

LONG BEACH BALLET ACADEMY

DAVID WILCOX -- Artistic Director

Celebrating 27 Years of Excellence
1981 - 2008



The Nation's First Pan-Pacific Ballet Training Facility
Official Satellite School of the National Ballet of China in Guangzhou
Official Sister School of the Dong Guan Juliette Ballet Academy of China
Host of the Amer-Asian Ballet Competition and Festival

The Comprehensive Classical Ballet Program includes

- Children's Division—
- Adult Division—
- Professional Academy—
- Performing Company—

www.LongBeachBallet.com

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Long Beach Ballet Academy will not discriminate based on race, color or religious preference, ethnic or national origin in the administration of educational policies, scholarships or school administered loan programs.

Mission Statement of the Long Beach Ballet Academy
**To Enhance the Lives of Children and the Community
Through the Beauty and Discipline of Classical Ballet.**



Welcome to Long Beach Ballet Academy. We are currently celebrating our 27th anniversary as one of Southern California's leading classical ballet institutions. We are very proud of our school's dedicated professional faculty as well as our many successes, including graduating students who have joined such companies as San Francisco Ballet, National Ballet of Canada, and Milwaukee Ballet. We welcome you to share with us your love of dance, and we promise to provide you with the very best in classical ballet training.

David Wilcox -- Artistic Director and Founder

GENERAL INFORMATION

PLACEMENT

Students are placed in their appropriate level by age or after taking a placement class arranged by the instructors. Determining factors include age, previous training, and natural ability. (Pre-Ballet, Children's Division, Teen, and Adult levels do not require a placement class.)

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to maintain regular attendance in the minimum number of classes required for their particular level. An exception would be an absence due to illness or other such acceptable reason, in which case the class may be made up in another class of the same level or lower level. Classes missed due to holidays or illness may be made up any time during the following three months. Students are expected to arrive on time and ready for class. Students entering class late may be asked to observe the class at the discretion of the instructor.

TUITION

Tuition is payable in advance. There are a variety of payment options available with discounts for pre-payment of multiple months or multiple classes in the case of "drop-in" classes. Additional fees are added to late payments (after the 17th) and returned checks.

ATTIRE

Girls/Ladies: Pink tights and shoes for all levels. Pink leotard and hair pulled back for Pre-Ballet levels. Light blue leotard and hair in bun for Children's Levels. Black leotard and hair in a "classical ballet bun" for Academy levels. No jewelry.
Boys/Gentlemen: Black tights, white socks and black or white shoes, white T-shirt.

PROFESSIONALS

A special rate is available for professional dancers upon presentation of current AGMA, AGVA, AFTRA, or Equity Card.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Every student is expected to conform to the rules and regulations and to behave in a disciplined, responsible and courteous manner. The school reserves the right to suspend or dismiss any student whose attitude, attendance, or conduct is found unsatisfactory.

EVALUATIONS

Students are evaluated several times during the year to ensure correct level placement and to maximize each student's potential. Initial placement for the year reflects our presumption that the student will maintain good attendance and work ethic in his/her classes to progress with the rest of the class. In the event that the faculty believes that a student would receive more suitable training in a different level, the student and parent(s) will be notified and the student will be moved. The curriculum for each level is mandatory. Students whose schedule does not accommodate their level's curriculum may enroll in a lower level or may transfer to the Teen Division. Consistent attendance alone does not assure that a student will move through the academy syllabus with the rest of the class. Each student must apply him or herself and exhibit consistent and dedicated work habits to progress.

LONG BEACH BALLET ACADEMY FACULTY

The Long Beach Ballet Academy is dedicated to a professional classroom atmosphere that provides each student with the optimum opportunity to progress to his or her full potential. The faculty is comprised of skilled and highly motivated instructors, each of whom instills the highest standards of classical ballet in adherence with the goals of the school.

David Wilcox

A graduate of the Royal Academy of Dance, Mr. Wilcox danced professionally in Germany with the Berlin Ballet before returning home to Southern California and co-founding the Long Beach Ballet in 1981. From 1983 through 1998 he was also the director of Southern California's largest professional ballet company, the Los Angeles Classical Ballet. His students regularly compete at international ballet competitions and many have joined professional companies. He has produced and directed seven ballet tours to Asia and is the only American choreographer to have staged several full-length ballets for major ballet companies in China. He lives with his wife and daughters in Long Beach.



Johnny Zhong

Mr. Zhong graduated from the Shen Yang Arts Institute in China and performed for seven years as a soloist with the National Ballet of China in Guangzhou. He was featured as the Golden Idol in *La Bayadere*, Cupid in *Don Quixote*, the Court Jester in *Swan Lake*, and Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*, as well as many other leading roles. His father is a well-known Chinese choreographer and Mr. Zhong has continued in his father's footsteps by choreographing for and competing in several international ballet competitions, including Varna and Shanghai. He recently immigrated to the U.S. to marry Mr. Wilcox's oldest daughter Nicole and has joined the Long Beach Ballet as resident choreographer and a member of the faculty.



