New Albany Children’s Ballet Theatre

***“A youth ballet company for the children by the children.”***

2017 – 2018 Season Dancer Handbook

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**About New Albany Children’s Ballet Theatre (NACBT)**

New Albany Children’s Ballet Theatre (NACBT) is a nonprofit 501c3 organization whose mission is to create an environment where children can learn the value of artistic expression. The New Albany Children’s Ballet Theatre, a sister company to the New Albany Ballet Company a dance school located in New Albany, Ohio. The NACBT was founded to create a youth performing company that would stage professional repertoire and ballet performances while minimizing financial burdens for costuming and production costs to dancer families.

The NACBT is governed by a Board of Trustees, who all volunteer their time, skill, and knowledge to oversee and manage the operations of the organization. Since NACBT is a nonprofit organization, all proceeds which are contributed through dancer participation, advertising, fundraising activities, and corporate sponsorships are used to pay operating expenses.

The NACBT provides a strong and positive youth program where children can strive towards reaching their potential in dance and in other aspects of life. Youth dancers from the age of five through their senior year in high school, have the ability to learn valuable performing, auditioning, and confidence building skills.

The partnership between the New Albany Ballet Company and the NACBT are very complimentary to one another and allow both organizations to help strengthen the dance community and to provide many different opportunities for performances. The dancers get the structure and discipline established through the course work at the ballet school tied with the performing aspects of dance through the theatre. For further information regarding New Albany Ballet Company or New Albany Children’s Ballet Theatre through our website at [www.newalbanyballet.com](http://www.newalbanyballet.com).

***NACBT Goals for the 2017 - 2018 Season***

* Support our Annual Traditions for the Nutcracker Season:
  + Father Daughter Ball (November)
  + Presentation of The Nutcracker Act I to New Albany-Plain Local Schools (NAPLS)
  + The Nutcracker Production Performances (2nd weekend in December)
* New Albany-Plain Local Schools (NAPLS) - Carnival of the Animals (January – February)
* Preparation for a future repertoire concert
* Additional programs, performances, and outreach based on incoming fiscal, financial support
* Additional Board Activities Include:
  + Applying for Grants to mitigate costs and improve opportunities to enrich children through the arts in New Albany
  + Rebuilding our fundraising program
  + Streamline and improve business processes to reduce costs and increase efficiency
  + Monitor opportunities and considerations for additional outreach and philanthropy projects

What Dancers and Families Need to Know

***GENERAL POLICIES***

*Participation, Registration, and Guidelines*

* Participation is open to youth dancers who will be age 5 by September 1st
  + Requirements for participation include:
    - Completed Registration and Payment of Registration Fee
    - Current enrollment in a formal ballet training program, as well as, attendance in ballet the season before the performance season (For example : summer ballet class prior to a fall rehearsal season for Nutcracker)
    - Participation in scheduled auditions
    - Agreement to abide by all general policies including rehearsal attendance policy
* Participation fees, costuming fees, or special costs are evaluated based on production
  + Participation fees and costs cover many aspects of the operations and include but are not limited to the following types of expenses:
    - Performing hall rental fees and staff
    - Performance production staff (lights, technology, videographer)
    - Costuming: replacements, alterations, new/additional, cleaning, storage
    - Stage Props: storage, rental, replacement
    - Guest Performers for key roles
    - Choreography: updates, additions or revisions with growth and to keep the program variable as dancers and families continue to participate in the annual performances
    - Administrative and tax fees
    - Payroll for Faculty and limited administrative staff
  + Nutcracker participation requirements will be emailed and posted.
* Volunteering
  + Many NACBT programs require the dancer family to volunteer to help defray costs.
  + Volunteer roles help eliminate operational costs for the rental of the performance hall, production and lighting staff, as well as, many other costs that would require an increase in dancer financial commitment
* Liability Release
  + Dance training is demanding on the body. All students run the risk of being injured during training and productions. As a parent of a dancer, you must agree that you understand these risks and do not hold the New Albany Children’s Ballet Theatre, New Albany Ballet Company, faculty and board members, and the artistic director responsible for any injuries, loss of property, or illness during attendance at the school or any related field trips or performances.
* *Photography and Videography*
  + NACBT hires professional photographers and videographers to provide parents the opportunity to purchase event portraits, performance photographs, and videography.
    - Portrait sessions will be scheduled for each production season. Portraits are purchased at the time of the session and forms are provided in advance to be completed prior to the session. In following this procedure, we ensure that the process runs smooth and timely. Parents are welcome and encouraged to purchase photos of their child’s experience.
    - DVDs are available for purchase prior and sometimes shortly after production events.
  + Photo Release/Social Media
    - Each parent gives permission for their child to be photographed for promotional purposes. All students will also be videotaped during performances.
    - Any concerns need to be directed to the Artistic Director, Tara Miller.
    - Each parent and student also agree to not place pictures or videos of other students or teachers on the internet or any social networking site without the permission of the student’s parents or the teacher.
    - No student or parent is permitted to represent NABC or NACBT on any websites or social media.
* Emergency Medical Release
  + Each parent gives permission for emergency medical care of his or her child. Any concerns need to be made in writing and turned into the office before rehearsals begin.

