

Biography: Stephen Hook

Stephen Hook has continued as an Adjunct Professor of Dance at Palomar College after an illustrious career performing ballet professionally throughout the US, Japan, and the former Soviet Union.

Stephen began taking ballet at age nine and by age thirteen was mentored by teacher and Director Joseph Giacobbe, of *Delta Festival Ballet of New Orleans*. He fell in love with ballet while dancing one of his first performances that starred guest artist Patricia McBride and Edward Villella of *N.Y.C. Ballet*.

In 1974 Stephen moved to San Diego. Within a short time he began studying with Erling Sunde, the former Ballet Master of the Royal Ballet. He later became the protégé of Stanley Holden, former Principal of the Royal Ballet.

In 1977, American Ballet Theater (ABT) came to Los Angeles to film *The Turning Point*. Stephen not only landed a dance role in the movie, he was also observed by ABT's Director Lucia Chase. Ms. Chase then offered Stephen a contract to join ABT mid-season at the Metropolitan Opera House.

During Stephen's tenure with the ABT Company, he completed nine national and one Asian tour. He performed various roles in the following great classic ballets: *Coppelia*, *Giselle*, *La Sylphides*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *Swan Lake*. Stephen also had the privilege to work with, and be featured in, Mikhail Baryshnikov's *Cinderella*, *Don Quixote*, *Nutcracker* and *Raymonda* along with other Great Russian artists like George Balanchine in *La Sonnambula*, *Theme and Variations*, and *Prodigal Son*, and with Prima Ballerina Natalie Makarova in her full length restaging of Marius Petipa's *La Bayadere*.

While with the ABT company, he also worked under many of contemporary ballet's living legends of choreography in the following productions: *Rodeo*, Agnes de Milles, choreographer; *Billy the Kid*, Eugene Loring, choreographer; *Les Noces*, Jerome Robbins, choreographer; *Voluntaries* and *Contradance*, choreographed by Glen Tetley. Antony Tudor featured Stephen in his ballets: *Jardin aux Lilac*, *Shadow Play*, and *Undertow*. Other roles of note include: Sir Kenneth Macmillan's in his staging of *Romeo & Juliet* and as an original cast member role in the world premier of *The Wild Boys*, starring Baryshnikov and Makarova.

Since joining Palomar College, Stephen has arranged for his students to observe ABT dress rehearsals at the Orange County Performing Art Center. He brought Mr. Stanley Holden, former Principal of the Royal Ballet, to teach a master ballet class and lecture on his career at Palomar College.

Stephen continues to lecture on ballet at other institutions including University of California at Davis, Chengdu Arts Center, China. Last fall, he was invited to join the faculty at Danse Conservatory in San Juan Capistrano, California. Danse Conservatory has recently become the West Coast facility for ABT's new National Training Curriculum program.