



**CULTIVATE YOUR CHOREOGRAPHIC SKILLS AND UNIQUE ARTISTIC IDENTITY**

## **ICONS CHOREOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE AT ATLAS**

**2023-24 THEATER SEASON & ACADEMIC COHORT**

**A POST-GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND CREATIVE LABORATORY**

**FOR ASPIRING AND EMERGING CHOREOGRAPHERS**

A modern curriculum designed by Vladimir Angelov, Founding Director, Dance ICONS, Inc.

This twice-a-week residency program for busy professionals takes place on evenings/weekends

9 months: full winter and spring semesters: 54 lectures in 28 weeks

**Mid-September 2023 – mid-May 2024**

**Sessions meet on Wednesdays 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM & Sundays 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

(Except Thanksgiving week, December holidays, and Easter Week)

### **DESCRIPTION:**

This post-graduate artistic development residency and creative laboratory for busy professionals, is specifically designed for aspiring and emerging choreographers working in any dance genres and movement forms. The program takes place twice-a-week on evenings and weekends with full winter and spring semesters from mid-September 2023 to mid-May 10, 2024. Sessions meet on Wednesdays 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM & Sundays 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM. The course of work culminates in each choreographer's creation of an original one-act dance work (25-30 minutes of length) as part of New Works Dance Concerts at the Lang Theater and the bestowment of Professional Diploma Certification in Choreography.

### **THE COMPLETE PROGRAM PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

- Lectures with Power Point Presentations and short dance videos views with discussions, analysis and opinions
- In-studio movement research and dance assignments, mentoring, and work-in-progress feedback sessions
- A safe and supportive environment fostering artistic experiments in the format of creative laboratory
- Develop and premiere a new 12 to 25-30minute group work in a fully-produced concert at ATLAS' LANG THEATER – May 2024
- Dedicated costume and lighting designer for the New Dance Works Concerts
- Winter Dance Audition and casting session with local and affiliated DC metro area dancers
- 4-5 hours per week free rehearsal space at ATLAS, starting in February 2024, during weekdays, and weekend mornings and evenings
- Free 2-year membership in Dance ICONS, Inc. – a \$150 value, featuring access to global choreographic resources and opportunities
- Priority for free Choreographic Conferences with prominent guest speakers. Past conferences have included Rennie Harris, Debbie Allen, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Kyle Abraham, Liz Lerman, Mats Ek, etc., prominent guest lecturers and scholars.
- Official ICON SMART<sup>SM</sup> DIPLOMA CERTIFICATION acknowledging the completion of the program
- Digital filming and photography of the performances of the new works with a copy available on Dropbox
- Discount on tickets at performances at the ATLAS and Free Pass Card for the Annual INTERSECTIONS FESTIVAL performances
- Free signature ICONS T-Shirt and, closing season receptions – May 2024

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

- Age 21 and up by September 7, 2023 (some exceptions may apply)
- Formal dance training in school/college and performance experience in any dance style or genre
- Artistic drive and passion to choreograph!

### **TOTAL TUITION FOR NINE MONTHS: \$4,500**

**Includes all lectures, training sessions, workshops, rehearsal space rental, and fully producing new work for the Thesis Concert**

An initial deposit of \$650 will reserve your place in the program. An additional \$650 will be due by the start of classes on September 7, 2022, and the remaining payments will be due in **8 monthly installments** of \$400.

**OR**

**9 monthly installment payments of \$500**

To express interest and get more information, please complete the Inquiry Form on the ATLAS website, or write to [vladangelov@gmail.com](mailto:vladangelov@gmail.com)

**REGISTER SOON – SPACE IS VERY LIMITED!**

# What does ICON SMART<sup>SM</sup> mean?

## ICON SMART<sup>SM</sup>

**I**NSTRUMENTS OF **C**HOREOGRAPHY, **O**BJECTIVES, AND **N**ORMS -

**S**YSTEMATIC **M**ETHOD FOR **A**RTISTIC **R**ESearch AND **T**RAINING<sup>SM</sup>

### STRUCTURAL CONTENT OF THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The craft of choreography is as old as human history. However, there are only a couple of ways dance making is currently taught: the “experiential” way – inheriting wisdom from master choreographers and then self-learning by trial and error – or the “intellectual” way – studying patterns and formulas simplified by academic researchers with good intentions but limited professional choreographic careers. Both learning processes might lack modernity and opportunities for choreographers to find their own artistic identity.

