

## Denise Oustalet

A native New Orleanian began her early training with Lelia Haller and continued under the tutelage of Joseph Giacobbe, Ceyhun Ozsoy, and Mary Munro. Ms. Oustalet has a long association with Regional Dance America/Southwest, performing on many Gala Festival performances and later as a guest teacher. She studied on scholarship at Harkness House School for Ballet Arts, Joffrey Ballet School and American Ballet Theatre. She received the Louisiana State Arts Council Fellowship Award for study at the Academie de Danse Princesse Grace (Monte Carlo), International Centre de Dance (Cannes), Stuttgart Balletsaal (Stuttgart), and Pineapple Dance Center (London). She performed as a principal dancer with Delta Festival Ballet, Santa Fe Opera (and Ballet Mistress), Dallas Ballet, Palm Beach Opera and the New Orleans Opera. Her versatility in leading roles ranged from the classics of: *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, *Raymonda*, and *The Nutcracker*, to the contemporary, as The Acid Queen in *Tommy*. She has choreographed ballet, musical theatre and opera productions for: Allegro Ballet of Houston, Ballet Alexandria, Corpus Christi Ballet, San Antonio Metropolitan Ballet, Tulane Summer Lyric Theatre, Le Petit Theatre du Vieux Carre', University of New Orleans' Opera Theatre and the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra. She received Gambit's "Big Easy Award for Best Choreographer." She holds a BA in Education from St. Mary's Dominican College. Ms. Oustalet was the architect and Director of the Dance department for the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) from 1976-2001, and the recipient of the NOCCA-"Distinguished Mentor Award." NOCCA Dance department graduates are professional dancers with: Miami City Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, Dutch National Ballet, Compania Nacional de Danza, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Parsons Dance and appear on and Off-Broadway. The National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts/Presidential Scholars program recognized her seven times as an "Outstanding Mentor." She was a consultant for emerging performing and creative arts schools in the USA and Canada, and the Director of the Ballet School for the 2000 Ballets Russes International Reunion. Ms. Oustalet served on the Louisiana State Arts Council/Division of the Arts and the Kentucky State Arts Council.

Her dedication to dance education is demonstrated by her passion for preserving the art of classical ballet through quality training and positive mentoring. She is in demand throughout the region as a teacher and choreographer. Her expertise includes: classical ballet, pointe, character, flamenco, modern and jazz. She has taught on the faculties of: Giacobbe Academy of Dance, Main Street Dance, Dancers Pointe, Nancy Ward School of Dance, Schramel Conservatory of Dance and New Orleans Dance Academy.