*Communications*

* eMail is a very efficient communication channel for the NACBT’s Office Manager and Board. Ensuring NACBT has been provided a family accessible email is essential for getting all most recent updates regarding news and information.
* Website: NACBT and New Albany Ballet Company have a combined website; NACBT information will be posted on a regular basis
  + Typical updates and content include but are not limited to Registration, Cast Lists, Rehearsal schedule changes, Updates, Ticket Sale information, Fundraiser Information
* Phone: 614-939-9058. Voicemails are picked up based on the NABC office hours
* NACBT Annual Nutcracker Performance Season Parent Meeting
  + Parent/Guardian Attendance is mandatory
  + The intent of the meeting is to introduce new families to the Board of Trustees, provide an overview of the Nutcracker season, review policies, new season processes, gather feedback and information from dancer families, and provide an open forum for questions and answers.
* Dancer Season Performance Packet(s): Provided to dancer families either via email or paper copies. The season information packet includes information needed by the dancer and dance families regarding rehearsal schedules, costume requirements, and any other performance essential content

*Training and Rehearsal Attendance*

* Dancers participating in an NACBT performance are required to attend all rehearsal classes, for NABC students this may or may not correlate with their NABC ballet class time.
  + Each dancer is permitted to miss 2 rehearsals per role, one of which can be unexcused.

An excused absence is where the faculty has been notified prior to the rehearsal and has excused the cast member.

* + Dress Rehearsal is mandatory; dancer attendance and participation in the formal dress rehearsal is required to perform in the production.
  + NACBT Faculty is in charge of casting and if deemed necessary will chose a replacement for dancers who are unable to meet the rehearsal or dress rehearsal requirements.
* The length of rehearsal classes can vary, all dancers are notified of their specific rehearsal schedule typically at the beginning of a production season. If for any reason there are schedules that need to be managed on a more frequent basis, families are notified a week in advance of the upcoming week’s schedule.
* Dancers who arrive more than 10 minutes after the start of rehearsal will be required to sit out for extensive dancing roles for their safety. The initial part of the rehearsal includes a warm up which properly stretches and warms the dancer’s body.

*Dress Code*

* NACBT has a professional-level reputation. We ask all of our students to dress appropriately when arriving and departing rehearsal periods in the studio and theatre. Dancewear is not appropriate attire for the street; students must wear street clothing over their leotards and tights.
* Rehearsal (at NABC studio):
  + Dancers wear their class leotard/dancewear (no skirts).
  + Students need to wear their hair up in a bun with bangs sprayed or pinned back away from the face for studio rehearsals.
  + Studio Conduct follows the NABC policy
    - Please keep the facility clean and tidy; use garbage receptacles and clean up spills or accidental messes. Notify the front desk if cleaning supplies are needed or further attention is needed
    - No gum
    - No food
    - No liquids other than water
    - All street shoes must be removed prior to entering any studio
    - Disruptive behavior is not tolerated
    - Please do your best to pick up your child on time. The school is not responsible for any child except during the duration of their class. If you are running late please call the office at 614-939-9058
    - No child is allowed to be left unattended.
    - Parents that need to speak with their child’s teacher may do so by leaving a note for them with the Office Manager. The teacher’s schedules are typically back to back.
    - Dancers are to use locker room facilities to leave dance bags and carry necessary dance shoes on their person if necessary
* Production Dress Rehearsals & Performances:
  + Production Dress Rehearsals & Performances: all female dancers must wear flesh-toned leotards under their costume unless noted differently in Dancer Season Performance Packet(s).
  + Hair styling requirements for the production are based on role and are provided in the seasonal dancer packet
  + Tights and shoes may vary and will be specified in the Dancer Season Performance Packet
* Costumes
  + NACBT provide many costumes. Dancers typically do not have the responsibility of keeping costumes on hand.
  + The NACBT will schedule fittings, where faculty and a professional dressmaker will be on-hand to ensure costumes fit the dancers appropriately.
  + NACBT takes responsibility to coordinate the movement of costumes from their storage location to the fittings and then to the performing location; however, dancers are responsible for the costumes while they are wearing them and are expected to handle them with care to reduce damage, wear and tear, and longevity use of the costume.
    - Costumes are not permitted to be taken home
    - Costumes are not to be switched unless directed by the Artistic Director
    - Students are not permitted to eat or drink while in costume; please plan accordingly. If there are exceptions, they will be provided in the Dancer Season Performance Packet
    - If the dancer’s costume appears to be damaged or malfunctioning, please notify the Costume Director immediately
    - No alterations, adjustments, or physical changes are to be made to NACBT costumes without the express consent and direction of the NACBT Costume Director
* The Costume Director may draft and implement other rules as she/he sees fit to protect the costumes and dancers as well as to ensure that the backstage performance runs smoothly and safely. Please monitor email and written communications throughout the NACBT season for the most recent information.

