

ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

KENNETH LIPITZ has had a long international career as a dance artist/educator. For ten years he danced as a soloist with ballet companies of the highest echelon, such as the San Francisco and Pennsylvania Ballets, as well as the National Ballet of Canada. In 1975, he turned his energies to modern dance, serving as associate artistic director/principal dancer for Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers and artistic director of the Concert Dance Company of Boston. As associate professor of dance at UMass/Amherst, he recently retired from nineteen years of teaching at Smith, Mt. Holyoke and Amherst Colleges as well as the University, where he also served as artistic director of the University Dancers and was a finalist for the UMass Distinguished Teaching Award. He can now devote himself entirely to NEDC. Ken has choreographed over fifty ballets and modern dance works for professional companies, college dance majors, NEDC and the New England Dance Theater. Ken has been a Guest Artist/ choreographer and director for Springfield College, as well as public and private schools across the U.S. and Canada. He is also a certified dance movement specialist for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

SHELLEY ZIEBEL, artistic and administrative director of NEDC and NEDT, received her B.Sc. in Dance from SUNY Brockport. She began her dance career performing children's parts in the New York City Ballet, under the direction of George Balanchine. Her early training included study at The School of American Ballet, The Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, and as a scholarship student at the original New Dance Group Studio in NYC. For ten years she was a principal dancer with Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers and the Concert Dance Company of Boston, performing works by many of the world's most renowned choreographers. Her choreography has been performed by companies in both Canada and the U.S.A. Shelley and husband Kenneth Lipitz, are charter members of the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter School's Circle of Artists. Ken and Shelley, married for thirty years, have a son, Hayden, 15, and a daughter, Isadora, currently a Five College Dance Department senior dance major, and member of the Lorraine Chapman and David Parker Dance Companies of Boston and New York City.