

KRISTIN BENJAMIN

Instructor



Kristin Benjamin has over thirty years teaching experience throughout the L.A. area and as director of the Lawrence School of Ballet, Lawrence, KS. Her students have gone on to dance on Broadway and with ballet and modern dance companies throughout the U.S. She taught and produced Dance in Flight at Pepperdine University, Malibu, and taught ballet, modern and dance composition at the University of Kansas.

Kristin is founder and former artistic director of the Kaw Valley Dance Theater, Lawrence, KS, where she choreographed and produced “The Nutcracker” with orchestra and actors, and produced two major concerts each season, collaborating with musicians, composers and visual artists. Her company received numerous grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. Her work has been showcased for such diverse programs as the American Music Symposium, M-TV, Musing in Museums, Nebraska Educational TV and liturgical dance. She was the first American invited to the British Arts Festival in London to present her choreography, set on advanced students from Simi Valley’s Dance Unlimited. She has conducted dance workshops for school children, coached athletes, body builders, singers and actors and has worked with students with physical disabilities, with blind and with deaf dancers.

Kristin trained with Tomi Wortham (NYCB), Elizabeth Sherbon (Martha Graham Co.), Tatiana Dokoudovska (Ballet Russe) and the renowned teacher, Finis Jhung. She holds a bachelor of science degree from the University of Kansas with graduate studies in kinesiology. She earned her Pilates instructor certification through master teachers Diane Severino and Carol Monaco who trained and worked with Ron Fletcher, a protege of Joseph Pilates.

Favorite roles Kristin has danced include Sugarplum Fairy, Bluebird pas de deux, Phaedre, Leyenda, Aria from Holberg Suite and Don Quixote pas de deux. As a dancer in New York City she performed in “Song of Norway,” with the Light Opera of Manhattan and two modern dance companies, Jacob’s Ladder and Edith Stephen Dance.