*Casting*

* Auditions are scheduled ahead of time and are posted on the website and through communications
* Auditions are judged by a minimum of three NACBT trained faculty members
* Additional professional guest judges will be invited based on the Artistic Director’s discretion and will be reviewed with the Board
* NABC ballet students may be cast into roles based on their ballet class level
* Dancers in 2nd grade and below are not required to audition to participate, but may have opportunities to audition for special roles
* Parents are not permitted to watch or participate in auditions, with the exception of parent faculty who are audition judges
* Currently, NACBT works to ensure all dancers who register receive a role in the Annual Nutcracker performances. As a result, dancers may be cast into different roles and performances.
* NACBT casting is a professional process and is based on a dancer’s ability to audition and perform the given role during the audition. Casting for theatrical dance production is not simply based on ballet technique but incorporates many factors. Casting is done with the highest level of respect for each individual dancer in our program.  A great deal of time and dedication is put into this process; NACBT parents and dancers pride themselves in being supportive of the casting process execution.
* If parents have casting questions, they may email the artistic director only after the cast list has been posted for 48 hours. No emails will be permitted to the faculty.  Casting will not result in additional conference at that point, unless deemed appropriate by the artistic director.  Conferences will only be held during the June/July months and again at the end of December.

*Fundraising*

The NACBT would not exist if it were not for the strong support of it’s dancer families. The NACBT as a non-profit looks for different ways to obtain financial support. Families, dancers, friends, and neighbors can contribute tax-deductible gifts at any time, but many of the funding comes in from five different sources: Paid advertisements for the production playbills, dancer family production fees, family fundraising or donations, grants, or corporate sponsorships. To continue to grow NACBT and dancer opportunities, finding opportunities for collaboration and funding are essential. Outlined below is additional information about different areas, as well as a few financial target goals for the 2017 - 2018 fiscal. For full details and information, please refer to the current Dancer Season Performance Packet or review the website.

* Playbill Advertisements

Advertisements can be taken out by businesses or families to be displayed in our performance playbills. Our playbills are professional and of high quality print material and assembly. Advertisements are a great way for new or current businesses in and around the Central Ohio area to get exposure to a large audience. Playbill Advertisements become a keepsake for dancers. Proceeds over and above the cost to produce the playbills are used to cover NACBT operational costs. NACBT has an annual goal of $5,000 income per production event for fiscal year.

* Family Donations

In participation of the NACBT programs, the dancer families are requested to provide a donation to the organization to help fund the production or event. The family donation can be fulfilled several ways depending on the production. NACBT is a non-profit, therefore family donation contributions are often tax deductible. With The Nutcracker being an annual program, families can qualify for certain donation levels and receive benefits for their contribution to the organization. Many organizations have “match” or “giving” programs that will donate a match to an organization based on the employee’s contribution to a not-for-profit. NACBT greatly appreciates the additional opportunity that is provided when family employer’s donate a match and the match counts as part of the families donation which could qualify them for additional benefits. For the fiscal year NACBT has a fundraising goal of $35,000.

* Corporate Sponsorships

Corporate Sponsorship is a great way for an organization to support NACBT and/or a dancer family on their behalf. Sponsorship will directly impact the success of our NACBT performances; while providing the giving company targeted marketing and promotional opportunities within the New Albany and surrounding communities. Corporate sponsors provide extensively more opportunities for the NACBT dancers because additional funding can allow NACBT to present additional productions, bring in highly reputable and experienced choreographers or mastery teachers to provide further exposure and experience, increase in philanthropy aspects of the mission, and more. Corporate sponsorships are essential to the growth and mission of the NACBT, For the fiscal year NACBT has a Corporate Sponsorship goal of $10,000.