Shani Englert

Mrs. Englert began her training with Audrey Share at the age of five and continued her training with David Wilcox at Long Beach Ballet. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Business and Marketing at California State University, Long Beach while continuing her ballet training with Rebecca Wright and Colleen O'Callahan, both former dancers with American Ballet Theatre. She performed as a soloist with the Los Angeles Classical Ballet for six years and currently dances with and directs His Grace Dance Ministry. She has been on faculty at LBBA for fourteen years and is lead Ballet Mistress for *The Nutcracker*. She lives with her husband and young son in Long Beach.



Cortne Robinson

Cortne is a member of the Long Beach Ballet performing company and is much loved by the students in the Pre-Ballet division. She most recently returned to Jackson, Mississippi for the second year to train at Ballet Magnificat's summer program after being awarded a full scholarship at the Regional Dance America 2008 Ballet Festival.

Nicole Wilcox-Zhong

Mrs. Wilcox-Zhong received her ballet training from her father and mother beginning at the age of four. She performed lead roles in several of her father's ballets and also danced with the Los Angeles Classical Ballet as a student performer. At Orange County High School of the Arts she majored in classical dance before changing to technical stage management and sound engineering. She spent three years as the stage manager for the Improv Comedy Club and is Long Beach Ballet's resident stage manager for all productions. In 2001 she performed in *Aladdin* on a three week tour of mainland China. Nicole has performed in many stage productions such as the role of Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*, and Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



Melissa Sandvig

Mrs. Sandvig trained exclusively at Long Beach Ballet from the age of five before joining the Milwaukee Ballet in 1998. She was awarded second place in the Music Center's Spotlight Competition, performed with the Los Angeles Classical Ballet for three years, and toured with Mr. Wilcox to Taiwan and China as a soloist. After five years with the Milwaukee Ballet, Melissa returned home, received her certification as a Pilates instructor, and currently works freelance with the Los Angeles Opera, Helios Dance Company, and His Grace Dance Ministry.



Hilde Byrne

Mrs. Byrne received her original training from the Norwegian Ballet Academy. She continued her training in Rome and Paris, going on to perform featured roles in *West Side Story*, *Cats*, and *A Chorus Line*. After arriving in the United States, she taught for several ballet schools and then opened her own school for five years. In 1995 she joined the LBBA faculty and instructs students in the Children's Division. She lives with her husband and two children in Lakewood.



CURRICULUM

The curriculum of the Long Beach Ballet Academy reflects the eclectic repertoire of a professional ballet company. Weighted heavily toward training of classical ballet technique, the school also hosts an internationally recognized Summer Program where other forms of dance are introduced, including jazz, African dance, and Russian and Chinese character dance.

BALLET TECHNIQUE

This is the foundation of all dance forms necessary for the linear and technical development of a dancer. Twelve levels of technical training span a child's first introduction to musical movement to and including the emergence of a professional dancer.

Pre-Ballet and Children's Division

For children from three years of age. Includes six levels of training in preparation for the Academy Division.

Academy Division

The Academy Division develops artistry, technique, stamina, and discipline. Pointe work is introduced in Level 4. Serious students are immersed in a professional atmosphere of high-level training in preparation for a professional career.

Teen and Adult Division

For teenagers and adults not pursuing a professional dance career, who nonetheless desire to begin or continue ballet training.

REQUIRED CLASSES

Each student is required to take a minimum number of classes per week depending on his or her level:

Pre-Ballet, Children's Levels 1, 2, & 3	1 class/wk
Academy Level 1	2 classes/wk
Academy Level 2	3 classes/wk
Academy Level 3	4 classes/wk
Academy Level 4	5 classes/wk
Academy Levels 5 & 6	5 technique classes/wk 2 pointe classes/wk



SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Annual Summer Pan-Pacific Ballet Tour to China

Each year students from across the country are selected to join the Long Beach Ballet on their annual six-week Summer Intensive that culminates with a two-week performance tour to China.

Junior Summer Program

A special annual summer program for younger students that features classes in ballet, character, jazz, folk dancing and hula, as well as arts and crafts, costuming, and stage make-up. This two-week program culminates with a performance on stage.

PERFORMING OPPORTUNITIES

Performance opportunities are available to all students age four and up. Each June, students perform in the **Annual School Performance** -- an elaborate two hour production featuring a full-scale story ballet plus exciting variations by Upper Division students. In December, the school produces David Wilcox's internationally acclaimed production of **The Nutcracker**. These performances are the culmination of countless hours in the classroom and is rewarding for students and family alike.



THE COMPANY

Advanced level students are eligible for selection to join the Long Beach Ballet, an internationally recognized, non-profit, pre-professional performing company. This select group of talented and dedicated students gains experience and understanding of what a professional ballet career involves, providing a bridge between classroom training and a professional career. Members work with an array of international talent, including choreographers, directors, and dancers. The Long Beach Ballet is an Honor Company of Regional Dance America and has official ties to the National Ballet of China in Guangzhou.