

NEWS

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For Immediate Release

Alexandra Ballet Hires CiCi Houston as Company Administrator

Greg Chastain, president of the Board of Directors of Alexandra Ballet, announced today the appointment of Ms. CiCi Houston to the position of Company Administrator, ending the year-long search to fill this position for the non-profit organization that seeks to educate, elevate, and enrich St. Louis through the art of dance.

Ms. Houston (*"HOW-stun"*), a graduate of the Virginia School for the Arts, was born in Detroit, but has worked in New York, Houston, Boston, and Italy. She has enjoyed an extensive performing career in both classical ballet and modern dance, having been a company member with both St. Louis Ballet and Atrek dance companies. Her repertoire includes principal roles in classical XIX Century repertoire, many Balanchine ballets, and numerous contemporary works. She joined the faculty of Alexandra School of Ballet in 2003, and appeared as a guest artist with the company in their production of *The Sleeping Beauty* in March of 2004. In 2004, Ms. Houston was offered the position of Ballet Mistress for the company, and has been staging and rehearsing productions for Alexandra Ballet since that time.

Artistic Director Alexandra Zaharias is thrilled with the appointment. "CiCi shares both my philosophy and my artistic vision," she says, "and has the depth of knowledge and experience necessary for this job."

"Being the daughter of symphony musicians, she has grown up with a love of music and the arts, and this has enhanced every other part of her training," says Zaharias. "The result is a well-rounded, experienced artist who makes an excellent role model for the dancers, and a competent administrator for the artistic mission of Alexandra Ballet."

In addition to her job as company administrator, Ms. Houston will continue to teach at the school, and serve as Ballet Mistress with the company. This summer, she staged a new classical work for the company, *Minkus Divertissements*, to be adjudicated in February of 2006 for inclusion into the annual Regional Dance America MidStates Festival, and is rehearsing *The Nutcracker* and *Paquita* for performances this season.

Alexandra Ballet is a proud member of:
Dance St. Louis, Missouri Citizens for the Arts, and Regional Dance America-Mid States (*Honor Company*)

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