

# Akhmedova Ballet Academy

Newsletter – September 2016

*ABA had a successful year including two great summer intensives. We welcome all new students to the ABA PTP family. ABA received a grant from the Arts and Humanities of Montgomery County. Mme. Akhmedova will receive this year's County Executive's Education Award for Excellence in the Arts.*

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*The Akhmedova Ballet Academy is dedicated to providing the finest quality ballet training utilizing the Vaganova Method with personal and artistic mentoring to prepare young talented dancers to become strong and fully developed artists for the 21st century ready to take their places in major dance companies around the world.*

## **Community Involvement**



ABA summer intensive students performed at the Schweinhaut Senior Center for a big audience. The dancers showcased a wide variety of pieces from the classical, contemporary and character repertoire.

## ***Awards***

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***“I am very honored and humbled to receive this year’s County Executive's Awards for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities Education Award. I would like to thank everyone who nominated me for this prestigious award.” – Jacqueline Akhmedova***

***Education Award*** – An individual educator or educational organization that has made a major contribution to the education of youth or adult populations through the arts and/or humanities.

“The 2016 County Executive's Awards for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities - the most prestigious honors conferred by Montgomery County on individual artists, scholars, organizations and cultural patrons. Now in its 15th year, the County Executive's Awards unite us in celebration of those who have strengthened our communities through the arts and humanities.

This year, I will be presenting the County Executive's Awards for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities on Monday, October 24, 2016 at the Cultural Arts Center at Montgomery College in Silver Spring. I hope you will join me as we salute this year’s winners and additionally recognize recipients of grants from the Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County with a special presentation of awards and many exciting performances.” – **County Executive Ike Leggett**

***Please mark your calendar for this event.***



## News

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ABA is very happy to have Misha Tchoupakov, faculty member of the UNCSA in NC, teach a MasterClass at the Academy in October. This will be a wonderful experience for our PTP students. Misha was a dancer with the Bolshoi Ballet and is a recognized guest teacher in the USA and abroad. Once again at ABA's Cape Cod summer intensive, Misha taught Vaganova technique, classical repertoire and Russian character classes.



ABA is happy to announce that it added a pianist for the Junior and Senior level. Natasha Sutherland is a wonderful addition to our ABA family and is helping our students on their way to become well-rounded dancers that understand that music is an integral part of dance.

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## Summer Intensives

Committed to excellence, ABA offers the serious dance student, 10-19, a comprehensive and challenging summer experience. Classes offered include ballet technique, pointe, repertoire, contemporary, Pilates, and private coaching. Each session ended with a demonstration to allow students to perform the variations and choreographies learned.



The Silver Spring Intensive ended with a highly successful demonstration performance, which took place Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at the Schweinhaut Senior Center. The show not only featured summer intensive participants but also one of ABA's graduates – Deanna Pearson of the Sarasota Ballet, FL.



Once again, the 7<sup>th</sup> Cape Cod Intensive was a unique experience. ABA students were able to rent the big farmhouse again where the dancers could stay with an adult chaperone - thank you Jessica Novakovich. During their free time, the dancers enjoyed biking, photo shoots with Vihao Pham, BBQ at Mme. Akhmedova's house and trips to several beaches and towns. The program concluded with a show on the stage at the Nauset Middle School in Orleans with 100 people in the audience.

## Photos



Megan Montiero & Caroline Hamilton



Ryan Vyskosil



With guest teacher Misha Tchoupakov



Abigail Kasten



@pointefolio

Jessica Kinnaman



Petra Zika

Thank you Vihao Pham for the great photos <http://www.vihaopham.com> - @PointeFolio

## Our Sponsors:



In addition to our corporate sponsors, ABA is supported in part by funding from the Montgomery County government and the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County.

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## Testimonial

One of the toughest decisions that a dancer and his or her family face is how and where to advance the training for their child. We faced that situation earlier this year, and we feel as though having our daughter attend Akhmedova Ballet Academy has been one of the best decisions we've made in the twelve years our daughter has been dancing. Katherine, our daughter, started with ABA at their summer intensive in Orleans, Cape Cod. The dancers had an incredible amount of individual instruction, they experienced a variety of types of dance and learned how to work together to create an amazing experience for the audience at the show that concluded the intensive. They had just the right amount of independence, and they all pushed themselves and helped each other live up to the standards held by Madame Akhmedova. They grew substantially as dancers and as people.

Katherine began her first full season with ABA 3 weeks ago, and it's clear to us that the same environment and characteristics she experienced at the intensive continue during the full year. Katherine's dance abilities have advanced substantially over the summer and in to the fall season. She's thrilled and we all feel grateful to ABA for their extraordinary program.

Noelle and Dean Newcomb – PTP parents

## A Peek inside ABA



Farm house fun



My graduates



Vihao Pham visited ABA. And he was a handsome partner for our seniors.



ABA summer students enjoyed a trip to Provincetown after an intensive week of ballet. Mme. Akhmedova and ABA dancers had a great time with delicious food and pleasant conversations.

## **Jacqueline Akhmedova – Founder and Artistic Director of ABA**

Mme. Akhmedova graduated with honors from the Bolshoi Ballet Academy in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and the Ukrainian Academy of Dance in Kiev, with Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Ballet Performance, Pedagogy and Choreography, she quickly moved into the world of European classical dance performance.

In a professional career of more than 20 years, she was a principal dancer with the Bolshoi Ballet in Tashkent, the Munich State Opera Ballet, and the Vienna State Opera Ballet, dancing every major role in the classical and contemporary repertoire. She has worked with the world's greatest choreographers such as Jiri Kylian, John Neumeier, Rudolph Nureyev, Hans van Manen, and Peter Wright. She has toured extensively across Europe and performed as guest artist in major companies worldwide.

Her students have won such prestigious competitions as the Youth America Grand Prix, Prix de Lausanne, and Tanzolymp. They have gone on to successful careers in such companies as American Ballet Theater, New York City Ballet, Houston Ballet, Boston Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Vienna State Opera Ballet, Dresden Ballet, Staatsballett Munich, Staatsballett Berlin and Stuttgart Ballett. She has also judged influential international ballet competitions and taught master classes in Italy, Portugal, New York City, Austria and Japan.

In her professional teaching career, Mme. Akhmedova prepares students and choreographs for them for competitions and advises them on their careers, helping them pursue their dreams of dancing with professional companies. After retiring as a professional ballet dancer, she started a professional training program in Vancouver, Canada. In 2001 she was invited to the Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington, DC where she taught as a senior teacher for 7 years. Then for 2 years, she was the ballet master for City Dance Ensemble and the City Dance Conservatory Ballet Program at the Strathmore Center for the Arts.

She is the Founder and Artistic Director of her own school, the Akhmedova Ballet Academy, in Silver Spring, MD. Her vision for ABA is to provide the finest quality ballet training utilizing the Vaganova Method. 100% of ABA graduates are with professional companies.



Akhmedova Ballet Foundation, Inc. is a 501c(3) charitable tax-exempt non-profit organization

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