

# AAB

American Academy of Ballet

MIGNON FURMAN, *FOUNDING DIRECTOR*

TEACHERS  
2017



## SEMINAR & MIGNON FURMAN'S

## PERFORMANCE AWARDS CERTIFICATION COURSE

### *JULY 17-29*

at PURCHASE COLLEGE, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
PURCHASE, NEW YORK

# A NOTE REPRINTED FROM A PREVIOUS TEACHERS' SEMINAR FROM OUR FOUNDING DIRECTOR MIGNON FURMAN



**“I** believe that teaching is a practical art that needs a practical approach — whether to a new class of five-year olds, or to teenagers with stars in their eyes who have other options for their energy.

*Very often, teachers need to be inspired.  
Ask yourself:*

- **HAS MY TEACHING GOTTEN STALE?**
- **WHAT NEW IDEAS CAN I INCORPORATE IN MY TEACHING?**
- **DO MY CLASSES HAVE ENTHUSIASM AND ENERGY?**
- **ARE MY DANCERS UP TO STANDARD?**
- **ARE THEIR PARENTS SATISFIED WITH THEIR PROGRESS?**

The Teachers' Seminar will provide the answers. Included is the marvelous Performance Awards program. Teachers, dancers, and parents love it.

This note cannot describe the feeling of “being there,” the self-confidence that knowledge brings; and the inspiration that the Teachers' Seminar infuses into all those who attend.”

**LAST YEAR, THE SEMINAR AND CERTIFICATION COURSE WERE ATTENDED BY  
TEACHERS FROM JAPAN, SPAIN, ARGENTINA, ISRAEL, SOUTH AFRICA - AND AMERICA.  
DO NOT MISS OUT ON THESE MARVELOUS PROGRAMS.**

**“ALL OF BALLET IS A CHALLENGE.  
DANCERS MUST CHALLENGE THEMSELVES.”  
— MIGNON FURMAN**

## Mignon Furman

Founder of the AAB, Teacher, Choreographer, Educationist.

With only her talents, courage, and determination to give definition to her vision for ballet education, Mignon Furman started the American Academy of Ballet: It soon became the premier Summer School in America.

She composed the Performance Awards which are taught all over America, and are an international phenomenon, praised by teachers in America and in 10 other countries. The success of the Performance Awards is due to Mignon's choreography: She was a superb choreographer. Her many compositions are free of cliché. They have logic, harmony, style, and ultimately, beauty.

Margot Fonteyn, with whom she was friendly, gave her invaluable advice, during several discussions about the technical, and artistic aspects of classical ballet. Mignon had the good fortune to benefit from the wisdom, and unique experience of the most famous ballerina of the 20th century.

Mignon also composed seven instructional DVDs for the teaching of classical ballet. She was a remarkable teacher. Her prodigious knowledge, and classical style gave her dancers the recognizable “Furman” look. She was also qualified to teach ballroom and Victorian dance.

Coupled with Mignon's ballet skills, was a tireless energy in organizing. She was a planner and administrator *par excellence*.

Before coming to New York, Mignon was the Director of the University of Cape Town Ballet School, with special responsibility for teacher-training. She formulated the program for the 80 trainee teachers, and 400 students at the Ballet School. She was nominated for the Distinguished Teacher Award from amongst the entire university's academic staff of professors, and lecturers. She also formulated the syllabus for ballet in the public schools; was the head-examiner for many years; and was president of the dance section of the city's performing arts program.



***We all at the AAB have the honor of keeping  
Mignon's flags proudly flying.***

# MIGNON FURMAN'S PERFORMANCE AWARDS

- INCREASE ENROLLMENTS!
- ENHANCE TECHNIQUE & PERFORMANCE!
- LOVED BY PARENTS, DANCERS – & TEACHERS!
- INCLUDE EVERY FEATURE OF CLASSICAL BALLET!
- READY-MADE PROGRAM OF COMBINATIONS & MUSIC!
- DANCER- & TEACHER-FRIENDLY!

ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR A PROGRAM THAT WILL

- ENERGIZE YOUR SCHOOL ?
- IMPROVE YOUR DANCERS ?
- PLEASE THEIR PARENTS ?

