

CECCHETTI USA STUDENT AND TEACHER'S BALLET WORKSHOP

February 19th & 20th, 2011 at Huntington Academy of Dance, Huntington Beach, CA

GUEST TEACHER BIOS

Deborah Vinton-FCUSA, FISTD, Senior Examiner

Deborah Vinton is a Fellow of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD), London, England, and Fellow of CUSA. She was awarded the Maestro Cecchetti Final Diploma in 1995 in London, England. Ms. Vinton became an examiner in 1986 and has served on the CUSA board of directors for the past 25 years. She has presented students and teachers for Cecchetti examinations consecutively for the past 35 years. Many of Ms. Vinton's students have received scholarships to universities and have become professional dancers, teachers, and choreographers in the USA and abroad.

Ms. Vinton received her early Cecchetti training with the Florida Ballet in Sarasota under Jean Spear, Fellow, Examiner, ISTD. Ms Vinton attended pre-professional dance programs at the National Ballet of Washington under Frederick Franklin, at Jacobs Pillow with Margaret Craske, and the National Ballet of Canada with Carol Chadwick.

Ms. Vinton received four years of intensive professional Cecchetti training in London, under the tutelage of two former students of Enrico Cecchetti, Nesta Brooking, and Laura Wilson. The rare opportunity of learning from instructors who worked directly with Enrico Cecchetti is considered a milestone in the history of classical ballet. Subsequently mentors Sheila Darby, Marvis Hoffman, and Richard Glasstone further developed and enhanced Ms. Vinton's Cecchetti teacher training.

Ms. Vinton performed with the Royal Ballet Choreographic Group and Maryland Ballet where she performed in London and in the Baltimore/Washington, D.C areas respectively. During her professional career, Ms. Vinton worked with Danny Diamond, Anton Dolin, Edward Villella, and Violette Verdy, among others.

Deborah Vinton has taught ballet and choreographed for dance companies and schools for more than 35 years; including the Deborah Vinton Dance Ensemble in New Paltz, New York, the State University of New York at New Paltz, and the Venice Ballet in Venice, Florida. Ms. Vinton has been on staff for 25 years and continues teaching at the Visual and Performing Arts Center at Booker High School in Sarasota, Florida. She served as principal of the School of Sarasota Ballet for four years and artistic director of the Deborah Vinton School of Ballet in Sarasota. Ms. Vinton was also a founding member of the Arts Community of New Paltz, New York.

In 2003, Ms. Vinton founded the West Coast Civic Ballet (WCCB) in Sarasota, Florida, a community based, not-for-profit dance organization. As Executive and Artistic Director, Ms. Vinton continues her mission to positively enhance and influence the lives of others through her commitment and involvement with the performing arts.

Varun Gurunath - Bollywood

Varun Gurunath has been training in Bollywood and Hip Hop dance since the age of 12. Working and dancing with renowned choreographer Nakul Dev Mahajan of So You Think You Can Dance, America's Best Dance Crew, and A.R. Rahman, Varun Gurunath developed an award-winning, visionary style that fuses Bollywood and Indian dance forms with various styles of Hip Hop uncommonly seen in entertainment and the community. In addition to working and instructing, Varun assisted Nakul Dev Mahajan on season four and six of Fox's "So You Think You Can Dance" and for season one of "So You Think You Can Dance: Canada"

Under his choreography, his student represented the United States in one of the biggest Bollywood competitions in the world and placed first. This summer he recently had the opportunity to tour and teach his style to some of the Bollywood industry's professional dancers in India. Some of his credits include working with Natalie Portman, Chris Kattan, NBC's "The Office", ABDC Season 4 (Bollywood), Superstars of Dance (India), the upcoming short film "Bollywood Invasion."



Leanna Forcucci-Herron - Hip Hop



Leanna Forcucci-Herron has been teaching dance for over 22 years. She has taught for several dance studios in Orange County and even worked as the lead ballet teacher for a competing dance troupe in Austin, TX, where she also worked as a professional hip-hop dancer. Miss Leanna has taught many different dance and movement forms including ballet, tap, jazz, hip-hop, and tumbling. Her specializations are in hip-hop dance and working with preschool-aged children. She currently trains with lead hip-hop choreographers in Los Angeles and tours her CF Dance Academy Hip-Hop

Performance Troupe throughout Orange, Riverside & LA Counties. This troupe has gained professional recognition and will be competing in the World of Dance Competition in Pomona in April 2010. Currently she is director of the largest Hip Hop program in Central and North Orange County and has put CFDA on the map for hosting professional hip-hop choreographers in master class workshops at the academy. She has her B.A. in Child Development and Family Studies from Cal State Long Beach, where she also attended graduate school to work on her Multiple Subject Teaching Credential. During the past ten years, Leanna has directed and taught CF Dance Academy dance programs at preschool and after school programs in cities throughout Orange, Riverside & LA Counties.