

Barbara BUTLER

A true Renaissance woman dedicated to fun and adventure, Barbara Butler designs and crafts elaborate play structures for children by combining childhood fantasies with architectural know-how.

"A Butler playhouse includes meticulous detail, specifically designed for kids," she explains. "There are escape doors, secret hiding places, and climbing opportunities—all

People to Know

of which make a combination of physical and imaginative play for kids of all ages."

As a political science major at the State University of New York, Butler learned bricklaying and construction with her brothers during summer breaks. "Perhaps it was my graduate school studies of English literature, full of romantic Elizabethan cottages and idyllic country escapes, that paved the way for my future," she muses.



In 1983, she moved to San Francisco and founded Outer Space Designs, designing and building unique decks and hot tub surrounds. "My current career started in 1987 when Bobby McFerrin requested a play structure for his kids," she recalls. Today, Butler designs and builds custom structures from cozy cabins to large treehouses. Her designs have been featured on TV, in magazines, and in celebrity homes.

Her vision for her structures is also about family time. "We encourage children to play outside, and we encourage adults to spend that time with their kids," she says.

Butler lives in San Francisco with her husband and is committed to contributing her talents to benefit her local community.



Celia FUSHILLE

Prima ballerina turned artistic director Celia Fushille has a head for business and a body for dance. The head of Smuin Ballet is one of just nine women around the world who helm dance companies with annual budgets of \$2.5 million or more.

As a 13-year-old San Francisco Ballet summer scholarship student from West Texas, Fushille often remembers watching Michael Smuin from the balcony of the Geary Theater. "I fell in love with his lyrical choreography," she remembers. "I dreamed of dancing to his theatrical work."

Moving to San Francisco in 1980 to hone her craft, Fushille's tenure at SFB was abbreviated by an injury. Her passion for dance remained. In 1993, when Smuin invited Fushille to join him as he launched his own ballet company, she jumped at the chance. She went on to dazzle audiences in "The Blue Angel" and "Santa Baby," as well as fiendishly difficult classical pieces, all while raising two children.

From the beginning, Fushille was not only a dancer, she was assisting Smuin as Ballet Master, gaining experience across all aspects of the company's operations.

Fushille retired from dancing professionally in 2006. Smuin suffered a fatal heart attack eight months later. "We were all devastated," shares Fushille. "I stepped in to help the company through that spring season, working through grief as we performed in Michael's honor."

Fushille officially took on the executive director post in 2008, and she and the company continue to push the boundaries of contemporary ballet. Coming off a record-setting season, she is right on point!

Greta ASCHBACHER

When Fit Kids Program Director Greta Aschbacher was young, her mom encouraged her and her siblings to "do something nice for someone" every day. "Since then, a constant aspect of my life has been the desire to help others," she explains.



Today, Aschbacher is the lead on ensuring that all of Fit Kids' current programs are running smoothly, as well as developing plans for growing and expanding its programs in the future. Fit Kids is currently operating in about 30 schools and community centers in the Bay Area, Los Angeles, and Houston and is preparing to branch out to Las Vegas.

After completing a Master of Public Health degree at the University of Louisville, Greta began her career of helping others by promoting health. That included stints at Norton Healthcare hospital system in Louisville, as well as Kentucky Youth Advocates.

Later, as a health policy analyst focusing on wellness policies for businesses, schools, and community organizations at ChangeLab Solutions in Oakland, Aschbacher joined the Fit Kids team. "I feel proud of the positive impact Fit Kids has made on thousands of young children," she explains. "The entire team has worked tirelessly over the last seven years to make sure we are providing the highest quality programs."

When not working, Aschbacher finds balance in her favorite things—exercise, travel, and crafts. She and her partner Mike love to travel to her native Kentucky, throughout California, and internationally. ♦

—CORRY COOK