

SKIDMORE COLLEGE DANCE DEPARTMENT

DANCE FACULTY

DEBRA FERNANDEZ ~ Dance Department Chair

MARY DI SANTO ROSE

DENISE WARNER LIMOLI

RUBÉN GRACIANI

MARY HARNEY

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

DEBRA NICHOLS

DANCE THEATER

**LORI DAWSON ~ Technical Director, Lighting Designer &
Dance Theater Manager**

PETER KOBOR ~ Theater Supervisor

PART-TIME FACULTY

JULIE GEDALECIA * DEBRA PIGLIAVENTO

MEGHAN DELPRETE * TONI SMITH * SARAH DIPASQUALE

ISABEL BROWN

MUSICIANS

CARL LANDA ~ Musical Director

ADRIAN COHEN

PATRICIA HADFIELD

OLEG MOSTON

RECENT GUEST ARTISTS

KIRSTEN SIMONE ~ Former Prima Ballerina, Royal Danish Ballet

MARTINE VAN HAMEL ~ Former Principal Dancer, American Ballet Theatre

LORIN JOHNSON ~ Formerly San Francisco Ballet & American Ballet Theatre

SUMMER LEE RHATIGAN ~ Director, San Francisco Conservatory of Dance

**MIRANDA WEESE ~ Former Principal Dancer, New York City Ballet and
Pacific Northwest Ballet**

ROBERT BATTLE ~ Founder and Director, Battleworks Dance Company

ERICA PUJIK ~ Battleworks Dance Company

JEANNE BRESCIANI ~ Isadora Duncan International Institute

SHILA MEHTA ~ Indian Kathak Dancer & Choreographer

TAYLOR 2

PEARSONWIDRIG DANCETHEATER

DAVID GORDON PICK UP PERFORMANCE COMPANY

Dear Prospective Dancer,

Thank you for your interest in the Skidmore College Dance Department. We hope the following brief overview will help to answer some of your questions. We also invite you to visit our website where you can access information regarding class and performance schedules for the academic year, faculty bios and a photo/video gallery of dancers both past and present. Go to www.skidmore.edu and click on the A-Z Index in the upper right hand corner and then scroll down to Dance.

The Dance Department emphasizes serious technical training in ballet and modern as well as the creative inquiry that comes through compositional studies and historical research. We offer a B.S. in dance and a dance minor. Many of our dancers are also double majors with their second concentration in areas as diverse as business, exercise science, government or studio art, among others. The majority of our classes are open to majors and non-majors alike with student placement being determined by the instructor. Currently, we have over 500 students enrolled in technique and theory courses. There is a full list of courses offered in our prospective student packet.

A dancer at Skidmore can be a member of the corps de ballet or a soloist in *Swan Lake* by Petipa; a character dancer in the “Mazurka” from *Coppélia*; a performer in a reconstruction of the modern classic *Dances to Schubert* by Isadora Duncan; a participant in a multimedia event in the prestigious Tang Museum; or a dancer in original choreography by faculty members and guest artists such as Robert Battle and Summer Lee Rhatigan. The Choreography and Senior Capstone concerts provide even more performance opportunities for our dancers while independent studies and seminars allow advanced students to pursue individual interests in depth.

The Dance Department has two spacious 50' x 50' studios with newly installed Harlequin sprung floors and large windows, which infuse the spaces with natural light. The Dance Theater is an intimate 184-seat space used exclusively by our department. Throughout the year we present an array of performances by students and faculty, guest lecturers, and visiting artists. There are also 5 active dance clubs, “Terpsichore” (Ballet & Modern) “Stomp'n Soles” (Tap), “Rithmos” (Hip-Hop), “Irish Step” (Irish Dance) and “Swing Fever” (Social Dance).

The Dance Department has four full-time, and six part-time dance faculty, an artist-in-residence, four dance musicians, and a full-time technical director of the Dance Theater. Guest Artists are invited to choreograph, offer workshops, performances, and lectures throughout the year for the campus community and the general public. Our long and rich history of guest artists include Deborah Hay (Post-Modern), Kenneth Topping (Skidmore Alum and Graham Co.), Susan Griss (Dance Educator), Tina Baird (Jazz/Tap), Alexander Proia (New York City Ballet) and Odadaa (African). For the past twenty years Skidmore's Special Programs has hosted major dance residencies during the month of June. Dance luminaries such as The Jose Limón Company, Twyla Tharp, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company, Trisha Brown, Mark Morris, The Martha Graham Company and David Parsons are among others that have worked with students from all over the world along with many of our own Skidmore dancers.

