

dancEscapes Choreographers 2015



Amy Cain was born in Jacksonville, Florida and grew up in The Woodlands/Spring area of Texas. Her 30+ years of dance training include working with various instructors and choreographers nationwide and abroad. She has also been coached privately and been inspired for most of her dance career by Ken McCulloch, co-owner of NHPA™. Amy is in her 22nd year of partnership in directing NHPA™, named one of the “Top 50 Studios On the Move” by Dance Teacher Magazine in 2006, and has also been co-director of *Revolve Dance Company* for 10 years. She also shares her teaching experience as a jazz instructor for the upper level students at Houston Ballet Academy. Amy has danced professionally with *Ad Deum*, DWDT, and Amy Ell’s Vault, and her choreographic works have been presented in Italy, Mexico, and at many Houston area events. In June 2014 Amy’s piece “Angsters”, performed by *Revolve Dance Company*, was presented as a short film produced by Gothic South Productions at the Dance Camera West Festival in L.A. where it received the “Audience Favorite” award. This fall “Angsters” will be screened on Opening Night at the San Francisco Dance Film Festival in California, and on the first screening weekend at the Sans Souci Festival of Dance Cinema in Boulder, Colorado.

Dawn Dippel (co-owner) has been dancing most of her life and is now co-owner of NHPA™, co-Director and founding member of *Revolve Dance Company*, and a former member of the *Dominic Walsh Dance Theatre*. She grew up in the Houston area, graduated from Houston’s High School for the Performing & Visual Arts Dance Department, and since then has been training in and outside of Houston. Dawn’s works for *Revolve Dance Company* have been showcased at many of Houston’s various local events including Dance Houston, Texas Weekend of Contemporary Dance, Triple Focus, Choreographers X 6, and Dance of Asian America. In 2008 *Revolve Dance Company* received an artistic achievement award from Dance Houston for her work. Dawn has performed leading roles in works by Dominic Walsh including Aurora in *Sleeping Beauty*, *Love Intr-fear*, *Dolcemente*, *Amadeus*, and *Titus*. She also had the opportunity to perform the U.S. premiere of Mauro Bigonzeti’s acclaimed *Pression*, and work with international choreographers Michele Merola & Gustavo Ramirez Sansano while a member of DWDT. In the January 2008 issue of Dance Magazine she was named as one of “25 to Watch” for up and coming artists across the country, and was recently named one of Houston’s 100 Creatives by the Houston Press. Dawn has spent many years working beside many talented & professional artists who have been an influence and inspiration in her journey of this art.

Melody Mennite, a principal dancer with Houston Ballet, is a native of Santa Cruz, California, Melody trained at Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre under Robert Kelley and Diane McLarty and at *Pacific Northwest Ballet*. She also attended summer intensive programs with Suzanne Farrell. At the age of 13, Ms. Mennite began her training with *Houston Ballet’s* Ben Stevenson Academy and also attended three consecutive summer intensive programs with the academy. In the 2000-2001 season, she spent one year in *Houston Ballet II* on full scholarship and stipend. Ms. Mennite also won a scholarship award from Regional Dance America in 2000. She was invited to tour with *Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre* through Tanzsommer, Austria. Prior to joining *Houston Ballet*, she performed numerous leading roles with *Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre*: the Sugar Plum Fairy and Snow Queen in *The Nutcracker*; Kitri in *Don Quixote* and Odette in *Swan Lake*. She has performed a number of featured roles with Houston Ballet including: Olga and Tatiana in John Cranko’s *Onegin*, Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*, Neopolitan Princess in Stanton Welch’s *Swan Lake*, the Spring Fairy in Ben Stevenson’s *Cinderella*, Swanilda and Dawn in *Coppelia*, Valencienne in *The Merry Widow*, Cio-Cio San and Kate in *Madame Butterfly*, and Cinderella in Stanton Welch’s *Cinderella*. Ms. Mennite has also been featured in many contemporary roles. She frequently appears as a guest artist in galas and with companies nationally and internationally. Also performs in Seattle with *Whim W’Him*, where she originated roles in *Cylindrical Shadows* by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa and *Monster* by Olivier Wevers.

Miguel Perez started dancing at the age of 18 at the University of Arizona. Upon graduation, he went on to dance for *River North Dance Company* and *Hubbard Street 2* in Chicago. His transition from concert to commercial dance led him to Las Vegas where he performed in Celine Dion’s “A New Day” and Shania Twain’s “Still The One” in addition to various modeling print work, two commercials for McDonald’s and the “What Happens in Vegas, Stays in Vegas” marketing campaign. His many achievements include performing in Celine Dion’s world tour “Taking Chances” as dance captain, filming commercials for Acura with choreographer Ryan Heffington and various workout videos for Hip Hop Abs. His appearances include *Dancing with the Stars* with Leona Lewis, *America’s Got Talent*, *Miss USA*, *Miss Universe*, *Viva Elvis*, *So You Think You Can Dance*, and the film *Behind The Candelabra*. He has danced with the *BODYTRAFFIC Dance Company* for six years and recently performed at the *2015 Academy Awards*, the *2015 MTV Video Music Awards* with Taylor Swift and the motion picture *TED 2*.

Mario Alberto Zambrano was a contemporary ballet dancer before writing fiction. He has lived in Israel, The Netherlands, Germany, Spain, and Japan, and has danced for *Hubbard Street Dance Chicago*, *Nederlands Dans Theater*, *Ballet Frankfurt*, and *Batsheva Dance Company*. He graduated from The New School as a Riggio Honors Fellow and the Iowa Writers’ Workshop as an Iowa Arts Fellow, where he also received a John C. Schupes Fellowship for Excellence in Fiction. *Loteria*, his first novel, was a Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writer pick for Fall 2013. As a dancer he has worked personally with Twyla Tharp, William Forsythe, Jiri Jylian, Ohad Naharin, among others. Currently, he’s living in Houston working on a new novel.