Guest Artists

**CORPS de Ballet International**
**2015 Conference**

**James Clouser** was studying Composition, Theory, and French Horn Performance at the Eastman School of Music when he discovered his affinity for dance. He began his performing career in summer stock and subsequently joined Ballet Theatre (now ABT) and was for nine years principal dancer with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. After five years as Ballet Master, Resident Choreographer and Acting Director of the Houston Ballet he founded Space/Dance/Theater and later served as Artistic Director of the Dayton Ballet. He has choreographed for numerous companies in the United States, Canada and Europe. His most noted works include Com Spirito .Carmina Burana, Rasputin, the Holy Devil (which starred Erik Bruhn), Ear To Stone (presented in 1999 at the Avignon Festival in France), and Caliban (this country’s first full-length rock ballet).

Mr. Clouser’s pedagogical studies have taken him to the Royal Ballet Schools in London and Copenhagen and to the Bolshoi and Kirov Schools in Russia. Mr. Clouser’s experience with ballet in higher education has included appointments to the faculties of the Juilliard School, Connecticut College, the American Dance Festival, Loretto Heights College in Denver, Texas Christian University and the University of North Texas. Upon “retirement” he took an “interim” position at the University of Arizona where, for the last fifteen years, his course offerings continue to include Ballet Technique, Men’s Ballet, Dance History, Dance and Culture, and Looking at Dance which innovatively engages general education students. He remains active as a choreographer creating new works for the University of Arizona’s unique Dance Ensemble as well as staging classic works and re-mounting some of his earlier repertoire. In 2014 he was the recipient of the University of Arizona’s College of Fine Arts Award for Sustained Excellence in Teaching.

**Runqiao Du** was born in Shanghai, China. At the age of 11, he was selected and awarded a scholarship to study at the famed Shanghai School of Dance. Upon graduating with honors in 1989, Mr. Du moved to the United States to begin his performing career with The Washington Ballet. During his nearly 20 year tenure with TWB, he performed various leading roles in classical and neoclassical ballets including Romeo in Romeo and Juliet, Albrecht in Giselle, Prince Charming in Cinderella, Oberon in A Midsummer Night’s Dream, and the Cavalier in The Nutcracker. He has also had the opportunity to dance leading roles choreographed by some of today’s most influential choreographers including works by Christopher Wheelden, Nacho Duato, Mark Morris, Edwaard Liang, Septime Webre and Twayla Tharp. In 2000, while maintaining his position with The Washington Ballet, he accepted an invitation from the legendary ballerina, Suzanne Farrell, to join her brand new company The Suzanne Farrell Ballet as a principle dancer. Under her coaching, Mr. Du danced some of the most important works created by George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins and Maurice Bejart.

After his illustrious performing career, Mr. Du accepted a position in 2008 as full time Lecturer from the Dance Department of the Towson University where he teaches Ballet Technique to the top level BFA Majors. He also teaches Ballet Repertory, Men’s Ballet Technique, Partnering, and is the Artistic Director of the Towson Dance Company for the fall semester. In the Dance Department, Mr. Du plays a major role in creating a curriculum structure of male dancers. He has written a brand new course DANC 343 Ballet for Men to train the male ballet students in college. Mr. Du joined the American Dance Institute faculty in 2009 and became the Artistic Director of the ADI School in 2010. He also formed Ballet ADI, the resident company of American Dance Institute in the same year. The company produces two highly acclaimed productions each year since its creation. In 2010, he completed an entire production of The Nutcracker for the ADI School students. The School performs The Nutcracker annually in ADI Theater as well as benefit performances in Children’s Inn at NIH and Walter Reed Amy and Naval Hospital in Bethesda MD. Mr. Du has been a guest artist and guest teacher nationally and internationally. His choreographic work has also been presented in various companies, festivals, and competitions, including the Millennium Stage at The John F. Kennedy for the Performing Arts Center.

**Kee Juan Han** (Director, The Washington School of Ballet) directed the Arizona Ballet School from 1993 to 2003. Mr. Han began his dance training in his native Singapore at age ten under the direction of Florrie Sinclair and Goh Soo Khim. Upon graduation from the Australian Ballet School he was invited to dance with the Sydney Dance Company, then the Goh Ballet in Canada, where he was also trained by Lin Yee Goh to teach the Vaganova method. Mr. Han was a principal dancer with the Indianapolis Ballet Theatre and a soloist with the Boston Ballet. He was named best teacher and coach at the Youth America Grand Prix (Long Beach) in 2000.

Mr. Han was a full-time faculty member at the North Carolina School of the Arts and the recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award at NCSA. He is the co-founder of the American Ballet Competition and is featured in the Singapore Encyclopedia. Mr. Han was awarded the 2008 Dance Teacher of the Year Award by Dance magazine. Under his directorship The Washington School of Ballet was awarded the best youth dance performance by MetroDC Dance and the Best School Award at the Youth America Grand Prix (Torrington) for three consecutive years. Mr. Han has trained many prominent dancers, including David Hallberg, principal of Bolshoi Ballet and American Ballet Theater, and Ginger Smith of Ballet Arizona. He has coached many prize winners in numerous international ballet competitions and implemented the teaching syllabus for The Washington School of Ballet. Mr. Han is a master guest teacher and is frequently invited to judge ballet competitions around the world.

