

# **ANANDA**

# **BENA-WEBER**

Associate Artistic Director: Sierra Nevada Ballet

Official Adjudicator, Regional Dance America

ABT Curriculum Certified Teacher

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Member: AEA, IADMS,

Board Member: NAPAMA

Height: 5’7”

Ananda Bena-Weber has been teaching in schools and universities throughout the US and abroad for 26 years. She teaches a variety of subjects including many forms of dance, physical acting, mime, clown, and Shakespeare. Ms. Bena-Weber was a professor of dance at Marymount Manhattan College, and a teaching artist for the Dance Theater of Harlem and Mark Morris Dance Center in New York for 16 years.

##### Teaching Experience

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| **Marymount Manhattan College 2004-2017**  professor of practice, ballet, tap, jazz, musical theatre, adv pointe in tasked with choreography of musicals, reviews, performances at the York Theatre NYC several times per year. | **Dance Theater of Harlem 2009-2016**  teaching artist: Dancing Through Barriers Curriculum, STEM, Literacy,  ballet for boxers, ballet for basketball players |
| **Mark Morris Dance Center 2009-2017**  substitute teacher all levels ballet, tap, jazz, teaching artist | **Alonzo King Lines Ballet 2016-present**  Int/Adv ballet, teens 2/3, pointe |
| **Sierra Nevada Ballet 1998-present**  all levels ballet, pointe, pas de deux, character, mime, rehearsal coach | **University of Nevada at Reno**  Classical Ballet, Pointe |
| **Pittsburg State University -Artist Residency**  Advanced tap, mime, physical acting | **Eagle Hill School, Hardwick MA -Artist Residency**  Beginning ballet, beginning tap, mime, clown, public speaking, Shakespeare (12th Night) |
| **Clark University, Worcester MA -Artist Residency**  Physical acting, Fosse- style jazz dance | **Allen Community College, Iola KS -Artist Residency**  Mime, clown, physical acting |
| **Summer Intensive with Mariana Tcherkassky**  Character | **Deane Dance Center, Sacramento**  Classical ballet, pointe, character |
| **Dance Alliance Roosevelt Island NY**  Jazz, ballet, tap | **Honey Dance Center Queens NY**  classical ballet |
| **In Motion Studio of Dance (NV)**  Classical Ballet, pointe, character | **In Motion Dance (CA)**  Classical Ballet, pointe, stretch and strengthening |
| **Westchester Conservatory of Ballet**  All levels ballet | **Louisiana Delta Ballet**  Classical ballet, pointe, variations |
| **Western Nevada Performing Arts Center**  Classical Ballet | **San Mateo Gymnastics Group**  Ballet technique combined with functional exercise as injury prevention, alignment, and flexibility training for Olympic gymnasts. Levels 5-10 and Elite. |
| **Chabot Skate Club**  Ballet for Figure Skaters | **California Academy of the Performing Arts**  tap levels 1-4 |
| **Peninsula Ballet Theatre School (CA) 1994-2003**  Classical Ballet: Elementary Levels 1-5, Intermediate, Advanced, Pointe, Character, ‘Body Reshaping’ (Mensendiek method of functional exercise) | **Tansacademie Cifuentes (Berlin Germany)**  All levels Ballet |
| **Bremerton Dance Center (Seattle)**  Ballet, character | **Dance Masters of America**  Ballet |
| **Dance Educators of America**  Ballet, character | **Assisi Institute, Mystic, CT**  Movement theory and group dynamics |
| **Bob Macke Studios (CA)**  Classical Ballet: Elementary Levels 3-4 | Brewery Arts Center, Carson CityImprovisation workshop |
| **‘Dance Attack’ Mountain View**  Classical Ballet: Elementary Levels 1-3 | **‘Dance Attack’ Los Gatos**  Classical Ballet: Intermediate |
| **Charlotte Klein Dance Academy (MA)**  Tap, ballet | **East Bay Dance Company**  All levels Ballet |
| **Calment High School (CA)**  Understanding Shakespeare (tutoring) | **Myong Moon Institute (CA)** - English as a second language, Essay writing |

