

JOHN BYRNE

John is a graduate of the Professional Dancer's Teaching Course, Royal Academy of Dance, London. His first teaching engagement was with Anne Woolliams, Dean of Dance at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) in Melbourne, in 1979. Following his relocation to Sydney he worked for several years as a free lance teacher before being invited by Julia Farron, then Artistic Director of the RAD, to train as a Major Examiner. His subsequent examining career (1987- 2015) has given him the opportunity to teach and examine throughout the world. In 1990, he returned to London as Principal Tutor on the Professional Dancer's Teaching Course, and, shortly thereafter, was appointed Artistic Director of the Academy to succeed David Wall, CBE. He was also appointed Chair of the Academy's international Examining Board. During this period in London he produced a new Advanced Syllabus for Boys as well as revisions to existing syllabi, and the choreography for several dances. In 1997, he was engaged by SCECGS Redlands grammar school in Sydney to establish a Ballet and Dance Academy within the school. As Founding Director of this Academy he established academic courses in Dance for School Certificate and Higher School Certificate students and vocational training courses for aspiring dancers. In 2002 he was made a Fellow of the Royal Academy (FRAD) in recognition of his outstanding services to dance and to the Academy. He has maintained an interest in the anatomical basis of classical ballet technique since his first studies with Joan Lawson during teacher training in London, and undertook further studies in Functional Anatomy at the University of New South Wales after his return to Australia. He has lectured on this subject for many years to teachers and trainee teachers around the world. His other great interest is in the art of Port de Bras. He has recently completed the first five levels of Piano studies with the Australian Music Examinations Board. He lives in the beautiful Dandenong Ranges outside Melbourne, Australia and is still actively engaged in teaching in Australia and abroad.

Qualifications:

BA (University of Sydney);

Dip Arts Admin (University of Westminster, London);

Dip PDTTC, ARAD (RAD London)