

# MARK RUHALA

producer/director/choreographer/arts educator

Professional Experience:

Sept. 2004 – Present      Founder, Artistic/Executive Director  
Ruhala Performing Arts Center, LLC  
The Gate Performing Arts Center, LLC  
East Lansing, MI

## The Gate/Ruhala Center Performance Retrospective 2005...

Produced, directed, and choreographed by Mark Ruhala unless otherwise indicated.

\*Original shows conceived by Mark Ruhala.

### 2005 SEASON

A...MY NAME WILL ALWAYS BE ALICE

(Vocal Ensemble)

LADYHOUSE BLUES

(Acting Ensemble)

PIPPIN

(Musical Theatre Ensemble)

CHRYSALIS\*

(Dance Ensemble) co-choreographer Adam Barruch

SPRINGWORKS

(Junior Ensemble)

### 2005 BROADWAY SUMMER CAMPS

SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD

STARTING HERE, STARTING NOW

### 2006 SEASON

PARADE

(Musical Theatre Ensemble)

BLUES IN THE NIGHT

(Vocal Ensemble) guest artist Valerie diLorenzo

CONTINUUM\*

(Dance Ensemble) co-choreographed with cast

TARTUFFE

(Acting Ensemble)

DEAR EDWINA JR.

(Junior Ensemble)

BROADWAY BABY – starring Valerie diLorenzo

### 2006 BROADWAY SUMMER CAMPS

THE FUNKY BROADWAY MOTOWN REVUE\*

I SECOND THAT EMOTION MOTOWN REVUE\*

EAST LANSING RENAGADE THEATRE FESTIVAL  
(Motown selections)

2007 SEASON

THE DISCONNECTED\*

(Dance Theatre Ensemble)

ONCE ON THIS ISLAND

(Musical Theatre Ensemble)

EDGES

(Vocal Ensemble)

FIONA: THE MOTHER GOOSE MUSICAL

(Junior Ensemble)

LAURA DENNIS

(Acting Ensemble) Celina Ruhala, Director

BOOGIE STOMP! with Bob Baldori & Bob Seely

(Dance Theatre Members)

( E.L. Film Festival – Hannah Center)

(Boarshead Theatre – Kristine Thatcher, Director)

VAN ATTA FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL

(Best of Broadway – Musical Theatre Ensemble)

OKTOBERFEST\*

(Contemporary Polkas – Dance/Theatre Ensemble)

CRAFT CARE HOMES

(Best of Broadway – Musical Theatre Ensemble)

HOM-TV 21

(Best of Broadway – Singing Ensemble)

SUNNY JAZZ & BROADWAY CHEER

(Musical Theatre Ensemble with Sunny Wilkinson and the  
MSU Vocal Jazz Ensemble)

MSU COMMUNITY CLUB

(Best of Broadway – Singing Ensemble)

EXITING (a contemporary dance concert)

Cristina Perera, Choreographer

2007 BROADWAY SUMMER CAMPS

THE WORLD GOES 'ROUND

ONE BRICK AT A TIME BROADWAY REVUE

2008 SEASON

SEEN/NOT SEEN\*

(Dance Theatre Ensemble with Tracy Holtzer, Linda  
Grindee and Celina Ruhala)

FALLING IN LOVE WITH LOVE BROADWAY REVUE\*

(Singing Ensemble)

OUR LOVE IS HERE TO STAY BROADWAY REVUE\*

(Musical Theatre Ensemble)

BELLES

(Acting Ensemble) Celina Ruhala, Director  
ALICE IN WONDERLAND  
(Junior Ensemble)  
A LOT OF LIVIN' TO DO  
Ingrid Saxon – Cabaret performance  
VAGINA MONOLOGUES  
(Women's Center of Greater Lansing)  
(Dance/Theatre Ensemble)

**2008 BROADWAY SUMMER CAMPS**

INTO THE WOODS  
INGHAM COUNTY FAIR  
(Broadway selections)