Education

* **Goddard College MFA**

Interdisciplinary Arts

* **Columbia University Acting MFA Program (INC)**
* **San Francisco State University BA** - (Russian Language/Literature, Theatre Arts)

(received acting scholarship in 2002)

* **Shakespeare and Co.**

Winter intensive

* **Moscow Art Theatre School**

Summer Intensive

* **Linklater Center for Voice and Speech**
* **Rossika Language Institute St. Petersburg Russia -** Contemporary Russian Literature
* **Hydro-Meteorological University, St. Petersburg Russia**

Russian Grammar and Composition

* **Balliol College at Oxford University, British American Drama Academy’s *Midsummer in Oxford***

Shakespeare

Intensive group

* **College of San Mateo** –Human Anatomy and Cadaver Dissection, Biology
* **American Conservatory Theatre -**Youth Conservatory
* **Extensive training as a professional dancer. (See ‘Instructors’ section)**

##### Choreographic Experience: Full Length Productions:

**“Twelfth Night A Ballet Noir”**

Sierra Nevada Ballet, full length flagship production. This full-length ballet features a musical collage created by Bena-Weber using music from different famous films noir, and starred artists from the Royal Danish Ballet, National Ballet of Mexico, the Joffrey Ballet, and Oklahoma City Ballet.

**“A Steampunk Midsummer Night’s Dream”**

Sierra Nevada Ballet, full length flagship production. This full-length ballet directed, devised, and choreographed by Ananda Bena-Weber featured the music of 4 Mendelsohn symphonies combined with the music of Martin Denny and Les Baxter from the Hypnotique and Exotica Era of the 1940’s. This production featured dancers from the Joffrey Ballet, Ballet Hispanico, San Francisco Ballet, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Oakland Ballet, and Smuin Ballet. The production was featured on the television show ARTEFFECTS.

Musical Theatre/Short Pieces:

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| **“Sway”**  Sierra Nevada Ballet, male solo | **The Grand Tour”**  The York Theatre, NYC |
| **“Kleinkunst”**  National Yiddish Theatre | **“Love!”**  Marymount at the York Theatre |
| **“Hungarian Suite”**  Sierra Nevada Ballet | **‘Take Me Along’**  The York Theatre, NYC |
| “**Sweet Bye and Bye”**  The York Theatre, NYC | **“We Sing.”**  Marymount Manhattan College |
| **“That’s It. I Quit”**  Marymount Manhattan College | **“Come Together”**  Marymount Manhattan College |
| **“The Story of Ferdinand”**  Dance Theatre of Harlem Literacy through Dance | **“Song of Myself”**  Dance Theatre of Harlem artist residency |
| “**Romeo and Juliet”**  Sierra Nevada Ballet | “**Swan Lake” (character dances)**  Sierra Nevada Ballet |
| **“Summertime”**  Sierra Nevada Ballet | **“Ronen”**  Sierra Nevada Ballet |
| **Armando’s Rumba**  Sierra Nevada Ballet | **Classical Doodles**  Bruka Theater |

(as well as numerous student productions, weddings, and social events)

