



KASE CRAIG

Guest Tutor

A highly accomplished ballet dancer with recent international experience, Kase performed professionally with Ballet de l'Opera National de Bordeaux in France for eleven years. He grew up in Christchurch learning tap dance and classical ballet from age five. Following ten years of competing throughout New Zealand and Australia on the competition circuit, Kase was offered a one-year scholarship to the Australian Ballet School followed by a three-year scholarship to the New Zealand School of Dance in Wellington.

At 18 Kase was awarded a scholarship to New York for advanced classes at the ABT Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School where he was scouted by Charles Jude, a former student of Rudolf Nureyev, who offered Kase a full contract to dance professionally with his ballet company in France. Kase performed with Ballet de l'Opera National de Bordeaux regularly throughout France, Italy and Spain including at the Opera Houses of Paris and Venice together with international tours to Russia, China and Hong Kong. His roles with the ballet company include all the classical repertory and leading roles in works by the following choreographers: Charles Jude, George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, Sir Frederick Ashton, Sir David Bintley, Serge Lifar, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Wayne McGregor, Ohad Naharin, Jiří Kylián, Carolyn Carlson, Angelin Preljocaj, Nicolas Le Riche, Alexander Ekman and Justin Peck.

Kase recently completed a Master of Business Administration (MBA) with Distinction at the University of Canterbury. His awards and credentials to date include: Advanced Coaching at The Royal Ballet, an NZQA National Diploma in Dance Performance, National Certificate in Dance Performance, the Royal Academy of Dance Solo Seal Award and Certificate III in Dance. In 2018 Kase was made a Distinguished Graduate of the New Zealand School of Dance.

When not in performances Kase has been fortunate to receive regular professional development from tutors to the Paris Opera Ballet. He has often appeared as a guest contributor on the Good Morning programme for Channel One and Arts on Sunday for Radio New Zealand. In 2009 a documentary on Kase was filmed by Television New Zealand.