

***For Immediate Release***

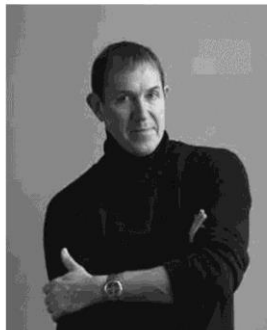
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June 23, 2014

Renowned Artistic Directors from Around the Country Featured at Boca Ballet Theatre's  
Summer Intensive Workshops



**Michael Pink**



**Adam Sklute**



**Stephen Mills**



**Devon Carney**

Boca Raton, FL – Beginning next week, Artistic Directors from around the country will be coming to Boca Ballet Theatre to lend their talents and experience for Boca Ballet Theatre's 5-week Summer Intensive Workshop. The Program will culminate in a professional production of *Swan Lake* – August 1-3, 2014 at Olympic Heights Performing Arts Theater.

The Workshop also features jazz classes with Jimmy Locust – a professional dancer, choreographer, actor and teacher who has danced with superstars Michael Jackson, Janet Jackson, Paula Abdul, Quincy Jones and Debbie Allen. His work spans The Grammys, MTV's Video Music Awards, Academy Awards, the 1996 Olympic Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies (with Emmy winner Kenny Ortega), MTV's Andy Dick Show, The George Lopez Show, films and commercials. He has choreographed fashion shows for Speedo, Reebok's Global Summit, Reebok's "NFL Onfield" and served as artistic director and choreographer for Fila, Avia, Diadora, New Balance and NBA Sportswear.



**Jimmy Locust**

Jimmy owns JAL Entertainment, Inc., which works with top talent and major corporations including Darrin Henson, Taja Sevelle, Elisabeth Withers, Reebok, among others. He founded No Hate (an anti-bullying forum), Locust Contemporary Dance Works and Locust Performing Arts of Stamford, CT.

**Michael Pink, Artistic director of Milwaukee Ballet:** Michael Pink, Artistic Director at Milwaukee Ballet for over a decade, is an international choreographer and teacher. He trained as a classical dancer at the Royal Ballet, joining English National Ballet in 1975. During his ten years with the Company, he danced many leading roles, most notably his partnership with Natalia Makarova in John Cranko's *Onegin*.

Throughout his career Mr. Pink has worked with such luminaries as Dame Ninette de Valois, Sir Frederick Ashton, Rudolf Nureyev, Léonide Massine, Nicholas Beriosoff and Glen Tetley. His early choreographic work won him first place in the Ursula Moreton Choreographic Competition and the Royal Society of Arts Competition. He has worked as répétiteur for Rudolf Nureyev at the Paris Opera and La Scala Milan.

**Adam Sklute, Ballet West:** Adam Sklute brings passion, diversity and eclecticism to Ballet West as Artistic Director. Since 2007, Sklute has expanded Ballet West's repertoire, visibility, and overall outlook with exciting

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company premieres; increased touring and public exposure; full-length classics never before performed by Ballet West; and new creations by renowned and up-and-coming choreographers, including new works by Ballet West Artists.

Mr. Sklute currently serves on the Board of the Gerald Arpino/Robert Joffrey Foundation. A finalist judge and international representative for the Youth America Grand Prix, The World Ballet Competition and an adjudicator for the American College Dance Festival Association, he was listed as one of the *25 Movers and Shakers of the Utah Arts Scene* in 2007.

As a native of Berkeley, California, Mr. Sklute began dancing at the age of 16. He trained at the Oakland Ballet and San Francisco Ballet schools before joining the Joffrey Ballet. Sklute was one of the last two artists personally chosen by Robert Joffrey. In 2003 he assisted with and appeared in Robert Altman's feature film *The Company*; and in 2012 he appeared in *The Joffrey Ballet: Mavericks of Dance*, a documentary chronicling the history of The Joffrey Ballet, and *First Position* a documentary about YAPG; He both appeared in and was Creative Consultant for the CW channel's "Breaking Pointe."

**Stephen Mills, Ballet Austin:** From his inaugural season as Artistic Director in 2000, Stephen Mills has attracted national attention with his world-premiere production of *Hamlet*, hailed by *Dance Magazine* as "...sleek and sophisticated." In 1998 Mills was the choreographer chosen to represent the U.S. through his work, *Ashes*, at the *Rencontres Chorégraphiques Internationales de Seine-Saint-Denis* in Paris. Most recently, Mr. Mills was awarded the Steinberg Award, the top honor at the *Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur* International Choreographic Competition for *One/The Body's Grace*.

Mr. Mills has created more than 40 works for companies across the country and around the world, including the Hong Kong Ballet, Washington Ballet, and Cuballet in Havana, Cuba. He has worked in collaboration with such luminaries as the eight-time Grammy Award-winning band, Asleep at the Wheel, Shawn Colvin and internationally renowned flamenco artist José Greco II.

As a dancer Mr. Mills performed with a wide variety of companies such as the world-renowned Harkness Ballet and The American Dance Machine under the direction of Lee Theadore. He also performed with the Cincinnati Ballet and The Indianapolis Ballet Theater before becoming a part of Ballet Austin.

**Devon Carney, Kansas City Ballet:** Devon Carney Kansas City Ballet's *Artistic Director*, is a native of New Orleans, Louisiana, where he trained with Harvey Hysell before joining New Orleans Ballet. He went on to become a principal dancer at Boston Ballet. During his 21-year professional dance career, Mr. Carney performed many leading roles in classical ballets and toured the world with such greats as Rudolph Nureyev, Fernando Bujones and Cynthia Gregory.

As *Ballet Master* for Boston Ballet from 1998-2003, Mr. Carney worked closely with choreographers including Ben Stevenson, Christopher Wheeldon, Michael Corder, Michael Pink and Bruce Wells. He served as *Artistic Director* of Boston Ballet Summer Dance Program from 1994-2003, and then as the *Associate Artistic Director* of Cincinnati Ballet. His teaching credits include Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre, Arizona Ballet Summer Program, Butler University, and various regional ballet companies and schools across the United States and Europe. He has served as a judge on the juries of the 2002 Youth America Grand Prix Ballet Competition finals in New York City and the 2005 and 2006 American Ballet Competition. Mr. Carney's choreographic endeavors are vast, ranging from classical ballets to his own full-length world premieres of *Dracula* in 2008 and *World Citizen* in 2009.