



CECCHETTI COUNCIL OF AMERICA  
*Ballet Festival*

## Ballet Day Guest Faculty

SAMATHA SHELTON received her professional training from the Joffrey Ballet in New York and in Michigan with Rose Marie Floyd. She also studied in London with Anita Young (Royal Ballet) and at the Cecchetti International program in England. Most recently, she was appointed to the American Ballet Theatre Board of Examiners and will be traveling to various schools across the nation to examine for the ABT NTC and teach master classes. She has been invited to guest teach at Houston Ballet and Duke University, as part of the partnership between the ABT Studio Company and Duke University. For the past twenty years she has been on the ballet faculty for American Ballet Theatre Summer Intensive, formerly directed by Melissa Allen Bowman and currently directed by Kate Lydon, setting ABT repertoire and choreographing new ballets for the final performances. She has also traveled the country as an adjudicator for the ABT National Audition Tour, selecting dancers for training programs in New York, Texas, California, Florida and Alabama. Samantha taught at the ABT programs at the University of Alabama, directed by Carla Stallings, University of Texas-Austin, directed by Wes Chapman, and the Detroit Opera House/Wayne State University, directed by Alaine Haubert. She has choreographed and taught for the professional ballet programs at Houston Ballet, Walnut Hill School in Boston, Ballet Tennessee, Missouri Contemporary Ballet, Duke University, and Interlochen Arts Academy and taught company class for Complexions, Ballet Hispanico and Grand Rapids Ballet. Samantha received her first professional offer at 17, and has performed extensively in both classical and contemporary ballets. Classical roles include the Grand Pas from Nutcracker, Sleeping Beauty, Don Quixote, Giselle and Raymonda. In her guest artist performances, she has partnered with Craig Salstein (of ABT), Arch Higgins (New York City Ballet) and Christopher Stowell (San Francisco Ballet) among many others. Samantha holds an M.F.A. in Dance from the University of Michigan, where she was awarded a Rackham Thesis grant, and a B.A. in Political Science also from the University of Michigan. She has also done graduate work at New York University in Performing Arts Administration with internships in development, PR and marketing at Carnegie Hall and the Orchestra of St. Luke's. For six years, she served on the University of Michigan's School of Music, Theater & Dance Alumni Society Board of Governors and in May 2012 spent three weeks in Taiwan, teaching and presenting a piece of choreography for Tainan University. She has also held professorships at several colleges and universities, most recently as an associate professor at Belhaven University in Jackson, MS. She is certified through the American Ballet Theatre National Curriculum Training Program and has co-taught the ABT NTC with Harriet Clark, at the Detroit Opera House.

BRANDON KOEPESELL is a Detroit native and graduate of the Walnut Hill School in Natick, MA. Brandon holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Wayne State University, where he currently serves as a lecturer and choreographer in the Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance. After graduation from the Walnut Hill School, Brandon spent time performing with Companie Coline in Istre, France, Rapture Dance Project, Ron DeJesus Dance in Chicago, Take Root, and the Macomb Ballet Company, in addition to his guest artist work with the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, Oakland University, Alma College, Wayne State University, and Eisenhower Dance Detroit. Brandon has appeared with the Michigan Opera Theatre in the productions of "Aida" and "The Merry Widow". He was the assistant choreographer on the set of Disney's "Oz, the Great and Powerful", a credited dancer in "A Very Harold and Kumar Christmas" and a director and choreographer for Karen Newman's Detroit Christmas Special in 2023. In collaboration with Jaclyn Walsh, Brandon has presented work at the Boston Contemporary Dance Festival in 2015 and 2018 and at Green Box Arts Festival in Green Mountain Falls, CO in 2019 as part of Larry Keigwin's "Dynamic Duets". Brandon has served as a faculty member with the Chicago National Association of Dance Masters, the Southern Association of Dance Masters, and the Montana Dance Arts Association. Brandon looks forward to serving as an Assistant Artistic Director for the Macomb Ballet Company for his second season.