**2008 FALL SEASON**

OH DEAR – starring Terri Davis-Hayden  
(Director/Choreographer)  
OKTOBERFEST\*  
(Contemporary Polkas – Dance/Theatre Ensemble)  
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TRACKS\*  
(Elementary Broadway Ensemble)  
GODSPELL  
(Middle School Broadway Ensemble)  
HOM-TV 21  
(selections from Godspell)  
BLUE RIFFS & POLKA CHEERS\*  
(Dance Theatre Ensemble)  
THE HILLS OF TOMORROW\*  
Stephen Sondheim Revue  
(Musical Theatre Ensemble)  
FINDING CLAIRE  
(Acting Ensemble) Celina Ruhala, Director  
BURCHAM HILLS RETIEREMNET CENTER  
(Broadway revue)

**2009 WINTER SEASON**

OLD FRIENDS\*  
Stephen Sondheim Revue  
(Musical Theatre Ensemble)  
ONCE ON THIS ISLAND  
(Middle School Broadway Ensemble)  
TOMORROW BELONGS TO ME\*  
(Elementary Broadway Ensemble)  
“Z” \*– an original script by Mark Ruhala  
(Dance Theatre Ensemble)

### 2009 SPRING SEASON

A NEW BRAIN

(Musical Theatre Ensemble)

ANNIE

(Middle School Broadway Ensemble)

ANOTHER OPENIN' ANOTHER SHOW\*

(Elementary Broadway Ensemble)

### 2009 BROADWAY SUMMER CAMPS

“Z” \* - an original musical

### 2010 SEASON

THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

(Musical Theatre Ensemble)

SEUSSICAL

(Junior Ensemble)

THE SAVAGE DILEMMA

(Acting Ensemble, Celina Ruhala, Director)

SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD

(Musical Theatre Ensemble)

Sept. 2004 – Present

### **Arts Educator – Teacher/Choreographer/Director**

- ◆ Michigan State University – Acting Workshop for graduate acting students & Musical Theatre Workshops for senior acting class
- ◆ Richard Fracker student showcase 2007 & 2008, choreographer
- ◆ BB Chapter of Lansing PEO – guest speaker 08
- ◆ BB Chapter of East Lansing PEO – guest speaker 09
- ◆ East Lansing Women’s Club – guest speaker 09
- ◆ CABARET, Choreographer  
Michigan State University, Rob Roznowski, Director
- ◆ Lansing Matinee Musicale, Inc. – Musical Theatre Singing Seminar
- ◆ THE PENETRATION PLAY  
Co-director with Rob Roznowski  
Renegade Theater Festival 08 – Old Town Lansing
- ◆ Radmoor Montessori School – Drama Workshop
- ◆ “Z” a new dance theatre work  
Scene Metro Space (Dance Theatre Ensemble)  
“Z” an original musical  
Renegade Theatre Festival – Perspective 2
- ◆ East Lansing High School – Ensemble training principles
- ◆ St. Martha – Drama/Voice Workshops & Mini Camp

- ◆ “The Power of Training for Young People” Seminar – The Gate Performing Arts Center
- ◆ East Lansing Education Foundation  
Broadway selections – Kellogg Center, MSU
- ◆ “Ten Essential Attributes of a Broadway Performer” Seminar - Ruhala Performing Arts Center
- ◆ St. Thomas – Dance/Drama/Yoga
- ◆ East Lansing Children’s Film Festival – Acting for Film
- ◆ Webb Elementary School – Hazel Park, MI  
Broadway Selections
- ◆ Webster Elementary School – Hazel Park, MI  
Broadway selections
- ◆ Meridian Township Parks and Recreation –  
Drama/Voice/Dance Workshop
- ◆ Lake Lansing Park Bandshell – Free Summer Cabaret Performances
- ◆ Howell Community Theater – Theatre Dance Master Class
- ◆ Murphy Elementary School – Performing Arts Introduction
- ◆ Suburban Ice – Summer Drama/Dance Presentation Workshop
- ◆ Girl Scouts & Brownies – Health & Fitness class
- ◆ Silver Bells Christmas Celebration 2009, 2010  
Broadway selections
- ◆ MacDonald Middle School – Career Day, Performing Arts representative
- ◆ Mason Spring Fling 2008, 2009, 2010  
Broadway selections
- ◆ Lansing Catholic Central – Stage Manners and Professional Etiquette Seminar
- ◆ Lansing Catholic Central - Choreographer  
*Anything Goes*  
*Bye Bye Birdie*  
*Guys and Dolls*  
*Pajama game*  
*Fiddler on the Roof*  
*Cinderella*

