

## BLACKROCK CENTER FOR ARTS TEACHER BIOS 2007

**LINDSAY BASS** has taught at BRCA since 2005. She has studied piano and composition with Anthony Stark and Janet Peachey, and performed locally with the Catholic University Jazz Band and the CUA Contemporary Music ensemble, where she was a featured marimba soloist in 2000 and 2003. Her compositions have been performed locally, and also in New York and San Francisco by members of the progressive jazz band Curio. In addition to her students at BlackRock, Lindsay teaches at the JCC of Greater Washington, and coaches ensembles at the Mitchellville Community School of the Arts, where she works as a grant writer and administrator. She has over five years of experience teaching piano and music theory.

**NANCY BROWNSTEIN** studied classical piano from age 5 through age 21, first at Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore and later at the University of Maryland, College Park campus. She received a B.S. in music education from College Park with a piano major and voice minor. Nancy discovered her love for musical theater early on, and after college taught private piano and voice, in addition to working as musical director for numerous plays, including *West Side Story*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Pippin*. She's the proud mom of a 21-year old son and an 18-year old daughter. Nancy currently teaches music for Montgomery County Public Schools at McNair Elementary in Germantown, in addition to preparing students for vocal auditions. She's glad to be returning to BlackRock to teach the musical theater program she began here in July 2007, and hopes to see some returning faces (and voices!) from the summer.

**JOAN CLOWES** has taught art to preschoolers at Black Rock since 2003 and through the Montgomery Country Department of Recreation since 1996. These youngest of artists explore various child-friendly art media with children's books as inspiration for self-expression. Attention to socialization, simple composition, and the joy of creation are the focus of each 45-minute class. In addition, she has taught the Metropolitan Opera's *Creating Original Opera* program to fifth graders, and the Hands-on-Science program to K-5 students. In her spare time, she shuttles her two teenagers to musical theater auditions and rehearsals.

**DEE DAUBER** is pleased to teach drama and music classes for BRCA. Holding a bachelor's degree in English education (1989) and master's in speech communication (1991), she brings over 18 years of teaching experience to the classroom. With a strong background in drama, music, gymnastics and English language skills, she has enjoyed sharing her love of the performing arts with students of all ages—from early childhood through college level classes. When not teaching, you may find her "playing" at a local community theater or with her husband and two daughters in Damascus.

**JEANNIE DE LAURA** is a seasoned pianist, singer, model and actress, performing in the arts since the age of 8. Originally from Hawaii, she has performed on many stages and has worked on a variety of sets. Whether she is in the studio recording, competing in piano competitions, or making movies, Jeannie is passionate about the arts. As a graduate from the University of Hawaii with a dual degree in elementary education and special education, she hopes to be able to inspire her students with her love for music.

**VERONIKA FARKAS** is currently the director of the dance department at Imagination Stage where she also runs her pre-professional dance conservatory program and dance ensemble. She hails from Hungary where she started her dance training and continued her studies in a dance conservatory program in Germany. As a teen, she has trained and performed with multiple European companies around the world, in such locales as Japan, France and Italy. In the United States, she continued her classical training and is still an active member of the Maryland Youth Ballet. She received a B.A. in choreography/education from the University of Maryland's dance department.

**ALLYSON GER:** "As an expressive artist (painter, drummer, dancer, singer and performer), what is most exciting for me is the process of creating and collaborating with others. I am a teacher and facilitator who works with individuals and groups of all ages and backgrounds, which includes special needs and

Alzheimer's patients. I believe that we all are creative and are all kinds of learners, and through a mixture of the arts, we can each connect to our creative spirit. Through my teaching, I create an open environment for expression through a mixture of the arts. I set the stage for being in the moment and creating from that place—thereby inviting playfulness, self-discovery, collaboration and fun. In my own artwork, I use a mixture of media from painting to collage to sculpture, depending on what best expresses my ideas. My art has earned local and international recognition through the International Art Award Contest, the Kennedy Center, the Shakespeare Theatre, as well as the city of Silver Spring, Maryland. My paintings have been exhibited in New York City, the Franz Bader Gallery in Washington, D.C., as well as the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

**MARIA GUERRERO** is a ballet instructor and has studied in Virginia, Washington D.C. and Venezuela. She has performed with Nina Novak's Ballet Company, Twinbrook Ballet and Metropolitan Ballet Theatre. She has taught for Metropolitan Ballet Theatre, Montgomery College Day Care Centers and D'Elia Ballet.

