



Michael Auer – Guest Ballet Master

Michael Auer, born in Vienna, Austria, studied ballet at the Vienna State Opera Ballet and on scholarship at the School of American Ballet. During his dance career, he performed with the North Carolina Dance Theater, Eliot Feld Ballet, Frankfurt Ballet and Pacific Northwest Ballet. In 1984, he created the role of the Nutcracker Prince in Pacific Northwest Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker* by Kent Stowell and Maurice Sendak (*Where The Wild Things Are*). Retiring from the stage, he pursued a career in technology as a software developer and entrepreneur working with Fortune 500 companies such as Microsoft, Boeing and McCaw Cellular, later to be known as AT&T Wireless.

In 2010 he joined Grand Rapids Ballet as Creative Director overseeing all creative production elements. In 2011 he became the creative force behind MOVEMEDIA working closely with choreographers such as Mário Radačovský, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Penny Saunders, Robyn Mineko Williams and Olivier Wevers. He created projection designs for full-length productions of *Dracula*, *Black Swan*, *White Swan*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Happy Prince* as well as stage production designs for *Cinderella*, *The Sleeping Beauty* and *Swan Lake*. In 2014, he was instrumental in GRB's production of *The Nutcracker* with choreography by Val Caniparoli (*Lambarena*, *Lady of the Camellias*) with design by Chris Van Allsburg (*Polar Express*, *Jumanji*) and Eugen Lee (*Wicked*, *Candide*, *Saturday Night Live*). In 2016, he collaborated with choreographer Brian Enos and designer Luis Grane (*Ratatouille*, *Hotel Transylvania*) on *Alice in Wonderland*. In 2018 Michael designed the sets for the RNZB's production of *The Nutcracker*.