May 2002-Aug. 2004

**Executive Director - Broadway Training Center Inc.**  
A not-for-profit 501c3 organization, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY  
(BTC) A Performing Arts Training Center

Sept.1998-Aug. 2004

**Artistic Director - Broadway Training Center Inc.**  
A not-for-profit 501c3 organization, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY

(BTC) A Performing Arts Training Center

Sept.1992-Aug.1998      Artistic Director MRPE (Mark Ruhala Performance Ensemble)  
A not-for-profit 501c3 company, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY  
Dance/Theatre Company

Sept.1991-Aug.1998      Founder and Artistic Director of Mark Ruhala' Studio  
School for the Performing Arts, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY

## Performance Retrospective 1992 – 2004

BTC, MRPE, & Mark Ruhala' Studio

Produced, directed, and choreographed by Mark Ruhala unless otherwise indicated. .

### Classic Broadway Musicals:

INTO THE WOODS '95 & '01    co-choreographer Cristina Perera  
A CHORUS LINE '97    co-choreographer Cristina Perera  
GODSPELL '98  
ONCE ON THIS ISLAND '99  
FUNNY GIRL '00  
JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR '02  
THE WIZARD OF OZ '03

### Broadway Revues:

BLAME IT ON THE MOVIES '98  
THE WORLD GOES 'ROUND '00  
SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD '01 & '04

### Original Dance Concerts:

ADDAMS FAMILY BALLET '92    co-choreographer Jo Anne Ogawa  
TRIO '93  
INTROSPECTION II '93  
THE WAY YOU WEAR YOUR HAT '98    co-choreographer Cristina Perera  
HEARTSTRINGS '00    co-choreographer Cristina Perera  
SEASONS OF LOVE '99  
THE BARYK PROJECT '03    co-choreographer Adam Barruch

### Original Cabaret:

FASCINATION '93    co-choreographer Jo Anne Owgawa  
STEPPIN' OUT '96  
TERRY'S SONGS '96  
A LOT OF LININ' TO DO '98    Starring Valerie diLorenzo  
I'M NOT AFRAID '01    featuring Elizabeth Schwartz  
THIS TIME AROUND '02    Starring Valerie diLorenzo

### Original Musical Theatre:

THE GOLD WATCH '96    co-written with David Meyer & cast

PURPLE AND GREEN '97 co-written with David Meyer & cast

**NY Premiere:**

JUST THE TWO OF US '95 music: Doug Austin lyrics: Roger Rochowiak  
THE LIFE AND RHYMES OF FIONA GANDER '02 music & lyrics: Neil Berg

**Original Dance Theatre:**

MADLINE '92 & '93 edited & narrated by Dana Gioia  
COUNTING THE CHILDREN '94 poem by Dana Gioia co-choreographed by  
Michael Day & Jo Anne Ogawa

**Drama:**

BELLES '98  
THE WOMEN OF THETA KAPPA '99  
MRS. HARPER'S BAZAAR '99

**Summer Performing Arts Camp Productions:**

INTO THE WOODS '94  
FAME '94  
WEST SIDE STORY '95  
SENSELESS BUT THAT'S OKAY! co-directed by Michael Galasso  
A CHORUS LINE '96 co-choreographer Cristina Perera  
ANYONE CAN WHISTLE '97 co-choreographer Julio Monge  
PIPPIN '98  
THE WIZARD OF OZ '00  
FORTY SECOND STREET '01  
BARNUM '02  
DAMN YANKEES '03  
WEST SIDE STORY '04

1990-1995

**Visiting Artist - Westchester Arts Council**

**Arts in Education Program**

Westchester County, NY

- ❖ Ardsley High School – Drama Workshop
- ❖ Concord Road School – Ardsley – Music Workshop
- ❖ Hillside School – Hastings - Playwriting
- ❖ Hastings High School - Acting workshop
- ❖ PS 22 – Yonkers – Theatre Games Workshop
- ❖ PS 81 – Yonkers – Voice workshop
- ❖ Green Acres School– Scarsdale, NY – Drama Workshop
- ❖ Fieldston School – Riverdale – Dance Workshop
- ❖ Fox Miller School– Bedford – Playwriting Workshop
- ❖ Boces – Creative Movement and Drama Workshop
- ❖ Mental Health Associations
  - Sterling Club – White Plains – Creative Drama
  - Main St. – Yonkers – Creative Drama