* Grants

The NACBT Board works to review opportunities for grants that apply to nonprofit organizations and specifically to organizations that support the arts. The NACBT has been awarded grants from the New Albany Community Foundation, the Ohio Arts Council, and Columbus Foundation. Grants provide support either to specific projects or outreach initiatives that the NACBT provides to their community. The goal for NACBT regarding grants can vary depending on the opportunities available and the awarded grants. At this time, the grant goal is $2,500 for the fiscal year.

*Ticket Sales*

Ticket Sales for the Productions will go through the performing arts center chosen by the NACBT Faculty. Many performances are held at the Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts in New Albany, Ohio. Ticket sales for the McCoy Community Center are handled through the CAPA Ticket Office and Ticketmaster. Please note that tickets can be purchased typically through the phone by calling the CAPA Ticket Office directly at (614) 469-0939. Please reference the CAPA Website for the most recent procedure and process for ticket sales. <http://www.capa.com/about-capa/staff-list-directory>

Based on some of the NACBT funding and corporate sponsorship contribution levels, donating organizations, or dancer families may be eligible for early ticket sales to a production. Qualifying donors receive a special code to purchase their tickets before the public sale begins. It is essential for the donor code be kept private and confidential to those offered early ticket sales to continue and offer the incentive. As an organization, we entrust that participant families understand the importance of the procedure. If the NACBT becomes aware of the prohibited use of early donor access codes, the donor will be revoked from any early ticket sales for NACBT (and potentially all NABC) productions and performances.

* Ticket sales for NACBT events typically go on sale 2017 Nutcracker Performance Tickets will be handled through Ticketmaster. Parents will be notified the dates that tickets will be available through our website. If desired, tickets may be purchased by calling the CAPA ticket office to eliminate Ticketmaster fees. Qualifying donor families will receive a special code to obtain their family tickets before the public sale.

*Overall Event & Production Procedures and Policies*

The New Albany Children’s Ballet Theatre Board, Faculty, and Staff pride on a professionally upheld production company. NACBT productions are known for their quality, talent, professionalism, positive youth experiences, and much more. The outline of the event/production procedures and policies are essential to retaining the reputation of the organization. Non-adherence to the policies which could jeopardize the organization or its participants can be grounds for dismissal from the program(s) or the organization.

* Providing a Safe Environment for All
  + Keep running and horseplay to a minimum
  + Keep small toys at home
  + Any accident or injury, no matter severity, is to be reported immediately to the NACBT Staff, Faculty, or Performing Hall Staff.
  + Please report any health or safety hazards to NACBT or NABC as appropriate
  + Zero Tolerance-Weapon Free Zone: If an individual is suspected of arming a weapon, the authorities will be notified immediately
  + The use of illegal drugs and the abuse of alcohol are strictly prohibited for NACBT participants or any person at an NACBT event or activity
  + NACBT is committed to providing workplaces and learning environments that are free from harassment on the basis of any protected classification including, but not limited to race, sex, gender, color, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, disability, medical condition, marital status, veteran’s status, genetic marker, or on any other basis protected by law. Such conduct is unsafe, unprofessional, unproductive, illegal, and generally considered bad for business. Consequently, all conduct of this nature is expressly prohibited, regardless of whether it violates any law.

Events planned for the 2017 - 2018 Season of the NACBT

*Annual Father Daughter Ball*

The Father Daughter Ball is an annual fundraiser, and tradition has been a sold out success since 2003. The Father Daughter Ball is a classic event that children remember for a lifetime. The event is a great opportunity for Father’s to bond with their ballerina while fundraising. The event registration is announced through email and on the website. Note that the event has sold out in less than 24 hours before. The space for the event is limited and is popular with our dancer families.

* + Friday, November 17th at the New Albany Country Club

*Presentation of The Nutcracker Act I to New Albany-Plain Local Schools (NAPLS)*

The New Albany Children’s Ballet Theatre cast for Act 1 will perform the production for the NAPLS elementary students. The production takes place during school hours. The office staff will provide a note which can be provided to dancer schools based on the dancer needing to be dismissed from school to participate.

* + NAPLS School District, Elementary Class Performance of Act 1,

Thursday, December 7th

*The Nutcracker*

Since its composition in 1892 by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, The Nutcracker has been retold and performed on stage countless times, and plays an essential role in the magic of the holiday season. Each year, over 4,000 people from New Albany and the surrounding Central Ohio communities gather at the Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts to experience the delightful orchestral sounds, colorful costuming and graceful dancing of over 270 youth and professional dancers with the NACBT’s production of The Nutcracker. The NACBT is very proud of the success and distinction that has built with the annual production. The youth dancers involved are enthusiastic and proud of their participation in such a treasured production.

