

Faculty

Artistic Director/Principal:

Anabel Ho

ARAD, RAD RTS, AISTD

Ms. Ho has taught and choreographed for the past twenty years. Her training spans the globe and covers the full spectrum of dance styles with emphasis in classical ballet and Chinese dance. Ms. Ho has trained with internationally noted artists in North America and abroad.



She is widely recognized by her many achievements around the world. Anabel has performed, taught and choreographed throughout Canada and other regions including the U.S.A., China, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Greece, Netherlands, Poland and Taiwan.

Ms. Ho has presented command performances for Her Majesty the Queen, the Governor General and Prime Minister of Canada as well as Royalties and Heads of State of many countries. She has been invited to adjudicate dance competitions throughout North America and has been commissioned to choreograph for several productions including: Rick Hansen's 10th Anniversary TV Special on CBC, Nissan Go 2000 Dealership Convention, APEC Conference, International Dragon Boat Festival, Chinese Cultural Centre's Millennium Project "Gold, Maple, Dreams" Dance Production, CBC's Gung Haggis Fat Choy and various other large events.

Anabel has also acted as a choreography consultant for National Ice Dance Championships, Meaghan Wing and Erin Lowe. Ms. Ho produced dance performances for the movie "Deep Risings", and Buena Vista's Vancouver promotions of the Disney Movie "Mulan". Ms. Ho was invited to choreograph for the Queen's Royal Visit to B.C., the 2010 Sea to Sky Bid for the International Olympic Committee, the United Nations World Urban Forum Closing Ceremonies, CCTV's New Year Special "The Same Song", and for all the Premier's of Canada for the launch of the Canada Pavillion at the Beijing's Olympics. Anabel was recently selected as an advisor to the Opening Ceremonies Symposium of the Vancouver 2010 Olympics.

Cristina Bucci

Cristina Bucci is a dancer, choreographer, adjudicator and teacher whose career has taken her around the world. She has taught, choreographed and judged for the International Dance Seminar in Brazil, represented Canada in the Macau International Dance Festival and has gone on tour in China, Egypt and Israel.



Some of her favorite credits include working with old school rapper Young MC, Indian opera singer Veera Devi Khare in "A Touch of Opera, A Touch of India", assistant choreographer for the Miss Fitness America Pageant for ESPN, dancing at the unveiling of the 2010 Olympic Logo, choreographing for the feature film "Shut up and Shoot", working with country recording artist Lisa Brokop, dancing at the House of Blues in Los Angeles, dancing at the Choreographer's Ball in London, England, choreographing for the show "BruK", teaching at Harbour Dance Centre and choreographing for the Source Dance Company in Vancouver.

Tamara Cohen

Tamara has been dancing professionally for the past six years and has performed in both film and stage productions. She has trained with the best local instructors as well as renowned international choreographers (Eddie Garcia, Chris Dupree, Steven Stanton). In 2006 she was a part of MOVE: the company, Vancouver's most recent professional contemporary company, as well as discovered her love for teaching dance and sharing her passion with her students.



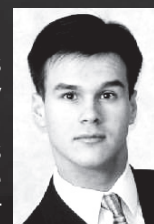
Mary Chan

Originally from the Philippines, Mary received her training in classical ballet under the Vella C. Damian School of Ballet. Performing with its pre-professional company, the Manila Ballet Repertory, Mary's repertoire consists of The Nutcracker, Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, Coppelia, and Paquita, as well as neoclassical and modern ballet pieces by Tony Fabella, Jojo Lucila, and Ianne Damian. Upon moving to Canada, she continued her dance studies at the Vancouver Academy of Dance, broadening her knowledge of dance styles to include Chinese dance and modern dance. Mary has competed in Canada and the US, represented Canada in the International Youth Dance Festival in Macau, participated in the inaugural Australian Conservatoire of Ballet Dance Festival in Melbourne, Australia, and took part in Chinese dance workshops in Beijing, China. A graduate of the Vancouver Academy of Dance, Mary has trained in the ISTD and RAD classical ballet methods under the tutelage of VAD's Director, Anabel Ho.



Kyryl Dudchenko

Kyryl started ballroom dancing when he was 7 years old in Ukraine. He has had extensive training by many distinguished teachers and coaches in both Latin American and Modern/Standard programs as well as supplementary basic training in ballet. He has competed in numerous competitions all over Eastern and Western Europe as well as in North America, at first representing Ukraine and then British Columbia, on international and local DanceSport arena. Furthermore, Kyryl also participated in the Canada-wide aired TV show, Dancing at the Palais. Since moving to Canada in 2000 and until turning professional Kyryl maintained highest amateur ranking position in British Columbia. In 2002 Kyryl became professional and is also teaching and coaching competitors of all ages in both Latin and Standard divisions.



Jenny Duffy

Jenny has danced since the age of 4, training in New York, Los Angeles, Hong Kong and China with The Source Dance Co. and Harbour Dance Center. Her live performance credits include Disneyland Magic Music Days, The BC Lions Felions, The Vancouver Ravens Fly Girls, CFL Grey Cup Half, Smallville, Fashion TV, MTV Canada, Urban Rush, VTV Breakfast, The Black Eyed Peas, Young MC, Nearly Neil. Jenny is an avid proponent of Vancouver's performing arts community.



