

Heather
Jean
Wilson



Teaching Artist

Summary/Introduction

Committed teaching artist, professor, performing artist, writer, founder, photographer, choreographer, and mother, who has worked in NJ, NY, CT, ME, and PA. Trained, danced, or collaborated with former members of Joffrey, Ballet Russe De Monte Carlo, NYCB, ABT, Mongolian Opera, and Vaganova Academy of Russian Ballet. Taught, guested, and lectured diverse student populations, including preschool through dance professionals, university students, adults, and senior citizens. Founded schools and companies, created small works and full length ballets, built curricula, and instituted countless outreach services and events.

Known for inventing innovative teaching methods. Possess infectious energy and enthusiasm, and love to inspire everyone in the room. Create dancers who appreciate history, etiquette, vocabulary, emerging learnings, and holistic movement. Deliver teachings with playful humor, a method shaped and inspired by dearest teachers, gleaned wit from Dermot Burke, spirit from Sherry Alban, and frank ludicrousness from Claudia Gittleman. Cultivate dancers who are technical, expressive, versatile, compassionate, who can work in an ensemble, yet possess a passionate originality.

Trained vibrant dancers who perform in all mediums of dance, from classical ballet companies, to Broadway and sports, including Boston Ballet, School of American Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Joffrey Ballet School, Kirov Washington, North Carolina School of the Arts, Minnesota Dance Theatre, Nutmeg Conservatory, St Louis Ballet, Missouri Ballet Theatre, Pa Ballet, Metropolitan Opera, New Chamber Ballet, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Ballet Augsburg, First State Ballet Theatre, Pittsburg Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, National Tours of Hamilton and Fiddler On The Roof, Eagles Dancer, NY Knicks City Dancer, NJ Devils Dance Director, and Radio City Rockettes.

Approach teaching as a creative experience, ever taking classes, inventing, discovering, guiding and inspiring. Current projects include Baa Baa Ballet, a comprehensive Preschool Dance Curriculum and Grunt if You Understand, a collection of memorable visualizations for Ballet Instruction that help students retain ballet terminology, have a better understanding of alignment, turnout, execution, weight placement, and balance, and encourages them to work correctly, safely, and organically. Researching dance based body preservation for Bal-Longevit-et training curriculum.

Mother of four children, 2 of whom are dancers! Proprietor of Ballerina Biker Photography. Competitive archer holding state and sectional titles. Enjoy family, motorcycling, camping, skiing, and time on the water.

Experience/History

2024 Creator, Grunt If You Understand Method of Ballet Instruction.

2023-2024 Adjunct Professor of Ballet at Eastern University, St Davids, Pa.

1989-2024 Served on the faculty of numerous schools and companies. Epic Dance Company, NJ (2015-2024), Studio 7, NJ (2023-2024), Studio B, NJ (2019-2022), Dance Arts Collaborative, PA (2011-2020), Bucks County School of the Performing Arts, PA (2012-2015), Dance Arts of Yardley, PA (2009-2011), Belle Mead Ballet, NJ (1999-2000), Buckingham Dance Studio, PA (1993-1995), The Dancer's Workshop, NJ (1992-1993), Startime Dance Studio, NJ (1992-1993), Maureen's Danceworks, NJ (1990-1993), The Dance Den, NJ (1989-1992).

2024 Guest Teacher, Teen Arts NJ Middlesex College Edison NJ.

2024 Guest Teacher, X-Perience Dance Company Philadelphia Pa, The Connection Summit NJ, Twirl Newtown Square Pa, Diana Alexis Dance Academy Haddonfield NJ, Studio B Matawan NJ, Broadway Dance Theatre Plainfield NJ.

2023 Guest Teacher, Ballet 180 Devon Pa, Diana Alexis Dance Academy Haddonfield NJ, Spot On Dance Academy Fort Washington Pa, Broadway On Main Toms River NJ, Steel City Dance Coatesville Pa, Studio B Matawan NJ.