### ICON SMART<sup>SM</sup> APPROACH

The approach offers a pioneering, multidimensional, and cross-disciplinary approach that integrates **modern scientific processes**, such as brainstorming, problem-solving, innovative thinking, business, statistics, human development, psychology, neuroscience, and computer science. Choreographers educated through this method will be equipped to create new unique dances relevant to the 21st century.

### ICON SMART<sup>SM</sup> TRAINING

Educates a choreographer on how to:

- Understand the historical development of choreography as a profession
- Learn the fundamentals of dance making and construction
- Foster creative habits and proficiency in dance composition
- Conduct artistic research and expand intellectual repertory about the craft of choreography and advancements in the field
- Cultivate a unique artistic identity and choreographic individuality

## ICON SMART<sup>SM</sup> DEVELOPMENT OF CHOREOGRAPHIC SKILLS

A practical and affordable choice for emerging artists who wish to immerse themselves in the processes and practice of choreography. It combines:

- Structured in-class academic lectures with PowerPoint presentations
- Practical training via choreographic assignments and in-studio creative laboratory
- Mentorship, evaluation, and constructive feedback by guest professionals and cohort peers
- Discussions and meetings with master choreographers across genres to engage in diverse perspectives and examine the choreographic process
- Tools and practices to conduct artistic research in preparation for the creative process
- Cultivating skills and the experience to produce an original artistic dance work in a shared and safe environment
- Creative time with dancers to experiment, invent, edit, and finalize ideas to make artistic work of the best possible quality

## ICON SMART<sup>SM</sup> PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA CERTIFICATION IN CHOREOGRAPHY

The certification process confirms that the choreographer has completed the fundamentals of study and practice required for choreographing professionally, and it enables a choreographer to: a) implement the fundamentals of creative practices, b) exercise professional competency in choreography, and c) educate others and advocate for standards of excellence in the choreographic field.

## ICON SMART<sup>SM</sup> CURRICULUM

The Curriculum unfolds over **nine months** and contains **fall and spring semesters of 14 weeks, each** with weekly lectures – a total of **58 engaging lectures**. Every few weeks, different “units” are presented, and each lecture is followed by homework – choreographic assignments of increasing complexity.

The professor presents the midweek lecture using PowerPoint presentations and accompanying handouts. The lessons conclude with a choreographic assignment. The weekend lecture consists of movement practices for the choreographic assignments/showings with constructive feedback and discussion with the professor and cohort choreographers/peers.