**YOUR SEARCH IS OVER!**

The Performance Awards were devised by Mignon Furman, the founder of the American Academy of Ballet. She was a superb choreographer. Her charming choreography makes the program

- a delight to teach;
- a joy to dance;
- a pleasure to watch.

**TEACHERS, DANCERS AND PARENTS LOVE IT!**

The program is in schools across America and in 10 other countries.

It is backed by CDs, DVDs, and notes. You will be amazed at the results. Technique and performance improve immensely; dancers are more enthusiastic; and parents are thrilled.

Starting at age 5, the program develops over 12 Levels of short compositions of increasing complexity that will inspire your dancers to perform their personal best.

Each level has port de bras, allegro and a solo dance. The higher levels include adage, pirouettes, batterie, and codas. Choices throughout the program result in a total of 115 choreographic compositions.

The dancers dance before an audience of parents and jurors. The awarding of medals and certificates to EACH dancer after the performance does wonders for their self-esteem.

Level 3



Level 1



Level 3



Level 12



# MIGNON FURMAN'S "STEPS" PROGRAMS WILL ORGANIZE YOUR TEACHING.

**"EXCELLENCE IN BALLET IS ACHIEVED BY REPETITION: THIS IS NOT BORING IF THE ULTIMATE GOAL IS PREDOMINANT."**

—AGRIPPINA VAGANOVA,  
"BASIC PRINCIPLES OF CLASSICAL BALLET" (1934)

From her many years of teaching children; students and trainee teachers at university level; and teachers at Summer School, Mignon Furman devised a system of teaching that gives you a program: age by age, class by class.

**No need to select music**

It has been arranged by Mignon's music collaborator.

**Don't think "What shall I teach today?"**

"Steps" are graded programs that organize your teaching.



First Steps



Now I Am a Teen

**FIRST STEPS** (ages 5 - 8)

**SECOND STEPS** (ages 6 - 9)

**THIRD STEPS** (ages 7 - 10)

**JUNIOR STEPS** (ages 8 - 12)

**BETWEEN TOT AND TEEN** (ages 8 - 10)

**NOW I AM A TEEN** (ages 11 - 13)

**POINTE TO POINTE** (Beginning & Intermediate)

Below is an extract of the DVD contents.  
Notice the attention to detail in the training process.

## THIRD STEPS

### Barre Exercises

1. Exercise for the feet and for Demi Pointe
2. Exercise for Demi Plies
3. Exercise for Battement Tendu
4. Exercise for Battement Tendu a la Seconde
5. Exercise for the placing of the foot at the back, a preparation for Petit Jetes
6. Exercise for Petit Jetes

### Floor Work

7. Exercise for the Legs and Back
8. Exercise for Turn-Out

### Center

9. Walking on Demi Pointe
10. Exercise for Galops Sideways
11. Exercise for Petit Jetes
12. Step and Hop from Side to Side
13. Little Runs into the 4 Corners and Spring Points "Like a Bird"
14. Polka Step
15. End Story - "The Injured Bird"
16. Reverence

# FACULTY



**VLADIMIR STADNIK**  
Graduate of the Vaganova Academy in Russia. Danced as a soloist in Russia, W. Europe, and the USA. Now Professor of Dance at Ball State University, Indiana.



**KEVIN DURWAELE**  
A graduate of the Artesis University of Antwerp. Danced with Nederlands Dans Theater. Soloist with the Royal Ballet of Flanders. Now Assistant Director of the Royal Ballet School of Antwerp.



**DIANA CUNI MANCINI**  
Graduated from the school of the Royal Danish Ballet, to become a Principal Dancer. Now a teacher of the company, and other companies world-wide.



**CRAIG SALSTEIN**  
Soloist with American Ballet Theater, and Artistic Director of the Intermezzo Dance Company.



**MCCREE O'KELLEY**  
Danced with the Atlanta Ballet and Metropolitan Opera Ballet. Toured internationally in the Broadway production of Cats. Now, Professor of Dance at Kennesaw State University.



**ALISON BRAMWELL**  
Trained by Mignon Furman. Danced Adagio in many countries. Now a Performance Awards judge, and ballet mistress to a Juilliard-affiliated school.



**GIL ISOART**  
Was a Principal Dancer with the Paris Opera Ballet. Winner of numerous prizes, and awards. Now teaches, and is rehearsal coach at the Paris Opera Ballet and at the Bolshoi Ballet, Moscow.



