

# Akhmedova Ballet Academy

Newsletter – Summer 2015

*ABA had a successful year with 2 great summer intensives*

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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.*

## *Performances*



**Spring Festival of Ballet:** On June 14th, ABA dancers and recent graduates presented a mixed bill, which included the ballet “Don Quixote” as well as character dances and original contemporary works. Do not miss our fantastic annual **“Nutcracker Dreams”** performance on December 18 at the Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center in Silver Spring at 7:30pm.

## Community Involvement

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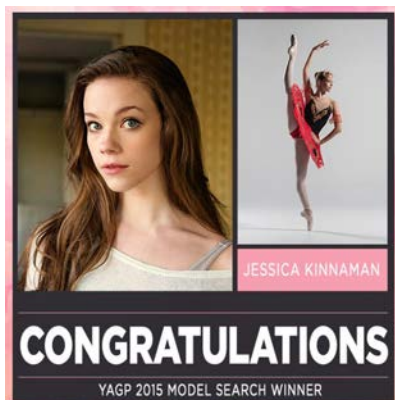
On April 25<sup>th</sup> ABA students performed at the “We are Takoma” community festival. The show was televised on local TV.

## Awards

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ABA has received monetary awards from the Montgomery County’s Executive Ball and from the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region.



*Jessica Kinnaman won the  
YAGP 2015 model search award*

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## Summer Intensives

Committed to excellence, ABA offers the serious dance student, 12-19, 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.



Session I ended with a highly successful demonstration performance which took place Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at the Schweinhaut Center in Silver Spring. The show not only featured summer intensive participants but also 2 of ABA's graduates – Abigail Kasten of First State Ballet, DE and Deanna Pearson of the Sarasota Ballet, FL



Session II had a record attendance this year with dancers from all over the east coast. ABA students were able to rent the big farmhouse again where the dancers could stay with an ABA adult chaperone - thank you Sandra Kinnaman. 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 at the Nauset Middle School in Orleans with 150 people in the audience.

## Photos



@pointefolio

**Megan Montiero**

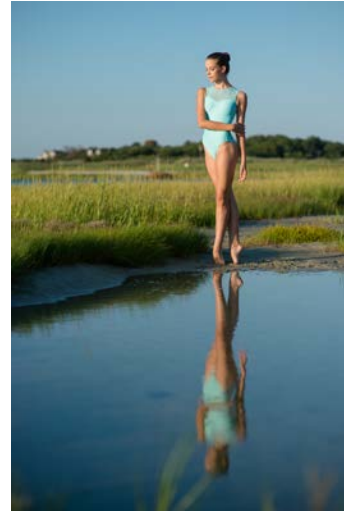


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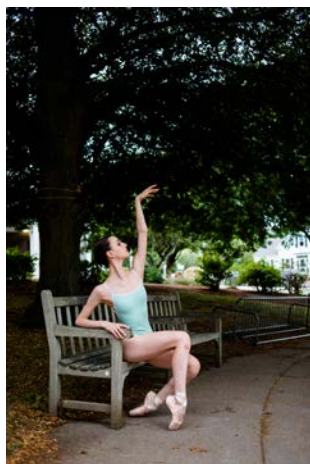
**Elena Olshin**



**Lucy Merz**



**Jessica Kinnaman**



**Jessica Novakovich**



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**Sara Hart**

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



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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.

## Testimonial

Our daughter, Katya, had the opportunity to attend ABA's Cape Cod intensive this year. She has attended several other summer intensives over the past few years but this was her first with Madame Akhmedova. Katya enjoyed her classes with Misha Tchoupakov and Madame Akhmedova so much as well as the musical theatre teachers. The classes were challenging and difficult but by the second week she felt so much stronger. It was wonderful for her to be in a smaller environment with more individual attention so she was able to make much greater progress so much faster. Katya loved the atmosphere on Cape Cod and being able to bike ride and explore after classes. All of the girls were so welcoming and friendly and have become dear friends!

As parents, my husband and I were so impressed with the quality and professionalism of their final performance. What the girls were able to learn and perfect in 3 weeks was simply amazing! The show was so well done with beautiful costumes and choreography and a variety of pieces that showcased the girls individual talents.

We are so thankful for the teachers and Madame Akhmedova for putting on such an excellent intensive. Katya came home renewed and excited about beginning her ballet training in the year ahead and felt so much better prepared. She is already missing all of her friends and can't wait to return in September.

Chuck & Dabney Klein – PTP parents

## A Peek inside ABA



On June 19<sup>th</sup>, ABA students and their families enjoyed the “End of the Year Celebration BBQ” at the home of Mme. Akhmedova and Mr. Tibbitts. ABA dancers and their families enjoyed delicious food and pleasant conversations.

## Links

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AkhmedovaBallet>  
Website: <http://akhmedovaballet.org/>  
Contact: [akhmedovaballet@gmail.com](mailto:akhmedovaballet@gmail.com)  
301-593-6262 10126 Colesville Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20901

### **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.



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