Sept.1988-Aug.1991

**Teacher/Choreographer/Director**

- ❖ Ballet Arts Center – Nyack, NY
- ❖ Toshiba Studio – Tokyo, Japan
- ❖ Music Theater of CT – Westport, CT
  - *The Fantastics*
  - *The Roar of the Greasepaint*
  - *Three Guys Naked From The Waist Down*
- ❖ Royal Winnipeg School – Winnipeg, Canada
- ❖ Scarsdale YMHA – Scarsdale, NY
- ❖ Dance and Athletic Club of Bronxville – Bronxville, NY
- ❖ Hasting high School
  - *Windows* – an original musical
- ❖ Central Park Dance Studio – Scarsdale, NY
- ❖ Footstep Studio – Hastings, NY
- ❖ Ric Mitchell Studio of the Performing Arts – East Lansing, MI
  - *Nutcracker - CBT*
  - *Serenity*
- ❖ Irvington Town Hall Theater – Irvington, NY
- ❖ Baers Studio – Vienna, Austria

1978- present

**Actor/Singer/Dancer**

- ❖ Broadway
  - *Broadway Follies* – Nederlander Theater
  - *A Chorus Line (Gala)* – Shubert Theater
- ◆ Festivals
  - *The Civil Wars Next Wave Theater Festival*, BAM
  - *International Fashion Festival* – Dalian, China
- ❖ Off Broadway
  - *Buddies* – Collonades Theater
  - *Starmites* – The Ark Theater, Soho
- ❖ International Tours
  - *A Chorus Line* – Europe & Asia
  - *Terry Clausner* – Monte Carlo, Monaco
- ❖ National and Canadian Tours
  - *A Chorus Line* – U.S. & Canada
- ❖ Regional Theatre
  - *Anyone Can Whistle* - Berkshire Theatre Festival – Stockbridge, Mass.
  - *West Side Story* - Cleveland Opera
  - *Serenity* - Wharton Center – East Lansing, MI
  - *Jesus Christ Superstar* - Irvington Town Hall Theater
  - *Just The Two Of Us* MRPE – Hastings-on-Hudson
  - *Undertime* - Florence Guild Hall, NYC
  - *Summer In Stockbridge* – Westbeth, NYC

- *Fascination* – MRPE, Hastings-on-Hudson
- *Steppin' Out* – MRPE, Hastings-on-Hudson
- *Steppin' Out* – Newington Cropsey Foundation, Hastings-on-Hudson
- *No No Nanette* – Lansing Community College
- *Lansing Dance Theater* – Lansing, MI
- *Nutcracker* – CBT, Lansing, MI
- *Dances* – Hastings Creative Arts Council
- *A Caberet of Broadway* – HCAC
- *Songs For A New World* – The GATE PAC
- *Exiting* – Ruhala Performing Arts Center
- *Sunny Jazz & Broadway Cheer* – RPAC
- *Best of Broadway* – RPAC

❖ Television

- *Jazztime '84* special for HBO
- *Ellington: The Music Lives On* special for PBS
- Commercials for Levi's 501 Jeans
- *Search For Tomorrow* – soap opera
- *One Life To Live* – soap opera
- *The Guiding Light* – soap opera
- Videos for Billy Joel – *Keepin' The Faith*, Natalie Cole – *Jump Start*, Billy Idol – *Flesh For Fantasy* and Annie Golden – *Hang Up The Phone*
- Thanksgiving Day Parade – featured dancer

❖ Film

- *A Chorus Line*
- *Wunderkind*

❖ Industrials

- *Midas* – Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
- *Members Only* – New York City

2002-2004

Grants Panelist - National Endowment For The Arts  
Washington, D.C. Dana Gioia, Chairman

Jan.1999-Sept.1999

Associate Choreographer - *Tabaluga und Lilli*  
A New Musical - Oberhausen, Germany

Aug.1997-Sept.1997

Choreographer – *EVITA*  
American Broadway jazz  
International Fashion Festival Dalian, China

Jan.1998-Feb.1998

Choreographer - *INTROSPECTION*  
Original Ballet  
Singapore Dance Theatre Company, Singapore