**Virginia Johnson** returns to Dance Theatre of Harlem as artistic director having been a founding member and principal dancer. Born in Washington, DC, Johnson graduated from the Academy of the Washington School of Ballet. She briefly attended the School of the Arts at New York University as a University Scholar before joining DTH in 1969. During her 28 years with the company she performed most of the repertoire, with principal roles in Concerto Barocco, Allegro Brillante, Agon, A Streetcar Named Desire, Fall River Legend, Swan Lake, Giselle, Voluntaries, Les Biches among others.

Three DTH productions in which she danced leading roles were recorded for broadcast: A Streetcar Named Desire for Dance in America on PBS, Creole Giselle, which was the first full-length ballet broadcast on NBC, and Fall River Legend, which won a cable ACE award from the Bravo Network. In addition, she was included in two acclaimed television dance series, Margot Fonteyn’s “The Magic of Dance” and Natalia Makarova’s “Ballerina.”

Her choreographic credits include the television film, Ancient Voices of Children in which she danced and an early, self-produced solo concert for Rae Metzger’s Concert Socials. Later choreographic works include ballets created for Goucher College, Dancers Respond to AIDS, the Second Annual Harlem Festival of the Arts, Thelma Hill Performing Arts Center and Marymount Manhattan College, where she was also an adjunct professor. The latter two projects were an outgrowth of Dancers Making Dances, a collaborative choreographic project with former DTH colleagues, Judy Tyrus and Melanie Person.

While still performing, her interest in journalism led her to Fordham University where she continues to pursue a degree in communications. After retiring from performing, she founded POINTE magazine and was editor-in-chief from 2000-2009. The popular publication helps dancers prepare for the professional ballet world developing educational seminars and lectures on health and wellness for dancers, auditions and professional preparation.
Her honors include a Young Achiever Award from the National Council of Women, Outstanding Young Woman of America and the Dance Magazine Award, a Pen and Brush Achievement Award and the Washington Performing Arts Society’s 2008-2009 Pola Nirenska Lifetime Achievement Award and the 2009 Martha Hill Fund Mid-Career Award. Highlights of her guest appearances include a tour of Australia with Stars of World Ballet, several appearances at various International Festivals of Dance in Havana Cuba, and with the Royal Ballet at The Royal Opera House in London. Her commitment to community service is maintained through volunteer assignments with New York Cares.

A lean man with dark piercing eyes, **Ariel Serrano** was born in Oriente, Cuba. He began his training at the National School of Arts and graduated in 1990, in Italy. He embarked upon his professional career with this debut in Apollo at the Festival de Vignales. Serrano returned to Cuba in 1991 and brought his evident talent to interpret principal roles from the classical repertoire: Paquita, La Fille Mal Gardee, Swan Lake, The Flower Festival, Guillermo Tell, Giselle, Coppelia, and Don Quixote pas de Deux – under the direction of Fernando Alonso. In 1992, joined the Youth Ballet of the National Ballet of Cuba under Laura Alonso, and under the artistic direction of Alicia Alonso he delighted audiences with his renditions of the pas de Deux in works such as Diana and Acteon, Le Corsaire, Sleeping Beauty, and Majismo as well as many contemporary works by Cuban choreographers.

1993 brought Serrano and his wife Wilmian Hernandez to Monterrey, Mexico, to perform with Ann Marie D‘Angelo and her dance company. There he dazzled audiences in principal roles – in the full version of Swan Lake, The Nutcracker and Nuestros Valses of Vicente Nebrada, as well as contemporary choreography of Ann Marie D’Angelo. In 1995, Artistic Director Robert de Warren recognized Serrano‘s amazing energy and talent by inviting him to perform as principal with the Sarasota Ballet of Florida. His vibrant adaptations of principal roles in full performances of ballets such as Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, The Nutcracker, Carmen and a Midsummer Night’s Dream, have brought him great acclaim from Florida audiences. Serrano has been recognized and been given the opportunity to work with many great names of the dance world such as Melissa Hayden, Cynthia Gregory, Fernando Bujones, and Laura Alonso. He has toured Europe, America and Asia and one of the highest honors in Serrano’s young career has been the chance to participate in the ballet contest in Helsinki, Finland, where he finished with top honors.

**Septime Webre *(Artistic Director)*** was appointed artistic director of The Washington Ballet in June 1999 after six years as artistic director of American Repertory Ballet in New Jersey. In his 15 year tenure as Artistic Director, Webre has committed himself to artistic venture, community engagement and growth of the organization. Under Webre’s creative leadership, The Washington Ballet has developed a three-pronged mission: growing the artistry and international reputation of The Washington Ballet; training the next generation of dancers through The Washington School of Ballet; and deepening and expanding the organization’s commitment to community engagement through the visionary programs of *DanceDC, EXCEL!* and TWB@THEARC.

As a choreographer, Mr. Webre’s works appear in the repertoires of many companies in North America, including Pacific Northwest Ballet, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, Kansas City Ballet, Louisville Ballet, Ballet Austin, Cincinnati Ballet, Ballet West, Colorado Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Atlanta Ballet, Ballet Concierto de Puerto Rico and Aspen/Santa Fe Ballet, among others. As a dancer, Mr. Webre was featured in works by Balanchine, Taylor, Tudor, Ailey, and Cunningham, as well as principal and solo roles from the classical repertoire. Mr. Webre has sat on the boards of Dance/USA, the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington and Dance Metro DC’s Advisory Committee. Among his many awards, Webre received the DC Mayor’s Arts Award for Visionary Leadership, Excellence in Artistic Discipline and numerous metro DC dance awards. He has been a recipient of a number of fellowships for his choreography. He graduated from the University of Texas with a B.A. in history and pre-law.