



## South Island Ballet Award Adjudicators



### **Diana Shand** **ARAD**

Napier born, Diana Shand began dancing at about the age of two with her dance teacher mother and has been onstage or involved in theatre her entire life.

In 1985 she was awarded a scholarship to study at the Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne under the directorship of Anne Woolliams. While at the College she danced with the Victorian Arts Dance Company, travelling with them to perform in Hong Kong, Scotland and England.

Diana joined The Royal New Zealand Ballet in 1988 and in 1995 was promoted to the position of Principal Dancer.

During her time with the Royal New Zealand Ballet she travelled extensively both Nationally and Internationally dancing many leading roles including Odette/Odile (Swan Lake), Lilac Fairy (Sleeping Beauty), Sugar Plum Fairy (Nutcracker), Titania (A Midsummer Night's Dream) Ugly Stepsister (Cinderella) and the Balanchine Ballets, Agon, The 4 Temperaments and Who Cares.

Since retiring from the Ballet Company in 1999 Diana taught at a number of Dance Studio's before starting her own studio in 2010.

She danced with the Hawkes Bay Opera in Die Fledermaus and with the Napier Operatic Society in Cats, Beauty and the Beast and Miss Saigon. She also choreographed a number of shows for the Napier Operatic Society including Chicago and Hairspray.

As well as running her own Dance Studio Diana works for PW Dance and Sportswear, is a Freelance Ballet Coach, Adjudicator, Choreographer and most importantly a Mother of 2.



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### **Richard Bowman**

Richard Bowman trained in Auckland, New Zealand and awarded a full tuition scholarship to complete his training at the Royal Ballet School in London, England.

Mr Bowman has danced with many world-renown ballet companies as a guest artist and performed as a principal artist with internationally acclaimed companies of which include, the Royal New Zealand Ballet, Leipzig Ballet, the Australian Ballet, and Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre.

In addition to being the recipient of the 1987 Sir Jon Logan Campbell Award. He has been noted, throughout his career, for his physique and technical brilliance, and the ability able to capture large audiences with ease, in many leading roles to name just a few, the Gaoler in Kenneth MacMillan's production of Manon and James in Erik Bruhn's production of La Sylphide.

In 2012 Mr Bowman was appointed a member of American Ballet Theatre's National Training Curriculum Artistic Board of Examiners & Instructors and became a senior faculty member at the ABT Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School in NYC.

Mr Bowman is an acclaimed international ballet master, coach and répétiteur with dance organisations throughout the world, and also serves as a judge and master teacher for the Youth America Grand Prix, the world's largest student ballet scholarship competition.



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### **Melissa Bowman**

Melissa Allen Bowman began her classical ballet training at age six with Lois Ellyn, formerly of New York City Ballet, and at age eleven began training with Stanley Holden and Margaret Graham Hills, both from The Royal Ballet in London.

At age fifteen, she was invited by Mikhail Baryshnikov to join the corps de ballet of American Ballet Theatre, where she danced for the next seven years. During that time, Ms. Bowman began her own ballet company, the Emerson Dance Theatre, which featured up-and-coming ABT dancers. From 1981 to 1988, Ms. Bowman also appeared in several of ABT's Great Performances in America.

In 1988, she moved to Europe to join the Bern Ballet in Switzerland and then the Zurich Ballet with Uwe Scholz. In 1990, she followed Scholz to Leipzig, Germany, where she danced many soloist and principal roles and became his associate director. Ms. Bowman returned to the United States in 1999 to join the staff of the Pittsburgh Youth Ballet, where in 2000 she became resident choreographer and associate director. While at PYB, she choreographed many pieces for their youth company that were performed not only at the Regional Dance America festivals but also for the Pittsburgh Symphony.

Since 2001, Ms. Bowman has taught at ABT Summer Intensive in Detroit and, in 2007, became an advisor to ABT's National Training Curriculum committee. She has also been an adjudicator for the National Foundation for the Advancement in the Arts for the past two years.

In 2004, she established, with her husband Richard, Danse Conservatory and California Danse Theatre Youth Ballet and served as the Artistic Director for five years. Ms. Bowman was previously the Assistant Principal of the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School at ABT as well as Artistic Director of Summer Intensives.