

# FLORIDA DANCE THEATRE



# Press Kit 2014-2015

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## **Carol Krajacic-Erkes**

### **Executive/Artistic Director / Founder**

Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Ms. Erkes, brings to Lakeland a world of experience as both a professional dancer and teacher. She began her professional career at 15 performing with the Ohio Chamber Ballet/Ohio Ballet in Akron. Erkes performed as a soloist with Cincinnati Ballet and Augusta Ballet. She taught and danced with Southern Ballet Theatre (now Orlando Ballet) and Texas Ballet. She was featured as a guest artist with numerous ballet companies including New Mexico Ballet, Ballet Orlando, San Diego Metropolitan Ballet, Houston Civic Ballet, and Vero Beach Ballet. She has had the pleasure of working with many wonderful teachers, coaches, and choreographers including Dame Alecia Markova, Frederic Franklin, Donald Sadler, James Truitte, and Rosemary Dunleavy. Erkes has served on the faculties of Augusta Ballet, Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School, James Dance Center, University of Houston-Clearlake, and as guest master instructor at Harrison School of the Arts, Rochelle School of the Arts, Dr. Phillips High School, University of South Carolina, Osceola School of the Arts, and All Saints Academy. Ms. Erkes is also on the permanent faculty of the Earl Mosley Institute of the Arts.

## **Ferdinand De Jesus**

### **Associate Director/Resident Choreographer**

Mr. De Jesus, otherwise known as "Freddie," originally from Brooklyn New York, began his training in Manhattan New York, with the Nannette Bearden Contemporary Dance Theatre at age 14. He later continued his studies on a merit scholarship at The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and also at the Dance Theatre of Harlem in New York City. His extensive professional experience includes Dayton Contemporary Dance Co., Donald Byrd/The Group, Florida Dance Theatre, Philadanco, and most recently the Bruce Wood dance company in Dallas Texas. De Jesus has trained alongside and worked with many successful professionals throughout his 20+ year career. He's performed many historical modern dance works and ballets while working alongside a range of dance pioneers and amazing contemporary dance innovators. He finds inspiration from having worked with choreographers such as: Donald Mckayle, EleoPolmare, Milton Myers, Donald Byrd, Nathaniel Trice, Mia Michaels and Dwight Rhoden of Complexions. Mr. De Jesus has also served as faculty and guest instructor at a variety of Florida Performing Arts Schools such as: Rochelle School of the Arts, Pinellas Center for the Arts, Harrison School of the Arts and has served as a guest to the Florida Dance Associations Young Dancers Workshop



and the Earl Mosley Institute of the Arts in Connecticut.



## Misson

Florida Dance Theatre, recognizing the importance of artistic influence on the development and growth of our children and community, strives to increase awareness and appreciation of dance as a living art form and to produce works of high artistic quality in a wide variety of styles. Our continuing purpose is to provide an enriching and unique, if not superb, multicultural experience for our community and beyond.

## History

In 1993 Florida Dance Theatre was founded by Artistic Director Carol Krajacic Erkes. Formally known as Lakeland Ballet, the organization was created to perform and educate throughout the community. Over the years as the repertoire began to grow, many Florida artists and professional dancers from around the United States were captivated. They joined the company and became invested in making FDT a thriving, powerful and positive arts organization. FDT has been performing and producing in Central Florida for 20 years and has earned a reputation as an innovative and exciting professional contemporary dance company. This accomplishment is attributed to bringing the highest quality of dance to the community and stimulating audiences through the exciting performances. . In addition to performing, the company established strong connections within the community through Florida Dance Theatre's professional training academy, educational partnerships, and outreach initiatives. Many guest choreographers contribute to their growth and include

- Earl Mosely
- Richard Munro
- Michael McBride
- Nicole Lachioma
- Darryl Foster
- Lloyd Whitmore
- Cuic Suarez
- Sharon Wong



*"Dances that range from the delicious to the delirious"*  
Diane Hubbard, the Orlando Sentinel

### Company description

The passion of Florida Dance Theatre's innovative choreography lives within the fresh, heartfelt approach to its unique movement style. As a contemporary ballet and modern dance company; FDT captivates its audiences with skillfully crafted, thought provoking works. The exceptional artistry of the company's dancers amplifies a creative vision that expresses the human experience. Florida Dance Theatre continues to evolve by building a reputation for artistic excellence and technical prowess.

### Arts in Education and Outreach

Arts in Education and Outreach: FDT Arts in Education and Outreach programs have given over 10,000 children and youth ages 2-25 an opportunity to increase their self-esteem, cultural awareness, creativity and to develop life skills like leadership, discipline and teamwork. Youth participate in these programs through dance classes, scholarships, apprenticeships, lecture demonstrations, residency programs, performances, and summer camps. Programs are tailored for the community, school and/or the individual. Our continuing purpose is to provide an enriching, unique, outstanding experience for all children and youth.



