

Teacher Training Summer Intensive

July 15 - 19, 2019
Calgary, Alberta Canada

Alberta Ballet School, the official training school of Alberta Ballet Company, is recognized as one of Canada's leading professional dance schools. Professional programs include academic and artistic training for grades 7-12, Post-Graduate and Teacher Training programs.

Our full-day program allows teachers ages 18 years + to develop their teaching skills in pedagogy classes in addition to having the opportunity to study our faculty teaching our Summer Intensive students of all ages and experience levels.



Programming is led by Ms. Joyce Shietze, Alberta Ballet School's Head of Teacher Training and Chair of Cecchetti Canada, as well as our School's Professional Division senior faculty including: Mr. Murray Kilgour, Mr. Aram Manukyan and Ms. Ashley McNeil.



Program includes:

- * 6-8 hours of daily class time
- * Daily lunch
- * Alberta Ballet School t-shirt
- * Evening reception with School Faculty
- * Certificate of completion

Teacher Training Summer Intensive Instructors

Artistic Principal, Ashley M^cNeil

Fellow + Examiner, CI-CIBC, Enrico Cecchetti Diploma



Ashley M^cNeil's early ballet training began in Owen Sound, Ontario under the tutelage of Eleanor Brennan, followed by attending National Ballet School. Ashley furthered her training at The School of Dance, Ottawa and Quinte Ballet School where she later graduated under the direction of Brian Scott and Joyce Shietze.

In 2004, Ms. M^cNeil joined the faculty of Alberta Ballet School to teach Professional Division. During this time, she contributed to the University of Calgary's Bachelor of Arts; Dance undergraduate degree. By 2011, Ms. McNeil was Head of the Junior School for the Professional Division, and in 2013, she became the School's Artistic Principal. Ms. M^cNeil has achieved her Fellowship designations from Cecchetti Canada. In 2011, Ms. McNeil was awarded The Margaret Saul Scholarship Award, and the Enrico Cecchetti Final Diploma under the tutelage of Ms. Nancy Kilgour.

In 2017, Ms. M^cNeil joined the board of examiners for Cecchetti Canada.

She is also a jury member for World Ballet Arts Grand Prix and Youth America Grand Prix.

Head of Teacher Training, Joyce Shietze

Fellow + Examiner, CC-CIBC, Enrico Cecchetti Diploma



Joyce Shietze trained and would later teacher at National Ballet School from 1961 to 1966. During a portion of this time, Joyce held the position of Cecchetti Secretary.

Ms. Shietze would later establish the School of Dance where she was the Co-Artistic Director and Principal from 1978 to 2000. During that time, she created a Teacher Training Program and a children's syllabus. In 1996 she received an Award for Excellence in Teaching from the Council for the Arts.

Ms. Shietze joined Alberta Ballet School in 2002, teaching ballet and character dance for Professional Division students. She has also contributed to teaching dance as part of the Bachelor of Arts; Dance degree program through University of Calgary.

In 2017, she came out of retirement in Muskoka, Ontario to rejoin the Alberta Ballet School where she now leads the new Teacher Training Program. Ms. Shietze is presently the Chair of Cecchetti Canada, Trustee of Margaret Saul Scholarship, and Delegate to Cecchetti International Classical Ballet.

Teacher Training Summer Intensive Instructors

Senior Ballet Teacher, Murray Kilgour



Murray Kilgour's dance training began in Vancouver with Kay Armstrong. He continued at Canada's National Ballet School under the tutelage of Betty Oliphant.

In 1967, Mr. Kilgour joined the National Ballet of Canada, where he danced many soloist and principal roles. He left Canada in 1971 and joined the Royal Ballet, Covent Garden. In 1973, he joined Sadlers Wells Royal Ballet (now Birmingham Royal Ballet), where he was a soloist and principal dancer.

Mr. Kilgour studied educational methods at the Paris Opera School, School of American Ballet, and State School in the former East Berlin. From 1980 to 1989, Mr. Kilgour taught at the Royal Ballet School, and Central School of Ballet in London, England as Head of Male Dance. In 2000, Mr. Kilgour taught as a guest with the National Ballet of Canada and the National Ballet School.

Mr. Kilgour was invited with his wife Nancy to come to Calgary in 2001 to take over the Directorship of Alberta Ballet School. In 2008, he received the Rozs Foundation Award for excellence in Arts Administration in Education.

Mr. Kilgour continues his role at the School as Senior Teacher concentrating on the Professional Graduate class, pas de deux classes and repertoire.

Director of Alberta Ballet Trainee Program, Aram Manukyan



Aram Manukyan began his ballet training at Armenian Choreography Academy where he studied the Vaganova method under Rafael Avnikian and Maxim Martirosian. He finished his training with a full scholarship at the Russian University of Theatre Arts.

Mr. Manukyan returned to Armenia and danced with Armenian National Ballet before taking a soloist position with Ukrainian State Opera Ballet Theatre. Mr. Manukyan would later dance principal and soloist roles with companies in Annapolis, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, and Sarasota.

Mr. Manukyan then became Artistic Director of the BGLV/Pennsylvania Youth Ballet. From there, Murray Kilgour invited him to Alberta as a ballet and character dance teacher. It was at Alberta Ballet School where he took up the Cecchetti method under Nancy Kilgour and pas de deux with Murray Kilgour.

With the launch of the Alberta Ballet II, a pre-professional program for youth dancers, in July 2014, Mr. Manukyan was appointed the program's Director. A jury member for many International Ballet Competitions, Mr. Manukyan is now Artistic Coordinator and Director of the Alberta Ballet Trainee Program at Alberta Ballet School.