Junie Heng

Trained in RAD and ISTD methods, Junie has danced with renowned facilities across Canada, as well as New York, Los Angeles and Beijing. Her performance experience has brought her to stages worldwide and she brings to the Academy outstanding artistic and technical abilities.



Yoshi Hisanaga

Yoshi began his dancing career out as a b-boy and Hip Hop, learning from a dancer from Cyborg G (Korea). He has performed and choreographed in numerous shows such as the annual S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Gala at GM Place, countless various local shows, and many concerts for overseas singers. His classes include everything from popping, breaking, locking, house, pop, to street jazz. Yoshi's choreography specializes in a unique and abstract blend of hip-hop and break-dancing. He was the choreographer and dancer for the 2005 Senior Canadian National Dance Competition Champions, and the choreographer for the 2005, 2006, 2007 Junior Canadian National Dance Competition Champions. Yoshi is also a dancer in the group that won the Canadian Hip-hop Championships 2007, and represented Canada at the World Hip-hop Championships in the summer of 2007 in L.A. and 2008 in Vegas.



Sarah Lee

Sarah has been dancing at VAD for the past 13 years, where she has successfully achieved RAD, and ISTD certification. She has studied various dance disciplines including ballet, jazz, lyrical, and Chinese dance. In addition, she has had the opportunity to travel through out North America and China winning many awards and scholarships from renowned dance festivals and competitions in the group, trio, and solo divisions. In 2006, Sarah joined VAD's senior performance division in representing Canada in the 10th International Youth Dance Festival held in Macau. She has also travelled to Beijing to study traditional Chinese Dance taught by world champion Chinese Dancers. Sarah is currently completing her BA in Pharmacy at UBC.



Tara Lenko, RAD RTS

Ms. Lenko is a registered teacher of the RAD. She has taught R.A.D. and open ballet, lyrical and jazz classes throughout the Lower Mainland. Tara has studied ballet, pointe, jazz, lyrical, musical theatre and Spanish dancing. Tara has performed in productions of Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, La Bayadere and Pas de Quatre.



Diana Leong

Diana is a graduate of the Vancouver Academy of Dance and a member of the Strathcona Chinese Dance Company. She has performed in cities across North America and China over the past fourteen years. Diana has also won numerous awards and scholarships in dance competitions in Canada and the USA, and has taught children in the art of Ballet & Chinese Dance. We are pleased to have Diana share her experience and talent with the students of the Vancouver Academy of Dance.



Daniela Solis



Faculty

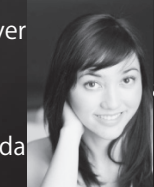
Christa Mayhew

Christa is originally from Ontario and has danced for over 25 years. She is a highly trained acro, contortion, jazz, lyrical, ballet, spins and leaps, pas de deux specialist. Christa is proficient in contortion work, acrobatic and gymnastics. An award winning choreographer her students have travelled across North America.



Erika Mitsuhashi

Erika Mitsuhashi has studied extensively at Vancouver Academy in jazz, lyrical, modern, hip hop, ballet, and ballroom. She has performed and competed many festivals and competitions in which she received numerous awards. Erika represented Canada at the Macau International Youth Dance Festival. Erika was also an original member of Kim Sato's SOULdier's Hip Hop Company. She is currently attending Simon Fraser University where she studies contemporary dance.



Anthony Ornato

Anthony has trained in the styles of hip hop, b-boy, locking, popping, house, wushu, Chinese Dance and Latin ballroom. Anthony has performed throughout for various shows, competitions, and festivals, including representing Canada with VAD in the 10th International Youth Dance Festival 2006 in Macau, China. Anthony is a member of the DeadBeat Ninjas (b-boy) Crew who have performed and taught throughout the Lower Mainland, and he is also currently a member of the SOULdier's Company, which focuses on the culture of hip hop. Anthony recently returned from studying hip hop in New York, Portland and LA with North America's top choreographers. Anthony is also an accomplished musician, playing piano, drums, and studying saxophone full-time. Anthony recently choreographed a number for the New Talent Singing Awards in Vancouver.



Bonnie Wong

Bonnie began her dance training at Vancouver Academy of Dance in 2002 in the style of hip hop. She is continuing her education of hip hop culture as one of the members of the SOULdier's Company. Bonnie has had the opportunity to compete in many festivals, perform in various shows, and represent Canada with VAD in Macau's 10th Annual International Youth Dance Festival in 2006. Bonnie recently returned from studying hip hop in New York, Portland and L.A. with North America's top choreographers. Bonnie is also an accomplished pianist, achieving the level of ARCT (Performance). Bonnie currently has a Bachelor's in Music(UBC) and is finishing her Bachelor's in Education at UBC. She is excited to be able to share her love of this style with the students at VAD.



Jamie Townsend

Jamie started training to become a contortionist and acrobat since the age of 12 and aerial silk training through Vancouver Circus School. She has been performing professionally for 6 years with Westcoast Contortion and Acrobatics. Shows have included Show Girls in Las Vegas, Price Mart opening with sponsor Pepsi, 686 Launch Party, New Years show @ the Storeyum & BC Fashion Week. Jamie has studied in Las Vegas for contortion training by Otgo Waller (Cirque du Soleil contortionist of "O") as well as extensive Aerial Silk training with Kristi Toguchi.