1990 – 1992	Board of Directors - Music Theatre of Conn. Westport, Conn. (Not-for-profit 501c3)
1992 -1998	Board of Directors – Mark Ruhala Performance Ensemble (Not-for-profit 501c3)
1997 - 2001	Board of Directors - Broadway Training Center Inc. Hastings-on-Hudson, NY (Not-for-profit 501c3)
1994	Adjudication Panel - Westchester Council for the Arts Westchester County, NY (Not-for-profit 501c3)

## Workshops/Master Classes Produced & Presented 1991-

THREE IN A ROW – Master Classes in Ballet by Wayne Stewarte  
 MODERN DANCE MASTER CLASS – Graham technique taught by Peter Roel  
 MOVEMENT CONNECTION WORKSHOP – 3 day intensive by Mark Ruhala  
 DAVID SORRIN COLLYER – Master classes in vocal technique  
 HEARTED SOUND – Sound exploration with Tom Cratsley  
 HEART-TO-HEART – Heart Health with Thomas and Mark Ruhala  
 FATHERS AND SONS – Michael Day and Mark Ruhala  
 TIM JOHNSON – Vocal technique  
 JULIO MONGE – Broadway dance repertoire  
 LESLIE WOODIES – Classical ballet repertoire  
 CRISTINA PERERA – European dance lab, Horton Technique Master class, Latin Jazz  
 VALERIE DILORENZO – Song Styling & Vocal Performance  
 CAROL BENTLEY – New York Dance Styles  
 ADAM BARRUCH – Modern Dance Lab  
 COLLEGE BOUND IN THE PERFORMING ARTS – Kevin Connors  
 CONTACT IMPROVISATION – taught by Bea Licata  
 JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR MASTER CLASS – Taught by Danny Zoli  
 INGRID SORRIN COLLYER – Vocal Technique class  
 CAROLYN OKHERT – Broadway dance repertoire  
 RICHARD FRACKER – Vocal technique  
 Dr. RACHEL GATES – Vocal Health seminars  
 INGRID SAXON – master class in Controlled/Relaxation vocal technique  
 LELA IVEY - Audition workshop & Acting for TV and Film

## Other Productions Produced & Presented

CELEBRATION – original choreography by Leslie Woodies  
 DANCES – Hastings Creative Arts Council  
 ANNIE – Broadway Training Center, Tom Mills, Director  
 A CABERET OF BROADWAY - Hastings Creative Arts Council  
 BALDWIN – Film Documentary of James Baldwin – HCAC

AN EVENING OF JAZZ – Brazilian jazz trio – HCAC  
MICHAELA NELLER IN CONCERT – Cabaret at The Gate  
AN EVENING OF POETRY – Riverrun Bookstore – Hasings-on-Hudson  
SIRENS - Lisbeth Scott & Lee Curreri  
SEE WHAT I WANNA SEE – Mark Falconer, Director  
MID-MICHIGAN TALENT SHOWCASE - presenter

**Professional Training:**

**Acting:** Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theater  
Sanford Meisner, Phillip Gushee, Mark Cohen

**Voice:** Bob Baldori, David Sorrin Collyer, Quitman Fludd III

**Dance**

**Ballet:** Ric Mitchell, Nenette Charisse, Robert Tucker, Keith Lee, Zena Romett, Vladmir Dukadowski, Robert Denvers, Bobby Blankshine, Alexander Filipov, Leslie Woodies, Wayne Stewarte, Cristina Perera, Madame Darvash, Kirk Peterson, Madame Messerer

**Jazz:** Ric Mitchell, Phil Black, Rick Atwell, Michael Shawn, Micheal Owens, Lee Theadore, Ed Kresley, Frank Hatchett, Lynn Simonson, Tony Stevens, Wayne Cilento, Ed Love, T. Michael Reed

**Tap:** Ric Mitchell, Harry Bell, Arthur Faria

**Modern:** Ulysses Dove, Milton Meyers, Cristina Perera – Horton technique  
Dorothy Bird Villard – Graham technique

**Adagio:** Ric Mitchell, Vladimir Dukadowski, Wayne Stewarte, Cristina Perera, Leslie Woodies

Also trained in Yoga, Pilates, Butoh, Improvisation, Brain Gym