*2017 Dates for The Nutcracker Performances:*

* *Dress Rehearsals: December 1st & 2nd*
* *Performances: December 7 – 10*
  + Friday, December 8th
  + Saturday, December 9th
  + Sunday, December 10th

*All Dress Rehearsals & Performances will take place at the Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts, 100 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany, OH 43054*

Dancer Season Performance Packet which will be provided to dancers with specific participation details

*New Albany-Plain Local Schools (NAPLS) - Carnival Of The Animals*

The NAPLS teachers and a local educator, Marquette Stankowski, came up with the idea to incorporate *The Carnival of the Animals* into the curriculum for the first-grade students in the NAPLS elementary schools. The Carnival of the Animals (Le carnaval des animaux) is a humorous musical suite of fourteen movements by the French Romantic composer Camille Saint-Saëns. The work was written for private performance by the composer. For further information regarding the details of Camille Saint- Saëns or The Carnival of the Animals feel free to visit the following link: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Carnival_of_the_Animals#cite_note-Ratner2002-2>. The intention of the NAPLS program was to bring performance education and experiences surrounding the musical composition, the creative dance movement, and general musical production to the classroom. To bring the production to life, students create costumes, learn dance movements and how to pair dance with the musical composition, create poetry, and much more.

The NAPLS faculty invited the New Albany Ballet Company to collaborate on the project to bring the professional knowledge and training of dance to the production. After volunteering time through the New Albany Ballet Company for three years, the New Albany Children’s Ballet Theatre evaluated the opportunity to incorporate as part of the NACBT mission. The NACBT Board felt that the program fit extremely well within the mission of the theatre by bringing the true experience of dance and theater to students who may never have the experience of dance performance. The opportunity to be a part of the program on an annual basis was near and dear to all involved. In 2014, NACBT began funding and providing the NACBT faculty the support necessary to collaborate on the programming annually.

The NACBT faculty partner with the NAPLS teachers and local educator to establish the annual program goals and objectives each year. The NACBT faculty provide choreography, theatrical production, and dance instruction to the children as they learn about the musical composition. The NACBT faculty begin working on the program in the month of January with performance taking place in March each year. The collaboration has been a huge success, and we are pleased to be able to provide a learning opportunity surrounding dance theater to the first-grade students.

New Albany Children’s Ballet Theatre Board of Directors and Faculty

*Board of Directors*

**Misty Bond, PMP (NACBT President)** is a Program Director for GT Nexus an Infor Company. In her position at GT Nexus, Misty provides executive and PMO support for Global Supply Chain Management Implementations for large multi-industry organizations throughout the world. As the Board President, Misty provides overall support to the NACBT faculty, Artistic Director, and Board of Trustees. Misty was appointed to the board in 2009, where she served several roles prior to being appointed president in 2013. Misty holds a B.A. in Psychology from The Ohio State University, a B.S. in Information Systems from DeVry University, and Masters in Management of Information Systems with a focus in Project Management from Keller Graduate School of Management. Misty’s daughter Sterling, is a member of the NABC progressive division where she performs as a 7A dancer. Sterling has been dancing with NABC since the age of 3. Misty and Sterling enjoy living in the Village of Granville with their Boxer (Lainey), where they stroll the broadway to browse the eclectic boutiques and local events.

**Jay O’Connell (NACBT Board Member, Treasurer)** Jay O’Connell is the President of O’Connell Car Development, LLC based in New Albany, Ohio. Jay is a racecar engineering consultant, working with Ford Performance on the Ford GT and Mustang GT4 race cars, and also designs and builds suspension kits for the Porsche aftermarket. Jay graduated from Cornell University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering before spending 18 years in product development at Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Michigan, and 10 years as Technical Director at Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing in Hilliard, Ohio. Jay’s daughter Bridget is a Pre-Professional dancer in the progressive division and has been dancing with the NABC for 8 years including 6 years in the Nutcracker production. Jay and his wife Sherry accompanied Bridget and seven other dancers to the YAGP semi-finals in New York City in 2014. Jay lives in New Albany near downtown where he, Sherry, Bridget, and their two black labs enjoy biking and walking the New Albany trails.

