



Heather Renee McCown

Heather McCown began dancing at the age of four in Gresham, OR. She attended the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas, TX, where she studied ballet and modern technique and choreography.

She studied classical technique under; James Clouser (TCU), Tauna Hunter (Ballet Dallas), David Howard, Larry Long (Ruth Page), Flemming Halby (Pacific Northwest Ballet), Megali Messac (formerly Pacific Northwest Ballet), and Marie Chong (formerly Pacific Northwest Ballet). In addition, she studied in Paris, France, with Yves Casati and Frederic Lazarelli (formerly with Paris Opera Ballet), and in Denmark with Peter Schaufus (Peter Schaufus Ballet). She has performed the classical repertoire; *Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *Esmerelda*, *Coppelia*, *Paquita*, and *Pas de Quatre*. As well as classical choreography by Marie Chong, James Clouser, Leslie Jane Pessemier and Manard Stewart.

Heather studied contemporary technique with Cleo Parker Robinson (Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble), Lynda Davis (TWU), Dr. Linda James (BTW), Desmond Richardson and Dwight Rhoden (Complexions), Milton Myers (formerly Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater), Milton Tatum (Dallas Black Dance Theatre), and Hannah Kahn (Hannah Kahn Dance Co.). She has performed extensive contemporary repertoire, including works by the following choreographers; Sharon Tyers, Megan Fehr, Sonia Dawkins, Kirk Midtskog, Gerard Theoret, Shannon Hobbs, Kabby Mitchell and Heywood McGriff.

Heather McCown danced professionally with regional companies across the United States, including; *ARC Dance Productions* (2000-2002) in Seattle, WA, *Ballet Northwest* (1998-2001) in Olympia, WA, and *David Taylor Dance Theatre* (1993-1997) in Littleton, CO.

Heather retired from performing in 2004, and is currently working in the executive offices of the National Kidney Foundation reporting to the Chief Medical Officer, and Sr. VP for Scientific Activities. She returned to pursue her studies, through CUNY, at John Jay College in the fall of 2006. At John Jay, she was the Special Events Coordinator for the United Nations Student Association (2006 – 2008), and organized a successful fundraiser for Darfur in the fall of 2006. She was a member of the "Distinguished Delegation," for the NMUN in 2006.. She was accepted into the CUNY-BA program in 2007, and is pursuing her degree in *Partnerships for Social Justice*.

She has received recognition from State Senator Marty Golden for her volunteer work in the Bay Ridge community. In addition, she was the first recipient of the Keith L.T. Wright Award for Civic Engagement from John Jay College in 2008. She is a recipient of the Thomas W. Smith Fellowship, as well as the Diego Hidalgo Scholarship for Political Science/International Affairs for 2008-2009.

Heather lives in Bay Ridge with her fiancé Andrew Wasserman, and is a member of Community Board 10 as of June 16, 2008.