

# Welcome Judges



**Peter Christie** is the Academy Director for **Ballet West**. Originally born in Brooklyn, NY, Peter grew up in Upstate New York and began his dance training at the age of nine. At age 15 he entered the **Syracuse Ballet School** in New York and upon high school graduation, he joined **Hartford Ballet's Teacher Training** program in Connecticut. Peter was a member of the **Hartford Ballet** from 1980-1982 and joined **Ballet West** in 1982 as a member of the corps. He was especially noted for his character roles and was promoted to soloist in 1991. After dancing with the company for 16 years, he joined the artistic staff of Ballet West in 1998. He currently serves as **Director of Educational Programs**. He also was a member of the **Ballet West Academy Faculty** beginning in 1992 and served as **Director of the Ballet West Academy** from 2004 through 2015. Peter has taught for several local ballet schools, conducted master classes for Ballet West on tour, nationally and internationally. In July 1997, Peter worked with **Jacques D'Amboise** at the **National Dance Institute in New York City** and served as assistant director for the **Feel the Beat** educational program with Ballet West. Continuing

with that program, he created a program entitled, **I CAN DO**, which is currently in residence in eleven Wasatch Front Schools. In August of 2004, Peter's program crossed the Atlantic Ocean in conjunction with Ballet West's invitation to the **Edinburgh International Festival**. Peter also volunteered as an assistant choreographer for the **Opening and Closing Ceremonies** for the **2002 Winter Olympics**.



**Loren Sparks** began her dance training at the age of three in Torrington, CT, where she was instructed in the Vaganova technique of classical ballet at The Nutmeg Conservatory for the Arts. For the next 15 years at Nutmeg, Loren studied with many known choreographers and teachers including: **Elena Tchernichova, Kevin Martin, and Sharon Dante**. Loren also attended the **Joffrey Workshop** in San Antonio, TX, and competed in the **Youth America Grand Prix**; receiving an honorable mention in New York City.

Loren moved to Oklahoma to join **Ballet Oklahoma**, where she performed **The Nutcracker, Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella, Les Sylphide, Romeo and Juliet**, and many more. After seven years with the company, she decided it was time to find her next adventure. Loren currently owns **Epic Dance Studio** in Edmond, Oklahoma, which is entering its tenth year this season. Nationally recognized for technique, choreography, and

performance, Epic has earned several national titles over the years.



**Debbie Granier** owned **Debbie's Dance Academy** for 27 years. During that time she taught and choreographed over 900 winning dance routines, and won **Top Choreographer of the Year at Kid's Artistic Revue National Finals** four years in a row. Her students have appeared in movies and on Broadway, and many have gone on to open successful dance studios, to teach, and to choreograph for events and companies such as **Carnival Cruise Lines, Walt Disney World, The Super Bowl Half Time, and The New Orleans Saints Saintsations**. Her students were also recognized internationally as members of the **U.S. International Olympian Show Teams**. Debbie holds several beauty titles including **Mrs. Louisiana, Miss New Orleans, and Miss Press Club of New Orleans**. She plans to continue her commitment to technique, performance quality, and the advancement of young talent through her teaching and as a judge for national dance competitions.