

PHILLIP OTTO, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Mr. Otto has served as the Artistic Director for the Huntsville Ballet since 2008. Born in New York, Mr. Otto trained at the School of American Ballet, American Ballet Theatre School, and the Joffrey School among others. As a child, Mr. Otto was a member of the Metropolitan Opera Children's Chorus and danced with New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, London's Royal Ballet, the Stuttgart Ballet, and the Bolshoi Ballet. As an adult, Mr. Otto danced principal and soloists roles with Milwaukee Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, and Pacific Northwest Ballet.

After retiring as a featured soloist from Pacific Northwest Ballet in 1996, Mr. Otto was the first company member ever to be asked to join the faculty of Pacific Northwest Ballet School. He went on to direct Pacific Northwest Ballet's student company as well as the company's outreach and educational programs. For this work, he was nominated for the State of Washington's Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Education. Mr. Otto has worked and trained with such distinguished artists as George Balanchine, Peter Martins, Jerome Robbins, Kent Stowell, Franca Russell, Bojan Spasoff, Robert Weiss and Lynn Taylor- Corbett, Violette Verdy, Richard Thomas, Alexandra Danilova, Lar Lubavitch, Andre Eglevsky, and Ted Kivitt among others. Among Mr. Otto's dancing credits are principal roles in George Balanchine's *Who Cares*, *The Four Temperaments*, *Western Symphony*, *Concerto Borocco*, *La Valse*, *Symphony in C*, *The Nutcracker*, *Prodigal Son*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Cranko's Romeo and Juliet*, *Limon's Moor's Pavane*, *Forsythe's Love Songs*, *Lynn Taylor- Corbett's Brahms Sonatas*, *Code Of Silence*, *The Quilt*, *Tunes*, *Great Galloping Gottschalk* and *Final Draft* among others. Additionally, Mr. Otto serves as permanent guest faculty for the Rock School for Dance Education in Philadelphia and has taught master classes for Vassar College, Yale University, the Kennedy Center, and the Edinburgh Festival among other schools and companies throughout the United States and Scotland.