**SUE HUGHSON**, a native of Maryland, is beginning her first year at BlackRock Center for the Arts. Before earning a bachelor of music at the University of Maryland, she lived in Japan and Germany, where in addition to playing piano, she played the accordion and guitar. She is presently the music teacher at the Barnesville School, teaching music and drama to middle schoolers. With over 25 years of experience, she has taught music from Pre-K to high school.

**MARTA LAUTZ** is a creative artist and watercolorist. She obtained a bachelor's degree as a graphic designer in Bogota, Columbia then moved to the United States. In Maryland, she continued her studies at Montgomery College in both watercolor and design. Currently, Marta also teaches art-related classes at Montgomery College. Her studies at MC allow for the exploration of combining traditional media with modern tools such as the computer. She enjoys teaching both media and also learning new avenues of expression. Marta is currently teaching drawing at BRCA.

**BECCI KIMM** was trained as a child in tap, jazz, character and ballet. She attended international summer intensive programs in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, given by the Royal Academy of Dance. At age 16, she was accepted to the Royal Ballet School, London, England where she studied with world renowned teachers. During her stay at the Royal Ballet School she observed rehearsals of all the upcoming ballets and performances which included performances by Rudolph Nureyev, Dame Margot Fonteyn, Antoinette Sibley and Anthony Dowell. She met and danced for Dame Ninette de Valois, founder of the Royal Ballet Company. Upon returning to the United States, she trained with American Ballet Theater, Joffrey and Harkness House in New York City. She performed with the Garden State Ballet in Newark, New Jersey and the resident ballet company at Radio City Music Hall, New York City. Becci has over 30 years of teaching experience both in the United States and Europe. She was the director of her own school for 15 years. Several of her former students have become professional dancers with American Ballet Theater and Washington Ballet. Many of her students have performed in the Kennedy Center Opera House with New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theater, London Festival Ballet and Stuttgart Ballet. They have also been accepted to many summer intensive study programs, often on scholarship. Becci is the chairman of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the Royal Academy of Dance Organization. She continues her studies and is a fully certified, registered teacher with the Academy. Students may enter for examinations under her tutelage.

**MIKE KLIGERMAN** has a B.A. in fine arts and music from Goddard College, Instituto de Bellas Artes Mexico D.F. (1974). He has taught guitar for over 40 years and plays in many styles and settings, both professionally and just for fun. He plays violin, viola, string bass, recorders, and most recently button accordion as well as guitar, and has taught at BRCA since fall 2006. He is currently a member of Trinity Chamber Orchestra, Montgomery Philharmonic, Potomac Crossing Consort, Town and Country String Quartet, Pleasant Ridge Gospel Quartet and Mike, and the Council, a rock/pop/folk quartet. His paintings and sculpture are exhibited internationally.

**OLA ODENIRAN** has been teaching and choreographing professionally around the metropolitan area for five years. A member of Actors Equity Association, she has performed in theaters both nationally and locally, including Woolly Mammoth Theatre, Studio Theater, Montgomery College Summer Dinner

Theater and Horizons Theatre. In addition, she performed in the Kennedy Center's National Tour of *Alexander Who's Not Going To Move!* Currently, you can find her teaching master classes around the area as well as sessions in hip hop/ urban funk, tap, Broadway jazz, ballet/ tap, jazz/ tap, creative movement, street jazz and dance gymnastics at Imagination Stage as well as BRCA.

