

[SPOTLIGHT]

ROBERT DE WARREN

An Artistic Tour De Force



Dancer, director, choreographer and educator Robert de Warren was born in Uruguay to British parents. He trained at the Royal Ballet School in London before joining the Royal Ballet itself. What followed was a five-decade career that took him across four continents as he worked with ballet giants such as Rudolf Nureyev, Dame Ninette de Valois, and John Field.

Many fondly remember de Warren as the driving force behind the Sarasota Ballet from its earliest days. “It took me thirteen years to develop that fledgling company to the top-rate professional company it is today.”

Now 87, de Warren lectures on dance both locally and nationwide. He also tutors ballet students to help them achieve success like he knew during his own career. “You have to adapt the system and artistry of dance to this new physical interpretation of ballet,” he noted. “(Ballet dancers) must have the depth of interpretation the road requires, and that’s what I teach them.”

Ryan Van Cleave | Photo by Matt Houston