

# Elyse Roxander



Elyse Roxander inherited her love and dedication to dance and theatre early in life. With her father being a drama professor at California State Hayward University and her mother a dancer/choreographer, it was apparent that Elyse had an affinity for performing at a very young age. She was in her first theatre production at the ripe old age of 3. As a child and teen, Elyse focused most of her time and energy on ballet studies, however she was still able to perform in several theatre productions: *The Music Man*, *Oliver*, *A Mid Summer Night's Dream*, *Damn Yankees* and *The Wiz*. Due to her extensive dance training, Elyse was often cast as a featured dancer.

As a ballet dancer Elyse was fortunate enough to study with some of the best instructors in the Bay Area. Under the direction of Grace Doty, Berkeley Conservatory of Ballet, Elyse danced principal roles throughout the Bay Area in ballets such as *Graduation Ball*, *Paquita*, *Les Sylphides*, *Gayaneh Pas de Deux*, *The Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Glazenov Divertisement*, *Le Corsaire* and *Vivaldi Concerto*.

Ms. Roxander moved to Marin County in 1989 and found that she had a deep love for teaching. While still dancing, she also began teaching classes at Dance Theatre 7 in Fairfax. In 1993 she was hired as principal teacher and ballet mistress at San Jose Dance Theatre, and in 1995 began Dance Theatre Seven's Professional Program with her husband, David Roxander. Elyse enjoys teaching all levels of ballet, from beginning through advanced, and has many former students dancing professionally in companies such as The San Francisco Ballet, The Smuim Ballet, The Boston Ballet, The Houston Ballet, New York City Ballet, The English National Ballet, Memphis Ballet, Texas Ballet Theatre, Tulsa Ballet, Ballet West and Bejart Ballet.

Ms. Roxander tried her hand at classical choreography in 1996 at the premiere of *Surealia*. Her piece was an audience favorite and since then she has choreographed several pieces for Dance Theatre 7's Winter and Summer Showcases as well as for *Surealia*.

In addition to teaching and choreography, Elyse administrated Dance Theatre Seven and was the executive director of the non-profit organization, Oracle in Motion. She oversaw both organization's budgets and was the production manager for all of their productions, including *Surealia*. She began dabbling in graphic art in 2003, when she started designing all of *Surealia's* posters and other advertising.

Since moving to Southern Oregon, Elyse and her husband, David, have worked on several musical theatre productions including choreographing and co-directing 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' *Oliver with a Twist*. In 2008 she appeared as a featured actress in a local Lithia Auto commercial.

Ms. Roxander, a mother of two young boys, still enjoys teaching, choreography, dancing and singing.

