



VICTORIA  
ACADEMY  
of BALLET

**VICTORIA ACADEMY OF BALLET**  
*Bleiddyn del Villar Bellis*, Artistic Director  
Fellow & Examiner CSC-CICB  
Enrico Cecchetti Final Diploma  
VictoriaAcademyofBallet.ca  
1 250 590 6752








OUR STRONG CURRICULUM, OUTSTANDING  
FACULTY, AND PERSONAL ATTENTION TO  
EACH STUDENT DEFINE OUR ACADEMY.



In our first lesson with Ms Bellis I knew she meant business! She worked us hard and correctly and it was the first time I felt like I was dancing properly, using my muscles and my brain in the right way! I loved her as a teacher, I wanted to work hard for her. She would push and help you all she could.

— *Harriet Mills* Royal Ballet School Graduate, Karlsruhe State Theatre of Baden



Under the direction of Bleiddyn del  
Villar Bellis, Examiner and Fellow (CSC-CICB),  
The Victoria Academy of Ballet provides  
students with the necessary foundation to  
embark on a career in professional dance.

## DIRECTOR

Ms Bellis completed her formative ballet training in Victoria, British Columbia, under the guidance of Christine Richardson, Fellow and Examiner CSC-CICB. She has worked as an international guest teacher, lecturer and choreographer throughout British Columbia, Canada, Japan, Mexico, and England.

Before locating to the UK in 2003, Ms Bellis was a faculty member of Vancouver's Arts Umbrella and other schools located throughout the lower mainland. In the UK, Ms Bellis taught for the Liverpool Theatre School and Kate Simmons School, teaching in the lower/upper schools and Teacher Training College Program.

As a full time staff member at the Hammond School in Chester, England, she choreographed for the Senior School's professional touring company, Taudevin, and was instrumental in establishing the Cecchetti method within the professional school's curriculum.

Ms Bellis is a Fellow and Examiner with the Cecchetti Society of Canada, holds a diploma in Applied Anatomy, and has been awarded the Certificate in Dance Education by the ISTD. Throughout her career, she has been recognized with many awards and scholarships including the Margaret Saul Scholarship by The Cecchetti

Society of Canada for her completion of the prestigious Enrico Cecchetti Final Diploma in London, England.

Because of her dynamic and inspirational teaching style, she has been a frequent guest teacher and lecturer for organizations such as the British Ballet Organization, Cecchetti Northern Scholars in Manchester, England, the Cecchetti Northern Associates of the UK, and "Dancing Days" (British Ballet Organization, Elmhurst School of Dance Birmingham UK), Random Dance UK, The Royal Winnipeg Ballet School (Summer Intensive), Cecchetti Society Manitoba, Alberta and BC branches, Ballet Victoria, Ballet British Columbia, and The School of Ballet du Monterrey, Mexico.

Her former students are currently working around the world in companies such as English National Ballet, Semperoper Ballet Company and Karlsruhe State Theatre of Baden (Germany), with Matthew Bourne (London, UK), and in London's West End Musical Theatre productions. As Artistic Director at the Victoria Academy of Ballet she has developed both the Professional Training Program and the fully Accredited Post Secondary Bridge Program.

Ms Bellis is passionate about passing on her knowledge and inspiring students and young teachers alike.



### **BLEIDDYN DEL VILLAR BELLIS**

*Artistic Director*

Fellow & Examiner CSC-CICB  
Enrico Cecchetti Final Diploma



**ANDREW PRONGER**  
*Principal / Assistant Director*  
Licentiate CBA – CICB  
Master of Fine Arts – QUT  
Enrico Cecchetti Final Diploma

Mr Pronger is a graduate of the Australian Ballet School (Diploma of Dance) and Queensland University of Technology (Master of Fine Arts — Creative Industries). Mr Pronger danced professionally with Queensland Ballet performing a diverse range of works both classical and contemporary. He has completed all Cecchetti Professional Examinations including the Enrico Cecchetti Diploma and holds the CBA Licentiate teaching qualification. He was Principal of River City Dance in Brisbane (1997–2011). During this time, he was a teacher at Queensland Conservatoire of Ballet, Queensland University of Technology, and a guest teacher at Queensland Dance School of Excellence. In 2011, Mr Pronger accepted the position of Assistant Director at Victoria Academy of Ballet in Canada where he is working with students in all programs.



**KERRYLYNN TURNER**  
*Bridge Program Director*  
ARAD, RAD RRTS  
Professional Dancer's  
Teaching Diploma (RAD)

Born and raised in Vancouver, Ms Turner danced with Ballet British Columbia for six years creating roles and working with many internationally renowned dancers and choreographers. During the course of her career, Ms Turner also performed as a guest artist with the National Ballet of Canada, Hong Kong Ballet, Alberta Ballet, and at Canada Dance Festival. Upon retiring, Ms Turner moved to London, England, where she earned Distinction in the RAD's Professional Dancer's Teaching Diploma program. She also holds her Associate status with the Royal Academy and, since graduating, has been asked to teach multiple times for the RAD in London, as well as for the Cecchetti Society in Vancouver, BC.



