

## Nina Pastel

Nina received her professional ballet education at the Ballet School of the Finnish National Opera and Ballet in Helsinki, Finland and at Balettakademien in Stockholm, Sweden.

Her first professional engagement was at the Finnish National Ballet. Later she was a member of the Östgötabaletten in Norrköping, Sweden where she danced among others in choreographies by Mats Ek, Jiri Kylian and Christina Caprioli.



When Nina returned to Finland she joined the StepUp Dance Company, taught Jazz classes in several dance schools in Helsinki and performed in Musical productions in the Svenska Teatern and Peacock Theatre.

She was also a regular dancer in shows on television and on cruise ships. Meanwhile she further educated herself by attending courses in Dresden (Germany), Copenhagen (Denmark) and at the Pineapple Studios in London (UK).

Nina received a grant of Svenska Kulturfonden and went to New York. She trained with Val Suarez and Guido Taveri at Steps and at Dance Space Inc. with Diane McCarthy, Laurie DeVito and David Storey. The intended stay of one year became four years when Nina got job offers to dance with the Val Suarez's Extended Dance Company and in showcases with Diane McCarty, Marion van Grusvien and Susanne Järesand on Broadway. She also studied with Lynn Simonsson and became a certified Simonsson jazz teacher.

Love brought her to the Caribbean island of Martinique where she choreographed and danced for Jean-Paul Gautier's launching of a new perfume.

She worked as the choreographer and dance coach for a TV reality show called Zukamine Future Star.

Nina opened up her own dance school called Dance Place and ran it for 5 years. When she and her family decided to return to Finland, 10 years ago, she closed it down.

Back in Finland she educated herself at Somatic Studio and earned diplomas for mat Pilates, apparatus Pilates and as a personal trainer.

Nina started as a Pilates instructor at Pilates Ateljé. Currently, as a self-employed Pilates instructor, she teaches at Somatic Studio, Studio Yin and for the Finnish National Opera and Ballet.