



GRETCHEN L. VAN GARTEN

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**PROFESSIONAL  
GOAL &  
PROFILE**

**University Teaching Position** - All levels of ballet and/or Kinesiology, Choreography, Arts Administration, Theatrical Dance and Dance Pedagogy.

Possess broad scope of instructional ballet including pointe, men's technique, variations teaching choreography, kinesiology, arts management, theatrical dance and dance pedagogy. Innovative and versatile with a commitment to excellence in all endeavors. Exceptional record of professionalism, creativity, productivity improvement and motivational teaching with a *true passion for the art of ballet*.

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**EDUCATIONAL  
ACHIEVEMENTS**

**MFA, Dance Education**  
University of California, Irvine, CA

**Activities:** Choreographer, Master of Fine Arts Performances (2); Dance Hall Girl, Billy the Kid; Lighting Technician, Master of Fine Arts Performance

**BA, Kinesiotherapy and Stage Movement**  
California State University, Stanislaus

ACTF Award for Excellence, *The Diviners* (Theatrical Properties); *Anything Goes* (Choreographer); Choreographer, *Bye Bye, Verdi* and *5,6,7,8* (Choreography Showcase)

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**EXPERIENCE**

**CENTRAL BALLET COMPANY** - Riverside, VA  
**FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR** (1987 to Present)

Founded this pre-professional, non-profit ballet company. Extensive involvement in the training and coaching of dancers, hiring of guest choreographers and dancers and managing the design, marketing and public relations of all performances. Held budget authority, developed policies and procedures and directed fundraising efforts including grant writing and fundraising from federal, state and municipal governments as well as business, foundation and private resources. Supervised staff of five and volunteer pool of 100, designed all printed materials, press releases and coordinated rehearsal and production activities. Maintained high productivity level during continued growth and expansion.

**Achievements**

- **Steered company into a nationally recognized organization** (*one of 35 companies designated Regional Honor Company in the organization Regional Dance America*).
- **Realized significant budget growth** (3<sup>rd</sup> largest in State of Virginia) and consistently increased sales during tenure through delivery of exceptional quality productions and innovative marketing.
- **Introduced "Arts in Education" educational outreach program** to sustain enthusiasm, maximize ticket sales and fuel company growth.
- **Maintained cost effective operation and high-quality productions** while orchestrating three major productions annually on just \$264K per year.
- **Secured necessary production funds** by implementing innovative participant program, breaking down production needs/contribution vs. blanket donations (ex; Terminex underwrote cost of spider webs in *Sleeping Beauty*).

*Continued...*

Meshpiel School of Dance & Ballet - Modesto, CA  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PART OWNER (1980 to 2001)

Charged with instructing all levels of ballet, men's technique, pointe and variations. Provide day-to-day operational administration for 650 students and 23 staff managers with primary focus on the pre-professional training Program.

**Achievements**

- **Spearheaded activities** related to association with Central California Summer Dance Conservatory.
- Instrumental in **guiding students to successful professional** dance careers in performance, teaching and choreographers.
- Pivotal role in **boosting student levels from 80 to over 600** during tenure by evaluating overall training quality, improving programs and cultivating relationship with Dance Conservatory.
- Facilitated teacher training to **ensure the on-going cohesion of teaching styles**.

University of Rochester, - Rochester, CA  
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR (1987 to 2001, intermittently)

Developed dance curriculum for Theatre Majors class; taught, supervised and evaluated student progress; choreographed variety of musicals.

- **Created innovative syllabus** and course materials including X and B course topics to improve student performance and understanding of dance theories.
- Team with show director on appropriate choreography, rehearsals and expectations to **deliver triumphant, well-received productions**.

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***Exceptional Letters of Recommendation Upon Request***