**TRICIA PHILLIPS** is one of the original theater teachers on BRCA's staff since its opening in 2002. Currently, she also directs musical productions for Home School Talents, a non-profit organization for home schoolers. She has a variety of teaching experiences including working for the Montgomery County Department of Recreation, Interact Story Theatre, Montgomery College's Continuing Education Program and directing theater workshops for Flower Valley Elementary School, Clopper Mill Elementary School and Georgetown Day School. Her theatrical writing includes writing scripts for BlackRock's summer arts camp program and as a cue sheet writer for the Kennedy Center. She has an undergraduate degree from the Catholic University of America and a graduate degree from Villanova University.

**CHRISTINA ADDABBO PRETE** has been on faculty at BRCA since its opening in 2002, where she specializes in ballet classes for young children. Christina trained locally in ballet, jazz and tap and has been teaching these forms of dance to children and teenagers since 1990. As a professional advanced certified fellow of the Cecchetti Council of America, Christina's teachings focus on the Cecchetti Method of ballet, both as a teacher and as the executive director of the Corinne Phelps Robertson School of Dance in Bethesda. Christina is also a principal dancer with Metropolitan Ballet Theatre in Rockville, having performed such roles as the Sugar Plum Fairy and Snow Queen in the *Nutcracker Suite*. Christina earned a degree in finance from the University of Maryland at College Park where she graduated magna cum laude and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. While in school, Christina participated with the university's original competitive ballroom dance team and directed the Ballroom Formation Dance Team.

**MARCI SHEGOGUE** has taught Merry Melodies at BRCA for five years, and previously taught for Gymboree and Kindermusik. She also teaches lower school music at Sandy Spring Friends School. Marci has been involved in the local musical theater community for over 27 years, recently music directing *Fiddler on the Roof* for the Har Shalom Players and *Bye Bye Birdie* for Damascus Theater Company. She is currently vocal directing *Seussical* for Musical Theater Center. She loves to teach music to children and adults of all ages! Marci lives in Germantown with her husband, Rich, and her daughters, Camryn and Jamison.

**LAURA STARK** holds a B.F.A. in musical theater from Shenandoah College and Conservatory of Music in Winchester, Virginia. She has performed in the D.C. metropolitan area, on several national tours, in regional theaters around the country and in New York. In addition, she has performed with several improvisation troupes including Gotham City Improvisation. She has been teaching theater and improvisation since 1999 and with BRCA since 2005. When not teaching theater, Laura directs theater locally and is busy as the mother of three children.

**NICOLETTE STEARNS** has been teaching acting to kids and adults since BlackRock opened its doors. She has been a professional actor, director, playwright and artist educator in the Greater Washington area for the last 17 years. She holds a master's degree from George Mason University. She is a co-founder of ARTSTREAM.

**LISA SWENTON-EPPARD** is a second-generation dance educator; she started dancing in her mother's dance studio in southern Maryland just as soon as she could walk. Lisa began teaching at the age of 15 and hasn't stopped since. She has been involved in many kinds of dance, including jazz, ballet and modern, as well as competitions and pageants, both as a participant and a choreographer. Lisa has taught tap at BRCA since it opened its doors in 2002. Lisa is also the associate director for Tappers With Attitude Youth Ensemble and serves on the Metro D.C. Dance Awards selection committee.

**WALKIRIA TORREALBA** is a professional artist/teacher. She studied fine arts at the School of Arts Cristobal Rojas in Caracas, Venezuela; received a bachelor in education at Central University of Caracas and a master's in education at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. She taught fine arts for seven years at several high schools and colleges as well as three years at the University

J.M.Vargas in Caracas. She worked for three years at the art department of Tiuna Film Cinematography Company in Caracas. In the U.S., she has taught for nine years at Brookeville Academy in Gaithersburg. She has exhibited her work in many international art shows and has had several solo exhibitions. She has also written and illustrated books for children. She has lived in Gaithersburg since 1996 where she exhibits and teaches.

**DANIEL VILLAR** is an accomplished singer, pianist, songwriter and music teacher. He has been teaching private voice and piano lessons to children, teenagers, and adults since 1999. He holds a bachelor of music in vocal performance from the University of Maryland. Daniel also enjoys working as a musical director and composer for theater companies including ArtStream, Imagination Stage and Musical Theater Center.