



the pointe! news from berkeley ballet theater

January 2009

JULIA MORGAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS 2640 COLLEGE AVE BERKELEY CA94704 TELEPHONE 510-843-4687

MISS SARAH'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends and Family of Berkeley Ballet Theater,

It has been an honor and a privilege to be a part of the Berkeley Ballet Theater community. Beginning as a work/study student over 10 years ago to serving as Artistic Director for the last four years, I am deeply grateful for the opportunities that BBT has provided and all the professional growth I have done in my tenure. I have learned so much and look forward to using those skills in my future endeavors. To this end, I formally announce my departure from BBT at the end of this academic year.

My family and I have made the tough decision to move to Brooklyn, NY where we will continue our careers in the performing arts. And since the addition of Luke to our family, we feel even more compelled to be nearer to family.

While I look forward to the new challenges our move will bring, BBT remains a priority and I am committed to ensuring that we can continue to realize our mission in what will be a critical transition period. I will work closely with the Search Committee in vetting potential candidates. I am confident that together we will find the ideal successor to lead BBT in the coming years.

Most importantly, I thank all of you for being such an important part of my life and look forward to continuing my relationships with former and current students, families, and faculty members. BBT will always be in my heart.

Sincerely,
Sarah Marcus



NUTCRACKER VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE SEASON BRIGHT

It would be impossible to list the names of all Nutcracker volunteers. Suffice it to say that without them (you) we could not provide this important and wonderful experience to our students and our community. Costumes, sets, props, ticket sales, concessions, raffle, Sugar Plum parties, ushering and backstage duties: all are prepared and executed by our dedicated volunteers. BBT's students always cite their experiences performing in our productions as being among their favorite memories. Thank you all for your participation!





VALIANT BBT VOLUNTEERS GIVE STUDIO ONE A MUCH-NEEDED FACELIFT

While most people were still sleeping off their New Year's celebrations, a cadre of devoted BBT volunteers spent January 2nd and 3rd transforming Studio One from a shabby well-worn workroom into a glamorous and inspiring studio. Kate Mitchell, owner/designer of Setting the Scene and a teacher in our Dance for Parkinson's Disease Program, offered her expertise to design and manage the project. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts paid for materials. Kate was joined by intrepid workers Fraser Bonnell, Megan Low, Claire Maier, Sarah Marcus, Deborah Moss, Daniel, Kai, and Una O'Connell, Julie Wakelee-Lynch, Katie Rendahl, Susan Weber, and Yuki and Bobby Yamanishi, who scraped, sanded, taped, prepped, and painted for two long days. Please peek in if you haven't already and admire the fruits of their labors.



CONCRETE EVIDENCE THAT BALLET TRAINING PERSUADES COLLEGE ADMISSIONS OFFICERS

Nina Budaeva, a longtime student in our Children's Division and now a regular adult program participant, has been admitted to both California Institute of Technology and MIT for Fall 2009. While her perfect SAT Math scores probably helped a little, it is notable that her acceptance letter to Caltech included a handwritten note: "Your ballet experience is impressive!" Congratulations, Nina!

COMPUTERS AND STRUCTURES MAKES A VERY GENEROUS GIFT

Ashraf Habibullah, President, has presented a \$5000 check to BBT. He is a longtime supporter and wonderful friend of our school. Thank you, Ash!



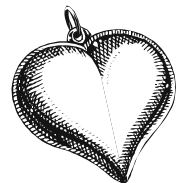
BOYS' OPEN HOUSE JANUARY 25

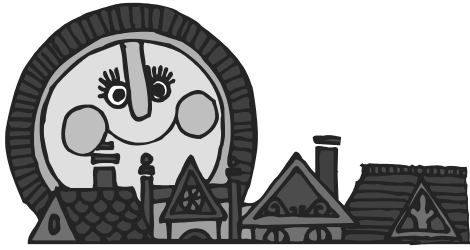
From 2-5 PM BBT will be transformed into a treasure trove of activities designed to appeal to young men. Free classes in capoeira, hip hop, modern and folk dance, fitness, and, of course, ballet, will hopefully entice a few boys to consider enrolling in ongoing classes. Please invite friends and neighbors, and help us to extend the joy of dance to young men and increase the gender diversity of our school.



TALENT SHOW FUN-RAISER ON MARCH 28TH

To donate items to BBT's annual auction, please contact Celeste Marx at (510) 451-1977 or shaker0309@gmail.com to arrange a pick-up. In addition to "stuff" like clothing, jewelry, CDs, DVDs, books, ceramics, artwork, wine, sports or event tickets, toys and games, consider creative services like knitting lessons, tutoring, tour or hike guiding, and catering. Time at a vacation cabin or a bunch of frequent flier miles can be worth a lot. All donations are tax deductible and can also promote your business.





