

2022 Festival Artistic Director Panel

Donald Dadey began his studies in his native Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania under Jean Gedeon, John Occipinti, and Edward Caton. Upon receiving a full scholarship he furthered his studies in New York City at the School of American Ballet and studied at the Harkness House for the Arts. His professional career began at the age of 16 dancing with Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, Lyric Opera Ballet of Chicago under the direction of Maria Tallchief and worked with George Balanchine in the opera *Orpheus and Eurydice*. For the next several years his time was shared between the Dallas Ballet, The Chicago Lyric Opera Ballet, and the School of American Ballet.



In 1978 upon invitation from George Balanchine, he joined the Zurich Ballet in Zurich, Switzerland under the direction of Patricia Neary. He danced in over 20 ballets by Balanchine including leading roles in *Stravinsky Violin Concerto*, *Liebeslieder Waltzer*, *Western Symphony*, *Episodes*, and *Allegro Brillante*. During his 10 years in Zurich he worked with and performed solo roles in works such as *Five Tangos* by Hans van Manan, *Love Songs* by William Forsythe, *Death and the Maiden* by Robert North, *Die Schopfung* by Uwe Scholz, *Romeo and Juliet* by John Cranko, *Don Quixote* by Rudolf Nureyev, *Symphony in D* and *Transfigured Night* by Jiri Kylian and *Ghost Dances* by Christopher Bruce. In 1983 he was invited by Karin von Alroldingin to the Paris Opera Ballet in Paris, France to assist in the staging of Balanchine's *Stravinsky Violin Concerto*.

In 1988 he joined Ballet Arizona where he danced all leading roles as well as creating roles in many world premieres. He also appeared as "Guest Artist" with Nevada Dance Theater in *Las Vegas Suite*, and as "Romeo" in *Romeo and Juliet*. Most recently he has performed with Center Dance Ensemble's productions of *A Streetcar Named Desire* as "Stanley" and "Count Dracula" in *Dracula*.

Mr. Dadey acted as Interim Artistic Director for the 1990 -1991 season, and Associate Artistic Director of Ballet Arizona from 1992 until his departure in 1997. His contributions included choreographing, staging repertory for the company, and founding the successful, Joy of Dance and Jump-start Programs, which are multi-faceted educational outreach programs for the public school system and inner-city children. He has taught as ballet instructor at Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute, The Dance Connection, Dance Theater West, New School for the Arts, Arizona State University, University of Arizona, Ballet Arts of Tucson, Pittsburgh Youth Ballet, and other schools. His choreographic credits include numerous works on Scottsdale School of Ballet, School of Ballet Arizona, Ballet Arizona, Zurich Ballet, Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute, Houston Dance Theater, New World Ballet, and Ballet Yuma and many world premieres for the leading Modern dance company in Phoenix, Center Dance Ensemble.

With his wife and co-director Sibylle Acatos-Dadey, he founded the Scottsdale School of Ballet in 2003 to continue training dancers for future generations. Mr. Dadey served as an in-person Adjudicator for The Ballet Alliance in 2021.