

Stephen Hook joins Palomar College as an Adjunct Professor, after an illustrious career performing ballet professionally throughout the US, Japan and the former Soviet Union.

Stephen began taking ballet at age nine and by age thirteen was mentored by teacher and Director Joseph Giacobbe, of "Delta Festival Ballet of New Orleans." He fell in love with ballet while dancing one of his first performances that starred guest artist "Patricia McBride" and "Edward Villella" of N.Y.C. Ballet.

In 1974 Stephen moved to San Diego. Within a short time he began studying with Erling Sunde "Former Ballet Master of the Royal Ballet." He later became the protégé of Stanley Holden (former principal of the Royal Ballet).

In 1977, American Ballet Theater came to L.A. to film "The Turning Point." Stephen not only landed a small part in the movie, Artistic Director Mrs. Lucia Chase offered Stephen a contract to join ABT mid-season at the Metropolitan Opera House.

During his ten years with the company, he completed nine national and one Asian tour. He performed various roles in the following famous ballets: "Coppelia," "Giselle," "La Sylphides," "The Sleeping Beauty" and "Swan Lake." Stephen also had the privilege to work with, and be featured in, Baryshnikov's "Cinderella," "Don Quixote," "The Nutcracker" and "Raymonda." Along with other Great Russian artists like George Balanchine in "La Sonnambula," "Theme and Variations," and "Prodigal Son." He also was privileged to work with Prima Ballerina "Natalie Makarova" in her full length restaging of Marius Petipa's "La Bayadere".

Stephen's roles included the following productions: "Rodeo", Agnes de Milles, choreographer; "Billy the Kid," Eugene Loring, choreographer; "Voluntaries" and "Contradance, choreographed by Glen Tetley. Anthony Tudor featured him in his ballet "Jardin aux Lilac" and "Undertow". Other roles of note include: Sir Kenneth Macmillan's in his staging of "Romeo & Juliet", and an original cast member role in the world premier of "The Wild Boys" starring Baryshnikov and Makarova.

While living and performing in N.Y.C., with ABT, Stephen also had the pleasure to study ballet with Maggie Black, Elizabeth Carroll, David Howard and Stanley Williams and many other world renowned ballet teachers.

In 2006, Stephen has arranged for his students to see American Ballet Theatre rehearsal at the O.C. Performing Art Center. Along with a Guest appearance by Former Principal of the Royal Ballet, Mr. Stanley Holden to teach a Master Ballet Class.