

Lisa Slagle

Lisa Slagle received her early dance training in both southern California and Texas. She began her professional dancing career at the age of 11 when she appeared as a solo dancer in the Elvis Presley movie, "Clambake". Upon graduation from high school she was offered a position with the Joffrey Ballet in New York, where she stayed until 1979. While there she had the opportunity to perform leading roles in ballets by choreographers Agnes de Mille, Gerald Arpino, Frederick Ashton, August Bournonville and Twyla Tharp. In the 1980's she performed as a Soloist with the Ballet du Grande Theatre de Geneve in Switzerland, under the direction of Oscar Araiz, and as a Principal Dancer with Tulsa Ballet Theatre under the direction of Roman Jasinski and Moscelyn Larkin.

Upon her retirement from dancing, she started teaching ballet in the Dallas area, and in 1999 became the founding director of the Ballet Academy of Texas. In her 22 years as Director, the Academy received "Outstanding School" awards from the Youth America Grand Prix organization on multiple occasions, and Ms. Slagle the "Outstanding Teacher" award in the Southwest area. In 2001 she founded the pre-professional company, Ballet Ensemble of Texas, which was an Honor Company with the Regional Dance of America organization for her 13 years as director. Many of her students are now dancing professionally in such companies as American Ballet Theatre, Texas Ballet Theatre and Sarasota Ballet.

Ms. Slagle was asked to be on the Advisory Board for American Ballet Theatre's National Training Curriculum when it was developed in 2007. She taught for ABT as a Master Teacher for their various Summer Intensive workshops from 2007 till 2023, and has served as Artistic Coordinator for their Young Dancer Workshop in the Southwest. She has staged her choreography and been a Master Teacher for such noted national schools as the Orlando Ballet School, Washington School of Ballet, Oklahoma City Ballet, and the Interlochen School of the Arts. She adjudicated Regional Dance America's Festivals in the Northeast (2018) and Mid-States (2020) regions, and served as a judge for the American Dance Competition/International Ballet Competition in 2024. She joins the Arpino Foundation Board in 2024, and looks forward to her association with the Ballet Alliance as Festival Director beginning in 2025.