



Mackenzie Friedenberg
Artistic Director

Mackenzie is a Registered Nurse, currently working as a Clinical Resource Nurse at the Health Sciences Centre Women's Hospital, since graduating with her Bachelor of Nursing degree in September 2019. Residing in south Winnipeg, the majority of Mackenzie's dancing was with the Sopilka Ukrainian Dance School where she was a student for 12 years. Growing up in Sopilka, she experienced the amazing development and evolution of the school, preparing her to become an instructor. This allowed her to work closely with the school's director, Kristina Washchyshyn, where she gained instructional, technical and administrative experience. Mackenzie was also the Program Leader for the City of Winnipeg for 5 years, teaching and organizing the Kinder and Junior ballet programs at Pan Am Pool.

Along with Sopilka, Mackenzie has danced with the Selo Ukrainian Dancers in Anola, MB before finding her home at Troyanda Ukrainian Dance Ensemble. She has ballet training from the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, most recently completing the Adult Summer Ballet Program, as well as from the Shelley Shearer School of Dance in both ballet and jazz.

She has attended many Ukrainian dance and teaching workshops within Manitoba, as well as an intensive training camp in Edmonton with current and past Shumka dance members. She's been fortunate to train under well-known and talented choreographers including Anna and Vasyl Kanevets, Serhij Koroliuk, Vincent Rees, Jenn and Paul Droniuk, Johanna Chabluk, Kristina Washchyshyn as well as various others from across Canada and Ukraine. She's also had the opportunity to perform in a variety of festivals and competitions. These include Canada's National Ukrainian Festival in Dauphin, the Vegreville Ukrainian Pysanka Festival in Alberta and the Ukrainian Dance and the International Ukrainian Dance and Culture Festival in Lviv, Ukraine. She has also performed in Thompson, Manitoba as well as throughout Ukraine to study and perform alongside Troyanda.

Mackenzie has been the acting Director since September 2016 and has enjoyed watching the dancers grow and thrive. She is excited to see where Selkirk & District can continue to go in coming years.