

Our Town

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Seiskaya Ballet

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by Elizabeth Isabelle

Established in 1974, Seiskaya Ballet offers students of all ages the gift of dance steeped in Russian tradition, and the opportunity to study and perform classical ballet in a professional environment.

Under the direction of Mme. Valia Seiskaya, Seiskaya Ballet cultivates a love of dance combined with strength of body and mind – through an unparalleled dance education. Russian born Valia Seiskaya took her first ballet lessons in Greece at the age of six. Showing prodigious technique, she would go on to study under Sonia Morianova. Mme. Seiskaya became a member of the National Opera of Greece at 17 and soon achieved the rank of featured soloist, touring with the company throughout Europe and Russia.

A year after retiring from the National Opera of Greece in 1973, Mme. Seiskaya founded the Seiskaya Ballet School and soon enlarged the original studio to its present 2,500 square feet. Studio B opened in 1981 adding another 1,500 square feet to the dance facility.

The year 1981 also saw the establishment of the Seiskaya Ballet Academy. During her 17-year professional career with the National Opera of Greece, Mme. Seiskaya gained an affinity for the grand sweep of storyline ballets and operas. Mme. Seiskaya's own choreographic works reflect that interest with fresh interpretations of classical favorites and her signature ensemble works.

Seiskaya Ballet has become one of the premier institutions of its kind, offering two separate programs. Seiskaya OPEN is a dance program that has been designed to offer dance students an opportunity to take classes with no commit-



ment beyond the number of classes purchased. Seiskaya specializes in a single discipline – ballet.

There is no recital, and there are no rehearsals during classes. Seiskaya Ballet has been offering both an adult and a children's program for over three decades. Seiskaya Ballet believes that all students should know the joy of dance, the health benefit of physical fitness and the confidence that comes with accomplishment. The OPEN program is a wonderful way to get acquainted with the Seiskaya teaching methodology in a structured yet relaxed atmosphere. Classes are offered from Starting Beginner through Advanced.

The Seiskaya Ballet Academy is a unique program designed to provide career training for students desiring to pursue advanced goals in classical dance. Class size is restricted and all students are selected through auditions or staff reviews. Seiskaya students have compiled an outstanding record of achievement. Through the years, full scholarships have been awarded by every major institution for which Seiskaya students have auditioned.

Embarking on its 19th season, the Seiskaya Nutcracker has estab-



Whether it is teaching young dancers to get up on pointe or helping dancers soar into a great future like current American Ballet Theatre Principal Dancer Cory Stearns, Seiskaya Ballet has been Long Island's stepping stone to success for nearly 40 years.

lished itself as the premier event of its kind on Long Island. Total attendance eclipsed 80,000 last season and has become a cherished holiday tradition for families throughout Long Island.

Please be sure to visit the Seiskaya Ballet website, www.seiskaya.com, for class schedules and more information on the OPEN program and Academy. The directors, staff and students at Seiskaya Ballet look forward to being of service to you and sharing with you, the pure joy that is the world of ballet.