

Stephanie Cotton, MBA

Founder & Educator, **The Ballet Mentor®**
Director of Programs, **Inspire School of Ballet**

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Academic Education

2023-2024 **Master of Business Administration**, Western Governors University

Graduate with Honors, Magna Cum Laude

2019-2023 **Bachelor of Liberal Studies**, University of Maine Presque Isle

Focus in Elementary Education, Arts, Literacy

Graduate with Honors, Magna Cum Laude

Studied additionally at San Diego State University, Southwestern College

Certifications & Licenses

2024 **Project Management Professional Certificate**, Google, Coursera

2018-2024 **California Real Estate Salesperson License**, DRE#:02019527

2021-2024 **Nevada Real Estate Salesperson License** S.#0194218

2021 **Progressive Ballet Technique® Certification**

Under Robyn Shifren & Marie Walton Mahon

2016 **ABT® National Training Curriculum Certification**

Primary-Level 3, New York, NY

Non-Academic Education

2014 **Milwaukee Ballet School**, under Michael Pink

2013 **The Washington Ballet School**, under Kee Juan Han

2012 **The Boston Ballet School**, under Margaret Tracey

2011 **The Rock School**, under Bo & Stephanie Spasoff

2010, 2015 **Texas Ballet Theater School**, under Ben Stevenson & Tim O'Keefe

Employment

2024-2025 **The Ballet Mentor®, Founder & Educator**

Launch of a brand new educational media platform for pre-professional ballet students. Designed to fill in the gaps from traditional ballet education.

Employment, Continued...

2023-2025 **Qua Holistics, Product Development Consultant**

Launch of a new supplement specifically designed for athletic related chronic pain & recovery, launching Spring 2025. Head of a 10-person team managing a project evaluated at \$400,000, working with doctoral-level researchers, mycologists, nutritionists, and holistic practitioners. I was hired for my expertise as a former professional ballerina with autoimmune related joint pain.

2020-2025 **Inspire School of Ballet, Director of Programs**

Performance Company Director 2021-2024

Academy & Preschool Ballet Instructor 2020-2021

Under the direction of Felicia Alvarez. Oversee 5+ programs under the umbrella of Inspire Performing Arts a 501(c)3 including: Youth Ballet Performing Company, Musical Theater Performance Troupe, MT@ISB, Preschool Division, Pre-Professional Division.

2021-2023 **Cotton Homes & Design, Head Interior Designer**

Freelance interior design work specializing in contemporary home decorating & construction. Managed & curated custom home design projects in CA, NV, and Baja, CA, MX.

2018-2023 **Stephanie Cotton Homes, Realtor®**

Under eXp Realty Nevada & Southern California

2018-2019 **Lynch Dance Institute, Ballet & Contemporary Instructor**

Under the direction of Timothy & Alexandra Lynch

2014-2018 **Scripps Performing Arts Academy, Children's Division Ballet Mistress**

Under the direction of Angela Amoroso

2015 **City Ballet of San Diego, Apprentice**

Under the direction of Steven & Elizabeth Wistrich

2015 **Texas Ballet Theater, Professional Division**

Under the direction of Ben Stevenson, Kathy Li

2014-2015 **Nevada Ballet Theater, Trainee**

Under the direction of James Canfield

Teaching

2020-2025 **Inspire School of Ballet**

Academy Ballet Division: Level 1-7 Technique, Pointe Level 5-7, Pre-Pointe, Boys Intermediate Ballet, Variations, Progressive Ballet Technique®, Strength Training Coaching, Boys Intermediate Ballet, Variations, Preschool Division: Mommy n' Me, Creative Movement, Pre Ballet

2019 **Lynch Dance Institute**

Advanced Ballet Technique, Intermediate Contemporary

2015-2018 **Scripps Performing Arts Academy**

Creative Dance Foundation, Pre-Ballet, Level 2-4, Teen & Adult Ballet

2017 **Compers Preparatory Academy**

Boys ballet, Beginning Ballet Technique for Middle Schoolers

New Programs & Classes Developed

2025 **Brave Ballerina Blueprint, The Ballet Mentor®, Course Creator**

Comprehensive digital course with over 20 modules built with the pre-professional ballet student in mind. Built for students to learn how to gain a competitive edge in their ballet training to supplement their ballet classes.

Set to launch March 1, 2025

2024 **Goal Setting, The Ballet Mentor®, Creator & Educator**

Digital guide catered specifically towards pre-professional ballet dancers to assist them in developing goal setting skills.

2024 **Auditions 101, The Ballet Mentor®, Creator & Educator**

Digital guide catered specifically towards pre-professional ballet dancers to assist them in the audition process and tips & tricks to help them succeed.

2024 **Pre-Professional Ballet Division, Inspire School of Ballet**

Created and launched the business plan, class requisites, evaluation structure, and grading rubric for the 24-25 school year.

2024 **Academy Curriculum Improvement, Inspire School of Ballet**

Revised the current curriculum and syllabus for the academy division, Level 1-7. Set 3-5 Key Performance Objectives for each step in the syllabus for each level and created a scorecard associated with it.

New Programs & Classes Developed Continued

2021 **Pre-Pointe & Strength Training Class, Inspire School of Ballet**
Created a new metric for evaluation in the pre-pointe program including strength training, conditioning, and injury prevention methods.

Creative Research - Original Choreographic Works & Stagings

2025 ***Alice in Wonderland*, Inspire School of Ballet (restaging)**
Assistant Director, Showrunner, Lead Choreographer & Stager

2025 ***Nueva Era*, Inspire Performing Company (original work)**
Creative Director, Lead Choreographer
World Premier of a contemporary ensemble piece set to a score composed for Cirque du Soleil, staged for the San Diego State University's Women's Basketball Half-Time Show.

