

## Maria Vegh



Ms. Vegh has enjoyed a long and distinguished career in the world of ballet. Born in Pennsylvania, she moved to New York after high school with a scholarship (vocal) to the Juilliard School, where she was first introduced to ballet; it became an instant passion. Intensive studies followed at the National Academy of Ballet; four years later, she became a soloist for Ballet Repertory of New York and a principal with the Royal Ponciana Theatre. She was soon drawn to the world of teaching, first at the National Ballet of New York, then the Harkness House for Ballet Arts where, appointed co-director (with David Howard), she remained for a decade. During this remarkable period, the innovative program designed by Ms. Vegh, Mr. Howard and their associates at Harkness produced literally hundreds of professional dancers whose influence continues to be seen throughout the ballet world. Appointed artistic director of Marin Ballet in 1976, several dozen young dancers, trained under her direction, moved into professional careers. Ms. Vegh still has former students currently dancing, or teaching for, major companies throughout the United States and Europe, including Ms. Joanna Berman, recently-retired principal ballerina at San Francisco Ballet.

For the past fifteen years, Ms. Vegh has directed the Maria Vegh Ballet Centre, where she works primarily with young dancers aspiring to a career in dance. Additionally, she travels regularly as a guest master teacher, both in the U.S. and abroad; she has been invited for the last thirteen years to a number of schools in Japan and recently guest-taught in Peru.

Significant highlights of Ms. Vegh's illustrious career:

- Guest-teacher for nearly fifty colleges and universities
- Guest-teacher for an equal number of ballet schools and summer programs
- Conducted teacher training seminars in a large variety of settings

- Authored ***TO DANCE***, a teachers instructional syllabus for the training of students
- Produced a series of video tapes entitled ***Sculpting the Ballet Body***
- Created a video for teachers, ***Introducing Ballet to Children***, (which led to a feature article in Dance Teacher Magazine, and to a presentation at Dance Teacher Magazine's annual teacher's conference in NYC, 2005)
- Member, National Advisory Committee of Regional Dance America

"You are a godsend to the ballet world!"

Tina LeBlanc, Principal Ballerina, San Francisco Ballet

"Ms. Vegh is, simply put, the best teacher I have ever...experienced."

Cynthia Bronner, Director, University of Louisville, and  
former National Vice President, Regional Dance America