# Performance Experience

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| ***Fancifool!* With Ananda Bena-Weber** WINNER! Best Variety Show, Theatre Row, NYC!, WINNER! Best of Genre, Marsh Theatre, SF! | ***Fancifool!* SEX EDITION**  National Tour |
| **TED Talk: ‘CommUNITY’**  TED - “Ideas Worth Spreading” Check it out online! | ***American Tap Masterpieces*** Jazz Tap Ensemble, Joyce Theatre NYC-Ginger Rogers, Eleanor Powell |
| **Jazz Tap Ensemble** Los Angeles Tour –Featured Dancer | **Artown Festival Reno** Featured performer at every Artown Festival since the very first year! |
| ***The Vagina Monologues*** National V-Day Celebration –The Woman Who Liked to make V’s Happy | **The Fallen** T-Schreiber Studio Theater -Sabine |
| ***Ten Blocks On the Camino Real*** Medicine Show Theater –Marguerite | ***Classical Doodles*** Bruka Theater –commissioned one woman show |
| ***The Scholars Weigh In*** Clark University –solo piece | ***The Unicorn Gorgon and Manticore*** Nevada Opera -Countess |
| ***Romeo and Juliet*** Sierra Nevada Ballet - Juliet | ***The Dying Swan*** Sierra Nevada Ballet – Swan |
| ***Too Darn Hot*** Sierra Nevada Ballet **-** Lead principal with Domingo Rubio | ***Allegro Agitato*** Sierra Nevada Ballet - Lead Principal |
| ***Gershwin Prelude***  Sierra Nevada Ballet -pas de deux with Domingo Rubio | ***The Butcher***  Gulfshore Playhouse, Naples Florida –Sholeh Esfahani |
| ***Hamlet***  Nevada Shakespeare Company – Ophelia, Horatio | ***Richard III***  Nevada Shakespeare Co. –Lady Anne, Duchess of York |
| ***As You Like It*** Shakespeare and Co. Winter Intensive final project -Rosalind | ***The Seagull***  Moscow Art Theatre School - Arkadina |
| ***The Last Dance* (film)**  Sacha Goldberger dir. -NYU | ***Duke Ellington Jazz Nutcracker***  The Reno Jazz Orchestra –Sugar Rum Cherry |
| **Outlet Dance Project**  Solo Piece for Seward Johnson sculpture ‘Olympia’ | **Outlet Dance Project**  Solo Piece for Seward Johnson sculpture ‘God Bless America’ |
| ***Summer Time***  Sierra Nevada Ballet - duet with Sam Weber | ***Back Street***  Tap duet with Sam Weber |
| ***Ronen***  Sierra Nevada Ballet – Russian character solo | ***A Painter’s Love Story***  Sierra Nevada Ballet - lead Principal, Lydia Parrish |
| ***Crave*** by Sarah Kane**,** Columbia University - A | ***Homewrecker*** by Kelly Stuart,Columbia University |
| ***Oresteia***  Euripides, Columbia University – Clytemnestra | ***Medea***  Sophocles, Columbia University - Medea |
| ***Blue Rondo A La Turk***  Tap duet with Sam Weber | ***Les Sylphides***  Sierra Nevada Ballet - Lead Principal |
| ***The Trojan Women*** San Francisco State University – ‘Andromache’ | ***Daisy in the Dreamtime*** San Francisco State University – ‘Daisy’ |
| ***New York, New York***  Fascinating Rhythm Productions – Featured Dancer | ***Paul’s Case***  by Willa Cather, San Francisco State University – ‘’Paul’ |
| ***People of Paris***  Fascinating Rhythm Productions – Featured Dancer | ***Shakespeare Salad***  San Francisco State University- Actor, Writer, Co-Director |
| ***Richard III* (Film)**  David Hunt - British American Drama Academy – ‘Lady Anne’ | **Tap Concerto**  Morton Gould with Sam Weber, The Peninsula Symphony Orchestra – Tap Soloist |
| **Tap Concerto**  Morton Gould with Sam Weber, The San Jose Symphony Orchestra ­– Tap Soloist | ***Scheherazade***  The Reno Ballet-featured soloist |
| ***Take Me to the River***  The Reno Ballet –soloist | ***Orbit of the Seasons***  The Reno Ballet-corps de ballets |
| ***Walking on Broken Glass***  Perspective Dance Theatre –corps de ballets | ***Fools***  by Neil Simon, San Mateo Performing Arts Center – ‘Lenya’ |
| ***Nine***  San Mateo Performing Arts Center -Luisa | ***Arsenic and Old Lace***  San Mateo Performing Arts Center— ‘Dr. Einstein’ |
| ***Damn Yankees***  San Mateo Performing Arts Center– ‘Lola’ | ***A Midsummer Night’s Dream***  San Mateo Performing Arts Center – Helena |
| **Tap Concerto**  Morton Gould with Sam Weber, The Livermore Philharmonic -Tap Soloist | **Dave Brubeck Medley**  with Sam Weber, The Peninsula Symphony Orchestra – Tap Soloist |
| **Dave Brubeck Medley**  with Sam Weber, The San Jose Symphony Orchestra –Tap Soloist |  |

