



Dede Barfield

Born in Ft. Worth, Texas, Ms. Barfield began her training in Ft. Worth, Texas with Gayle Corkery and continued at the Etgen Atkinson School in Dallas. At the age of 14, she began studying during the summers at the School of American Ballet in New York City and by the age of 16, she move there to study exclusively.

Ms. Barfield joined the Pennsylvania Ballet in 1984, was promoted to Soloist in 1987 and to Principal in 1990. Her repertoire includes a wide variety of classical roles including Odette/Odile in Swan Lake, Myrtha in Giselle, Vera in Robert Weiss' full-length production of Winter Dreams, Les Sylphides, the title role in Ben Stevenson's Cinderella and Juliet in John Cranko's Romeo and Juliet. On June 12, 2004, she gave her last performance as a professional dancer as her favorite role of Odette/Odile in Christopher Wheeldon's Swan Lake.

Since leaving Pennsylvania Ballet, Ms. Barfield has been busy teaching at Bryn Mawr College, The Performance Garage at Jeanne Ruddy Dance, The South Jersey Ballet School and with the Pennsylvania Ballet's Outreach Program. She has been a guest teacher for the Chamberlain Ballet in Plano, Texas, the Country Day School in Ft. Worth, the Brandywine Ballet and the Dance Theater of Pennsylvania. Ms. Barfield also taught ballet classes at the University of Las Vegas during the 2007 Spring semester.

In addition to Ms. Barfield's extensive ballet training and experience, she has studied Pilates since 1979 and completed a 2-year advanced teacher training seminar with her mentor of 20 years, Karen Carlson. She is certified in all apparatuses and mat. She has been with the Ballet Conservatory since 2007.

She guest teaches at Huntsville Ballet, Chamberlain Ballet, and CPYB to name a few.