

Rachel, born in England, is the founder and initiator of RJ Dance Pedagogy, a project that has developed over several decades and reflects her long-standing commitment to dance education and teacher development. Her professional career began as a dancer, performing at a high level in ballet, character and national dance, tap, jazz and modern.

Early in her career she lived and performed in South Korea and Japan for three and a half years before moving to Germany in 1991. After returning to Europe, Rachel taught at an international school and a private ballet school, where she discovered her passion for educating and mentoring future dance teachers in classical ballet, modern, tap, character and national dance. This led her to establish a vocational college for dancers and dance teachers in Germany in 1999.

Alongside her educational work, Rachel built an extensive career as a choreographer. From 1996 to 2005 she was one of the original choreographers for the internationally renowned Irish dance show *Magic of the Dance*. She also choreographed numerous musical and theatre productions including *Nunsense*, *Eating Raoul* and *Little Shop of Horrors*, among others.

In 2003 Rachel qualified as an examiner for the Royal Academy of Dance® and has since travelled internationally examining children and students in classical ballet. Her contribution to the development of dance education was further recognised in 2021 when she was appointed a Trustee of the Royal Academy of Dance®. In the same year she completed her Master of Arts in Dance Teaching, specialising in classical ballet, at the Palucca University of Dance in Dresden, Germany.

Rachel has always believed that teaching dance requires lifelong learning and continuous professional development. Over the past twenty years she has taught at numerous summer and Easter schools throughout Europe and as far afield as China, working with both students and teachers from a wide range of dance backgrounds. Whether working with experienced teachers or those new to the profession, and across styles from classical ballet to hip-hop, she believes there is always something new to learn and something familiar worth revisiting.

Continuing her dedication to education and the wellbeing of dancers, Rachel holds a Diploma in Child Psychology (2011) and is currently furthering her studies in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP), Educational Kinesiology and Safeguarding in the dance field. These approaches complement her interest in understanding how dancers learn and develop, and they form part of the continuing professional development courses she offers through RJ Dance Pedagogy.

Today Rachel's work focuses largely on coaching and mentoring teachers and students, both face-to-face and online. Through classes, private coaching and mentoring sessions, she supports dancers not only in their technical training but also in navigating the challenges of teaching, examinations and running a dance school. Her work increasingly focuses on wellbeing, longevity in dance, and anatomical and holistic approaches to dance training. Rachel is also the creative mind behind The Dance Teachers Forum, an international online platform now in its third year, designed to connect dance educators worldwide and encourage discussion, professional support and the exchange of ideas within the teaching community.

Another significant aspect of Rachel's career is her work as an adjudicator at international dance competitions. As a successful choreographer of tap dance formations—winning numerous German and World Championship titles—she has become a highly sought-after judge, head judge and chairperson for international Championships,

Supporting the education of dancers and teachers in safeguarding within competitive and pre-professional environments is an area particularly close to her heart, and one in which Rachel has taken a leading role within the competition dance industry. Rachel continues to advocate for excellence in dance teaching and the importance of lifelong learning in the art of dance.