

MISTY COPELAND

Born in Kansas City, Missouri and raised in San Pedro, California, Misty Copeland began her ballet studies at the age of 13 at the San Pedro City Ballet. At the age of 15 she won first place in the Music Center Spotlight Awards. She then began her studies at the Lauridsen Ballet Center. Copeland has studied at the San Francisco Ballet School and American Ballet Theatre's Summer Intensive on full scholarship and was declared ABT's National Coca-Cola Scholar in 2000.

Copeland joined ABT Studio Company in September 2000, joined American Ballet Theatre as a member of the corps de ballet in April 2001, and was appointed a Soloist in August 2007. She was promoted to Principal Dancer in August 2015. Her roles with the Company include Terpsichore in Apollo, Gamzatti, a Shade and the Lead D'Jampe in La Bayadère, Milkmaid in The Bright Stream, the Fairy Autumn in Frederick Ashton's Cinderella, Blossom in James Kudelka's Cinderella, Swanilda and the Mazurka Lady in Coppélia, Gulnare and an Odalisque in Le Corsaire, Kitri, Mercedes, Driad Queen, the lead gypsy and a flower girl in Don Quixote, Duo Concertant, the Masks in Christopher Wheeldon's VIII, Lise in Las Fille mal gardée, the Firebird in Alexei Ratmansky's Firebird, Flower Girl in Gaîté Parisienne, Giselle, Zulma and the peasant pas de deux in Giselle, Queen of Shemakahn in The Golden Cockerel, Pierrette in Harlequinade, the title role in Jane Eyre, Manon and Lescaut's Mistress in Manon...

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