



We want to welcome new faculty members effective January 2018:



LUKE WILLIS

Luke Willis is a former dancer with San Francisco Ballet and Aspen Santa Fe Ballet. He has had great success in the ballet world especially considering that he did not start training in ballet until the “impossible” age of 20. Luke received his primary ballet training from the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet under the direction of Marcia Dale Weary and with Magaly Suarez of the Art of Classical Ballet School of Dance in Pompano Beach, FL. He has traveled the world, danced on some of the greatest stages and worked with many esteemed choreographers. As well as being featured in Dance Magazine, and on PBS's Great Performances series, Luke was nominated for an Isadora Duncan Award for his role as “The Elder” in Yuri Possokhov’s *Rite of Spring* in 2013. During his time as a professional dancer, Willis has taught and choreographed at schools and theaters all over the country. He is currently working as a freelance filmmaker after recently completing a degree in Film and Television production at University of Southern California.

Luke is teaching upper division ballet on Wed & Thu

SANDRA TANNER



Sandra is a seasoned dance professional whose hallmark is demystifying ballet for dancers whether they are children, teens or adults. She received her early training with the San Francisco Ballet School and later with Leona Norman at Marin Ballet. Her continued training included modern, jazz, musical theater dance and acting while completing both a B.A. and M.F.A. in dance at University of California, Irvine and New York University, respectively. While in New York, Sandra studied intensively with Zena Rommett and learned her world renowned Floor-barre technique, directly from her.

Sandra had a long teaching career as a member of the dance faculty at College of Marin, teaching adults ballet and modern/contemporary. Her original choreography was created for both productions in the Drama department and for dances for the Dance Department’s biannual faculty concerts. Prior to teaching at College of Marin, she was Assistant Professor of dance at Wright State University in Ohio. During her tenure there, the dance department grew from 10 to 40 majors and I was instrumental in creating a dance scholarship partnership with the Dayton Ballet, which is still thriving today.

Sandra has also enjoyed an active career as a choreographer, having most recently created original choreography for Ross Valley Players’ production of “Cabaret.” Her choreographic works have included dozens of fully produced musicals and operettas for colleges, theaters and opera companies.

Sandra is teaching EC Floor Barre and Adult Ballet



DAVID MCNAUGHTON

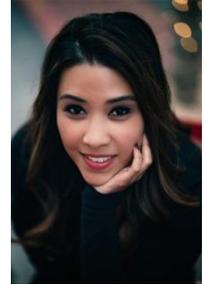
David, a native of Walnut Creek, CA, began dancing at 13 years of age. He studied at the San Francisco Ballet School with Lew Christensen and Anatole Vilzak. He performed with the Oakland Ballet for two years before joining the San Francisco Ballet. There, he earned

performing credits in "Medea," "Gershwin," "Divertissement d'Auber" and "Jinx" and as David in "David and Goliath." David was a principal dancer for the New York City Ballet, led by George Balanchine. David won a silver medal at the International Ballet Competition in Jackson, MS in 1980. He had the privilege of performing at the White House while Ronald Reagan was president. David also composes music and has written and choreographed several original ballets.

David is teaching A4 on Tuesdays and EC Partnering on Fridays, and is helping to set Coppelia.

PERI TRONO:

A California native, Peri Trono is a dancer and choreographer living in the Bay Area. Peri began her ballet training in Marin County, California at Stapleton School of the Performing Arts and continued at Academy of Ballet, under Richard Gibson and Zory Karah. Her modern dance training was primarily from Brian Fisher at ODC in San Francisco and at the University of California, Irvine. She has attended summer intensives such as Alonzo King LINES Ballet, San Francisco Conservatory of Dance and World Dance Movement in Italy. Peri graduated with a BFA in Dance Performance and Choreography at the University of California, Irvine with an Arts Excellence Award in Choreography in 2016. While at the University of California, Irvine she worked with guest choreographer Idan Cohen and performed original works by Loretta Livingston and Lisa Naugle. She performed under the direction of Lisa Naugle at the Accademia Nazionale Di Santa Cecilia as well as at the University of Rome at Tor Vergata in Rome, Italy. Peri was involved in the dance community as one of the two senior co-chairs of the Dance Departments' Chairs Student Advisory Committee and served as the Special Events Coordinator for Bare Bones Dance Theater, an undergraduate non-profit organization at the University of California, Irvine. She has choreographed for Physical Graffiti and Bare Bones Dance Theater in 2015 and 2016 at the University of California, Irvine. Most recently, Peri presented her work, for those at Spark Dance Forum in New York in 2017. She is currently a dancer for The Fyber Vision: Dance/Artist Collective under the direction of Elke Calvert. When Peri is not teaching at Stapleton, she is teaching Pilates at Equinox Sports Club San Francisco and enjoying all the Bay Area has to offer.



Peri teaches PB1, PB2, PB3

Meghan Krempetz



Meghan Krempetz, a resident of Fairfax, received her BA from UC Santa Cruz. She has been teaching in Marin County for nearly twelve years. Meghan created a toddler program for Stapleton School in 2005, Magical Movement and Music, which was funded by First Five California. She has taught at College of Marin Child Study Center, Little Mountain Pre School and for the past three years, Ross Valley Nursery School. Meghan studied at San Francisco Ballet for two years and her dance background, combined with early childhood education, provides the perfect combination to foster a love of movement and inspire our youngest dancers. As Virginia's daughter, she is steeped in Stapleton philosophy and has been involved from the school's inception. Meghan is the mother of two children, Chase and Owen.

Meghan is teaching Into to Dance on Saturdays

Casey Lee Thorne



Casey Lee Thorne was born and raised in Taylorsville, North Carolina, and received her early training at American Repertory Ballet's Princeton Ballet School in New Jersey. In 2010 she graduated from the Alonzo King LINES Ballet/Dominican University of CA B.F.A. Program as part of the inaugural class. She has performed the work of notable choreographers including Graham Lustig, Shinichi Iova-Koga, Muriel Maffre, and James Graham. In 2012 she founded Inside Out Contemporary Ballet (IOCB), a professional dance company located in the North Bay of San Francisco. As the Artistic Director of IOCB she has received a Fulbright Fellowship to Israel for the 2014-2015 academic year, the Fall 2014 Theatre Bay Area Ca\$h Grant, the Audience Select Award at New Ground Dance Theatre's Emerging Artists Dance Showcase, and a commission from the 22nd Annual West Wave Dance Festival. Casey has choreographed original works for the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, Dominican University of CA, and Marin Ballet, among others. She is currently an M.F.A. candidate at Mills College, set to graduate May 2018.

Casey has been teaching with us since Sept., Pre Ballet on Wednesdays. Her role is expanding and she will be teaching Ballet 1 & 2.