

## **IV. FACULTY, ARTISTIC STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **Cassandra Crowley, Artistic and Executive Director**

With Canton Ballet since 1980, Ms. Crowley's students have competed in the 2000 Concours International de Dance de Paris, France and won various divisions of the Youth America Grand Prix competitions. Her students have danced professionally with New York City Ballet, North Carolina Dance Theatre, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Ohio Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Colorado Ballet, Nashville Ballet, Ballet Omaha, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company II, the London stage productions of *Fame*, *Cats*, *Jersey Boys*, the Broadway touring company of *42nd Street*, *Grease You're the One!* and other Broadway, national and international touring companies of Broadway shows and television. Under Ms. Crowley's leadership Canton Ballet has been an honor company in Regional Dance America/Northeast since 1984. She led Canton Ballet's European performance tours to Austria and Paris in 1996, 1998, 2001 and 2006. She is on the board of directors for Young!Tanzsommer Austria; Director Emeritus of Regional Dance America; vice-president of Regional Dance America/Northeast; former vice-president of OhioDance; a two time member of the Ohio Arts Council Dance Panel; and has an M.A. in Dance from Butler University.

### **Jennifer Catazaro Hayward, Assistant to the Artistic Director**

Began her training at Canton Ballet and received scholarships to George Balanchine's School of American Ballet, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet and Dallas Metropolitan Ballet before receiving a full year scholarship to School of American Ballet in New York City. While there, she studied with renowned teachers Suki Shorr, Stanley Williams and Alexandra Danilova. Miss Jennifer joined the faculty of School of Canton Ballet in 1990. She has performed many principal roles for Canton Ballet and Canton Players Guild.

### **Angelo Lemmo, Choreographer in Residence**

Mr. Angelo has choreographed many works seen on the Gala performances of Regional Dance America/Northeast. He won the 2005 and 2007 RDA Craft of Choreography Project Tier Award and the E. Virginia Williams Choreographer's Award. His full-length works include *Dracula...the ballet*, *Frankenstein* and *The Wizard of Oz*. In addition he has created works for Ohio Dance Theater, Cleveland Ballet's Dancing Wheels, Ohio Light Opera, The Canton Players Guild, Canton Symphony Orchestra, Kent State University/Stark Theater, and many more. Mr. Angelo is also a skilled lighting designer and stage manager.

### **Julie Mizer Grasse, Early Childhood Specialist**

A principal dancer with Canton Ballet Company, Mrs. Grasse trained at Canton Ballet and was a member of the University of Akron Dance Ensemble, receiving her B.A. from the University of Akron. She received a scholarship to Regional Dance America's Craft of Choreographers Conference. Mrs. Grasse began to teach upon graduation with a focus on early childhood education and movement and has made the very young child her specialty.

### **Kyle Primos Jazz and Modern Dance**

A graduate of Kenyon College, Mr. Primos has danced and/or taught with Oberlin College, Northeast Ohio Dance Festival, Canton Ballet, The University of Akron, Ohio Dance Theatre (ODT), Pittsburgh's Dance Alloy, Footpath Dance Co., at Jacob's Pillow, on the Drew Carey Show and is presently on faculty at Lorain County Community College, Cleveland School of Dance and ODT. He's directed and/or choreographed numerous plays and musicals. A member of Actors' Equity Association, Mr. Primos' stage credits include *Dreamgirls*, *Ragtime*, *Five Guys Named Moe*, and

many others. Kyle's three-octave range has been heard at The Ohio Theatre in Wonderland, Jacobs' Field, Cleveland Opera, Tri-C Jazz Fest, throughout the Caribbean and currently Mr. Primous fronts the band Redline.

