

# To the pointe!

January 2012

news from berkeley ballet theater

JULIA MORGAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
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## **Nuit des Perles: BBT's 30<sup>th</sup>- Anniversary Gala Saturday, March 24th, 6 to 10pm**

Held in the magnificent **Berkeley City Club**, the evening will begin with an elegant cocktail hour paired with live piano accompaniment by BBT's own **Rudy Apffel**.

The evening will continue in the ballroom (decorated in muted gold and silver with hints of faded pinks, mauves, and pearls) with a delicious sit-down dinner, a silent auction with many amazing prizes, and entertainment that will include performances by accomplished BBT students, a special musical appearance by the **Pacific Boychoir**, a retrospective slide show and special recognition of successful alumni.

**Sedge Thomson**, host of National Public Radio's variety show *West Coast Live*, will be our Master of Ceremonies. **Kyra Nichols**, former New York City Ballet Principal Dancer, will attend. BBT faculty member **Sally Streets** is the guest of honor. There will be a surprise door prize and a Baby Ballerina Game.

Tickets are available for \$125 each, with sponsorships and program recognition at various levels. We very much appreciate our early sponsors:

**Benefactor (\$5000)** - Computers and Structures, Inc.

**Patron (\$2500)** – Fraser Bonnell, Fred Schnider & Sue Sargent

**Personal Champion (\$350)** - Nancy Bryan, Abraham & Elizabeth Estrada, Bob Morris & Carole Lowenberg, Matthew Schiffgens & Jody Hanson, Marilyn Wilkes, Maria Winston & Bob Hoffman.

Please join the greater BBT community to celebrate the longevity and excellence of our wonderful enterprise.



## Artistic Achievement Awards

Each year, BBT's Artistic Staff recognizes students in the upper levels whose talent and efforts distinguish them among their peers. These students attend class regularly, consistently work with intensity, and are also gifted with a facility for dance. They conduct themselves beautifully both inside the classroom and out; please observe their excellent work and congratulate them on this honor.

- Level 5: Maya Bloemhard  
Level 5B: Audrey Jones  
Kailee Lin  
Level 6: Clara Monk  
Level 6B: Una O'Connell  
Savannah Tuma  
Level 7A: Taylor Broudy  
Janene Kuan  
Level 7B: Reid Schnider

## Gala Volunteer Help Needed

Our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala is shaping up really well, but we still need a "Backstage Caterer." This person would set up and facilitate a behind-the-scenes meal for 30 student dancers from BBT as well as the members of the Pacific Boychoir. If you can help, please contact Artistic Director Ilona McHugh at (510) 843-4687, ext. 111 or in the BBT office.

## Silent Auction Needs Donations

The goal of the 30<sup>th</sup>-Anniversary Gala Silent Auction is to raise \$10,000 that will directly benefit children's and adult

programs. Donations such as gift certificates, professional services, vacation rentals, fancy wines and other collectibles will help reach this goal. If you have something fabulous to donate, please either complete a form in the BBT office or contact Board Member Yukiko Yamanishi: [yukiko\\_yamanishi@yahoo.com](mailto:yukiko_yamanishi@yahoo.com)

To get excited about the upcoming *Nuit des Perles* gala, here's some info about the special guests joining BBT that night.

- \*The Pacific Boychoir is a day school and after school program in Oakland that boasts critically-acclaimed performances and Grammy-winning recordings. Visit [pacificboychoiracademy.org](http://pacificboychoiracademy.org) for more!
- \*Sedge Thomson is a Berkeley resident and the host of West Coast Live for over 15 years. Usually broadcast from Berkeley's Freight and Salvage or SF's Ferry Building, the show is a true Bay Area gem that presents music and interviews. Current featured podcasts on [wcl.org](http://wcl.org) include conversations with Armistead Maupin, Joyce Carol Oates, and Michael Pollan.
- \*Kyra Nichols is a Berkeley native who danced with NYCB, under George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins, for an incredible 34 years.
- \*Sally Streets is BBT Director Emerita and has been with the school since 1981. She has danced with NYCB and been Ballet Mistress and principal with Oakland Ballet and Pacific Ballet, among other illustrious credits.

## **New Evaluation System**

The Artistic Staff is adjusting BBT's practices regarding student evaluations. Our annual evaluations will now take place early in the calendar year, allowing students time to understand and address their particular issues during the second semester of study. At the end of January, a written evaluation form will be given to each student in Levels 1-7, so be sure to ask your son or daughter to share the information with you.

