



Meet The Team Behind The Pointe Shoe Summit

My name is Esther Juon, founder and lead presenter of the Pointe Shoe Summit. This year marks the 40th anniversary of my work with feet and pointe shoes — and we're thrilled to celebrate the impact we've made in supporting dancers around the world.

The Pointe Shoe Summit brings together professionals from across all disciplines to strengthen collaboration and deepen our collective understanding of dancer safety and pointe technique.

I'm supported by an incredible international team representing five countries:

- **USA** – *Rhea Whitfield* (On Pointe Dancewear, Bellevue): Our lead conference organiser. Rhea is a Master Pointe Shoe Fitter, trained in the Juon Pointe System, and an expert in the evolution of pointe shoes across brands and eras.
- **Colombia** – *Camila Uribe* (Medellín): A certified Master Fitter in the Juon Pointe System and a pioneer of Ballet On in Colombia.
- **Mexico** – *Michelle Deschamps* (Mexicali): An RAD ballet teacher currently training in the Juon Pointe System.
- **Canada** – *Paige Vasos* (Vancouver): A dancer and RAD ballet teacher also in training with the Juon Pointe System.
- **New Zealand** – *Georgina Barr* (Barrina Ltd., Christchurch): A podiatrist, dance health professional, and Master Fitter. Georgina holds the Gold Standard in Juon Pointe training and serves as the researcher and medical advisor for Juon Pointe.
- *Lily Ewing* (FORME, Auckland): A graduate of the New Zealand School of Dance and former professional dancer in the USA. Lily founded FORME, a pointe shoe fitting and education studio based on the Juon Pointe System. She also teaches ballet part-time as a registered RAD teacher.

Together, we warmly welcome you to the Pointe Shoe Summit — a place of learning, connection, and support for the future of dance.



What to Expect at the Pointe Shoe Summit

Location:

*Russell Center, home of Pacific Northwest Ballet School – Days 1 & 2
1611 136th Pl NE, Bellevue, WA 98005, United States*

What to Bring

- Your phone (for photos of your legs and feet, before-and-after shots)
- Notebook and pen
- Water bottle
- Convertible ballet tights, leotard, and optional chiffon skirt (for comfort on Day 1)
- Pointe shoes (if you still have them, bring for assessment on Day 2)
- Packed lunch (tea, coffee, and water will be provided)

A goody bag with all other necessary course materials will be provided. You'll learn how to use these tools during the summit and take them home as a gift for your dancers.

Day 1: Embody New Perspectives

Come dressed ready to move – we invite you to attend as a dancer. We will explore the “pointing” foot, ankle extension, and alignment with fresh eyes and a slow, mindful approach to reprogram the brain-body connection.

You'll work in small groups with our expert team guiding you, discovering new insights into dancing, teaching, fitting pointe shoes, and caring for injured dancers.

Day 2: Safety and Assessment on Pointe

Through hands-on sessions, we will explore how to assess if a dancer is ready for pointe, including:

- The Pre-Pointe Assessment — who should deliver it and why it matters
- Protecting growth plates in young dancers' feet
- Comparing toe pads and taping techniques
- How to assess dancers' feet and pointe shoes
- Traditional pointe shoe fitting vs. the Juon Pointe System
- Supporting dancers correctly on pointe

The day concludes with presentations from our international team sharing how these methods are applied in their countries.

Day 3: Expert Pointe Shoe Fitting

Held at On Pointe Dancewear, our beautiful pointe shoe fitting centre, led by:

- *Rhea Whitfield* (USA): With extensive expertise in pointe shoe construction and fitting, Rhea is a trusted resource for dancers and professionals in the Pacific Northwest. Her passion lies in education and innovation for all dancer levels.
- *Camila Uribe* (Colombia): Marketing professional, entrepreneur, and certified Juon Pointe System fitter. Co-founder and leader of Arabesque, Camila brings international experience fitting pointe shoes at the highest level.

Our Mission

Thanks to the dedication and expertise of our team—all trained in the Juon Pointe System—the Summit fosters collaboration across professions to support dancer health, safety, and excellence.

We look forward to welcoming you to this innovative and engaging event!