### **Tanya Mucci Jazz and Modern Dance**

Tanya earned her BFA in Dance Performance and Choreography from Kent State University in 2000, receiving the award for Outstanding Achievement in Creative and Educational Activities. Tanya interned with the New World School of the Arts in Miami, Florida where she studied and performed with Chuck Davis and Company. She had the incredible opportunity to study and perform with Matt Mattox in Boston, Massachusetts and has danced nationally with many companies and freelance choreographers. She has performed two years with the Jazz DanceWorld Congress in Mexico and Costa Rica. Her choreography has been performed in a variety of venues from New York City, Philadelphia, Chicago, and the University of Notre Dame. Tanya appeared with the Four Seasons Restaurant on "Martha Stewart Living", "The Best Of", "Top 10", and in segments of "The Sopranos".

### **Jennifer Thomas**

A former member of Cleveland Ballet under artistic director, Dennis Nahat, Jennifer trained at Cuyahoga Valley Youth Ballet under Nan Klinger and attended the Boston Ballet summer program for two years. She toured to Taiwan with New York City Ballet soloist Michael Byars and danced the principal roles in *Coppelia*, *Nutcracker* and *Romantic Suite* and original work choreographed by Mr. Byers.

### **Anita Artzner**

A former principal dancer with Canton Ballet Company, Anita trained at Canton Ballet under Cassandra Crowley. She was a member of Wright State University's Dance Ensemble and of member Dayton Contemporary Dance Company II. She is certified in Pilates and is the owner and president of Building Balanced Bodies.

### **Amanda Evans**

Began dancing at the School of the Hartford Ballet then studied at the Boston Ballet School, North Carolina School for the Arts and the trainee program at the Joffrey Ballet School in New York. Danced professionally with the Hartford Ballet, The Joffrey and Joffrey II companies, Columbia City Ballet in South Carolina and as a guest artist with several northeast regional companies.

## **Guest Master Teacher**

### **Laura Alonso**

Laura Alonso, daughter of world famous ballerina Alicia Alonso and renowned teacher and coach Fernando Alonso, is herself known as a teacher, coach and an expert at staging the well-known classics. For seven years she served as the personal coach and teacher for international prima ballerina assoluta, Alicia Alonso. *Pointe* magazine calls her, "international master teacher extraordinaire."

Ms. Alonso was honored with an award as the best coach at the Jackson International Ballet Competition in 1990 for her preparation of Jose Manuel Carreno now a principal dancer with American Ballet Theatre. Ms. Alonso has served as coach, jury member and teacher at the Jackson IBC and as jury member of the Concours International de Dance de Paris, France, the Alicia Alonso International Ballet Competition and other competitions around the world. A teacher of world class experience, Ms. Alonso has taught for professional ballet companies and schools all over the world such as London's Royal Ballet School and The Royal Danish Ballet.

## **Rochelle Zide-Booth**

Rochelle Zide-Booth's expertise in the dance world encompasses a broad spectrum of activity: principal dancer, ballet mistress, artistic director, master teacher, choreographer, re-creator/re-stager/re-creator, author, lecturer, adjudicator, and university professor.

Ms. Zide-Booth was a soloist with the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, principal dancer of the Joffrey Ballet and prima ballerina of the New York City Opera Ballet. She has worked with such well-known choreographers as Arpino, Balanchine, Joffrey, Kylian, van Manen, Robbins, Tetley, Tudor, and Walker. She was ballet mistress of the Joffrey Ballet and was artistic director of the Netherlands Dance Theater. She was head of the ballet program at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and director of the dance program at Adelphi University. Ms. Zide-Booth was a Fulbright Lecturer to the Prague Conservatory of Dance and the Ballet of the National Theatre, director of the New Zealand School of Dance, and Associate Professor at Butler University's Jordan College of Fine Arts dance department.

## **Musicians**

### **Elinor Knop, Principal Pianist**

Natasha Fridman, Pianist  
Rebecca Swartz, Pianist

Natasha Musaelyan, Pianist

## **Production Staff**

Angelo Lemmo, Stage Manager  
Elizabeth Kaplan, Resident Costume Designer  
Kiki Kalos, Wardrobe  
Michael Barath, Resident Character Dancer

## **Administration**

Deby Sherrod Barath, Manager  
Jeanne Coen, Marketing/Development Director  
Cindy Halter, Administrative Assistant

[\(return to top\)](#)