

Famed principal dancer joins American Dance Institute faculty

American Dance Institute is proud to announce the appointment of former Washington Ballet principal dancer Runqiao Du to its faculty. "Joining ADI's faculty is like coming home to me," said Runqiao. "Michael Bjercknes was my Ballet Master at Washington Ballet when I first arrived from China at age 18. He was my friend and mentor." Michael Bjercknes was co-founder and Executive Director of ADI until his death in 2008. Runqiao joins his wife Erin Mahoney-Du, also a former principal with Washington Ballet, currently a faculty member at ADI. He will teach in the Children's Program division as well as Adult dance division of the Institute. "I am so pleased to have this dynamic and talented couple on our faculty. Michael and I wanted them to join us at ADI and now it has come to fruition."



More about Runqiao Du



Runqiao Du received his academic and ballet training at Shanghai Dance Academy where he graduated with honors and received a bronze medal in the China National Ballet Competition. In his professional career he has performed with American Ballet Theater, Chautauqua Dance Company, Cincinnati Ballet, and Ballet Theatre of Lima (Peru). With The Washington Ballet from 1989-2008, he had an 18 year career as a principal dancer performing lead roles in Romeo and Juliet, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Cinderella, Giselle, and The Nutcracker. Mr. Du joined The Suzanne Farrell Ballet performing lead roles in

George Balanchine's Apollo, Scotch Symphony, Monumentum, Movements for Piano and Orchestra, Tzigane, Who Cares?, Divertimento No. 15, Serenade, Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux, Meditation, Duo Concertante, La Source, La Valse, Chaconne, Ballade, Don Quixote, Afternoon of a Faun, and Bejart's Romeo and Juliet. He has participated in The Washington Ballet's "Ballets From Within", a choreographic workshop for the members of the company. Most recently, he created a solo that was performed at the Millennium Stage at the John F. Kennedy Center. Mr. Du is also holds a faculty position at Towson University Dance Department.

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