



Photo by Scott Featherman

## Pennsylvania Academy of Ballet and the *IN STEP* Presentation

### *Who We Are*

#### The School — PAB

The Pennsylvania Academy of Ballet (PAB) was established in 1974 to train students who wish to study the art of ballet and who also demand the very best dance training available. Academy founders, Margarita de Saá and John White, met as members of the Ballet Nacional de Cuba where they performed as Principal and Soloist dancers. Melinda Pendleton, their daughter, joined PAB's faculty after performing internationally. In 2013, she assumed the directorship of the school.

The highly trained staff of the Pennsylvania Academy of Ballet teaches the Vaganova method of classical ballet. The Vaganova curriculum emphasizes precise technique, musicality, proper body placement, and a carefully structured breakdown of each movement. Advanced students take daily classes and also have opportunities to perform throughout the year.



Photo by Chloë LePichon

#### The Society — PABS

Twelve years after opening the Pennsylvania Academy of Ballet, Margarita and John White established a non-profit organization. The *Pennsylvania Academy of Ballet Society (PABS)* was established in 1986 with the following mission:

- To educate the general public about the art of ballet and dance
- To foster an atmosphere to raise cultural awareness to the general public
- To provide performing opportunities for talented dance students
- To assist career-oriented dancers in finding professional artistic expression
- To promote professionalism and excellence in the art of classical dance



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### *What We Do*

#### Educational and Community outreach

To fulfill this mission, the *Society* has established and sponsors several programs and outreach performances. One of the most far-reaching programs is *IN STEP*. This is a lecture demonstration performance designed to expose the audience to the contemporary relevance of classical ballet. Presented by members of the professional teaching staff of the Pennsylvania Academy of Ballet and our students, *IN STEP* lets the audience experience the beauty and impact of classical ballet.

Through active engagement with the young dancers, including a lively Q & A, the audience gets an up-close and personal introduction to the everyday experiences, discipline, and training to become a professional dancer. It is also an invaluable performance opportunity for our dancers.

*IN STEP* was developed for girls and boys in elementary grades, but the program is adaptable for audiences of all ages. *IN STEP* is also available for seniors and special needs groups.

## Scheduling an *IN STEP* Presentation

Scheduling and hosting an *IN STEP* program is easy. *IN STEP* is a 40 minute assembly program.

We bring our own sound system for voice amplification and for recorded music. Whenever possible, we bring a pianist with us to provide live accompaniment for the dancers and to enhance the experience for the audience.

We also bring our own dance floor and barres so that we can present *IN STEP* almost anywhere. It does not have to be on a stage or in a dance studio. Any space big enough to allow for the dancers and the audience can host an *IN STEP* program.

To schedule a performance for your organization call 610-664-3455 or email [info@paacademyofballet.com](mailto:info@paacademyofballet.com).



## Funding *IN STEP*

*IN STEP* is paid for through corporate, foundation, and individual sponsorships so that we can present *IN STEP* to audiences of all economic backgrounds free of charge.

## Audiences

For nearly twenty years, we have been presenting *IN STEP* to numerous schools, senior homes, and special needs organizations. They include:

### Elementary schools

Penn Wynne Elementary School, Wynnewood  
St. Margaret School, Narberth  
St. Francis de Sales Elementary School, West Philadelphia  
Luis Muñoz-Marín School, North Philadelphia  
St. Hugh School, North Philadelphia  
Cornerstone Christian Academy, Philadelphia  
Edmonds Henry R. Elementary School, Philadelphia  
Our Mother of Sorrows School, Philadelphia  
Widener Partnership Charter School, Chester  
Chester Upland School for the Arts, Chester

### Senior Centers

Golden Slipper Senior Center, Philadelphia  
Main Line Reform Temple Senior Center, Wynnewood

### Specialized Organizations

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia  
Devereux Gateway School, Newtown Square  
Ronald McDonald House, Philadelphia  
Temple Beth Hillel, Wynnewood  
Chester County Home School Association, Chester

Our goal is to expand the *IN STEP* program's outreach to as many venues as possible .



29 North Narberth Avenue  
Narberth, PA 19072

(610) 664-3455

[www.PaAcademyofBallet.com](http://www.PaAcademyofBallet.com)  
[info@paacademyofballet.com](mailto:info@paacademyofballet.com)

