



THE ENSEMBLE

Aubrey Morgan recently moved to LA from New Orleans where she was a principal dancer with New Orleans Ballet Theatre. She previously trained with School of American Ballet for 2 years and danced as a member of the corps de ballet with New York City Ballet from 1996-2001. Aubrey also teaches ballet to students from 4 through professional level.

Yoko Sasaki was born in Japan receiving her ballet training from Shinomaki Ballet. She continued her training, performing and teaching in Japan. Besides being principal dance she is also Castagna's choreographic assistant. Yoko has trained at Ballet Pacifica and Wentia Ballet. She is also presently dancing with Harifel Ballet in OC.

Marcos Perez grew up in San Fernando Valley. He attended LACHSA training with Francisco Martinez & Marat Daukeyev. Marcos has participated in Alonzo King's LINES Pre-Professional program two years in a row. He has performed in Nutcracker, and in Alonzo King's Signs & wonders and In to Get Out.

Eliezer Rabello came to Los Angeles to join The Lula Washington Dance Theatre in 2001. He has danced with Amazon Opera Dance Company and founded Companhia CIA Ballet da Barra before leaving Brazil. Eliezer has been a guest artist with Lake Arrowhead Classical Ballet since 2003. He is also coaching gymnast and figure skaters.

Megan Hornady has trained with Finis Jhung, Jostie Walsh, Stanley Holden, Sven Toorvald and now Stefan Wentia. She holds a degree from Columbia University. Megan has performed with several Los Angeles companies including Contemporary Ballet, Lion's Pounce Dance theatre and W. Valley Ballet Company.

Robson Tadeu is new to Los Angeles from his native Brazil. Robson has danced with Media City Ballet, Lion's Pounce Dance Theatre and Lake Arrowhead Classical Ballet. Robson has his own company Elenco Alternado de Danza and has been awarded several cultural grants. He continues to combine his notable acting experience with his dancing.

Perris McCracken began her training at Universal Dance Designs Studio continuing at Westside Ballet and Debbie Allen Dance Academy. With a focus on ballet Perris also studied at Dance Theatre of Harlem and Alonzo King's LINES. In May 2006 she graduated from Loyola Marymount and is currently in her 2nd season with City Ballet of L.A.

Ayrick Aberian
Apprentice – Katie Goring

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THE **BALLET** COLLECTIVE



"Its smart and original choreography... sets the Ballet Collective apart."

Los Angeles Times



A young star on the dynamic Los Angeles dance scene, **THE BALLET COLLECTIVE** is praised by Dance Magazine and the Los Angeles Times as entertaining, distinctive and original.

Inspired by the Ballet Russe's concept of the use of dance, music and design to create a story, the repertoire ranges from contemporary (B4/After 21) to neo-Romantic (Dancing for Degas). The movement style is a fusion of contemporary ballet, modern and gesture. The company is pleased to announce they have been honored with an OGP-1 grant from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

The first critical success of the company was John Castagna's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, an unusually whimsical trapeze through the Shakespearean caper. One of the most agreeable aspects of the Collective for audiences is that many works in the repertoire tell a story or follow a clear theme. Some dances are based on new interpretations of the classics and others on ideas and tales never danced before.

Thanks to the ongoing enthusiasm of Ballet Collective Members, audiences and press, the Collective continues to expand both its repertoire and commitment to developing choreographers and dancers in Los Angeles.

John Castagna, Artistic Director – Mr. Castagna has more than twenty years experience as successful choreographer and performer. In addition to several works for The Ballet Collective in the last few years, Mr. Castagna was commissioned to choreograph new works for Ballet Guatemala and New York's Staten Island Ballet. Castagna's *Sublime Song...* was chosen to be presented on the PBS program "Classic Arts Showcase" and his choreography for *Piece by Peace* won an Emmy award. He is a former member of the Rudy Perez Performance Ensemble and The IT Squad. Castagna holds a Master's Degree in Dance from the University of California, Los Angeles and a degree in Fine Arts. Maestro Stefan Wentia is Mr. Castagna's mentor.



Stefan Wentia, Artistic Consultant – Mr. Wentia's credits include: director of the Wentia Ballet; principal dancer and choreographer of Warsaw's National Opera Ballet; partner of Paris Opera Ballet's prima ballerinas Yvette Chavvire and Lyceite Darsonvoï; world tours as a principle dancer with French Theatre D'Art Du Ballet; Professor Cal Arts; UCLA author/director/choreographer for Polish TV and theater; and choreographer for MGM and 20th Century Fox (*Logan's Run*, *Fantastic Voyage*, *Our Man Flint* and for Warren Beatty's *REDS*). Mr. Wentia teaches classical technique at The Dancers' Studio.

