

Summer 2024 Guest Instructors

Ken Braso (July 8-12, Senior Intensive)



Ken Braso brings multiple professional dance experiences to the stage with his résumé of performing as a full company member of Southern Ballet Theatre, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Ballet Austin, Boca Ballet, Chattanooga Ballet, Cincinnati Opera Ballet, Children's Theatre of Cincinnati and Walt Disney Productions. Ken retired after the completion of a long tenure with Louisville Ballet. Some of Ken's favorite roles included Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Peter in *Peter Pan*, Renfield in *Dracula*, Max in *Where The Wild Things Are* and Lead Russian in *The Nutcracker*. Film credits include *The Magic of Christmas* and the Paramount Pictures film, *Flashdance*. Ken started his dance training in Orlando, Florida, with Edith Royal and Barbara Riggins, and he received a scholarship to train at the National Academy of the Arts at the University of Illinois. He has performed classics created by Lew Christensen, Antony Tudor, George Balanchine, Doris Humphrey, Eugene Loring, Agnes de Mille, as well as many featured roles in major full-length ballets, including *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Don Quixote*, *Coppélia*, *The Firebird* and *Romeo and Juliet*. Ken has worked with many notable choreographers, including Choo San Goh, David Parsons, Joe Layton, Patrick Frantz, Septime Weber, William Soleau, Lynn Taylor Corbett, Domi Reiter Soffer, Alun Jones, Jack Louiso, Jean Pierre Bonnefoux, Helen Starr, Sally Wilson, Peter Anastos and Robert Gladstein. Upon retiring from performing in 2002, Ken directed and taught for Step One Dance at All About Kids Sports Center, and was also on the Guest Faculty staff for the Governor's School for the Arts in Kentucky. Later, Ken joined the faculty of the Louisville Ballet School. Ken moved to Columbia, Missouri with his wife Elizabeth Hartwell in 2008 and has enjoyed working as a freelance dance instructor and coach in and around the region.

During his time in Missouri, Ken served as ballet master/teacher and rehearsal director for Missouri Contemporary Ballet, in Columbia, Missouri, a ballet instructor for Dancearts and Relevé Dance Academy, as well as gymnastics/dance coach for Flipz Gymnastics. He recently retired and moved back to Louisville, Kentucky, where he continues to teach and perform as a freelance artist. He has worked with Springfield Ballet for many years as a guest instructor during past summers and was last seen as Grandfather in *Peter & the Wolf (A Tale of Two Wolves)*, Mr. McGregor in *Peter Rabbit & Other Tales by Beatrix Potter*, and as Dr. Coppélius in *Coppélia*. Ken is excited to return to Springfield Ballet this summer!

José Soares (July 15-19, Senior Intensive)



José Soares began his training at age eleven in Joinville, Santa Catarina, Brazil. He was one of ten children who was selected to study ballet at Bolshoi School. He trained under Dmitry Afanasiev and Galina Kravchenko and was rehearsed by Vladimir Vasiliev. After graduating from the Bolshoi School at age 18, he was accepted into the Trainee program at Joffrey Ballet in Chicago. Following his traineeship with Joffrey Ballet, he was accepted into Milwaukee Ballet's second company. In 2015, he danced with Lake Erie Ballet in principal roles such as the Cavalier in *The Nutcracker* and *Dracula*. In 2016 he joined the Missouri Contemporary Ballet, where he had the pleasure of working with choreographers such as Joshua Blake Carter, Stephanie Martinez, Penny Saunders and Autumn Eckman. José

was also invited to dance in Kansas City with Concept Zero where he performed a brand new ballet titled *Alibi* by Kristopher Estes-Brown. In 2019 by invitation of Alexei Kremnev, José danced in the opera *Aleko* and *Everest* with the Chicago Opera Theater. His role in the first act, *Everest*, was created solely for him. Most recently, he performed in *Dracula* with Ballet Pensacola. He is now residing in Andalusia, Alabama where he teaches at the Andalusia Ballet Academy and has several freelance performance opportunities. He appeared as the Cavalier in Springfield Ballet's 2021, 2022 & 2023 productions of *The Nutcracker* and is thrilled to return to Springfield Ballet this summer as a guest instructor.

Alison Jaramillo (July 23-26, Junior & Senior Intensive)



Alison Jaramillo, co-director of Littleton Ballet Academy and Littleton Youth Ballet, was raised in Colorado and first received her training with her mother Bobbie, and then with teachers Lynelle Mossholder, James Clouser, and Debbie Mercer, and later on scholarship at the Pennsylvania Ballet School, as well as summers at the Boston Ballet School on scholarship, Joffrey Ballet School, Pacific Northwest Ballet School, and the Houston Ballet Academy. In 1988, Alison won the 1st

place Florence Ruston Award and a \$1,200 scholarship at the Denver Ballet Guild Scholarship Competition. She first joined the David Taylor Dance Theatre professional company at the age of sixteen and returned in the fall of 1998 where she was featured as Clara in *The Nutcracker*, and performed principal roles in many works over five years, including her favorite, James Wallace's *The Storm*. Previously, Alison danced with the Dayton Ballet for six years performing in over sixty ballets, including works by such legendary choreographers Gerald Arpino, George Balanchine, Robbert Joffrey, and Antony Tudor, and then joined Oregon Ballet Theatre in Portland, Oregon, and was most recently a principal with Boulder Ballet. Career highlights include being personally chosen to perform Balanchine's *Tarantella* by former NYCB ballerina

Patricia McBride, as well as performing principal roles in works by Washington Ballet's artistic director Septime Webre, and former Joffrey Ballet dancer Christian Holder. She also performed a principal role at the 2003 Skate America closing ceremonies. She has taught dance for over twenty-five years including serving as the interim director of the Dayton Ballet School Ensemble and co-directing Movin' On, a dance group for mentally challenged teens and adults. In 2003, she won Best Choreography for her work at the Dance Educators of America conference. She has been a regular guest teacher at Denver School of the Arts, taught ballet for Heritage High School's Theatre Topics class and up until recently taught at Centennial Academy for Fine Arts Education in Littleton. She has coached dancers to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishes at both YAGP and the Denver Ballet Guild and her contemporary choreography has placed at YAGP, ADC-IBC and StarQuest.

Nadia Stine (July 15-26, Senior Intensive)



Nadia started her dance training at Ozark Dance Academy under Julia Bubalo where she was additionally involved in community outreach and performance opportunities. In high school she joined Springfield Ballet for several seasons of *The Nutcracker*. After high school, Nadia attended Missouri State University where she graduated in 2019 with a BFA in Dance. Post graduation she toured in early 2020 with The Thorn National Tour, joined MADCO in St. Louis for their 2020-2021 season, and performed at Dolly Parton's Stampede as a horse rider and aerialist. Nadia also performed at King's Castle Theater in Branson dancing in several shows prior to relocating to California at the beginning of 2024. Additionally, Nadia has been involved with Springfield Dance Alliance and has had the privilege of choreographing and performing with the organization. In her free time, you will also find her collaborating with friends and creating new works! Nadia hopes to spark joy in her teaching and inspire younger dancers to chase after their dreams.