**BELOW ARE SAMPLES OF THE CURRICULUM, POWERPOINT, HANDOUTS, AND THE CERTIFICATION DOCUMENT**

# ICON SMART<sup>SM</sup>

**INSTRUMENTS OF CHOREOGRAPHY, OBJECTIVE, AND NORMS –  
SYSTEMATIC METHOD FOR ARTISTIC RESEARCH AND TRAINING**

## CURRICULUM

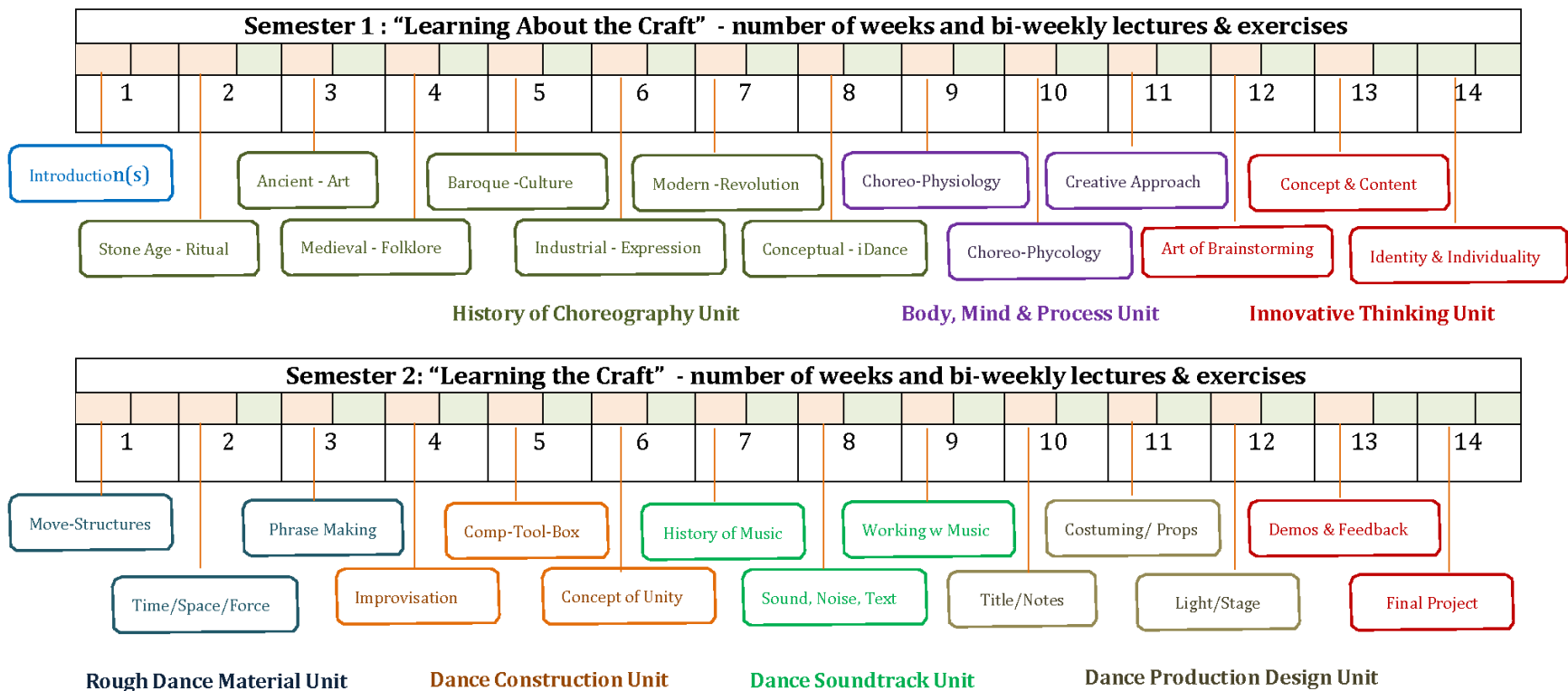
**Curriculum of One Academic Year in Choreography and Dance Composition – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Semesters**