**Val Robinson (NACBT Board Secretary)** Val Robinson was appointed to the board in 2015, and will serve as secretary for the 2017-2018 season. Born in Scotland, Val and her husband, Ronnie, enjoyed living internationally before landing in New Albany, Ohio in 2002. She played international field hockey for Scotland, and whilst living in Hong Kong for 7 years, captained their national team, traveling to Singapore and Australia in this role. Val, a registered nurse, oversaw a medical clinic in Hong Kong before relocating to Boston in 1998 for a new career opportunity for her husband. She has now been living in New Albany for 15 years. Val and her husband proudly became United States citizens in 2008.  
Val is an active volunteer in the community. She has 2 daughters. Her eldest, Hannah, will be attending CWRU this fall and will major in nursing. Hannah danced at NABC for four years before giving it up for her love of soccer. Lauren will start her junior year at NAHS & is currently enrolled in the pre pro trainee program at NABC. She has danced at the studio for 13 years. In her spare time, Val enjoys playing tennis, reading and spending time with family and friends.

**Siobhan Twomey (NACBT Board Member)** In 2016, the New Albany Children’s Ballet Theatre welcomed Siobhán Twomey to the board. Siobhán was born and grew up in Dublin, Ireland before relocating to Ohio in July of 2005. She has extensive professional experience in the field of accounting, and has performed public accounting supporting a wide range of industries with services including audit, tax and management consulting. She currently directs accounting and business organizations for small and medium sized businesses. Siobhán is married to Maurice Twomey, who is in finance, and both are the busy parents of three young children, Tara, age 8, Blathnaid, age 3, and Saoirse, age 2, all of whom live in New Albany. Tara Twomey is a 4A dancer with New Albany Children’s Ballet Theatre, and Blathnaid is in the Children’s Ballet program at the New Albany Ballet Company. Siobhán is passionate about all the arts; she enjoys Catco performances for children and the Broadway in Columbus series. She is also looking forward to the summer series of Shakespeare in the Park. In her free time, Siobhán enjoys yoga, baking, reading, walking, and cycling with her family.

**Deron Nanchuk (Member at Large)** is a Strategic Account Manager for Gexpro/Rexel headquartered out of Paris, France. Since graduating from Allegheny College in Meadville, PA and getting his MBA from Robert Morris University, Deron has been part of leading sales and P&L efforts for 3 companies in the electrical distribution industry. Deron relocated to Columbus in 2002 and is happy to call Columbus home even though he follows the professional sports teams from his roots in Pittsburgh, PA. Deron has three daughters, and two of them are very active young ballerinas at NABC. His middle daughter Kenleigh (age 7) has been dancing with NABC since she was 2 as has his youngest daughter Berklee (age 4). Deron and his wife Amber live in Westerville and enjoy traveling and spending time together as a family.

**Ronica Ayers (Member at Large)** originally from Bellbrook, Ohio. Moved to Columbus to attend The Ohio State University, graduating with a bachelors degree in English. Upon graduation, she began working at Limited Stores in 1995 as an assistant merchant. Ended her tenure with The Limited in 2005 as Senior Merchant of Weekend Wear. In 2005, she decided to stay home with her daughter, Sydney, who has been dancing at NABC since the age of 3. Ronica and her husband, Steve, live in the Planter’s Grove neighborhood of New Albany with their two daughters, Sydney and Parker. You can see Ronica running on the trails throughout New Albany with her Great Dane, Bocephus.

**Tara Miller (NACBT Board Member, Artistic Director)** a native of Columbus, Ohio, began training in dance at age three. She studied ballet, tap and jazz throughout her childhood; she added modern dance with Susan Van Pelt upon making a decision to audition into a college dance program. While a youth dancer, she also began assistant teaching in children’s division classes.  
In 1994, Tara was accepted into the top ranked dance department at the Ohio State University. While obtaining her Bachelors in Arts, she trained under Melanie Bales, Susan Hadley, Karen Eliot, Victoria Uris, and Bebe Miller. In 1995, she attended the Paul Taylor Summer Intensive in New York City.  
Following her love of teaching, she began her teaching career with the Columbus Youth Ballet. She served as the children’s division ballet teacher as well as the modern teacher and choreographer for four years under the direction of Shir Lee Wu. While a part of this faculty she also became a rehearsal director for the Nutcracker as well as set several modern pieces in the pre-professional company.  
After graduating with honors in 1997 from the Ohio State University, Tara attended the Chautauqua Ballet’s teacher intensive under the direction of both Jean Pierre Bonnefoux, former principal dancer with the New York City Ballet, and Patricia McBride, former prima ballerina with the New York City Ballet. It was upon completing that intensive that her decision to focus on teaching and not performing was made, and at that time, she set out to create her own children’s ballet syllabus that would be implemented at several ballet schools across the city.  
In 1999, Tara, along with co-founder Alisa Bernard, opened the New Albany Ballet Company. Her dream of creating the “ideal dance school” was well received in the New Albany community. The school has grown to include over 650 students ranging in age from toddlers to adults. In 2002, Tara became sole owner of the school. This dance school has established itself as one of the premier ballet programs in the city. Her commitment to hire a professional faculty has allowed the school to provide the best ballet, tap, jazz, and modern training. The New Albany Ballet Company provides each student the best dance training, the most professional performance experience, and the opportunity to train in one of the finest dance facilities in the State.  
In 2003 Tara founded the New Albany Children’s Ballet Theatre, a not for profit 501c3 youth performance company. Her goal was to create a youth performing company that would stage professional repertoire and ballet performances while keeping the burden of the cost off of its dancers. The Theatre has had successful donation campaigns, including hosting its own Father Daughter Ball, a sold-out success each year. NACBT has received generous donations from the Wexner family, the Hinson Family Trust, Lexus, Schottenstein Homes, and various other community business and organizations.  
Tara, along with her husband Darren and two children Madeline and Isabella, reside in New Albany.

