

VON HEIDECKE'S DANCE CENTER



Snow Corps, *Nutcracker 2010*

Meet Our Faculty

Leslie Colwell grew up in Chicago and has been dancing since the age of three. Feeling fortunate to have been selected and mentored by Mr. von Heidecke, she has also studied under David Howard & Patrick Chen. Along with creating the Elwood Dance Program, Ms. Leslie has danced at Rast Ballet, Nicole Gifford Dance, Lou Conte Dance Chicago, and Xtreme Dance. Her performance opportunities have included several full length ballets yet she has also performed for Coca-Cola, the 1996 Olympic pre-ceremonies, World Music Theater's D.A.R.E. Fest Persuasion (performer and co-choreographer). Additionally, she has appeared in television commercials and print ads, holds a degree in science, and assists Minooka school district 201 in math and reading. She completed her teacher training program in 1996 and is the happy mother of two children.

Barbara Curran started ballet training at age eight in Chicago where she grew up. She holds a dance and both R. N. & N.P. nursing degrees graduating Magna Cum Laude from Purdue University. Professional credits include musical theater, modeling, Mary Kay winner, TV and major film extra roles. She has over 30 years of teaching ballet, jazz, and tap along with choreographing precision drill teams, ice shows and programs for competitive USFSA skaters and was nominated in 2001 for outstanding dance teacher for her choreography work with children in

Palos Heights, IL. She is thrilled to work for the best and most exquisite ballet master in the world Kenneth von Heidecke. Her caring and energetic spirit for teaching children dance is her passion in life.

Kim Hanna has 20 years of experience teaching dance to all ages and a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. She has been trained in classical ballet, jazz, hip hop, modern, and tap. She studied dance at Columbia College under the direction of Shirley Mordine, Lou Conte Dance Studio, Giordano Dance Studio, Xtreme Dance Center, Nicole Gifford Dance classes, and American Dance Center Teacher Training Program. As Artistic Director of Allegro Music and Dance, Kim headed up performances, recitals, training teachers, musical theater and dance camps, and choreography. She also helped to form Persuasion Dance for D.A.R.E. Fest at the former World Music Theater. As a dancer, she has performed for companies such as Coca Cola, Borden Dairy, Excalibur, DJ. International Records, D.A.R.E., Illinois State Building and modeled for Westfield Shopping Centers, John Casablanca, and Jean Marie Salon. Students under her direction and choreography have won awards such as Miss Illinois and first place in talent competitions. Kim has also worked as a 3rd and 4th grade teacher for Homer School District 33C.



VON HEIDECKE'S DANCE CENTER

Founder & Director
Kenneth von Heidecke
Artistic Honorary Advisor
Maria Tallchief
Studio Manager
Timothy Cremeens

Home of the Chicago Festival Ballet



Founded in 1990 to serve as a Professional Training Center.

Founder & Director Kenneth von Heidecke



Kenneth von Heidecke is founder & director of the Von Heidecke Dance Center. He is also a renowned choreographer for opera and ballet companies around the world. As a young dancer, he danced throughout Europe and the US. In 1975, he was hand chosen by the legendary Prima Ballerina Assoluta Maria Tallchief to

appear in the world premier of George Balanchine's *Orfeo ed Euridice*.

Here in Chicago, he has choreographed more productions for the Lyric Opera of Chicago than any choreographer in its history, recent productions of *Samson & Delilah*, *Carmen* and *La Gioconda* to name a few. His work has been seen at Alaska Dance Theatre, Scotland's Edinburgh Festival, Washington DC's Kennedy Center, Los Angeles Music Center, New York City's Lincoln Center, Dallas Opera, San Francisco Opera, San Diego Opera, Ballet Nacional de Panama, Germany's Badisches Staatstheater and countless others.

In 1989 he opened the doors to his school of ballet in Naperville, IL. Among his many students who have gone on to major careers is the *Gold Medalist*, Evan Lysacek.

In 1996, Von Heidecke was choreographer to the *U.S. Olympic Gymnastics Team*. In 2008, he was invited to choreograph *The Merry Widow* for the English National Opera in London but was already obligated under contract for *Aida* in the US. Mr. von Heidecke's works have been featured on WTTW's *Chicago Tonight* news program, WTTW's "Arts Across Illinois" entertainment special, PBS' "Making of an Opera" and a PBS documentary on Maria Tallchief's life. In 2008 he was inducted into the Fox Valley Hall of Fame. He has made numerous appearances on ABC, WGN, NBC, etc., and film maker and composer, Stuart Meyer is currently filming a documentary on his life and career. Next season, he will choreograph *Aida* for the Lyric Opera of Chicago. He is also scheduled to choreograph *Sampson & Delila* again in 2012 for San Diego Opera.

A Message from Maria Tallchief

Dear Students and Parents,

It is with great pleasure I serve Kenneth von Heidecke's School of Ballet as Artistic Advisor.

The aesthetically artistic and physically technical fundamentals of ballet are traditionally taught and handed down through the generations. Through the genius of choreographer, George Balanchine, the equivalent of a 20th century Mozart among choreographers, I was coached and taught to perform as a Prima Ballerina. Kenneth was taught these principles directly from me.

Similar to a family tree, it is of the utmost importance to study and learn from a teacher with such lineage. Additionally, it is a wonderful opportunity for a student to study under a choreographer whose work is seen internationally throughout the United States and Europe.

Sincerely,



Artistic Honorary Advisor Maria Tallchief

Universally known as America's Prima Ballerina, she is among six women in the history of ballet to have received the title "Prima Ballerina Assoluta." Miss Tallchief is listed in the encyclopedia and is the topic of many books. She was also recently the recipient of the Kennedy Center Awards for the Arts in 1998 and the Presidential Award in 1999.