- Lectures

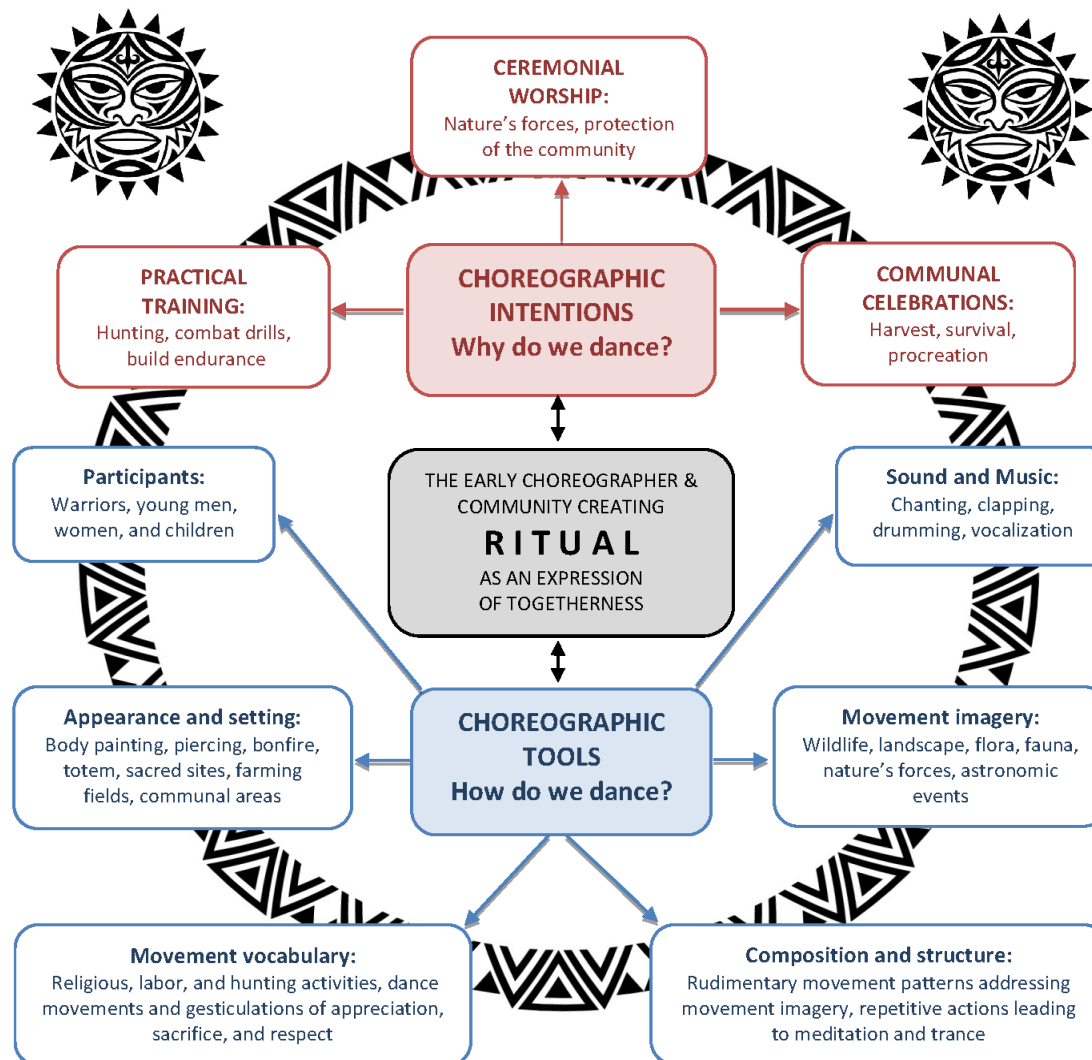


- Practical assignments, shared exercises and showings



# LECTURE SAMPLE

## SEMESTER 1, LECTURE 2: How to Choreograph a Ritual?



## ASSIGNMENT SAMPLES



### SEMESTER 1, LECTURE 2: How to Choreograph a Ritual?

**Research Assignment:** A. Use online, library, and video resources to do a choreographic study of an early ritual. This ceremony could originate and still be in practice worldwide by indigenous African tribes, Tibetans, Papua New Guineans, or other early cultures.

B. Research and describe in writing the themes of the ritual, the motivation behind it, and the movement images driving the action. Then, analyze and explain how and why the specific movement vocabulary expresses the meaning and purpose of the ritual.

C. What were the strongest movement images you have discovered? Present a short movement demonstration summarizing the ritual.

**Creative Exercise:** A. Choreograph a short dance ritual presentation. Imagine being placed in the prehistoric age, where you are in charge of choreographing a ritual. Choose one of the ritual themes listed under “Choreographic Intentions” from the graph above. Pick one of the choreographic intentions and [envision and outline dance action](#) to support your choice.