## **Florida Dance Theatre General Touring Requirements**

There are a variety of programs the presenter may choose from in the proposal. The presenter may combine any of the programs if desired. Florida Dance Theatre consists of 8 -10 professional dancers. The company's repertoire is extremely varied and features original contemporary ballet and modern works done specifically for the company dancers.

- One full 1 ½ hour repertoire performance to recorded music
- The Nutcracker, The traditional holiday classic that can be presented with the company of FDT along with children's roles set on dance students from your community.
- Master Classes available in Ballet, Pointe, Modern and Jazz
- School lecture demos and "special" performances available

### **Theatre Requirements**

- Minimum 20 feet wide x 35 feet deep level stage
- Level sprung wood floor with Marley or comparable dance flooring
- Soft goods to include : no less than 2 wings, A white or black scrim, cyc
- 2 Dressing room spaces with mirrors that are convenient to the performance space preferably with a restroom facility and shower
- Production staff to include: 1 lighting technician, 1 sound technician, stage manager
- A lighting plot is requested in advance for our technician
- Company requires at least 8 hours in the theatre before the performance

### **Travel Expenses**

- All transportation costs ; gas/ rental vehicles, airfare
- All hotel/ lodging costs
- Per diem of \$50 per day for all FDT company members and staff

## **Technical Information**

The following technical information is presented as a general overview; however, FDT can be flexible in order to accommodate the needs of each presenter.

**The stage:** Proscenium stage or other performing space, approximately 35' wide by 25' deep. The floor should be resilient with a smooth surface covered by vinyl dance flooring or appropriate dance surface. Crossover space is preferred but not necessary.

**Technical requirements:** For concert performances, performing space should have white cyclorama, black scrim, black legs creating four wings on each side, theater lighting capabilities including side lights, washes, and two overhead specials. FDT can provide presenter with general lighting needs

**Sound:** A professional sound system with CD player, house PA system, stage monitors. One wireless, handheld microphone is requested.

**Crew:** Stage manager, lighting & sound technicians (Additional crew needed on fly for Nutcracker)

**Dressing Rooms:** 2 Dressing rooms (Men's & Women's) with counters, lighted make up mirrors, bathroom facilities and showers. (Nutcracker requires at least an additional 2 large chorus rooms)

**Hospitality:** The Company requests Bottled water and snacks for day of show.

**Technical requirements:** a fully equipped theater with a dance floor

### **Performance Space Dimensions**

Height 20'

Width 35'

Depth 25'

**Load-in:** sufficient time for the loading in of lighting, props and other technical needs as determined by Florida Dance Theatre, not to exceed 4 hours.

**Wing Space:** minimum of 2 wings 15', 6' wide

**Sound:** system appropriate to house size with CD player, house PA and stage monitors

**Dressing Rooms:** *See General Requirements*

**Rehearsal Time:** a 2 - 3 hour technical rehearsal for spacing on stage, a 2 hour dress/tech run of the show on stage

**Warm-up Space:** two hours before the performance

### **Additional Technical Requirements for Projects not at a theatre**

#### **Dance Technique Classes**

Required: dance accompanist and/or a sound system with CD player and a dance studio sufficient for the size of the class. Ballet Barres

**Educational Programs**

Required: a sound system with a cd player or a portable CD player and an unobstructed space with a clean floor sufficient for the size of the class

**Schools**

**Libraries**

**Community centers**

**Museums**





## Reviews

“...The seasoned professional from around the country who have joined the company, as well as a variety of guest choreographers have helped to build an exciting repertoire of contemporary ballet, modern, and jazz works.” -- Art-I-Facts, Lakeland

“...You did a superb job with the choreography, and the dancers’ interpretation was very good. I was quite moved by many touching moments.” -- Amy, Imperial Symphony Orchestra, Lakeland

“Please accept my thanks for an incredibly entertaining evening... Your dancers are such a joy to watch. The choreography was wonderful, and the selection of the music was just perfect.”  
-- Linda Stevenson, Winter Haven

“We were lucky enough to be able to attend the recent Spring Concert at the Polk Theatre... we were taken with the abilities and enthusiasm of the whole company. Lakeland is fortunate to have been chosen as the base for this group. I am glad the Ledger has appreciation of their abilities, too. And now they are sharing their artistic and athletic gifts with children who might not be able to take part in dance instruction. I am sure there will be some fine talents emerge from these new youngsters. It is typical of people in the Arts that they wish to share their enjoyment in the beauty of it. Let’s all give the Florida Dance Theatre the support that they deserve.” -- Mercedes M. Fox, Courtesy of the Lakeland Ledger





## **CONTACT INFO**

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