



Dancer Biographies

Alexei Borovik (dancer) was born in Russia and began his ballet training at the age of ten at the Perm Ballet Academy. Upon graduating in 1979, he was invited to join the Perm Ballet Theatre. His reputation quickly established itself, and in 1982 he was elevated to Premiere Dancer.

Mr. Borovik was awarded the Second Prize at *The Artistic Ballet Competition* in Moscow in 1984. In 1987, he won the Gold Medal at *The Sixth Concourse International Ballet Festival* in Peru and was honored with a decoration as *Merited Artist of Russia*. A highly sought-after guest artist, Mr. Borovik has made numerous appearances internationally and throughout Russia. In 1997, he toured China with *The Stars of the American Ballet*. From 1992-2006, Mr. Borovik was a Principal Dancer with the Pennsylvania Ballet. His extensive repertoire includes principal roles in *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Cinderella*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Coppelia*, *Don Quixote*, and *The Nutcracker*, among others. Along with leading roles in the classical repertoire, he has taken up additional assignments in the ballets of George Balanchine, including *Apollo*, *Rubies*, *The Four Temperaments*, *Taratella*, *Serenade*, *Theme and Variations*, and *Stars and Stripes*. Mr. Borovik has also danced in such diverse pieces as Hans van Manen's *Grosse Fugue*, Paul Taylor's *Arden Court*, Lynne Taylor-Corbett's *Great Galloping Gottschalk*, and has created roles in many new ballets. In June 1997, Mr. Borovik had the prestigious honor of being invited to return to his homeland of Russia to appear as Principal Guest Artist in The Perm Ballet Theatre's productions of *Don Quixote* and *Giselle* in celebration of their 125th Jubilee.

On October 13, 2006, Mr. Borovik retired from the Pennsylvania Ballet with a Gala Performance of Balanchine's *Apollo*. He gave his last performance with Perm Ballet in Russia in November 2006. Mr. Borovik has worked with Jeane Ruddy Dance since January 2007, teaching ballet classes and expanding his career as a modern dancer. He is on the faculty as ballet teacher with the Sandonato School of Ballet, Metropolitan Ballet Academy, and Metropolitan Ballet Company. He is a member of the Board of Advisors for Dance Affiliates.

Rick Callender (dancer) danced for five seasons with the Fort Worth Dallas Ballet (now Texas Ballet Theatre). He began his dance training in Miami, Florida, and spent summers training with the Houston Ballet, the Pennsylvania Ballet, the Milwaukee Ballet and Pacific Northwest Ballet. He joined the Washington Ballet for one year in 1995 and has participated in the Suzanne Farrell project twice. Notable roles include many Balanchine works, as well as Jose Limon's *The Moor's Pavane* and Lila York's *Rapture*.

Rick moved to Philadelphia in 2001, has been a guest with many dance companies in the Philadelphia area, and is a member of Miro Dance Theater. He is married to Meredith Reffner of the Pennsylvania Ballet, and they are the proud parents of a little girl, Lorelei.

Sun-Mi Cho (dancer) received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Advertising and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Performing Arts at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. She received a full dance scholarship to SMU where she performed as "Yellow" in Martha Graham's *Diversion of Angels*, Moses Pendleton's (Momix) *Bonsai*; *Esplanade*, by Paul Taylor, and the pas de deux from George Balanchine's *Concerto Borocco*.

Highlights in her training include receiving two fellowships to study at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre where Francesca Harper (former dancer with Frankfurt Ballet) created a solo and duet on her; being a New Jersey Governor's School Scholar; and being invited to perform for choreographer Ann Reinking in Florida.

In addition to performing with Jeanne Ruddy Dance, Sun-Mi recently performed with Group Motion, Meredith Rainey, Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers Philadelphia and the Opera Company of Philadelphia. This past summer she was thrilled to perform with Afro/Asian jazz musician and composer, Fred Ho at the Apollo's black box theatre in Harlem, NY. Sun-Mi also received a one-week crash course in Martial Arts (Kung Fu), studying one-on-one with a Japanese master in Brooklyn, NY.

In May 2008, Sun-Mi performed an evening-length work at the Drake Theatre in collaboration with choreographer, Kip Martin.

Her greatest joy remains living and laughing with her son Isaac.

Thayne Alexandra Dibble, (dancer) began her training as a dancer when she was three years old, studying classical ballet with Michael Sheridan, Dede Barfield, Alexei Charov, Natalia Charova and Francesca Corkle.

Thayne has performed with the Pennsylvania Ballet in its productions of *The Nutcracker Suite*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *Giselle*. She previously danced for 12 years with the Children's Ballet Theater in Philadelphia and she studied ballet and jazz in New York City at the Joffrey Ballet School.

Thayne began her modern dance training with Jeanne Ruddy three years ago. She has also studied with Peter London and Troy Powell at The Ailey School where she performed *Pain Inside of Confidence* (excerpt), choreographed by Thaddeus Davis. In February 2007, Thayne performed Mary Anthony's *Women of Troy* during Dancefusion's 20th Anniversary Concert.

In addition to dance, Thayne has studied acting at the Walnut Street Theater and she appeared in *Evita* at the Merriam Theater in 1999.

Thayne is an undergraduate student at the University of Pennsylvania and this past summer, Thayne studied theatre and Shakespeare in London through Penn's summer-abroad program. This is Thayne's third season with Jeanne Ruddy Dance.

