



Co-directors: Katie Bignell / Martha Chapman / Rebecca Reuter
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PRESS RELEASE

Margaret Elaine Plaza Appointed Associate Director

New York City, November 25, 2013 - Omega Dance Company announced today the appointment of Margaret Elaine Plaza to the newly created leadership role of Associate Director. Ms. Plaza, who began serving in the new position in October 2013, has a long-standing association with Omega Dance Company, having performed as a Principal Dancer since 2000. She has had the honor of performing the repertoire of past Omega Directors Carla De Sola, Kara Miller, Mignon Gillen, and Sandra Rivera at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Washington's National Cathedral, The Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, and Middle Collegiate Church. Collaborating closely with the Company's Co-directors Katie Bignell, Martha Chapman, and Rebecca Reuter, Ms. Plaza will focus in her new role on the development of Omega Dance Company's education programs, cultural diversity, and repertory.

Ms. Plaza holds an MA degree in Dance Education from Teachers College, Columbia University, a BFA degree in The Arts/Dance from Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music, and is a graduate of LaGuardia High School for the Performing Arts. She is a dance educator with sixteen years of teaching experience conducting master classes, workshops, and choreography for universities and public schools including Teachers College, Columbia University, and Gallaudet University. Her research, "Voices of the Heart: Teaching Dance Education for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing," has been published by the National Dance Association. She is certified by The Alvin Ailey School in teaching the Lester Horton Technique, and studied Cuban Modern Dance Technique and Teaching Methodology with Danza Contemporánea de Cuba under the direction of Luis Roblejo in Havana, Cuba. Ms. Plaza works for Joan Finkelstein, Director of Dance Programs for the New York City Department of Education as a Dance Assessor for Arts Achieve: Impacting Student Success in the Arts. She is a guest lecturer for Queens College sharing her expertise on Dance Curriculum Design,

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and serves as Cooperating Teacher for New York University (NYU) Steinhart Music and Performing Arts Professions Program in Dance Education. She has trained under the direction of highly respected teachers of Dance June Lewis and Company, the Martha Graham School, and the Alvin Ailey School. She has performed modern dance professionally for over twenty years as a Principal Dancer with Alison Oakes, Omega Dance Company, Ñequi Gonzalez and Alicia Díaz of En La Brega, Haitian Modern Dance with Rol'hans Innocent of Agoci Dance Company, and has performed the repertory of Dance June Lewis and Company and Michael Leon Thomas of Alvin Ailey. Ms. Plaza is the Director, Dance Educator and Choreographer for Dr. Sun Yat Sen M.S. 131 where she has imparted her passion for dance to adolescent youth since 1997.

Commenting on her recent appointment, Ms. Plaza stated, "I am honored to be Associate Director of Omega Dance Company, to have the opportunity to continue to grow as a dance artist and educator, and to help preserve and develop Omega's spiritual work." Co-director Katie Bignell said, "Ms. Plaza brings a wealth of wisdom to Omega's leadership team, as well as a fiercely graceful spirit. We are grateful for the dedication she has shown to the company in her many years as a Principal Dancer, and look forward to working with her in her new leadership role." Ms. Plaza added "I am overjoyed to be able to continue the legacy of the Company under the direction of my esteemed colleagues Katie Bignell, Martha Chapman, and Rebecca Reuter. I look forward to sharing my knowledge and expertise as a dance educator and dance artist, and I look forward to meeting and working with all of you."

Ms. Plaza will perform her original work *Mirror Image* at The Church of the Village on Sunday, December 15. For further information on this and other upcoming events, please visit omegadanccompany.org.

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