

Iain Webb

Born in Yorkshire, England, Iain started ballet at the age of 14 and moved to London at 16, where he trained for two years with The Rambert School of Ballet, a year at The Royal Ballet School and a further year as an apprentice with The Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet where he was offered a full time position. His main principal repertoire included Ashton's *The Dream*, *The Two Pigeons*, *La Fille mal Gardee* (Colas & Alain), Bintleys *The Snow Queen*, Fokine's *Les Sylphides* and *Petrushka*, Balanchine's *The Prodigal Son*, van Manen's *Five Tangos*, *Coppelia* and *Swan Lake*.

In 1989 he transferred to The Royal Ballet, Covent Garden, to perform character roles which included Bottom in Ashton's *The Dream*, The Small Sister, Dancing Master & Napoleon in *Cinderella*, and Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle and Pigling Bland in *Tales of Beatrix Potter*, MacMillan's *The Doctor in Different Drummer* and a Client in *Manon* and *Sancho Panza* in Baryshnikov's production of *Don Quixote*. In 1996, Webb retired from The Royal Ballet, but was invited back as a guest artist to give three farewell performances at Covent Garden as the Small



Sister in Ashton's *Cinderella*. After retiring as a dancer, he was invited by Matthew Bourne to be Rehearsal Director for The West End, L.A. and Broadway seasons of *Swan Lake* and continued to work with Bourne on his production of *Cinderella*.

In 1999, Webb was asked by Tetsuya Kumakawa to join his newly formed K-Ballet Company in Japan as Ballet Master and two years later was appointed Assistant Director. During this time he also worked with many international stars including Adam Cooper, with whom he co-directed *The Adam Cooper Company* and organized their tour to The Kennedy Center. Likewise, he co-produced with Johan Kobborg the London performances of *Out of Denmark* and staged Roland Petit's *Carmen Pas*

de Deux for Alessandra Ferri & Julio Bocca for American Ballet Theatre's 65th Anniversary Gala. Throughout Iain's career he has produced and directed many international performances which included presenting dancers from Royal Danish Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, New York City Ballet and Stuttgart Ballet to name a few. He has been guest teacher for White Oak Project, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Rambert Dance Company, as well as teaching master classes and workshops for all the major ballet schools in England.

In July 2007, Webb took over the directorship of The Sarasota Ballet and during the last four seasons the company has performed 102 ballets & divertissements which include 16 world premieres, 55 Sarasota premieres, 4 new productions and 27 American premieres. These include ballets by: Ashton, de Valois', MacMillan, Balanchine, Cranko, Tudor, van Manen, Bourne, Wheeldon, Tharp and Tuckett. Under Webb's direction the company has received critical acclaim in The New York Times, The New York Financial Times, Sarasota Herald Tribune, St. Petersburg Times, Orlando Sentinel, Dancing Times (London); He has developed a stronger financial foundation for the company, was selected to serve on the National Endowment for the Arts Dance Panel and recently signed a contract extending his tenure six more years.

Margaret Barbieri

Born in South Africa of Italian parents, Margaret Barbieri moved to England to study at the Royal Ballet School before joining the Royal Ballet Touring Company (now Birmingham Royal Ballet) in 1965, becoming a Principal Dancer in 1970. During a highly successful 25-year dancing career, she danced most of the leading roles (Sleeping Beauty, Swan Lake, Coppelia, Romeo & Juliet, La Fille mal Gardee,



Taming of the Shrew and The Two Pigeons), although it was her major impact in the title role of Giselle, at the age of 21 that first established her special reputation as a Romantic ballerina. In 1973 she was invited to dance Giselle at the Deutsche Oper in Berlin and received high praise from the press and audience alike, a triumph which she repeated in 1974 when she returned to her native South Africa to dance the role in Durban. She replaced an

indisposed Natalia Makarova at short notice in the same role for Norwegian National Ballet and made many guest appearances with companies internationally in Giselle, Swan Lake, Coppelia and Cinderella.

Miss Barbieri worked closely with most of the great masters of the 20th Century, including Ashton, MacMillan, de Valois, Cranko, Tudor, Nureyev and van Manen and roles were created on her by Sir Frederick Ashton, Sir Peter Wright, Anthony Tudor, David Bintley, Michael Corder, Ronald Hynd and Joe Layton. Many of her best-known roles were televised, including Swanhilda (Coppelia), Black Queen (Checkmate), The Mother (Bintley's Metamorphosis), Young Girl (Spectre de la Rose) and van Manen's Grosse Fuge. With David Ashmole, she was featured in BBC TV's Ballet Masterclass series, given by Dame Alicia Markova, who later coached her in Pavlova's The Dying Swan and The Dragonfly.

Miss Barbieri retired from the Royal Ballet in 1990 to become Director of the new Classical Graduate Programme at London Studio Centre and Artistic Director of the annual touring company Images of Dance, and she was instrumental in devising the Classical Ballet Course for the BA Honours degree. She has also found time to teach at Birmingham Royal Ballet Company and the English National and Royal Ballet Schools, serving on the Royal Ballet's Board of Governors from 1994 to 2000 and participating as an External Assessor for the Arts Council of England from 1995 to 2001.

Her staging credits include Swan Lake Act II, The Fantasy Garden from Le Corsaire, Kingdom of the Shades from La Bayadere for Imaged of Dance, Company, Nureyev's production of Raymonda Act III for K Ballet, Japan, Ashton's Facade for Scottish Ballet, K Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theatre, The Two Pigeons for K Ballet, State Ballet Theatre of Georgia and The Sarasota Ballet. During the last four years, she also has staged for The Sarasota ballet Wright's production of Giselle, Ashton's Facade, Les Patineurs and Les Rendezvous, de Valois' The Rakes Progress, and Checkmate, Cranko's Pineapple Poll, Wheeldon's There Where She Loves and The American, Darrell's Othello, Bourne's Boutique, Bintley's Scottish Dances, Layton's The Grand Tour, Fokine's Les Sylphides and Samsova's production of Paquita.

Miss Barbieri has judged at many International Ballet Competitions and during her dancing career performed all over the world. In April 2010 she was awarded Distinction by the University of the Arts, London, for her Post Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning.