

## Faculty

**Anna du Boisson – Artistic Director and Year 8 ballet teacher:** Anna trained at Elmhurst Ballet School and Rambert Ballet School, going on to dance as a soloist for 15 years in major ballet companies. Anna has been teaching internationally for over 20 years and is a former rehearsal director of Ballet Rambert. She also trained the original boys for the musical 'Billy Elliot' and is the Director of the West London School of Dance. This after-school program was founded in 1986 and currently trains over 500 students. The school is renowned for its high standards and its students are to be found in many West End theatres and companies worldwide.

Together with her co-director, Kerry Williams, Anna formed the Young Dancers Academy in 2006. This full time vocational, academic school provides, as stated by Ofsted in 2013 and 2017 'Outstanding Education in all Areas'.

The Du Boisson Dance Foundation was founded by Anna in order to provide the training and financial support she was given as a young dancer. This help and support has given Anna the inspiration and drive to pass on these opportunities to future generations.

**Kerry Williams - Executive Director.** Kerry started dancing with Margaret Smith and Christine Peach in her home town of Portsmouth. She later went on to train at The Royal Ballet School and The Arts Educational School in London. After dancing professionally, Kerry founded and was Director of The Colour House Theatre School in Wimbledon. Students successfully gained roles in West End productions such as The Lion King, Thriller, Whistle Down the Wind and Les Miserable. Students also took roles in the Harry Potter films and Television shows such as The Bill and Holby City.

In 2006 Kerry co-founded the Young Dancers Academy with Anna du Boisson. This full-time vocational school provides, as stated by Ofsted in 2013 and 2017 'Outstanding Education in all areas'. She holds the position of Executive Director and leads the associate programme.

**Josephine Holling - Year 10 & 11 ballet teacher:** trained at White Lodge and the Royal Ballet Upper School before entering the Royal Ballet Company. During her time with the Royal Ballet Josephine toured America, the Middle East, Europe and the UK performing extensively in all the major classical ballets. She also performed in contemporary works such as Grosse Fugue and Septet Extra by Hans Van Manen and Balanchine's Allegro Brillante. Following her performing career Josephine re-trained initially as an RAD teacher and examiner, and now has over 30 years teaching experience. Her teaching posts include: Artist-in Education for Birmingham Royal Ballet; Senior Teacher for the Junior and Senior Associate Royal Ballet School programmes in Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester; Dance Director for the Dance School of Scotland, and daily class and repertoire teacher at English National Ballet School, and Millennium Performing Arts. Presently teaching at the Young Dancers Academy and West London School of Dance, Josephine is also on the examining panel for the Dance and Drama Scholarship Awards for Trinity College London.

**Megan Webster Shaw - Year 7 & 9 Ballet teacher:** started her ballet training at the West London School of Dance and continued her schooling at Arts Educational and The English National Ballet School where she was taught by Antonia Franchetti and Anthony Dowson.

After graduating she moved to Toronto to attend the Intensive Dance Apprentice Program at The National Ballet School of Canada taught by Lindsay Fischer as well as Deborah Hess and Peggy Baker. Megan joined the staff of The Young Dancers Academy in 2006 and completed her teacher training at the RAD the same year.

**Georgina McDermott Jazz, BTEC and ballet teacher** was originally born in East Yorkshire and moved to London at the age of 16 to train professionally at the Central School of Ballet. After graduating with a Diploma in Classical Ballet, Georgina worked with various English and European ballet companies performing principle roles in the ballets 'A Simple Man' (Gillian Lynn) and 'Flowers of the Forest' (David Bintley) as well as dancing soloist roles in such masterpieces as 'Swan Lake', 'The Nutcracker' and 'The Sleeping Beauty'. In 2005, Georgina danced in Anna Du Boisson's ballet of Peter Pan. After meeting Anna, she began to take more of an interest in teaching and here began her journey with the West London School of Dance. In 2007, Georgina became ballet coach to the lead roles of Billy Elliot and Mrs Wilkinson in the West End production of 'Billy Elliot'.

Georgina currently delivers BTEC in Performing Arts (*Dance Pathway*) at the Young Dancers Academy where she is also head of Jazz and Musical Theatre. Georgina is a ballet teacher and rehearsal director for the West London School of Dance and is Head of Dance at Dance Fusion Academy.

**Momo Satake Tap teacher Year 7:** trained at Millennium Dance 2000 under the direction of Ikky Maas, Jacki Mitchell and Donald McLennan. Graduating in 2003 completing 3 year Musical Theatre Diploma course. From 2005 – present Momo has performed and worked with the late Anthony Minghella and Carolyn Choa on their opera production of Madam Butterfly with the English National Opera since the original cast.

Momo joined the West London School of Dance team in 2007 first as an assistant and then as a teacher- gained her teaching qualification with the British Ballet Organisation 2011. She teaches all ages of ballet and the tap to both WLSD and YDA students.

**Cyrus Gabrysych – Pianist:** has been working in London for over 20 years as an accompanist for dance, and more recently as writer and director for film. He has worked for many dance companies and schools around the world including New York City Ballet, the Merce Cunningham Institute, the Martha Graham School, The Limone Institute and the Royal Ballet School. He currently works for the English National Ballet, Central School of Ballet and the Young Dancers Academy. Cyrus is also a resident accompanist at the BFI and accompanies silent film around the UK. He is a founder member of the Kennington Bioscope and the band "The Zizaniques".

**Chris Williams – Pianist:** started his career at the Arts Educational School in Chiswick. From there he spent some time working in Paris before being offered a position of rehearsal pianist at The Royal Ballet Upper School. He stayed there for 10 years. After this Chris worked as Head of Music at English National Ballet School, a position he held for 11 years. Since then he has worked as a freelance pianist working at such diverse places as The Royal Ballet Company, English National Ballet Company, The Royal Academy of Dance, Central School of Ballet, Urdang, Ballet Rambert School and company, Pineapple and Danceworks studios, and the Young Dancers Academy.