



**Meet Ms. Rie Ichikawa!!
(Boston Ballet, Soloist)**



Ms. Ichikawa's Resume:

Rie Ichikawa's international ballet training began at Nagano Ballet under the direction of Teruyo Kurashima. She continued training at The Arts Educational London Schools and at Houston Ballet Academy under the direction of Clara Cravey and Steve Brule.

Ms. Ichikawa was awarded first place at the Japan Competition in 1990 and 1991, and was the Arts Educational winner of the Markova Award in 1994. Ms. Ichikawa was promoted to second soloist in the Boston Ballet in 2004 and to soloist in 2006. Her artistic highpoint to date has been performing in Jiří Kylián's Bella Figura.

Q and A with Ms. Ichikawa

Question: What do you hope to accomplish with the dancers this summer?

Answer: *My goal this summer is twofold. First I want to provide a solid technical foundation. Secondly, and just as important, I want to instill a real sense of joy when moving.*

Question:

What advice would you give to our Young Dancers and Advanced Intensive students who are interested in pursuing a career in dance?

Answer: *You really have to love ballet and know that your body can sustain the work. Also, it is important to understand that corrections are not criticisms. They are there for you to get better.*

Dear HC Ballet Families,

We are only a few months into 2016, but already have begun preparations for our upcoming summer events. As you know, our next performance will take place in June and we plan for another fabulous show at the Mamiya Theatre. The other piece of exciting news that we have to share is our summer intensive, with visiting master guest teacher and ballerina from Boston Ballet, Ms. Rie Ichikawa. Detailed information about this special event can be found on our website at <http://hcballet.com/summer-intensive-2016/>. Feel free to look at it when you have a chance!

Summer is a time when students have many opportunities that they can pursue. For students of ballet, the summer is an important time to focus on dance. We have created a six-week summer intensive that offers serious dance students of intermediate to advanced levels a unique opportunity to focus on acquiring significant advancements in technical and artistic skills over a short period of time. This level of advancement is often not possible during the busy school year when students have limited hours of study in the studio. The summer intensive is also a chance for dancers to work with new teachers and to receive guidance and coaching from professionals (dancers and teachers) from some of the top ballet companies throughout the United States. This helps them grow tremendously in their study of technique and mature as artists and individuals.

This year we are especially privileged to have Ms. Rie Ichikawa from Boston Ballet as a master instructor for the entire six-week intensive to work one on one with students. It is rare for dancers from Hawaii to have the opportunity to work closely with a professional ballerina of her caliber for an extended period of time. We feel very fortunate to have her here with us this year. Our other master guest teacher, Calvin Kitten (formerly of the Joffrey Ballet, Chicago and currently the Director of Ballet West II, Salt Lake City) will be with us for a few master classes during the course of the intensive to work with dancers.

For our younger dancers from the Prima, Intro, BT I, and Explore levels, we will continue to hold our usual classes so that all dancers can continue to consistently consolidate the learnings that they have made throughout the year.

Also in the works, a "meet and greet" event that the entire studio will be invited to. This will be an opportunity for all of our dancers and families to meet our guest master instructors for the summer. The date and time for this event will be sent out via email in an invitation, so make sure to keep an eye out for it!

Cheers to another exciting season of dance and progress! We thank all of our families for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Romi Beppu, Artistic Director

Jen Loh, Director of Operations



Important Dates:

Next Performance Dress Rehearsal: June 2nd, Thursday.

Next Performance Date: June 4th, Saturday

Spring Session II: March 28-June 18th

Spring Vacation: June 19-June 25th (studio closed)

Summer Intensive: June 27-August 6 2016

Summer Session (Prima, Intro, BTI, Explore): June 26 - August 6, 2016