**SARAH MEGEE**  
*General Program Director*  
Bachelor of Education  
ABT Certified Teacher

Ms Megee began her formal training at the School of Alberta Ballet where she successfully completed her Cecchetti Advanced II examination and was awarded the prestigious Ali Pourfarrokh scholarship. She spent her summers at the Banff Centre's Summer Dance Program, The Joffrey Midwest Workshop, and Joffrey New York Summer Intensive. She was awarded a full scholarship to the Joffrey Ballet School where she spent one year training and performing. She then entered the Pre-Professional Program at the School of Alberta Ballet, where she was asked to perform with the Alberta Ballet Company. Ms. Megee is currently an ABT certified teacher and is working to complete her Cecchetti Associate and Final Diploma. Ms Megee also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Education and Mathematical Sciences from the University of Alberta.





## GENERAL PROGRAM

The General Program provides an experience for students who wish to dance in a caring and progressive environment, multiple times per week, while allowing them to balance their academic endeavours. Classes are offered in ballet, jazz, and contemporary in the late afternoons and early evenings, and students may be able to receive credit towards their high school graduation through the BC Ministry of Education. Students are trained in the Cecchetti Method by highly qualified and experienced teaching professionals, and take Open Class work which further develops their technique, expression, musicality, and appreciation of ballet. All ages and abilities are welcome.





“

I never thought I'd enjoy ballet as much as I do! The teachers here are very patient, dedicated, and encouraging. They are some of the most inspiring people I've had the pleasure of meeting. I have fallen in love with ballet through them and the friendly atmosphere of the academy. I feel gratified to have joined the world of dance at VAB.

— *Carolina Quintero*  
General Program, Canada





## PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

The half day Professional Training Program registers students ages 12 and up who wish to train in an intensive and professional environment.

Students attend academic school in the morning and dance training classes in the afternoon. Professional Training Program students are nurtured in an atmosphere dedicated to excellence with personalized programs and coaching. Daily technique classes, and weekly repertoire, pointe work, men's classes, contemporary, jazz and body conditioning ensure the training of all students is well rounded and in line with the demands of a professional dance career.

Students are exposed to a multitude of performance opportunities including local and international competitions, festivals, and our annual Celebration of Dance. Acceptance into the Professional Training Program is by audition only.







DEVELOPING VERSATILE DANCERS WITH FOCUS,  
AN INQUIRING INTELLECT, STRONG SELF  
CONFIDENCE AND OUTSTANDING WORK ETHIC.



I've learned so much by being a VAB student for the past three years; not only in my dance training but also as a person. I couldn't be happier deciding to stay here, spending time with incredible teachers and reliable friends. The passion and experience the teachers have is truly amazing and beautiful.

— *Karin Ezaki*  
Independent Artist, Japan



**SCHOLARSHIP SOCIETY MISSION:** TO ADVANCE DANCE EDUCATION BY PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO DESERVING STUDENTS, AND TO ADVANCE THE PUBLIC'S APPRECIATION OF THE DANCE ARTS BY PROVIDING HIGH QUALITY PERFORMANCES.



I am so grateful to have the VABSS take some of the financial burden of dance training from me and my family. I am now able to focus on my goals without having to worry about finances, and I can't thank the VABSS volunteers enough.

— Leah Wells

Professional Training Program, Canada

## VICTORIA ACADEMY OF BALLET SCHOLARSHIP SOCIETY

Victoria Academy of Ballet is generously supported by the Victoria Academy of Ballet Scholarship Society, a registered charitable organization. The goals of the society are to provide deserving dance students with scholarships and bursaries to assist their families with the cost of their dance education.

The Scholarship Society is committed to assisting dance students who may have limited financial resources and further, to recognize outstanding talent and potential.

As well, the VABSS arranges events which are structured to shine a light on

the joy of dance for people of all ages, either as a spectator or a participant.

All donations receive a charitable tax receipt for income tax purposes. To donate to the scholarship fund, to sponsor a student or an event, or to ask questions, please contact [vabss@telus.net](mailto:vabss@telus.net).





## POST-SECONDARY BRIDGE PROGRAM IN CLASSICAL BALLET

### 2 year Diploma

The Bridge Program is a two year, full time, post-graduate Diploma program Accredited by PCTIA, British Columbia Ministry of Advanced Education. Successful applicants are selected through an audition process. Students are encouraged to explore different aspects of professional dance life through the extensive program curriculum. Besides classes in ballet, pointe, classical repertoire, pas de deux, contemporary, pilates, and jazz, students are trained in a professional environment. Students explore varied methods of the choreographic process, observe guest artists' projects, as well as receive classes in academic modules containing anatomy,

ballet history and various personal development subjects such as career exploration and choreographic studies. Individual advising and collaboration with knowledgeable and experienced VAB faculty and guest choreographers connect students to avenues in the dance industry. Graduates are fully prepared for the next step on their career paths.