2025 ***Peter & the Wolf*, Inspire Performing Company (original work)**
Creative Director, Lead Choreographer, Showrunner
World premiere of an all new classical one-act ballet featuring 20 youth pre-professional ballet dancers ages 9-15, with music by Sergei Prokofiev.

2024, 2023 ***The Nutcracker*, Inspire School of Ballet & Company (restaging)**
Assistant Director, Showrunner, Lead Choreographer & Stager

2024 ***Cinderella*, Inspire School of Ballet & Company (restaging)**
Assistant Director, Showrunner, Lead Choreographer & Stager

2024 ***Nemesis, Aloha!, Caravella*, Inspire Performing Company (org. work)**
Creative Director, Lead Choreographer
World Premier of three contemporary ensemble pieces set to house music, staged for the San Diego State University's Women's Basketball Half-Time Show.

2023 ***Chula Vista Art Fest*, Inaugural Arts Member (restaging)**
Excerpts from *Tiny Dancer & Beyond the Barre*
Creative Director, Lead Choreographer, Head Liaison

2023 ***Tiny Dancer*, Inspire Performing Company (original work)**
Creative Director, Showrunner, Lead Choreographer
All new one act ballet where classic rock meets classical ballet, music by "Elton John", and set on a youth company with a cast of 75 dancers ages 4-21.

Creative Research - Original Choreographic Works & Stagings Contd.

- 2022-23 ***Beyond the Barre, Inspire School of Ballet (original work)***
Creative Director, Showrunner, Lead Choreographer
School showcase of elective dance styles featuring a cast of 50 dancers & styles including contemporary ballet, hip hop, acrobatics, musical theater, tap, and classical ballet excerpts.
- 2023 ***Sleeping Beauty, Inspire School of Ballet & Company (restaging)***
Assistant Director, Showrunner, Lead Choreographer & Stager
- 2023 ***Disney®, Imagination Campus (restaging)***
Creative Director, Lead Choreographer, Head Liaison
Excerpts from Adventure to Neverland, Inspire Performing Company
- 2023 ***Birds & ILYB, Inspire Performing Company (original works)***
Creative Director, Lead Choreographer
World Premier of two contemporary ensemble pieces set to house music, staged for San Diego State University's Women's Basketball Halftime Show.
- 2023 ***Adventure to Neverland, Inspire Performing Company (orig. work)***
Creative Director, Showrunner, Lead Choreographer, *Directorial Debut*
All new one-act classical ballet spin off of the classic, Peter Pan. Set on a youth company of 50 dancers ages 4-21.
- 2022 ***Knotts® Berry Farm, Performance in the Park (original works)***
Lead Choreographer, Rehearsal Director
- 2022 ***Bad Guy, Inspire Performing Company (original work)***
Lead Choreographer, Rehearsal Director
World Premier of contemporary small ensemble piece set to a string quartet performed version of Billie Eilish's Bad Guy. Staged for the San Diego State University's Women's Basketball Half-Time Show.
- 2016 ***Smooth Criminal, Del Mar Ballet (original work)***
Guest Choreographer
All new contemporary duet, set to a string quartet performance of Michael Jackson's classic hit.

Research - Artistic Activities

- 2025 **The Ballet Alliance**, Festival Member Director
- 2024 **Vail Dance Fest**, Season Donor
- 2023-24 **Segerstrom Center of the Arts**
Season Member, Visiting School Field Trip Coordinator
- 2015 **Vienna International Ballet Experience**, Senior Division Finalist

Professional Performing Career Highlights

- 2017 **Sugar Plum Fairy, The Nutcracker**
Guest Principal Artist, Scripps Ballet Theater
- 2016 **Kingdom of the Shades, Corps de Ballet, La Bayadère**
Guest Artist, Scripps Ballet Theater
- 2015 **Swan Lake Pas de Trois, Vienna International Ballet Competition**
Finalist, Senior Division
- 2015 ***Paquita Act II***
Apprentice, City Ballet of San Diego
- 2015 **Variation from *Harold Lander's Études***
Apprentice, Texas Ballet Theater
- 2015 ***George Balanchine's Serenade***
Trainee, Nevada Ballet Theater
- 2015 **Four Little Swans in James Canfield's *Swan Lake***
Trainee, Nevada Ballet Theater
- 2014 **Various Divertissements, James Canfield's *The Nutcracker***
Trainee, Nevada Ballet Theater
- 2014 **A Choreographer's Showcase, Cirque Du Soleil**
Collaborating Artist, Nevada Ballet Theater
Original works choreographed by leading hip hop & contemporary artists in Michael Jackson ONE & Mysteré.
- 2014 **Fairy, George Balanchine's *Midsummer Night's Dream***
Trainee, Nevada Ballet Theater
- 2014 ***Swanilda, Miah Nwosu's Coppelia***
Company Artist, Scripps Ballet Theater

Reviews & Media Coverage

2024 **The Ballet Mentor®**

<https://www.instagram.com/theballetmentor/>

<https://stan.store/theballetmentor>

2023 **The Coronado News**

“Adventure to Neverland ballet to perform March 11 at CoSA”

<https://thecoronadonews.com/2023/02/adventure-to-neverland-ballet-to-perform-march-11-at-cosa/>

2014 **92131 Magazine**

“Stephanie Cotton Takes the Stage, Despite the Odds”

https://issuu.com/suscomedia/docs/92131_-_magazine_-_jan_feb_2015_-_e

2014 **Las Vegas Review Journal**

“Nevada Ballet Theatre opens season with ‘Midsummer,’ ‘Seasons’”

<https://www.reviewjournal.com/entertainment/arts-culture/nevada-ballet-theatre-opens-season-with-midsummer-seasons/>