2022 Creator, Baa Baa Ballet Preschool Dance Program, Early Childhood Dance Education Curriculum.

2009-2023 Ballet Faculty of Broadway Dance Theatre, under the direction of Lorinda Haver (Broadway's Gentlemen Prefer Blondes), alongside Sharon Hockstein (NYCB/Montclair/Marymount), and countless prestigious teachers and guest faculty. Teacher, choreographer, rehearsal assistant. Cherished collaboration, "Tiny Dancer", choreographed around singer/songwriter Robert Stephen Viola's live performance.

2015 Guest Artist, Plays-in-the-Park, "Oklahoma!" Honored to be asked to return 25 years after first performing with the company, to play Dream Laurie!

2006 Guest Artist, "Pippin", Music Mountain Theatre, NJ.

2001-2002 Featured Dancer, Evil Silas Barnaby, "Babes in Toyland", Bach Ballet, Villa Victoria Academy, NJ.

2000-2008 Founded Bach Ballet, Lambertville and Flemington, NJ. Held positions of Operating, Financial, Marketing and Artistic Director, Teacher, and Choreographer. Additionally designed, and created all costumes and set pieces for the company. Enjoyed a continued artistic collaboration with Ulzii Daavaadorj (Mongolian Opera and Ballet Theatre), creating, in 2001 "Babes In Toyland", original Ballet by Heather Wilson, with additional choreography by Ulzii Daavaadorj, Villa Victoria Academy, NJ. 2002 Formulated a Pre K Dance Curriculum, Baa Baa Ballet, and Primary Dance Curriculum, ABCDance. 2004 "The Enchanted Cap", original Ballet by Heather Wilson, Studio performances, Bach Ballet, NJ. 2005 "Sweets with the Nutcracker", original conception of the classic by Heather Wilson, Studio performances, Bach Ballet, NJ. Promoted the dying art of archery through a collaboration with X Ring Archers and National Archery Champion, "Bows at the Ballet".

2000 Guest Teacher, Papermill Playhouse Summer Musical Theatre Conservatory, NJ.

1999 Guest Artist, "Nutcracker", Sugar Plum Fairy, Belle Mead Ballet, Belle Mead, NJ.

1999 Guest Teacher, SummerDance '99, The Portland School of Ballet, Portland, ME.

1999 Guest Teacher, Summer Dance '99, People to People Dance Center, ME.

1999 Principal Dancer, "Wolves", River Ballet Company, Kelsey Theatre, NJ.

1998 Principal Dancer, "Nutcracker", Snow Queen, River Ballet Company, Bucks County Playhouse, New Hope, Pa.

1995-2020 Innumerable Outreach, Guest, and Artist in Residence engagements. Milford Public School, Frenchtown Elementary School, YMCA, Healthquest, River Valley Waldorf School, Teen Arts, Newtown Chamber of Commerce, Lambertville Chamber of Commerce, Riegel Ridge Community Center, Amwell Community Troupe, New Hope Arts Commission, Kingwood Township School, Magic of Alexandria Balloon Festival, Hunterdon County 4H, West Amwell Elementary School, New Hope Solebury Schools.

1995-1999 Founded River Ballet Academy, and the nonprofit, River Ballet Company, NJ. Held positions of Operating, Financial, Marketing and Artistic Director, Teacher, and Choreographer. Additionally designed, and created all costumes and set pieces for the company. Brought in faculty and guest instructors, including Thomas Hanner (San Francisco Ballet/Washington Ballet), Gloria Govrin (NYCB), Ulzii Davaadorj (Mongolian Opera and Ballet Theatre), Tuya Tumennasan (Vaganova Academy of Russian Ballet/ PA Ballet), Julia Ritter (Mason Gross/USCKaufman), Julie Gale (ABT). Presented ballets and new works through performance and outreach, among them, in 1996, site-specific performance event, of "Greensleeves", and "Waltz of the Flowers" in collaboration with Riverside Symphonia. In 1997, site-specific performance event, of "Still Life", Robert Beck Art, Studio Opening, NJ. In 1998, Ulzii Davaadorj, student of Igor Belsky in St