Industrials/Commercial

* **Dance Retailer News Expo,**

Las Vegas, Les Sylphides –

Guest Principal Dancer

* **Harrah’s Hotels and Casinos**

Guest Artist

* **Hornblower Yachts**

Guest Artist

* **Fairmont Hotels**

Featured Performer

* **San Francisco Spirit Cruises**

Guest Artist

* **Visa Corporation International Convention**

Featured Performer

* **Arts All Ways** Conference Las Vegas, Nevada Arts Council, (2 Woman Show)
* **World Wide Web Convention**

Featured Dancer

* **Miki Corporation International Convention**

Featured Performer

* **Sun Microsystems**

Guest Artist

Writing/Directing/Coaching Experience

* **“Twelfth Night: A Ballet Noir”** Sierra Nevada Ballet -director/choreographer/musical collage
* **“A Midsummer Night’s Dream’** Sierra Nevada Ballet -director/choreographer/musical collage
* “**Fancifool! with Ananda Bena-Weber**  Writer/ Concept/Featured Performer
* **“The Scholars Weigh In”** Writer/Concept/Featured Performer
* “**Classical Doodles”** Bruka Theatre -writer/concept/featured performer
* **“George’s Turn –the ballad of a song and dance Man”**

Starring George Marcy - director

* **“The Actual Dance”**  Starring Sam Weber - director

#### “Ballet By the River”

#### Sierra Nevada Ballet -director

* **An Evening of Gershwin- starring violinist Janice Martin**

Director/choreographer

* **“Paging Mr. Stair”,**

Sierra Nevada Ballet - Coaching

## **‘Without Breaking’, San Francisco State University**

## Author, Staging

* **‘Shakespeare Salad’, San Francisco State University**

Writer, Co-Director

###### Set Crew and Costume Experience

* **Nevada Shakespeare Company**

ASM “Richard III”, “Hamlet”

* **Columbia University**

“The House of Bernarda Alba”- set crew

* **Assisted in costume/set design-** S.F State University

###### Training

Acting; Voice; Linklater Voice Technique; Clown; Classical Ballet; Pointes; Pas de Deux; Character; Mime; Flamenco; Jazz; Tap; Singing; Argentine Tango; Modern Dance; Ballroom; Stage Combat; Dance History; Kinesiology; Mensendieck Method of Functional Exercise; Alexander Technique; Feldenkrais, Creative Movement education

###### Dialects

British, cockney, Irish, Scottish, Russian, Iranian, Puerto Rican, German, French, Italian, East Coast US (various), Southern US (various), Mid-West US, California “Valley Girl”, and others

###### Impressions

Billy Holiday, Cher, Carol Channing, Yvonne Adair, Ethel Merman, Peggy Lee, Carmen McRae, Gwen Verdon, and others.

###### Languages

English, Russian, French (conversational)

###### Instructors

**Ballet:** Anne Bena, Rosine Bena, David Howard, Dorit Koppel, Alonzo King, Peter Schabel, Jack Hertzog, Sandra Chin, Christopher Lam, Simon Dow, Laura Connor, Summer Lee Ratighan, Arturo Fernandez, and others.

**Acting:** Kristin Linklater, Tina Packer, Kevin Coleman; Dennis Krausnick; Dave Demke; Terry Schreiber; Andrei Serban, Niky Wolcz, Larry Singer, Andrea Haring; Estelle Kohler, Joyce Henderson, David Hunt, Alice Spivak, William Peters, Camille Howard, Ronnie Washington.

**Voice:** Kristin Linklater, Andrea Haring, Elena McGee, Dave Demke, Milton Williams.

**Mime:** Rosine Bena, Joyce Henderson.

**Stage Combat:** Steven White, Edward Foy

**Jazz:** Luigi, Francis Roach, Berle Davis, Sam Weber.

**Tap:** Sam Weber, Berle Davis.

**Character:** Anne Bena, Rosa Laysaya.

**Horton:** Milton Myers, Jolea Maffei, Karen Arceneaux

**Flamenco:** Adela Clara, Miguel Santos.

**Ballroom (Swing, Salsa, Tango etc.):** Anne Bena, Adrian Bermudez**.**

**Argentine Tango:** Beatrice Cisneros, Santiago Steele, Nito and Alba, Paul Pellicoro.

**Kinesiology; Mensendieck Method of Functional Exercise:** Michael Keropian, Rosine Bena