Naperville School

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In the October 2000 issue of the international publication *Dance Spirit of NY*, our school is listed as 1 of the 4 best ballet schools in the entire Chicago metro area.

Philosophy and Methods

Many select a dance studio by geographical convenience, never bothering to check the credentials of the director or the faculty.

Today there is an athletic science behind the movement of dance and it is imperative to learn its exactness. Various techniques which were superior at the turn of the century are now quite outdated by today's standards. As exemplified through the Olympics, the physical achievements of man have evolved at an accelerated rate over the past half century. Greatly due to Balanchine's genius, 20th century ballet technique has reached higher limits as well. The strength of the Russian Vaganova technique, combined with the allegro nature of the lyrical Paris Opera technique, is what is known today as the Balanchine technique.

At Von Heidecke's Dance Center, professional backgrounds, meticulous attention, and methodical analysis of these principles help to enable serious students to achieve their highest potential.

Von Heidecke's Dance Center has produced professional dancers for Lyric Opera Ballet at Chicago's Civic Opera House and numerous other professional companies. One former student received her training and first partnering opportunities here before joining New York's American Ballet Theater. She recently was featured in a dancing role in the movie *Center Stage*.

Student Opportunities

Von Heidecke's Dance Center has a variety of elite alumni including Figure Skating Gold Medalist, Evan Lysacek. Numerous other students of Mr. von Heidecke have gone on to careers with many of the most prestigious companies in the world including the Joffrey, American Ballet Theatre, Ballet Magnificat, Broadway's *Phantom of the Opera*, Hollywood film *Center Stage* and many more.

In addition to offering multiple disciplines of the dance, we offer performance opportunities at multiple levels from the youngest to the most advanced professional dancer. The youngest students have the option of performing on stage in the school's annual summer workshop performance, which features all levels of the school. Advanced students are offered the opportunity of joining the annual tour of the Chicago Festival Ballet's *Nutcracker*.

The aim of the workshop performance is geared toward demonstrating the students' achievements. The program displays the various academic levels of all dance forms offered currently at the Von Heidecke Dance Center. Additionally, students 7 years of age and older are welcome to audition for roles in the Von Heidecke Chicago Festival Ballet's annual production of the *Nutcracker*, which was and continues to be performed both locally and on tour throughout the United States since 1990. Younger students perform the local performances at the Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet, Illinois and the McAninch Arts Center at the College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

We are especially proud that Von Heidecke's productions of the *Nutcracker* and *Cinderella* are featured as professional productions. No other school can claim this status. The production is so well received that in 1997, the Mayor of Miami Beach presented the Key to the City on stage at the Jackie Gleason Center for the Performing Arts to Mr. von Heidecke after a performance of his version of the *Nutcracker*.



"Polished, mature *Nutcracker* dazzles..."

— Copley Newspaper

Curricula

Von Heidecke's Dance Center offers classes in the following areas:

Ballet	Yoga
Pointe	Ballroom
Hip Hop	Mommie & Me

PRE-BALLET



The demanding and regimented nature of true classical ballet prior to the age of seven is detrimental to the physical development of a child. Training students between the ages of three to six is known as pre-ballet. The school's pre-ballet program is divided into three levels determined by age. Basic skills will be focused on for the development of musicality, rhythm, memorization and coordination. Exercises of a light aerobic nature, combined with fun, will help to develop and prepare the student for the necessary rudiments of classical ballet training.

Pre-Ballet 1 (PB1)	3 year-olds
Pre-Ballet 2 (PB2)	4 year-olds
Pre-Ballet 3 (PB3)	5 to 6 year-olds

CLASS PLACEMENT & STUDENT EVALUATION

Class placement is determined by faculty evaluation. Placement auditions are required for levels B, C, D and E. No auditions are necessary for PB1, PB2, PB3 and A. *Evaluations are made every term. Students and parents will be notified upon a student's promotion.*

STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO WEAR:

Sweat shirts
Sweat pants
Baggy t-shirts
Multi-colored leotards
Jewelry (rings, bracelets, necklaces, large earrings)

NO GUM CHEWING ON THE PREMISES

LEVEL REQUIREMENTS

Students must fulfill the minimum hours required associated with their placement level. Students unable to comply with the hours required for their level must enroll in a level in which the requirements are fulfilled. Anyone wishing to take a higher level without fulfilling their requirements not only creates vulnerability to injury but will not progress with that particular level.

TECHNIQUE REQUIREMENTS

A I & II	1 x per week (ages 7-9)
B I	2 x per week
B II	3 x per week
C I	3 x per week
C II	4 x per week
D	5 x per week
E	6 x per week

POINTE I REQUIREMENTS

CII	Pointe	3 x 1/2 hour class per week
D	Pointe II	3 x 1 hour class per week
E	Pointe III	4 x 1 hour class per week

STAGECRAFT STUDIES

Stagecraft Studies include theory, mime, video, stage make-up, and music appreciation.

FEES

The school year begins with Term I and ends with the summer Term. A \$25 annual fee is required of students registering any time within the school's year. Tuition must be paid within the first week of the current term. **A late fee of \$20 will be charged by the third week for overdue tuition.**

DANCE ATTIRE

Color code sequences are assigned to each individual level from Pre-Ballet through Level E. Check with the school's receptionist for the color leotard assigned for a specific class.

ABSENCES AND MAKE-UP CLASSES

If a student misses a class due to illness, or other serious reasons, the student may take a make-up class. Make-up classes must be taken within the term enrolled. Credits or refunds are issued for serious illness or injury and must be verified by a doctor's note. **Students failing to attend class are not eligible for refunds.**

RAVES!

"...the scenery, costumes and lighting were elaborate." — *Chronicle Journal*

"Outstanding" — *the Greenwich Pendulum*