Conferences will no longer be mandatory, but as always available to students and/or parents by appointment at any time during the year. Fall level placements will be announced early in the summer rather than with the fall registration packets.

## **Another Nutcracker Smash**

All programs were consistently successful artistically at all levels of the school. And ticket sales were strong for every performance! Many thanks to the countless volunteers (parents, alumni, friends), who are essential to the smooth functioning of our performances.

## **Performance Workshop for Students in Levels 4-6, Saturdays 2:30-5:30, 2/4-3/31**

Dancers learn and perform variations and repertory from classical ballets as well as original contemporary and modern choreography. Performance Workshop is an opportunity for dancers not yet prepared for

BBT's Youth Company to gain valuable performance experience dancing responsible roles. The program will be directed this year by Andrea Gaudet, a wonderfully musical teacher.

## **Franklin Method Workshop taught by ZoyaMarie Jilbere**

BBT is once again hosting a workshop taught by ZoyaMarie Jilbere of Body Unity. This workshop will impart the tools to improve the function of the muscles and lungs to facilitate better breathing and more ease in movement and ballet.

DATE: Sunday February 26, 2012 3:30pm to 6:30pm

LOCATION: Studio B

REGISTRATION: Submit cash or check to the BBT office with Registration Form.

FEE: \$48 (Early bird rate of \$40 each if paid before January 29)

## **Master Classes**

On Wednesday January 4, Gennadi Nedvigin, Principal Dancer at San Francisco Ballet, taught a Master Class to the Youth Company and apprentices. They will also meet Michele Miller of Cornish School of the Arts, for her annual class on March 14.

## **Publicity Committee Seeks New Members**

BBT's Publicity Committee drafts press releases, confers about advertising strategy, and assists with publicity materials such as brochures, poster, and the website. Meetings are held somewhat less frequently

than monthly. If you are interested, have writing skills and/or are willing to maintain contacts with media outlets, please volunteer by contacting Ilona McHugh, Artistic Director, in the BBT office, via e-mail at [Ilona@BerkeleyBallet.org](mailto:Ilona@BerkeleyBallet.org), or phone at (510) 843-4687, ext. 111.

### **College Night for BBT's High School Juniors and their Parents**

On Thursday February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6:30-7:30 in Studio B, Associate Artistic Director Susan Weber, a certified independent college advisor, will lead an informational meeting. In addition to discussing general issues such as making college visits, creating a list of schools to which to apply, and maintaining a sensible timeline, she will discuss various college dance options. Bring questions! No need to sign up in advance.

### **Boys' Day January 8**

A bevy of boys enjoyed BBT's annual Boys' Day Open House this year. Boys from 7 to 18 experienced Fitness and Ballet taught by Dave Kato, BBT's Boys' Program director; Modern Dance taught by popular Guest Artist Joseph Copley; and Capoeira, taught by Kelly DelRosario of the Margaret Jenkins Dance Company.

**Dance for Parkinson's Disease Program** classes have maintained steady attendance since their frequency increased to weekly in September. Participants report increased benefits from the more regular

classes. On Wednesday January 4 Sam Black, a dancer in the Mark Morris Dance Group, visited our class and led a few exercises. Sam is a beloved regular teacher both in Brooklyn and on tour.

### **Important Dates**

**Thursday, Feb. 2, 6:30 PM**

*College Night for BBT Juniors and Parents*

**Feb. 4-March 31**

*Performance Workshop*

**Monday, Feb. 20 Presidents' Day**

*No Children's Classes*

**Wednesday, March 14, 4 PM**

*Youth Company Master Class with Michele Miller*

**Saturday, March 24, 6-10 PM**

*Nuit des Perles, BBT's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala*

**Monday, April 2, 8 PM**

*Performance Workshop Concert at The JMCA Theater*

### **Notes from *berkeleyballet.org***

\*New Pilates class Thursdays at 11:30 AM, starting on February 2, taught by Elizabeth Duval. Tuesday 8 PM classes will end January 31.

\*Registration is open for the Winter session of We Dance Together for ages 2-4.

\*See the site for changes to the adult schedule.

\*Purchase BBT Nutcracker shirts, coffee mugs, bags, and more!

*Newsletter: Ilona McHugh, Artistic Director; Susan Weber, Associate Artistic Director; Katherine Pizarro-Grant, layout.*