

# David Roxander



David Roxander was born in Marin County, California. The son of an acting father and dancing mother, his life in theatre began at an early age. His performing career began at the age of 3 and his formal dance training began at 6. Recognition of his talents came early and at the age of 14 he was awarded the Marin Music Chest Scholarship as well as full scholarships to the Regional Choreographic Conference and the Banff School of Fine Arts, where he would study under Madame Vera Volkova of the Royal Danish Ballet, who is considered by many to be one of the greatest teachers of male dancers of all time.

When David was 17 he was offered a company contract by the National Ballet of Canada. He readily accepted, not simply due to the company's reputation, but also because that same year dance legend and long-time hero Rudolph Nureyev would be working with the company. Over the next 18 years David performed principal roles around the world and had many original ballets created on him during that time. Roxander has worked closely with some of the greatest names in ballet such as, Sir Frederick Ashton, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Eric Bruhn, Peter Schaufuss, Glen Tetley, and Fernando Bujones.

Roxander was invited to dance the role of Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet* at the opening of the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games and in 1978 he was a founding member of Ballet Revue, where he spent three months dancing with and partnering Canadian Prima Ballerina, Karen Kain. Roxander has performed twice in London's famed Convent Garden Theatre for the Queen of England and has appeared in four television specials, two of which won Emmy Awards.

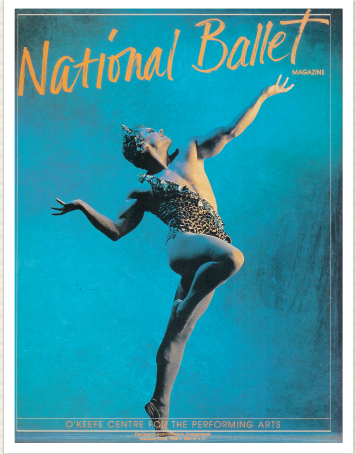
In 1983 Roxander was asked by world champion body builder Mohamed Makkaway to choreograph his posing routine for the Mr. Olympia contest. This began a three year relationship between Makkaway and Roxander and many in the sport consider Makkaway to be the greatest poser that ever lived. Makkaway is now in the Hall of Fame. Mr. Roxander continues to work with individual body builders.

In 1988 Roxander returned to Marin County and opened his own school, Dance Theatre Seven. While still directing his school in Marin, he also took over San Jose Dance Theatre as their Artistic Director from 1992-1994. Over the next 18 years he trained and placed professional dancers in companies such as The English National Ballet, The Houston Ballet, New York City Ballet, The Boston Ballet, The San Francisco Ballet, Colorado Ballet, Memphis Ballet, Texas Ballet Theatre, Ballet West, Bejart Ballet and the Tulsa Ballet.

He was the recipient of the Marin Arts Council Individual Artists Grant for choreography and has been invited to have his works performed at both the Men Dancing program as well as at the first anniversary of the Yuerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco. He is best known for his contemporary full-length ballet, *Surrealia*, a Bay Area favorite which received countless accolades over the past 11 years.

Even though his own school occupied most of his time and energy, Roxander has been a master teacher for the Pacific Regional Festival in Seattle, Theatre Ballet of Sacramento, Berkeley Conservatory of Ballet, San Jose Civic Light Opera and many others.

Since moving to Southern Oregon, David and his wife, Elyse, have worked on several musical theatre productions including co-directing and choreographing Children's Musical Theatre of Oregon's production of *Peter Pan* and their fundraising event *An Evening of Dreamers* as well as Oregon Conservatory of Performing Arts' production of *Oliver with a Twist*. He currently co-directs Studio Roxander - Academy of Ballet in Medford, Oregon with his wife Elyse.



Puck in Sir Frederick Ashton's "The Dream."



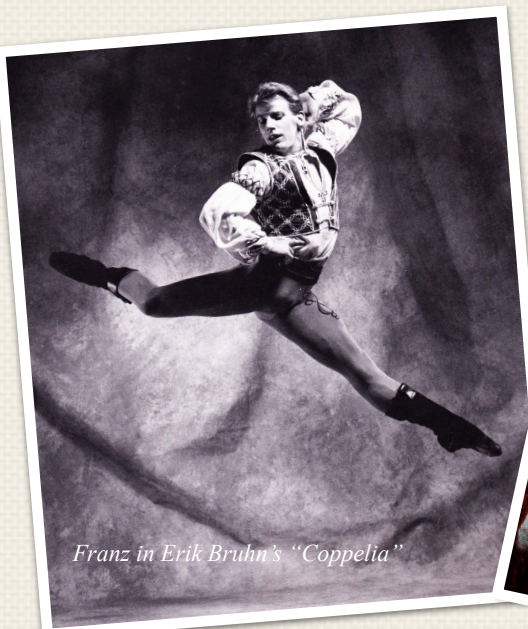
Performing the role of The Genie in *The Magic of Alladin* filmed for CBC Television



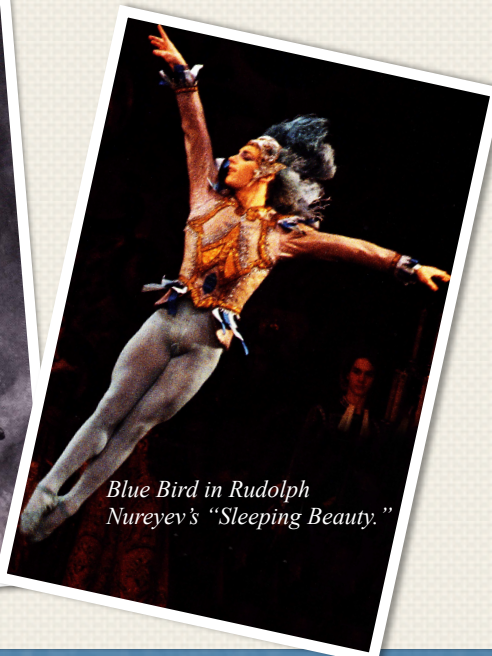
Sugar Plum Cavalier in "The Nutcracker"



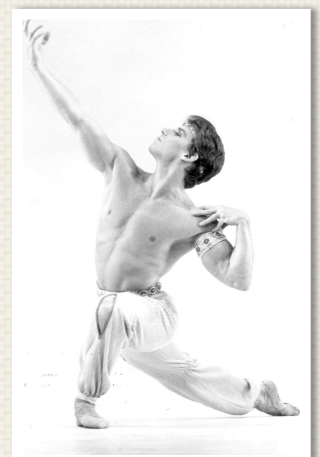
The Ugly Dutchess in Glen Tetley's "Alice."



Franz in Erik Bruhn's "Coppelia"



Blue Bird in Rudolph Nureyev's "Sleeping Beauty."



"Le Corsaire"