something to be proud of. Congratulations to all three choreographers and to the dancers who performed them with integrity and commitment. A job well done by all!

COMPANY AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for Senior Company are pretty self-explanatory: be at a high level of ballet technique, fully committed to your training and able to fulfill the demanding rehearsal and performance schedule of Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre. For more detailed information, check the SCBT Company bulletin board at The Studio or go to the Auditions page on the website.

The Junior Company requirements are not so obvious. If you are interested in Junior Company membership, read on. A sample contract will also be posted on the SCBT Company bulletin board at The Studio later this summer for your perusal.

Junior Company requirements:

- an enthusiasm for ballet
- an excellent work ethic
- girls must be en pointe
- all dancers must exhibit a strong intermediate level of ballet technique
- be at least 10 years of age (however, younger dancers who qualify by means of technical level, commitment and maturity may be considered)
- must take a minimum of 6 weekly ballet classes
- must be available to attend about half of the rehearsals as the Senior Company (Saturdays and Sundays, though Tuesday and/or Friday evening rehearsals are possible, depending on casting)
- must be able to participate in "The Nutcracker", In Concert and the Santa Cruz Symphony Concerts.

Ask Diane or Robert if you need further clarification.

UPCOMING AUDITIONS

Senior & Junior Company • Saturday, August 6 @ 9 am

"The Nutcracker" Auditions • Saturday, September 17

Auditions for ages 7 and up are open to the public.

Dancers age 4-6 years 5:00 pm

Dancers age 7-8 years 4:30 pm

Dancers age 9-11 years 3:30 pm

Dancers age 12 and up 2:00 pm

Audition registration for both auditions begins 30 minutes prior to the audition start time.

Go to scbt.org Season, Auditions page for more information. There is an audition fee.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW INSTRUCTOR, JESSICA METTER

We are thrilled to announce the addition of Jessica Metter to our faculty in the Fall of 2016! Jessica will teach Contemporary Dance classes in our new Extended Dance Program.

We have known Jessica since she was a dedicated student in our Professional Training Program, moving through the syllabus with hard work and talent. She danced en pointe in several featured roles in "The Nutcracker" and was especially memorable as the Soldier General in the Battle Scene and in the Spanish divertissement.

Jessica was truly a dance wunderkind. She started competing at the age of 5, and at the age of 10 won the title of "Dancer of the Year" at the Las Vegas Nationals and was invited to Australia to compete in the World National Championships. She appeared in the television show "America's Most Talented Kids". Following high school graduation, Jessica was hired by award-winning choreographer Tessandra Chavez to be part of her own company Unity Dance Ensemble.

Jessica performed for several years with the Disney Corporation and Stiletto Entertainment as a dancer for Holland America Cruise Line. Recently, she began teaching and choreographing for local competition dance teams, winning Best Choreography and overall high point awards in numerous dance competitions and conventions. She is most recently the Artistic Director of Coastal Vibe Dance Company. We welcome Jessica's enthusiasm and expertise to The Studio's faculty.



Contemporary Dance instructor Jessica Metter

INTRODUCING OUR NEW EXTENDED DANCE PROGRAM FOR 2016-2017

Our new Extended Dance Program is designed for dancers age 11 and up who are interested in different forms of dance and don't have the time or inclination for The Studio's rigorous Professional Training Program. This program will provide a well-rounded base of dance training and features two levels of study: Level I is for beginning and beginning/intermediate level students — students who have had no experience or up to two years of ballet or contemporary dance or modern or jazz. Level II is for intermediate/advanced level dancers who are at a solid intermediate or advanced level of ballet technique — at least The Studio ballet Level IV placement required.

Level I ~ Beginning/Intermediate class schedule:

Monday 3:45-5:00 pm Contemporary Dance
Tuesday 3:30-5:00 pm Beginning/Int Ballet
Wednesday 4-5:15 pm Contemporary Dance
Thursday 7-8:00 pm Beginning Ballet

Level II ~ Intermediate/Advanced class schedule:

Monday 5-6:15 pm Contemporary Dance
Monday 6:30-8:00 pm Intermediate Ballet
Wednesday 3:30-5:00 pm Intermediate Ballet
Wednesday 5:15-6:30 pm Contemporary Dance
Friday 5-6:30 pm Modern
Saturday 10-11:30 am Intermediate Ballet

Boys who register for this new program may add the Boys Ballet class free of charge. Boys class is held on Thursdays 5:45-6:45 pm and is taught by Robert Kelley.

Go to the Academy pages at scbt.org for more information. This program might just be perfect for you!

WISHING ALI LAMBRECHT THE BEST IN DUBLIN, CALIFORNIA

Ali Lambrecht, owner of Coastal Vibe Dance Company, has been our respected colleague in dance for many years. She came up teaching in No Limits Dance and Performing Arts, and then founded Coastal Vibe. When Pathways Dojo left our building, Ali returned with her Coastal Vibe Dance Company.

We will miss Ali, as she and her daughter Livy prepare to move to Dublin. Ali will be starting the two-year process of taking over Castro Valley Performing Arts. She will also be choreographing and teaching technique for West Valley Dance Company in San Jose. As an illustration of how small the dance world is: Ali's new students in Castro Valley will receive their ballet training with McGarry Caven. McGarry is one of Diane Cypher's former teachers; see photo on page 1 of this newsletter.

Ali has taught Jessica Metter since she was 9 years of age. Ali says she will greatly miss Jessica, and wishes she could take her to Dublin with her. We wish Ali success in her new venture.