

Melinda Darlington-Bach

Melinda Darlington-Bach is an Emmy award-winning guest choreographer, instructor and faculty member in Portland, New York, Los Angeles and the Bay Area. A consummate professional, Ms. Darlington-Bach is a master at blending musicality and rich ideas that capture the audiences for dance, theatre, film and opera. During her dance career, she has worked with many notables including Leonide Massine, Eric Bruhn, George Skibine, Dennis Nahat, Norbert Vesak, and Edward Villella. She was on the ballet teacher faculty of Marin Ballet, working as Managing Director, Choreographer-in-residence and Ballet Mistress. Ms. Darlington-Bach also served as faculty member of Dominican College Department of Dance from 1982 to 1987 and as a Board Member of Dance Bay Area. She has trained over 40 dancers who enjoy professions with New York City Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Atlanta Ballet, Ballet West, Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley, Oregon Ballet, Arizona Ballet, Ballet Florida and The Joffrey Ballet. She served as the coach for the American Team of International Ballet Competitions for both Moscow and Jackson, Mississippi.

Ms. Darlington-Bach has a long list of awards, accomplishments and recognitions from her distinguished career as a dancer, teacher and choreographer. Her impeccable sense of innovation and style are reflected in her ever-evolving approach to the performing arts. For two years in a row, she was the recipient for the Montecello Award from the Regional Ballet Association for outstanding choreography. In 1993, she was awarded the Choreographic Fellowship Award by the Marin Arts Council as well as a Bay Area Critics Circle Award for Choreography. In 1994, she was given the Prix d'Or du Choreographie for her last three years of work. For two consecutive years, dancers who performed solos created for them by Ms. Darlington-Bach were given the highest level award from the National Foundation for the Achievement of the Arts, a presidential scholarship program in Florida. In the summer of 2002, Ms. Darlington-Bach worked with Jim Dunn, choreographing *Much Ado About Nothing* for Marin Shakespeare Company, and received a Dean Goodman Choice Award.

Ms. Darlington-Bach is a member of the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Actors, and has worked in over 65 commercials, industrials, independent and feature films as both an actor and choreographer. She has worked with the likes of Ridley Scott, Jon Francis and the award-winning cinematographers Laszlo Kovacs and Vilmos Zsigmond. Some of her choreographic credits include Nortel, Via TV, Chevrolet Lumina, Southwest Bell, Subway Sandwiches, First Chicago Bank, Hilton Hotels, and Webvan. Ms. Darlington-Bach was the choreographer for five Marin Opera productions as well as the Marin Civic Light Opera, Mountain Play, Marin Shakespeare and productions for the College of Marin. Ms. Darlington-Bach has collaborated with Lee Sankowich of The Marin Theatre Company as a choreographer for two works in the Playground Series produced by The Travelling Jewish Theatre. For the 2006/07 season, Ms. Darlington-Bach choreographed *Orson's Shadow* for Marin Theatre Company and Mr. Sankowich. She has also collaborated with James Dunn many times over the years, choreographing for his productions of *Once Upon A Mattress*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Man of La Mancha* and *Sound of Music*. Ms. Darlington-Bach was a founding faculty member of Marin Dance Theatre in 1996 and was the Associate Artistic Director.

For the past 14 years, Ms. Darlington Bach has been the CCO of Xanadu Entertainment, LLC, which she founded with her producing partner Cynthia Pepper. Xanadu Entertainment is a sought-after film production company which has created films for the Emmy Award Winning 33rd and 34th seasons of *Sesame Street*TM. Nine of Xanadu's dance shorts were screened at the prestigious ReelDance International Film Festival in Sydney, Australia. Ms. Darlington-Bach's short film, *Q*, was screened at the celebrated Mill Valley Film Festival in autumn 2008. Her film *The Faeries of Farthingale* had its world premiere at The Mill Valley Film Festival 2009. *Faeries* also screened at Mostly British Film Festival, Tiburon Int'l Film Festival and the San Francisco Int'l Children's Film Festival in Spring 2010. Her most recent producing effort, the film *13*, was screened at the 2014 Mill Valley Film Festival and the Topanga Film Festival. She is currently the senior contributing writer

for the weekly Marin Arts Magazine and the weekly Marin County paper The Ark, reporting on film, dance and theatre events. Xanadu Entertainment is currently in pre-production for the feature documentary *YYT: The Film*. The film will provide a rare look at the private and professional life of the most celebrated Asian ballet dancer in the world, Yuan Yuan Tan.

Ms. Darlington-Bach continues to teach acting and on-camera classes for Beau Bonneau's San Francisco Acting Academy, Julie Nation Academy, and the California Film Institute. For the past 14 years, she has been a model/talent scout for the prestigious talent agency Stars, the Agency in San Francisco.