

Catalina Garza, a distinguished dancer hailing from Monterrey, Mexico, is a seasoned professional with a rich background in the world of ballet. Graduating from the esteemed Escuela Superior de Musica y Danza de Monterrey in 1990, which is part of the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes y Literatura, she embarked on a remarkable journey with Ballet of Monterrey, where she portrayed various roles in major ballet productions. In 1995, she joined the National Company of Dance in Mexico City before making her mark in the United States with The Joffrey Ballet of Chicago under the artistic direction of Gerald Arpino.

Her repertoire boasts iconic roles such as Mr. Arpino's Confetti and Light Rain, along with the coveted role of Sugar Plum in Joffrey's Nutcracker. Catalina Garza's talents have graced stages internationally, leaving an indelible mark in countries such as Mexico, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, and Israel.

Beyond her illustrious performance career, Ms. Garza has delved into teaching, directing, and choreography. Her extensive experience spans both Mexico and the United States. Notable projects include staging, directing, and choreographing productions such as Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, Giselle, Beauty and the Beast, The Nutcracker Ballet, and Etudes. Ms. Garza's dedication to nurturing talent is evident through her coaching of students who achieved success in prestigious competitions like the Youth America Grand Prix.

In 2010, Ms. Garza relocated to San Antonio, TX, where she co-founded Quenedit Ballet School alongside her husband, Ernesto Quenedit. Since its establishment, the school has provided students with the opportunity to showcase their skills across a diverse range of dance genres.

Her commitment to fostering dance excellence continued in 2014 when she co-founded and assumed the role of artistic director for Quenedit Dance Theatre's non-profit pre-professional dance company. The company's inaugural performance in December 2014 featured over 100 young dancers in The Nutcracker Ballet. As QDT flourished, a spring season was added, including the San Antonio Dance Festival, attracting dancers of all ages from both national and international stages. Catalina Garza's leadership and artistry continue to leave an indomitable impact on the world of dance in San Antonio and beyond.

In 2024, Catalina Garza's artistic journey reaches a milestone as Quenedit Dance Theatre's Nutcracker celebrates its 10th anniversary, marking a decade of enchanting performances and dance excellence. This significant achievement underscores Ms. Garza's enduring commitment to the art of dance and her dedication to fostering a vibrant dance community in San Antonio.

Catalina Garza's vision extends beyond the realm of performance, emphasizing the transformative power of dance and ensuring that the joy and wonder of ballet are accessible to all, regardless of background or circumstance. This philanthropic initiative reflects her deep-rooted belief in the universal impact of the arts and their ability to inspire and uplift communities. As Quenedit Dance Theatre continues to thrive under her artistic direction, Ms. Garza's legacy is not only one of artistic brilliance but also of compassion and inclusivity in the world of dance. Her vision extends beyond the realm of performance, emphasizing the transformative power of dance and ensuring that the joy and wonder of ballet are accessible to all, regardless of background or circumstance. This philanthropic initiative reflects her deep-rooted belief in the universal impact of the arts and their ability to inspire and uplift communities.