



**JOSE MATEO
BALLET
THEATRE**

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**José Mateo Ballet Theatre
Welcomes Back Mary Thompson as
Associate Director of Education & Performance**

Mary Thompson returns to JMBT in July.

CAMBRIDGE, MA: José Mateo Ballet Theatre will welcome back former Company Dancer, School Principal, and Interim Artistic Director, Mary Thompson as Associate Director of Education and Performance in July 2025.

Ms. Thompson first met JMBT founder José Mateo in 1986 when she began performing with the company, originating many roles of Mr. Mateo's choreography, including that of the Sugar Plum Fairy in JMBT's first production of The Nutcracker. Her relationship with the organization quickly expanded to include teaching in the Adult Open Class, Summer Intensive and Young Dancers programs. Upon her retirement from stage, Ms. Thompson began assisting with company classes and rehearsals, eventually assuming the role of Ballet Mistress for the Company.

In 2021, Ms. Thompson was invited to join The Brookline Ballet School (TBBS) as Principal and accepted the opportunity to both share and expand her knowledge and experience with the highly respected area school. With the announcement of the acquisition of TBBS by The Boston Ballet, and the end of her tenure there, Ms. Thompson, who temporarily returned to JMBT as Nutcracker Artistic Associate for its 2024 Nutcracker season, will rejoin the organization in the full time role of Associate Director of Education & Performance beginning this July.

“It is a privilege to have the opportunity to return to JMBT where I finished my professional performance career, honed my passion for teaching and coaching, and clarified my desire to play a role in developing methods of training in pursuit of excellence while respecting the dignity of the individual.” says Ms. Thompson. “I am excited to be back working with José to further his unique vision and am most grateful for the trust of the JMBT organization, faculty and most of all, the students and families I will serve.”

Under the direction of Mr. Mateo, JMBT staff and faculty are also in the process of refining and strengthening the School curriculum to bring further continuity and focus to the Young Dancers Program starting in the 2025/26 school year. With her extensive experience, expertise, and passion for JMBT’s mission and values, Ms. Thompson will be also contributing to the artistic growth of the students and enhancing the revamped syllabus upon her arrival in the summer.

“Of the many people who have selflessly helped to sustain Ballet Theatre throughout various phases of its 40 year history, Mary holds a stellar spot. She has contributed as an ally, an artist, an administrator, and an educator, and in every role has been exemplary in terms of the personal values and professional effectiveness she invariably brings to her work.” Mr. Mateo writes. “I look forward to working with her in a new role we’ve created together and am confident the students in all of the school’s programs have much to look forward to also.”

About José Mateo Ballet Theatre

Founded in 1986, José Mateo Ballet Theatre is one of America’s leading producers of new ballets, one of the area’s most reputable ballet schools, and the originator of Dance for World Community (DWC), a project created in 2008 to expand the organization’s mission that has always focused on equity and diversity in dance performance, training and community programs. Over the past 30 years, Cuban-born Founder, José Mateo has developed his unique vision of using the power of dance to inspire and engage today’s diverse audiences in creative, non-traditional ways. In 2018, Mateo received the state’s highest award, the Commonwealth Award for Achievement from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Hailed by **Boston Magazine** as “Best of Boston 2020 Best Family-Friendly Show” The Nutcracker has become an anticipated annual season since 1988. Until 2019, the **Company** regularly presented Mateo’s highly acclaimed concerts at its own Sanctuary Theatre in its Harvard Square home at Old Cambridge Baptist Church and continues to present The Nutcracker at Dorchester’s Strand Theatre. The **School** offers an innovative model for a high-quality academy with a humanistic approach to ballet training that fosters diversity and inclusion at both its Cambridge campus and Dorchester satellite program.

Visit <http://www.ballettheatre.org/> for more information about JMBT.