

## HILTON HEAD DANCE THEATRE

In 1985, Hilton Head Dance School opened its doors with a mere 17 students. The school, which has always been the official school of the non-profit Hilton Head Dance Theatre, has experienced exponential growth in the years since.

At the helm of both entities since the very beginning are Karena Brock-Carlyle, a former Principal Dancer with the American Ballet Theatre, and her husband John Carlyle, who danced professionally with City Center Dance Theatre, the Tampa Ballet and the Savannah Ballet. As the school has grown, so has the opportunity for the dance theatre to support productions featuring dance school students.

*The Nutcracker* is a much-loved annual event that has delighted tens of thousands of residents and visitors alike as it is the official kick-off to the holiday season. In addition, Hilton Head Dance Theatre's repertoire has grown to include all of the great full-length ballets such as *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Giselle*, *Coppélia*, *Cinderella* and *Don Quixote*.

Both Karena Brock-Carlyle and John Carlyle have contributed new and innovative works to the repertoire, and audiences have also enjoyed the work of choreographer Jamal Edwards and former Broadway dance captain Kathleen Watkins. Every year, the very youngest students are featured in productions of their own such as *Peter Rabbit*, *Eloise*, *The Magic Toy Shoppe*, and *Ella Bella Ballerina*. Students in the middle grades perform annually in a production called *Terpsichore, Too* dancing excerpts from *Swan Lake* or *The Sleeping Beauty* as well as contemporary and jazz pieces.

Hilton Head Dance Theatre has also proudly brought professional companies to our area including Stars of the American Ballet Theatre, the Miami City Ballet, Ballet Hispanico, the Atlanta Ballet and the Orlando Ballet among others.