Ian Dodge (dancer) holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he was given the opportunity to perform in works by Louis Kavouras, Richard Havey, Victoria Baltimore-Dale, Cathy Allen, Margot Mink Colbert, and Dr. Carol Rae.

In addition, Ian has performed in works by UNLV guest artists such as Jon Leher, James

Jeon, Randy Duncan, Mark Swanhart, and Ron Stewart. Throughout his time at UNLV, Ian was the recipient of three scholarships to the Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago summer program, received a full scholarship to the Rock School for Dance Education's summer program, and a full scholarship to the Jazz Dance summer program at the school at Jacob's Pillow where he worked with jazz masters Chet Walker, Matt Mattox, and Luigi.

Janet Pilla (dancer) received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Musical Theater from Syracuse University and her Master of Fine Arts degree in Dance from Temple University. She toured nationally and internationally as a soloist of Ann Vachon/Dance Conduit (a company dedicated to the preservation of the Jose Limon Style) for 12 years. She was featured in performances in Czechoslovakia as a soloist, and in England, Scotland and Taiwan as a company member of Terry Beck Troupe and Ed Groff/Jin Wen Yu Dancers.

She has performed with numerous Philadelphia choreographers and companies, including The Arden Theater, Group Motion, Dancetellers, SCRAP Performance Group and Trapezius. She was involved in the reconstruction, restaging and performance of *Symphony for Strings*, *Mazurkas and Prima Very* by Jose Limon and *Day on Earth and Dawn in New York* by Doris Humphrey.

Ms. Pilla worked with Dancefusion in the reconstruction of two Anna Sokolow pieces, *Time + and Quarter Tones*, as well as *Women of Troy* by Mary Anthony. She studied privately with Ernestine Stodelle on two early Doris Humphrey solos: *Quasi Waltz* and the *Call/Breath of Fire*.

In addition to teaching Limon repertory at numerous colleges and universities, Ms. Pilla has been an adjunct faculty member at Temple University and Drexel University and is currently on the adjunct faculty at Arcadia University where she directs and choreographs productions and teaches theater improvisation and dance.

In addition to dancing with Jeanne Ruddy Dance, Ms. Pilla dances with Melanie Stewart Dance Theater, Dancefusion, and Kun-Yang Lin.

Gabrielle Revlock (dancer), a native Philadelphian, joined Jeanne Ruddy Dance in 2003 after graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History from Vassar College

As a student she was thrilled to perform *Escargot* by Louis Falco and dance for Twyla Tharp in a lecture-demonstration. In addition to her work with Jeanne Ruddy Dance, Gabrielle has danced with Lisa Kraus, Anne-Marie Mulgrew and Dancers, Myra Bazell, Melisa Putz / PIMA Group, Darla Stanley, and Matthew Neenan for the Opera Company of Philadelphia.

She has also performed with UK choreographer, Sean Feldman, and danced for the Netherlands-based duo Isabelle Chaffaud and Jerome Meyer in two Live Arts Festivals and at the Korzo Theatre in The Hague, Netherlands.

Gabrielle is currently a new Festival Resident Choreographer. In 2005, she was selected as the Vassar College Alumnae Choreographer, and in 2006 she received a New Edge Mix grant.

Her film work has been shown at the Wilma Theatre as part of the Motion Pictures Festival, and she encourages everyone to participate in *Wear Your Wig to Work Day*, an annual holiday taking place the last Friday in January.

Meredith Riley Stewart (dancer) is in her sixth season with Jeanne Ruddy Dance after

being a Company understudy in the 2003 Season.

Meredith comes to Jeanne Ruddy Dance via Alabama, where she graduated summa cum laude from the University of Alabama. Meredith received valuable Graham training in 2000 and 2001 at the Dance Legends Retreat at Frostburg State University, where she worked with such luminaries of the Graham legacy as Pearl Lang, Ethel Winter, Tancred Tavares and Kenneth Topping, as well as with Ms. Mary Anthony. Meredith spent her first 18 months on the local dance scene as part of Philadanco's Second Company and is happy to have found a home with Jeanne Ruddy Dance.

Meredith also works as an actor, and has appeared on stage at the Arden Theatre, the Triangle Theatre, The Adrienne Theatre, as a guest host on QVC and in numerous regional commercials. www.meredithrileystewart.com

Christine Taylor (dancer) holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Florida State University. Christine has been a member of Jeanne Ruddy Dance since its inception in 1999, performing the choreography of Jeanne Ruddy, Ann Reinking, Mark Dendy, Igal Perry, Peter Sparling, Jane Comfort, Susanne Linke and Robert Battle.

Along with performing and directing, Christine has taught at Tallahassee Community College, Drexel University, Gwendolyn Bye Dance Center, The Performance Garage, and has received full certification in Pilates.

She has performed with Gwendolyn Bye's Dancefusion for the past 18 years, performing in reconstructions of classic works by Mary Anthony, Jose Limon, Anna Sokolow and Pauline Koner. Taylor has also danced with Body Language Dance Company, which participates extensively in the Young Audience Program.

In 1995, she was appointed Assistant Director of Dancefusion, and from 1997-2002, was the director of Fusion 2, a training company for young dancers. Christine has also worked with many local independent choreographers and in 1999, performed with Ann-Marie Mulgrew & Dancers at Toronto's Fringe Festival of Independent Dance Artists. She was a soloist with Trapezus Aerial Dance, performing on trapeze, hoop, harness and giant aerial stilts.

Last year Christine was appointed rehearsal director for Jeanne Ruddy Dance.