The Skidmore Dance Department encourages individual growth and development supporting our graduates' ability to benefit from the diverse dance opportunities available today. Our alumni are members or directors of professional companies in New York City, Florida, New Hampshire, and California. Others have become dance therapists, arts administrators, dance company managers, designers, directors of international dance institutes, and teachers in the dance field. Please contact us if you would like to arrange a visit to take a class, observe a rehearsal or just chat with one of us. We look forward to meeting you!

Warm wishes,

Debra J. Fernandez

Professor & Chair of the Dance Department
518-580-5377
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Dance Department Courses

<p>Technique Courses Ballet I - IV (Elementary to Advanced Pointe) Modern Dance I - IV (Elementary to Advanced) Modern Partnering</p> <p>Workshop/Production Courses Ballet Workshop Modern Dance Workshop Contemporary Workshop Jazz/ Theater Workshop Rhythm Tap Workshop</p> <p>Western Dance Forms Pointe I & II Character I & II Jazz I & II Pilates I & II Tap I & II</p> <p>Theory Courses Improvisation I & II Choreography I & II Introduction to Dance History Literature and Repertory African American Dance History</p>	<p>Theory Courses (Cont.) Major Periods in Dance History Special Studies in Dance Theory and Appreciation Ballet Theory & Pedagogy Dance for the Child Performance Elements Dance Production Music for Dancers/Choreographers World Music & Dance: Survey Professional Internship in Dance Independent Study Senior Dance Capstone</p> <p>Non-Western Dance Forms Bharata Natyam I & II (South Indian Classical Dance) Kathak (North India Classical Dance) African Dance I & II Yoga</p>
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SKIDMORE COLLEGE
FULL- TIME DANCE FACULTY AND STAFF

Debra Fernandez: Professor of Dance and Chair of the Dance Department –moved from New York City to Saratoga Springs in 1991 to join the Skidmore faculty. She received her B.A. from the University of South Florida where she studied with Haydee Gutierrez, Royes Fernandez and Chase Robinson. She teaches Ballet III, Performance Elements, and Choreography I and II. She also teaches Ballet Contemporary Workshop, a course in which new and original choreography is developed on students. Debra's professional choreography, which spans dance, theater, and opera, has been performed by The Virginia Opera Company, The Williamstown Theater Festival, maddog Theater Company and has been seen in numerous New York venues, including the Obie award winning space, **five myles**. She has choreographed and directed four evening length dance/theater pieces for the Tang Museum and has collaborated often with the Skidmore Theater Dept. She is a panelist for The New York State Council for the Arts and is on the Board of Directors for Saratoga City Ballet. She is a long time yoga practitioner and leads workshops throughout the capital region.

Mary DiSanto-Rose: Associate Professor joined the Skidmore faculty in 1981. She earned her M.Ed. and Ed.D. in dance from Temple University. She serves on the Board of the NYS Council on the Arts Dance Panel, NYS Dance Education Association, Capital/Saratoga Dance Alliance, and Partners in Dance. She has been a guest lecturer at the National Museum of Dance, The Egg Theater in Albany, and Skidmore Summer Seminars. She performed with the Sybil Dance Company of Philadelphia and with Albany area dance companies. She has collaborated with visual artists and composers to create integrated performance pieces for art galleries. She currently performs as a guest artist with the Isadora Duncan International Institute Dancers of NYC and toured with them in Greece. In June 2005 she participated in the First Symposium to Reinstiate the Delphic Games: Festival of Delphic Arts in Delphi, Greece. She has re-staged classic modern dance works by Doris Humphrey, Charles Weidman, Sophie Maslow, Pearl Primus, Donald McKayle, and Isadora Duncan. Professor DiSanto-Rose currently teaches Improvisation, Modern Technique, Modern Reconstruction Workshop, Dance for the Child, Senior Dance Capstone, as well as, a First-Year Scribner Seminar-Human Dilemmas.