B. Refer to the “Choreographic Tools” from the graph above. [Create movement vocabulary expressing the content of your ritual](#) and generate a short dance sequence. Continue developing the dance patterns through the space and conceive a beginning, middle, and end..

C. In the “Choreographing Tools,” you will also find various [production aspects](#). What are the objectives of the participating dancers, and what kind of musical accompaniment would suit your dance ritual? Consider using supportive elements such as: stage configuration, the natural surrounding or environment, the audience arrangement or participation, the use of props and tools, costumes, masks, and the body/skin/face appearance.

**Comparative Challenge:** A. Create a [ritual based on your own current daily life](#) and composed of casual gestures. The target content might include: morning wake-up, making breakfast, doing homework, taping social media, getting ready for an outing, and favorite activity with a friend.

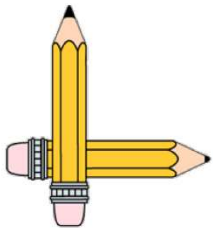
B. Explore creatively how you can turn your daily contemporary repetitive movements and gestures into a ritual expression of survival, training, worship, and celebration.

C. Compare and analyze your contemporary dance ritual with an authentic prehistoric one. What are the differences and the similarities?

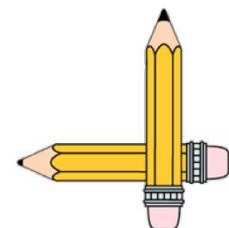
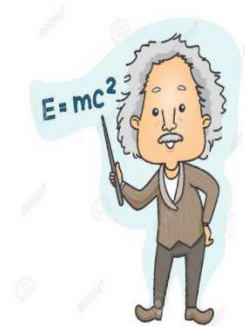
## LECTURE SAMPLE

### SEMESTER 1, LECTURE 9: The Body as the Work of Art

### KINESIOLOGY + CHOREOGRAPHY = DANCING PHYSICS



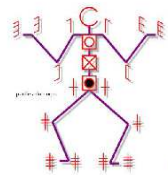
Rasta Thomas in Vladimir Angelov's *Nostalgia*





