

Robert F. Cook
dance bio: 10/09, revised 7/12

Studied with Louis Nunnery and Constance Hardinge (1957-65) and at the School of American Ballet (Stanley Williams, André Eglevsky, and Alexandra Danilova) under the auspices of the Ford Foundation (Summers, 1964-65).

Further training at Atlanta Ballet (1962; Robert Barnett, Merrilee Smith), Joffrey School (1965; Françoise Martinet) and in Paris with Serge Peretti, then retired from the school of the Paris Opera (1964).

Workshops and master classes with Roni Mahler, Salvatore Aiello, Maryon Lane, and Edward Villella. Later study at Richmond Ballet (1980-82; Arnott Mader, Leslie Peck, Jerry Schwender, Mary Sue Dodd) and RAD training in Edinburgh and Cambridge (UK, 1983-84).

Appeared with Cauthen-Nunnery Ballet (Charlotte, NC, 1959) and with Bristol Ballet (Bristol, VA; a regional honor company; apprentice, 1960-62, member 1963-65, dance captain 1965).

Soloist with the summer drama *Horn in the West*, Boone, North Carolina, 1959-62.

Medalist in Highland Fling, Sword Dance, and Seann Triubhas at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games (1958-60).

Demi-soloist in Atlanta Ballet's production of *Swan Lake* under the direction of David Blair (1965); this was the first production of the entire ballet in the United States.

Guest artist with Virginia Players (1977-78), at Randolph-Macon Woman's College (1980-81), Richmond Ballet (1982), and Fairfax Ballet (2001-2005).

Recent major roles include Drosselmeyer in *The Nutcracker*, Dr. Coppelius in the Balletschool's *Coppelia*, Death in Mary Marshall's *Emperor and the Nightingale*, the Father of the Reluctant Bride in *Pecos Bill and the Cyclone*, and the Father in *La fille mal gardée*.

Taught intermediate and advanced ballet at Hardinge School of Ballet (1964-65), McGuffey Arts Center in Charlottesville (1977-81), The Ballet Center (1981-2000), and The Balletschool (2000 to present). Guest teacher at summer workshops of the Rockingham Ballet, Bridgewater, 1999 to present, and in regular classes at Ballet Extension, Bridgewater, since 2005.

Choreography credits include *Celtic Suite (Seventeen Come Sunday)*, 1963, 2007); *Scuola di Ballo* (1964); incidental dances from *Jo's Boys* (1965); *Chopin Preludes* (1978); *Hommage: pas de deux* (1982); *Norfolk Rhapsody* (2007). Scenario and major scenes, *Coppélia* (2004, 2012), *Cinderella* (2005), *Graduation Ball* (2006), *The Magic Dollshop* (2011).

Has set excerpts from *Coppélia*, *Paquita*, *Graduation Ball*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *La Bayadère*, *Raymonda*, *Le Corsaire* and *Les Sylphides*.