Petersburg, arrived in the US from Mongolia, wanting to work with the new company. This began a 5 year artistic relationship, resulting in much collaboration and original work. 1998-1999 "Wolves", an original Ballet, choreographed by Ulzii Davaadorj, in collaboration, and with additional choreography by Heather Wilson, Kelsey Theatre, NJ. 1998 "The Nutcracker", choreography by Heather Wilson, with additional choreography by Ulzii Davaadorj, Bucks County Playhouse, Pa. 1999 "Twelve Dancing Princesses", original Ballet by Heather Wilson, with additional choreography by Ulzii Davaadorj, Villa Victoria Academy, NJ.

1995-1997 Choreographer, Dance-in-the-Park IV and VI, Plays-in-the-Park, Edison, NJ.

1995-1997 Guest Artist, "Nutcracker", Snow Queen, Suburban Dance Force, Trenton, NJ.

1990-1994 Performer, Plays-in-the-Park, under Sherry Alban (Princeton Ballet/Mason Gross), William Mooney (All My Children), in Oklahoma!, Pippin, Mame, Annie Get Your Gun, and A Chorus Line. In Sweet Charity, featured dance role of Fosse's Ponytail Girl, was reviewed in the Star Ledger, "...even the guys on the follow-spots wobbled a bit during her performance."

1989-1995 Model/Dancer NJ, NY, PA and CT. Christine Models and Casting, MEM Productions, Jeffrey Craig Entertainment, Linda's Costumes, Esprit, Sea Jane Swim, Seventeen Magazine.

1989-1991 Trained in NYC with David Howard and Gelsey Kirkland (David Howard Dance Center), and with Finis Jhung and Frank Hatchett (Broadway Dance Center).

1984 Co-starred in "Big Sister, Little Sister" Short film for Nickelodeon, New York, NY.

1983-1988 Trained on Merit Scholarship at Princeton Ballet School, and Performed as a member of PBII (now ARBC Workshop), with Diane Orio (Joffrey), Laurie Abramson (Joffrey), Marjorie Mussman (Joffrey), Virginia Griffiee (ABT), Dermot Burke (Joffrey/ARBC/Dayton Ballet), Septime Webre (ARBC/Washington Ballet/Hong Kong Ballet). Revered performances include, "Nutcracker" Spanish and Marzipan, "Cinderella" Stepsister, Septime Webre's early work as an emerging choreographer, "Frankly Franklin", and Sherry Alban's "Fugue" at Princeton University Chapel.

1982-1983 Trained in RAD technique on a Full Merit Scholarship at Monmouth Ballet School, Red Bank, NJ, receiving Highly Commended, on the Royal Academy of Dancing Children's Examinations.

1981-1985 Trained with the American Ballet Center of the Joffrey Ballet. Studied under Dorothy Lister (Joffrey/Ballet Russe De Monte Carlo) and Meredith Baylis

(Joffrey/Ballet Russe De Monte Carlo). Select student asked to perform in Macy's Celebration of Jim Henson's Muppets.



Contact

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Academic/Certifications

2019 Certified in All 3 Levels of Progressing Ballet Technique, by founder Marie Walton-Mahon (Les Ballet de Marseille).

2015 Obtained Substitute Teacher Credential State of New Jersey.

2007-2008 Attended Successful Studio Strategies Conferences in San Diego, and Vancouver, led by founder Sam Beckford (The Small Business Millionaire).

1991 NDEITA National Aerobic Instructor Certification Level 1.

References

Upon Request.

1988-1990 Attended Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University, studying under Don Redlich (Don Redlich Dance), Sherry Alban (Princeton Ballet/Mason Gross), Claudia Gittleman (Nikolais Dance Theatre). Treasured performances, Sherry Alban's, "Moog Suite", and "Holste Suite".

1985-1988 Attended Freehold Fine and Performing Arts High School, NJ, Receiving Merit Scholarships for University training from the Monmouth Arts Foundation, and Olia School of Dance. Graduated Manalapan HS in three years, on a fast track to pursue dance.