BBT'S SUMMER INTENSIVES

Applications for housing are due by February 15; if you have out-of-town friends who would like to come to BBT this summer, please have them contact the BBT office as soon as possible. Applications for non-residential students will be available in the office soon.

Audition Dates (Ages 7-10 from 1:30-2:30, 11 and up 2:45-4:00)

Sunday January 18th at Spector Dance in Monterey

Sunday February 1st at Applegate Dance Studio in Davis

Placement auditions are optional.

Summer Intensive Dates:

Monday June 29-Friday July 17, Levels C/D

Monday July 20-Friday August 8, Levels A/B



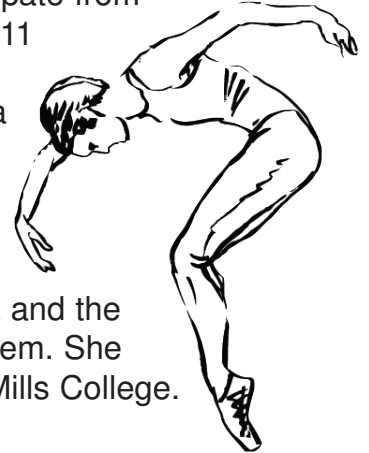
PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP BEGINS SOON

From January 17 to March 7, on Saturdays from 2:30-5:30 PM, BBT will offer its annual Performance Workshop. Open to students in Levels 4, 5, and 6, this is a wonderful opportunity for young intermediate students to get rehearsal and stage experience. The workshop will culminate in a performance on March 15 at 6 PM in the Julia

Morgan Theater. The wonderful Erica Rose Jeffrey will direct and choreograph again this year.

MODERN WORKSHOP WITH NADIA OKA

Two modern workshops will happen on Saturdays March 14-April 25. Students ages 7-10 will participate from 2:30-3:30 PM; ages 11 through teen from 3:30-4:45. Nadia is a Bay Area performer, choreographer and teacher with teaching certifications in yoga and the Laban/Bartiniéff system. She earned her MFA at Mills College.



MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED

Each year the Berkeley Ballet Theater artistic staff recognizes a few exemplary students by awarding them Merit Scholarships. These awards celebrate the students' hard work, talent, and superior classroom deportment. We hope that both fellow students and parents will look to these dancers as models of successful dance study.

Please congratulate:

Olivia Holston	Level 4
Zoe Canteras	Level 5
Kitrea Gushkoff	Level 5
Katie Wilson	Level 6
Sterling Tuma	Level 7
Noelle Fa-Kaji	Level 7
Fiona Brodie	Pre-Professional
Cecily Khuner	Pre-Professional



UPCOMING MASTER CLASSES

On January 15th, Joanna Berman, former San Francisco Ballet Principal Dancer, will return to BBT to teach a ballet Master Class to our Youth Company. In March, company members will have guest teachers in modern dance from the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (Ronni Favors, Ballet Mistress), and Cornish School of the Arts (Michele Miller, faculty member). These classes offer our advanced students exposure to new ideas, choreography, and personal feedback from top dance professionals.



COLLEGE NIGHT FOR HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS AND PARENTS

On Wednesday February 11th from 6:30-7:30 PM in Studio B, Assistant Artistic Director Susan Weber will offer a free information session for parents of BBT juniors. Topics will include helpful resources, making college visits useful, testing, selecting colleges, and the typical timeline for application tasks. Please bring questions!

BBT BOARD SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

Serving on the Board of Directors at BBT is fun, rewarding, important work that fulfills parents' volunteer requirement. What a deal! The current board is made up of community members, current and former parents, adult students, and non-voting members of BBT's artistic staff (Artistic Director, Assistant Artistic Director, and School Principal). Meetings happen monthly. For more information, please contact Susan Weber at (510) 843-4687, ext. 113.

IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday	January 11th	1-4 PM	Summer Intensive Auditions
Thursday	January 15th	4-6:30 PM	Joanna Berman Master Class
Saturdays	January 17th-March 7th		Performance Workshop
Monday	January 19th	MLK Day	All Classes in Session
Sunday	January 25th	1-4 PM	Boys' Day
Wednesday	February 11th	6:30-7:30 PM	College Night for Juniors
Monday	February 16th	Presidents' Day	No Children's Division Classes
Monday	March 2nd	4-6:30 PM	Ronni Favors Master Class
Tuesday	March 10th	4-6:30 PM	Michele Miller Master Class
Saturdays	March 14th -April 25th		Modern Workshop
Sunday	March 15th	6:00 PM	Performance Workshop Performance
Saturday	March 28th	evening	Talent Show FUN-Raiser