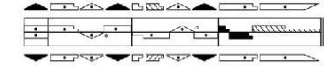
# LECTURE SAMPLE

## SEMESTER 2, LECTURE 6: The Concept of Unity!



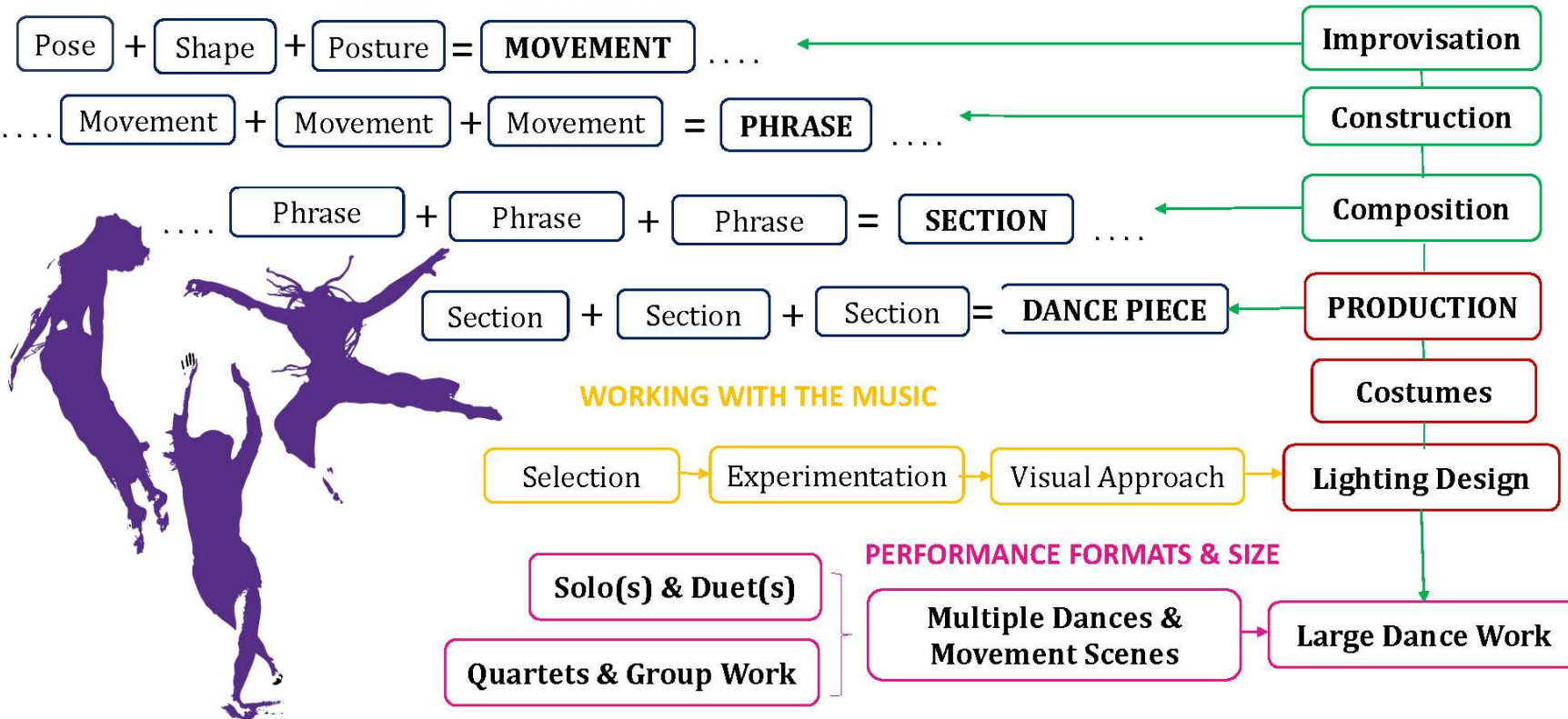
### THE ART OF DANCE COMPOSITION & CHOREOGRAPHY

#### CONTENT: WHAT TO DANCE ABOUT?



#### FORM: BUILDING COMPONENTS AND STRUCTURES

#### PROCESS: CREATIVE PRACTICE



# CHOREOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE AT THE DANCE LOFT - CIDL

## SAMPLE OF

### ICON SMART FORMAL CERTIFICATION DOCUMENT



**ICON SMART™ USA**  
INSTRUMENTS OF CHOREOGRAPHY  
AS OBJECTIVE NORMS  
SYSTEMATIC METHOD FOR  
ARTISTIC RESEARCH  
AND TRAINING™

**DIPLOMA  
CERTIFICATION**  
No. 2017NF0520737  
MAY 20, 2017, WASHINGTON, DC

CONFIRMING THAT THE CHOREOGRAPHER BELOW

**NANCY FLORES TIRADO**

HAS COMPLETED AN INTENSIVE STUDY PROGRAM OF ONE ACADEMIC YEAR, WHICH INCLUDES ALL  
REQUIRED READING, RESEARCH, ASSIGNMENTS AND FINAL THESIS PROJECT, AND HAS GAINED BASIC  
KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND INTELLECTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE CRAFT OF CHOREOGRAPHY, AND  
THEREFORE IS AWARDED THIS DIPLOMA CERTIFICATION IN THE ICON SMART™ USA METHOD.

 **INTERNATIONAL  
CONSORTIUM FOR  
ADVANCEMENT IN  
CHOREOGRAPHY, INC.**

ICON SMART™ is the officially  
recognized choreographic learning method  
of Dance ICONS, Inc.,  
a nonprofit 501(c)(3), which is  
an equal opportunity educational organization  
and professional associations

Vladimir Angelov, Founder and Director, ICON SMART Choreographic Institute

Dance ICONS, Inc. information at [www.danceicons.org](http://www.danceicons.org) and contact at: [info@danceicons.org](mailto:info@danceicons.org)