*NACBT Faculty*

**Amy Tremante (Rehearsal Director)** began her professional ballet training at the Dallas Ballet Academy in Dallas, Texas. She studied under the tutelage of Vivi Flindt, former director of the Royal Danish Ballet School. She also studied with Madame Nathalie Krassovska of the Ballet Russes de Monte Carlo, Thom Clower, ballet master of the Dallas Ballet and Anna Donovan of the Irish National Ballet. In high school, Amy also attended the Arts Magnet High School in Dallas where she studied Vagonova under Dennis Marshall, former principal dancer with the American Ballet Theatre and San Francisco Ballet and Tauna Hunter, former principal dancer with Ballet West and the Dallas Ballet. Throughout high school, Amy also studied jazz and modern dance. In the summers, she studied at the Boston Ballet, Dance Theatre of Harlem and the Royal Danish Ballet. Amy also danced as a student corps de ballet member of the Dallas Ballet under Flemming Flindt. In her senior year, Amy was one of 20 dancers nationwide to compete in the Presidential Scholars for the Arts Competition where she earned a level 2 award in ballet and a level 4 award in jazz.

In 1990, Amy joined the North Carolina Dance Theatre under the direction of Salvatoire Aiello. She went on to guest with the Delta Festival Ballet of New Orleans and was chosen by Flemming Flindt as a member of an international cast of dancers brought together for the premiere of his ballet, Lucifer’s Daughter, which was created to celebrate the Queen of Denmark’s 25th wedding anniversary. Amy then moved on to join the Tulsa Ballet Theatre and was promoted to the rank of soloist. While in Oklahoma, Amy also had the opportunity to perform in several musical theatre productions including an outdoor summer long production of Rodgers and Hammerstein’s Oklahoma!

After completing her professional dance career, Amy went on to complete a B.A. from the Ohio State University. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with Distinction in English. After graduation, Amy began teaching ballet full time. She has served as the Director of Ballet for the West Virginia Governor’s School for the Arts and also as a faculty member for the Burklyn Ballet in Vermont and the Northpointe Dance Academy in Ohio. She has been a guest teacher and choreographer for the New American Youth Ballet in Indiana, the River Cities Dance Company in Kentucky and Cherry Street Dance Studios in Oklahoma. Amy currently teaches at the New Albany Ballet Company in Ohio. In addition to teaching ballet in both the progressive and pre-professional divisions, Amy sets classical ballets for the school and creates choreography. Amy continues to travel to guest teach and choreograph for other youth ballet programs. Amy enjoys her time away from dancing with her husband, Vince, and her sons, Evan, Aaron, and Ian.

**Sonia Orrante (Rehearsal Director)**, a Columbus native, is a graduate of BalletMet’s original Pre- Professional program under the direction of Don Eryck. She spent her summers training on full scholarship at Boston Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, and Richmond Ballet Schools. At ages 13, (and reprised again at age 15), she was featured with BalletMet and the young Ethan Stiefel in a premiere, Chrysalis by Artistic Director John McFall. During her senior year of high school, she participated in the Young Arts Competition, earned a Level 1 Award and went on to become a Presidential Scholar in the Arts dancing at the Kennedy Center for President George Bush. That same year she also earned an Arts and Letter Award for her performance of the “Back Swan” variation. Sonia joined BalletMet as an apprentice in 1991, and was immediately cast by Houston Ballet Artistic Director, Ben Stevenson in a Soloist role, the “Winter Fairy”, in his ballet, Cinderella. Over the next 15 seasons with the company, she enjoyed working with choreographers on roles created for her in both classical and contemporary styles. She enjoyed the challenge of principle roles in ballets ranging from The Sleeping Beauty to Romeo and Juliet. She also performed as a Guest Artist both Nationally and Internationally including the title role of Kitri in the full length ballet, Don Quixote for the National Ballet of Zimbabwe dancing with fellow Guest Artist, Cuban born, Domingo Rojas. Her love of teaching started while she still danced professionally, and shortly after retiring from performing with the second of her three children, she began teaching full time. She has served as Co- Director for Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp International Ballet Program touring throughout Europe with over 30 young dancers. In 2013 she became a Certified Instructor of the ABT Curriculum levels pre- primary through 3. She has taught at Summer Intensives throughout Ohio, at the Atlanta Ballet School and Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. Now entering her 13th year as a ballet teacher, she is proud to continue as a member of New Albany Ballet’s wonderful faculty working with young people to enhance and inspire their love of dance through their commitment to technical proficiency and the exploration of every child’s unique qualities which bring their artistry to life.

