

A Texan in Switzerland

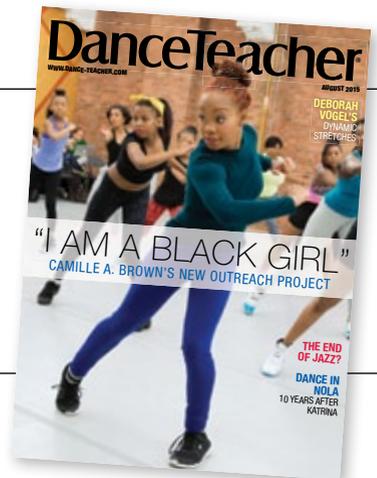
Houston Ballet Academy's director of 11 years, Shelly Power, will be leaving to take on a new position: artistic director and CEO of the international ballet competition Prix de Lausanne, effective in September. She is the first in the annual competition's history to become both the artistic and business leader. She succeeds current artistic director Amanda Bennett, who has held the position since 2012.

The Prix de Lausanne has been showcasing the ballet world's top young talent, ages 15 to 18, for the past 44 years. The competition takes place each January and February in Lausanne, Switzerland. Prize winners receive ballet school scholarships and company apprenticeships. Past winners include *First Position* star Miko Fogarty,



Shelly Power leads class at Houston Ballet Academy.

ballet renegade Sergei Polunin, "So You Think You Can Dance" competitor Alex Wong and American Ballet Theatre and San Francisco Ballet principal Maria Kochetkova.



Kudos to Camille

Choreographer Camille A. Brown's (*DT*, August 2015) reputation continues to grow. Her most recent work, *Black Girl: Linguistic Play*, is touring with positive reviews, and now the Bessie and Princess Grace Award winner has been named a United States Artists Jay Franke & David Herro Fellow, an honor that comes with a \$50,000 check.

United States Artists awards grants to individuals in nine different disciplines each year. Other 2015 dance fellows include: Jonah Bokaer and Toni Pierce-Sands and Uri Sands (*DT*, May 2013).



Sonya Monts with her contemporary class

NDEO Awards First Online Certificate in Dance Education

The **National Dance Education Organization** awarded its first certificate in dance education to North Carolina studio owner **Sonya Monts**. Over the past three and a half years, Monts has earned credits by studying online, taking 13 courses in topics ranging from ballet theory

and composition to implementing the national core arts standards.

Monts decided to pursue the certification program in 2012, the year it was launched by NDEO. Taking the courses online enabled her to complete her coursework in a time frame that was convenient for her. "I was able to immediately apply what I was learning to the lessons that I was teaching at my studio," she says.

NDEO's Online Professional Development Institute provides dance teachers with professional development, regardless of where they live. Courses are held each spring, summer and fall. There are currently 24 different classes offered, with new courses available each year.

Photos (clockwise from top): by Amitava Sarkar, courtesy of Houston Ballet; by Matthew Murphy; by Henry Monts, courtesy of Sonya Monts