

Evergreen City Ballet is proud to announce the appointment of Gillmer Duran as Artistic Director.



Mr. Duran becomes the new Artistic Director of Evergreen City Ballet [ECB]. Originally from Venezuela, Gillmer is joining us after serving as a classical ballet and contemporary faculty member at CityDance School & Conservatory in Maryland. Before teaching in Maryland Mr. Duran was the Artistic Director at Alaska Dance Theater from 2010 – 2013. His experience and fresh point of view will allow ECB to continue on its current path of educating the public and our close community in the art of dance.

“Gillmer’s creative, artistic mind, his endless positivity, and down to earth personality make him a strong, motivating leader, allowing him to accomplish all tasks and big dreams along the way.” – Lindsy Dec, Pacific Northwest Ballet principal dancer

All of us at ECB are so excited for students and families to meet Mr. Duran and his wife **Dubraskha Arrivillaga**! Ms. Arrivillaga will also be joining the ECB faculty as a ballet teacher for the Performance Division and substitute teacher for all other levels. Expect to see Dubraskha next week and Gillmer the week of September 19th!

If you have not registered for class yet, [click here](#). Be sure to check out our new classes in Mercer Island/Bellevue!

More about Gillmer: Originally from Barquisimeto Venezuela, Mr. Duran studied at the Fundacion Arte Nuevo and danced professionally with the National Ballet of Caracas, Danzahoy, Tulsa Ballet Theatre and eighth consecutive seasons with Eugene Ballet Company. He worked with choreographers such as, Vicente Nebrada, Luz Urdaneta, Jacques Brocket, Maria Rovira, Mauricio Wainrot, Robert Battle, Edwaard Liang and Jessica Lang among others. His versatility and intuition allowed him to perform a variety of classical and contemporary roles. He participated in the National Choreographers Initiative 2007 in Irvine, California. In May of 2008, he was part of the event 4X4 Ballet Project with Oregon Ballet Theatre, Pacific Northwest Ballet and San Francisco Ballet presented by White Bird in Portland Oregon. He also created pieces for the Drop Dance Collective, The Woman Space Foundation engaging in several creative collaborations with Toni Pimble, while dancing with the Eugene Ballet Company. The National Dance Project and the New England Foundation for the Arts selected him as part of the Regional



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Dance Development Initiative (RDDI) in Portland-Oregon, among nine other dance artists from the Pacific Northwest region. In June of 2010 his work *Inference* for Coriolis Dance Collective was presented at the Chop-Shop Festival in Seattle. In October of 2010 he was appointed as Alaska Dance Theatre's Artistic Director and resident choreographer, repositioning its company brand through a broad-based repertoire, including a tour to the Boston Contemporary Dance festival 2013 funded entirely through a kickstarter campaign. Mr. Duran also taught at Grand Rapids Ballet's Summer Intensive, under the direction of Patricia Barker, iconic ballerina and former Pacific Northwest Ballet principal dancer. He is moving to the Seattle area from Northern Virginia where he was teaching as faculty member of CityDance School & Conservatory. He is very excited to join the ECB family.

More about Dubraskha: Dubraskha Arrivillaga grew up in Caracas, Venezuela, where she received her early ballet training with former Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo dancer, Nina Novak. Ms. Arrivillaga danced with the National Ballet of Caracas, New World Ballet and Contemporary Ballet of Caracas before moving to the USA to join the Eugene Ballet Company. She retired from the stage in May of 2010. Her formal pedagogical training was with the American Ballet Theatre, where she received her ABT® Teacher, pre-primary to level 7 and partnering certification. She was a member of the children division faculties of Ballet Idaho/Eugene Ballet, Classical Ballet Theatre and CityDance School and Conservatory as well as Alaska Dance Theatre's professional division faculty and company. She has coached and prepared students for international and regional ballet competitions throughout the USA and staged classical repertoire as well as contemporary pieces from well-known choreographers such as Toni Pimble, Jessica Lang and Amy Seiwert. Ms. Arrivillaga is known as a loving and inspirational teacher and is happy to join the faculty of ECB to continue to share her passion with her students. In addition to her professional career as a dancer and teacher, Ms. Arrivillaga has a degree in Business Administration from the Central University of Venezuela.



Dubraskha Arrivillaga, photo courtesy of Classical Ballet Theater

“Dubraskha’s love and passion for this art form and teaching fosters warm, supportive, and nurturing relationships with her students.” – Lindsy Dec, Pacific Northwest Ballet principal dancer