Denise Warner Limoli: Associate Professor-joined the Skidmore faculty in 1992. She was a featured dancer with American Ballet Theatre, dancing the full range of ABT's classical and contemporary repertoire. For ten years she performed at Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, and toured to major cities throughout the USA and abroad; she was a regular company teacher and assistant to the ballet masters. Prior to coming to Skidmore, she was ballet faculty at the University of Cincinnati, College/Conservatory of Music and at the North Carolina School of the Arts. For over thirty years, she has been Senior Ballet Master and Artistic Advisor of the Nutmeg Ballet. She teaches regularly for the ABT Summer Intensive Program and the American Ballet Intensives (ABI). Professor Limoli specializes in the classical repertoire and teaches all levels of Ballet Technique, Ballet Workshop, Pointe, Men's Technique/Pas de Deux, Character Dance, and Ballet Pedagogy. Denise serves as a member of the Board of Directors and as Chair of the Nominating Committee for the National Museum of Dance.

Rubén Graciani: Assistant Professor of Dance, joined Skidmore College in 2008. He graduated from the North Carolina School of the Arts where he majored in Modern Dance. After receiving his high school degree, Mr. Graciani was awarded a scholarship to attend the Julliard School in New York City where he also studied on scholarship with several major New York dance companies including the Martha Graham Company and the Merce Cunningham Dance Company. Rubén completed his studies at the State University of New York-Purchase College, receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance. After graduation, Rubén was invited to join the Mark Morris Dance Group. His five-year affiliation with the company resulted in national and international tours. Rubén received his M.F.A. from the University of Maryland-College Park where he presented nine works of choreography for the Maryland Dance Ensemble. In September of 2005 he joined the faculty at Ohio University as an Assistant Professor. In addition to his work at Ohio University, Rubén was been a member of the Joe Goode Performance Group for the two seasons 2005-2007. He has performed as a Guest Artist with the Brian Brooks Moving Company and CityDance Ensemble among others. He joined Company Stefanie Batten Bland, a Paris based Modern Dance Company, in 2008. His choreographic work has been presented by Arts for Ohio, the Delaware Shore Project for the Arts, and numerous festivals in the US.

Mary Harney: Visiting-Artist-in-Residence - joined the Skidmore faculty in 2000. She earned a B.F.A. from the S.U.N.Y College at Purchase Conservatory of Dance. While there she performed with the Purchase Dance Repertory Company and the Martha Graham Dance Company. She has devoted her career to teaching, choreographing, and working in the capacity of rehearsal director for regional ballet companies. She has been a member of the dance faculty at Union College and has taught in the Modern Dance program for the New York State Summer School of the Arts. She has taught extensively at independent dance schools in the New York City Metropolitan area as well as the Capital District and has promoted dance in public schools through conducting master classes and workshops. Her choreography has been presented at several Capital District venues, most recently, at The Egg as part of the gubernatorial inauguration festivities for Eliot Spitzer. An active member of the dance community, Mary serves on the Board of Directors of the Capital Region Dance Alliance. Since joining the faculty at Skidmore, she has created over a dozen new works. She teaches all levels of Modern-Contemporary Dance, Modern Workshop, Choreography and Sr. Dance Capstone.

Lori Dawson: Technical Director, Lighting Designer and Manager of the Dance Center joined the Skidmore faculty in 1998. She earned her MFA from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She freelanced as a lighting designer in NYC for ten years and had the pleasure of designing for such noted choreographers as Vicky Schick, Shelly Lee and Gus Solomons Jr. She served as Lighting Director of the Red Parrot Cabaret designing for a wide array of musical performers including Cab Colloway and Tito Puente. While serving as the resident Lighting Designer for Dance Theatre Workshop (DTW), she designed the lighting for three Obie award winning shows: Janie Geiser's Stories from Here, Dan Hurlin's A Cool Million, and Paul Zaloom's House of Horrors. Locally, Lori has designed for the Saratoga City Ballet, Ellen Sinopoli Dance Company and HMT. Lori teaches Dance Production, designs the dance concerts for the Dance Department, maintains the facility and manages the operations of the Dance Center utilizing a student crew.

Carl Landa: Musical Director of Dance-joined the Skidmore faculty as a Department Assistant in 2000. He has a B.A. (Music) from Bennington College. He is a pianist, percussionist, composer, and electronic musician. He has been commissioned to compose many scores for dance and video projects and composes for and performs with his own ensemble and has released several CD's of original recordings. Carl has worked as a Dance Musician at five of the major dance schools in NYC-the Martha Graham School, the Merce Cunningham Studio, the Jose Limón Institute, the Julliard School and Purchase College. He accompanies and composes for the Modern-Contemporary Dance Technique, Tap, Jazz, Improvisation, and Choreography classes and teaches the Music for Dancers/Choreographers class at Skidmore.