**Jimmy Orrante (Rehearsal Director)** began his dance training at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts under Don Hewitt; studying later at the North Carolina School of the Arts. After 22 years as a professional dancer, the Los Angeles native ultimately retired from BalletMet. During his tenure there, he choreographed more than 15 premieres for the company, including his highly successful full-length ballet, “The Great Gatsby,” which was recently reprised in BalletMet’s 2014-2015 season.

In 2005, Jimmy received the 2005 inaugural Princess Grace Choreographic Fellowship. In spring 2011, he was honored with the National Choreographic Recognition Award for Regional Dance America and was selected in the fall of that year as Choreographer In Residence at Denison University. He received the Special Project Grant from the Princess Grace Foundation, as well as a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts to collaborate with the Ohio State University’s Center for Computer Art and Design and multimedia composer, Sean Beeson. The grant’s collaboration resulted in the “Illuminated Tapestry,” which premiered in April 2012 and utilized the Xbox Kinect’s motion-capture technology.

In March 2014, Jimmy created “Ya Me Fue” as one of three finalists in Ballet Austin’s New American Talent Choreographic Competition and later created “Balanced” on Motion Dance Theatre in Ashville, North Carolina.

Recently, Jimmy was awarded his third grant from the Princess Grace Foundation, the Choreography Mentorship Co-Commission (CMCC) award, as well as choreographing “Threads of Color” as part of Ballet Austin’s 2015 Director’s Choice Program.

**Christine Mangia (Rehearsal Director)** retired from her professional career in 2010, after 9 seasons with Balletmet. Prior to joining Balletmet she danced professionally with the Dayton Ballet and throughout her career as a guest artist with Contrast Dance Company. Christine grew up in Columbus, Ohio and studied as a student at Pinnell Dance Center, Columbus Youth Ballet, Milwaukee Ballet School, Ohio Ballet, Gus Giordano Chicago, and attended Wright State University for a BFA in dance, where she was a member of Dayton Ballet II. She has received the Josephine and Hermine Schwartz Award from Dayton Ballet and an Arts Achievement Award from WSU.

She has had the pleasure of performing at The Joyce Theater on two occasions, Symphony Space in NYC, and also twice at the Gala of International Ballet Stars. Her performing career privileged her to perform leading roles in numerous contemporary works by outstanding choreographers such as George Balanchine, Dwight Rhoden, James Kudelka, Lynn Taylor Corbett, Stanton Welch, and Jimmy Orrante to name a few. Christine’s artistic depth enabled her to perform roles expanding from Giselle in Giselle, Lady Capulet in Romeo and Juliet, Desdemona in Othello, Liberty Bell in Stars and Stripes, Lucy in Dracula, Daisy Buchanan in The Great Gatsby, Sugar Plum and Clara in the Nutcracker, and Mona in the musical Chicago.

Christine has been a guest teacher for Eastland Performing Arts, New American Youth Ballet, Young Peoples Ballet Theatre, The Columbus Academy, Wright State University and has been full-time faculty at New Albany Ballet Company since September 2010. Christine has choreographed numerous ballet and contemporary works for many talented dancers including Wright State University Dance Ensemble, New Albany Ballet Company and had two works commissioned by grants by the Greater Columbus Arts Council Choreographic Competition for BalletMet. Her choreography bio also includes a full-length production of Sleeping Beauty for Young Peoples Ballet Theatre and multiple works for Youth American Grand Prix finalists including solos and an ensemble work that performed in New York City at the YAGP 2014 Finals. Christine has choreographed Arabian, Candy Canes, and a complete Battle Scene for The Nutcracker at NACBT. Christine has a passion for teaching, coaching and encouraging young talent of the future and is honored to be a part of the talented, respectful and committed organization that the New Albany Ballet Company is.