As a natural progression from Victoria Academy of Ballet's demanding Bridge Program, Bridge students are able to experience the daily routine of working alongside our company, VAB Dance Theatre Company, during morning classes and rehearsals while continuing

the necessary technical training in classical and contemporary ballet.

VAB Dance Theatre Company was created to facilitate dancers who have finished a post-secondary training program. Young professionals join VAB Dance Theatre Company while trying to secure jobs within the industry, or between independent artistic engagements. At the discretion of the Artistic Director, Bridge Program students have an opportunity to take on roles within the company allowing further invaluable performance experience. Some of these performances may include tours throughout British Columbia and Canada.

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I learned so many things at VAB because each instructor has a different teaching style. They taught me a real technical foundation in ballet and the importance of paying close attention to details in performance...giving me the opportunity to perform outside of the school and join/observe rehearsals with professional ballet dancers.

— *Amiri Kuramochi*  
Star Dancers Ballet, Japan







“

Thanks to the personal attention VAB's teachers gave me, I have a better understanding of what my strengths and weaknesses are in my dancing. I am so happy with the Bridge Program because I have been able to perform a lot, learn about nutrition and anatomy, as well as experience other valuable opportunities for the future.

— *Yukiho Kiri*  
2nd year Bridge Program, Japan





Being in the Professional Training Program at Victoria Academy of Ballet has been a once in a lifetime experience. The teachers at VAB clearly care about the development of their student's technique and artistry all while inspiring each student to be themselves while dancing. I am so thankful to be part of this amazing community and school.

— *Mariana Colyer*  
Professional Training Program, Mexico







## FACILITIES IN VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Victoria Academy of Ballet is located in the city center of Victoria, the vibrant capital city of British Columbia. Students enjoy easy bus transportation, nearby coffee shops, restaurants, and shopping. Two fully equipped modern dance studios, student change and lounge facilities, and a reception area offer a welcoming and safe environment.





**VICTORIA ACADEMY OF BALLET IS LOCATED IN  
THE CITY CENTER OF VICTORIA, THE VIBRANT  
CAPITAL CITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.**









## HOMESTAY

At the Victoria Academy of Ballet, all international and domestic visiting students under the age of 19 live with carefully selected and screened host families. The support and understanding of a caring host family provides a smooth transition to a new culture and a demanding dance schedule. Experienced host parents are adept at managing the routines and responsibilities of students in a warm, supportive environment. Our staff assists all students and host families for the duration of the students' stay ensuring they are well cared for in comfortable and welcoming homes.

## STUDENT SUPPORT

Victoria Academy of Ballet strives to incorporate a holistic approach in teaching dance with a focus on both the physical and emotional well-being of each student. To achieve their potential, all dancers must learn the necessity of maintaining a healthy body, attending to injuries, and being aware of the nutritional needs of elite athletes. Dancers require intense motivation and focus to succeed. Students may require emotional or physical health support to help manage the demands of the rigorous daily schedule necessary for their chosen career path.

VAB staff will assist students to connect with our recommended professional health care providers who have special expertise and interest in issues of elite ballet dancers. In addition, VAB assists with housing, medical insurance requirements, and other aspects of living away from home.







## ACADEMICS

Victoria Academy of Ballet recommends schools that are accredited by the BC Ministry of Education that meet the highest standards of academic excellence and with which we have developed positive working relationships. This allows accommodation for half-day dance schedules as well as ballet examinations and rehearsals within the prescribed school day. These schools offer a wide range of programs that lead to a British Columbia Grade 12 graduation diploma, allowing students to enter universities in Canada, USA, and world-wide if desired.

Pacific School of Innovation and Inquiry (PSII) and Victoria High School, School District 61 are located close to the VAB studios and provide the flexibility for

ballet students to develop a personalized learning plan that can meet graduation and post-secondary entry requirements. Pacific School of Innovation and Inquiry is an independent school certified by the BC Ministry of Education and the designated learning institution for all international students attending VAB.

The school Principal, Jeff Hopkins, is internationally recognized as a visionary leader in education. PSII has a low student-teacher ratio, allowing for small group and individual teaching as well as personal attention. Students living away from their families need this guidance in both academics and dance training. PSII works collaboratively with VAB to ensure that students receive both External and Equivalency

credits for ballet exams and dance courses as well as transfer credits from previous school transcripts.

Domestic students may choose to attend either PSII or Victoria High School, School District 61, also located near VAB studios. Victoria High School offers a flexible timetable schedule for half day students.

Post Secondary students requiring English classes are recommended to attend Stewart College, our language school partner. Stewart College is an independent, Canadian-owned language school offering a wide range of ELL programs. It is accredited with the BC Ministry of Advanced Education and is an EQA certified school conveniently located near VAB.







*Do you have the courage,  
determination & passion  
to become the dancer  
you dream to be?*





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**STUDIO LOCATION**

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Victoria, British Columbia  
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