



Zachary Hench

Originally from Loysville, PA, Hench began his training at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet where he studied for eight years. He attended summer intensives at the School of American Ballet and completed his pre-professional education at the Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington D.C.

Hench danced as a principal with Boston Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, and Pennsylvania Ballet. Over the course of his 22-year career, he performed leading roles in iconic ballets such as Swan Lake, Giselle, Le Corsaire, La Sylphide, Romeo and Juliet, Cinderella, and La Fille mal gardée. His extensive neoclassical and contemporary repertoire included works by George Balanchine, William Forsythe, and Nacho Duato, among many others.

Hench originated roles in ballets by choreographers such as Christopher Wheeldon, Twyla Tharp, and Helgi Tomasson, and performed throughout the world as a guest artist. While dancing professionally, he also coached students for performances and competitions, and has been invited to teach master classes and summer intensives across the country.

While a principal dancer at Pennsylvania Ballet (now Philadelphia Ballet), Hench served as a union delegate and was later appointed Baller Master for the company, successfully leading the organization through a critical period of internal transitions.

In 2015, Hench was named Artistic Director of Juneau Dance Theatre (JDT). Under his leadership, students in Juneau, Alaska, received excellent professional training, unique performance opportunities, and access to world-renowned guest faculty and choreographers. Hench is the co-founder and owner of The WoodenStone, creating functional art from wood and epoxy resin. He is married to Julie Diana Hench, Executive Director of American Repertory Ballet and Princeton Ballet School, with whom he has two children.