

Charlene Hannibal

Founder and Director, The School at Open Space:

Born and raised in Portland, Charlene trained at The School of Oregon Ballet Theatre for over a decade until joining OBT as an apprentice. She danced professionally with Company C Contemporary Ballet, The Oakland Ballet, Imagery and Berkeley City Ballet. In addition to her classical and neoclassical repertoire, Ms. Hannibal has performed the work of Twyla Tharp, Antony Tudor, James Canfield, Patrick Corbin, Charles Anderson, Gregory Dawson, Michael Smuin, Paul Taylor, David Parsons, Amy Seiwert, Paul Vasterling, and Thaddeus Davis.

Charlene was interested in teaching dance from a young age. She assisted children's classes during her tenure as a student at OBT and notated the school's entire syllabus under Haydée Gutiérrez. Ms. Hannibal has taught ballet for Marin Dance Theatre, Contra Costa Ballet, Berkeley City Ballet, Portland Festival Ballet, Post:Ballet, BodyVox, and OBT. She was the Youth Ballet Director at NW Dance Project from 2018-2021. Her teaching is heavily informed by the wonderful artists and teachers at Alonzo King LINES Ballet.

Charlene is a classically trained pianist, and holds an English degree from UC Berkeley. She became a certified yoga instructor in Pahoehoa, Hawaii in 2001. She taught yoga in San Francisco throughout her tenure as a professional dancer. In 2011, after studying extensively with posture guru Esther Gokhale, Charlene became a posture coach. An anthropologically-based practice aimed at helping those with back pain, Charlene has led hundreds of Gokhale Method seminars throughout Portland and the Bay Area. Currently, Ms. Hannibal resides in Portland with her husband Colin and their children Winston and Millie.