**GINA CHIAVELLI**  
Was Adjunct Professor of Dance at Fordham University, and SUNY New Paltz. Now Director of Pinewood School of Dance, and a judge for Performance Awards.



**TOVA TSOBERY**  
A graduate of the Jerusalem Academy. Also trained at the Bat Dor, with a teacher who was trained by Mignon Furman. Is a Performance Awards judge.



**RICARDO SANTIAGO**  
A graduate of Purchase College. Has danced in the USA, and other countries. Now teaches, and dances in New York.



**DEBBIE ROSHE**  
Danced in several Broadway shows. Now teaches in New York.



**ANALIESE UMAMA**  
BFA graduate of Purchase College SUNY. Rehearsal assistant to Mignon Furman. Now teaches in New York. A judge for Performance Awards.



Medal Line-Up: One of the two Performance Awards at Summer School 2016.

## Mignon Furman's Performance Awards

**Achieve a Teaching Qualification!**

### Q: What is the Performance Awards Certification?

You will learn the choreography for the 12 Levels of the program, and Mignon Furman's 7 introductory "Steps" training programs. **A certificate will be awarded.**

### Q: I already have my own curriculum.

The beauty of the Performance Awards is that they form part of your regular classes. The choreography of Mignon Furman is charming; her choice of music is delightful; - **a composite teaching system that is loved by teachers, dancers, and their parents.**

### Q: Why should I attend this course?

A diploma on the wall instills confidence in parents. Teachers in America and in other countries have been teaching the Performance Awards for 10 years. **You will have a ready-made and progressive program that will infuse new enthusiasm into your school.**

*For the fee, see the enrollment forms.*

## SCHEDULE FOR CERTIFICATION AND THE SEMINAR

### 1. Daily Instruction in Mignon Furman's Wonderful Performance Awards.

- \* Levels 1-6 (ages 5-12) July 17 - 22
  - \* Levels 7-12 (ages 13-18) July 24-29
- (You may choose the days of attendance.)*

### 2. Daily Instruction By One Of Our Superb Faculty Teachers.

In the teaching of of the following  
(A different topic each day).

- \* Pointe
- \* The Perfect Pirouette
- \* Petit Allegro
- \* Correction of Faults
- \* Pas de Deux
- \* Batterie

### 3. Daily Instruction in Mignon Furman's "Steps" Programs.

### 4. Observe, Or Participate In A Class Given by a Faculty Teacher.

*(You may choose the teacher.)*

### 5. Five Dances to Teach in Your School.

- \* Authentic Spanish Dance for the *Nutcracker*
- \* Authentic Russian Dance for the *Nutcracker*
- \* Jazz Dance
- \* Group Dance
- \* Variation from a Classical Ballet

### 6. Q & A: Your Questions Answered by a Faculty Teacher.

### 7. Achieve a Teaching Qualification: Certificates Will Be Awarded at the End of Each Week.

# WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND

- \* LEARN 5 NEW DANCES
- \* REFRESH YOUR TEACHING
- \* BE INSPIRED
- \* MEET OTHER TEACHERS
- \* ASK QUESTIONS

## • THE YOUNG CHILD

The "Steps" programs for the most important people in many schools. [See page 6.](#)

**"STEPS" DAY BY DAY!**

## • OBSERVE THE BEST

Distinguished teachers teach the dancers. Note the combinations, the images that inspire the dancers.

**LEARN BY WATCHING!**

## • PERFORMANCE AWARDS

Initiated by Mignon Furman, they will bring new energy into your school. [See page 4.](#)

**LOVED BY ALL!**

## • MAKE CONTACT

Do not teach in isolation. Every profession is updated.

**UPDATE!**

## • SUMMER BREAK

Give yourself a break! Get away from your daily routine. Learn and enjoy! A low rate at the Doral Hotel has been arranged. For scholarships. [See enrollment form.](#)

**ENJOY!**

## • CERTIFICATION

A certificate on your studio wall instills confidence in parents.

**GET CERTIFIED!**

**"TO MOVE YOUR BODY THROUGH SPACE IS NOT TO DANCE."**

**—SERGE DIAGHILEV, 1928 (IN AN INTERVIEW)**



The Doral Hotel

# PERFORMANCE AWARDS *1000s of DANCERS!*



# AAB

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