



To the pointe!

March 2011

news from berkeley ballet theater

JULIA MORGAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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Dancing in the Park

For the first time, BBT has been invited to participate in *Dancing in the Park*, an event sponsored by the Mark Foehringer Dance Company. We will send a small contingent of dancers to perform an excerpt of Mark Bush's piece on Saturday April 30th in Golden Gate Park, alongside major companies such as Alonzo King's LINES Ballet and Oakland Ballet.

BBT Seeks Archivist

Are you the parent with up-to-date record books for each of your children? Do you enjoy scrapbooking? BBT's history is in need of organization and beautification in advance of our 30th anniversary next year. If this project sounds fun and interesting to you, please let Ms. Ilona know.

Peter Brandenhoff Master Class in Bournonville Technique

Former SFB Principal Dancer Peter Brandenhoff was trained by and performed with the Royal Danish Ballet before moving to the United States. On Tuesday May 24th from 4-6:30 PM he will share with our Youth Company his deep knowledge of the technique developed by August Bournonville. The following week, the Royal Danish Ballet will present two programs at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall, and we encourage Youth Company members (and other students as well) to attend these concerts.

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

Videographer Talent Needed

BBT needs one or two people to film, edit, author, and burn DVDs of our performances, beginning with this spring's *Sur La Glace*. If you are interested and have expertise, please contact Ilona McHugh, Artistic Director, at (510) 843-4687, ext. 111.

New Intern Kaylie Kwon

Meet BBT's new social media intern Kaylie Kwon, from San Marino, California. She is a freshman at UC Berkeley, double majoring in Art History and Business. In addition to interning at BBT, she works at the UCB Associated Students Art Program, on the Events Committee of the Undergraduate Marketing Association, and on the Marketing and Events Subcommittee of the UC Rally Committee. Kaylie is working on BBT's Facebook page, Twitter communications, and developing our new website. She is also helping Ms. Ilona create the capacity to deliver our *To the Pointe!* newsletter via e-mail, an innovation that will provide convenience to our readers as well as saving trees!

Spotlight on our Dance for PD Program

One of the ways that BBT "walks the walk" of our descriptive motto "where all can dance" is our Dance for Parkinson's Disease Program, modeled after the internationally acclaimed program at the Mark Morris Dance Group. People with PD can have challenges around balance, flexibility, coordination, isolation and depression. Our

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engaging DFPD classes foster a supportive community environment, emphasize dancing rather than therapy, always use live music, and provide access to the joy of movement. We are proud to offer these free classes at BBT as part of our community outreach activities, which help us qualify for grant funding that benefits the entire school.

Bodies and hearts are warmed on the first, third, and fifth Wednesday of each month in our inspiring and rewarding classes. Participant Luanne Wilson recently wrote the following appreciation:

“When I first heard of this group I was so touched and surprised that anyone would think of something so magnificent and drastic as trying to teach all of us slowpokes to dance. What a marvel...I had pretty much settled into my life as a wallflower. If there is anything that sidelines you, exacerbates your sense of constriction and inhibition it is Parkinson’s. If there is anything that calls for expression, demonstration, drama, movement, expression and liveliness it is dance. What mad person first thought of combining such dead opposites? I’m awash with curiosity but also with sheer gratitude that they thought of us and made this magic happen. I can’t tell you what a treasure it is, how much it means to me that someone should even suspect us of sequestering ballerinas in our hidden hearts but they do exist and how kind of you to ask us to dance. It truly means so much.”

These classes have been made possible by grants and by support from the PD community. For the first two years of its existence, our DFPD program was entirely funded by the UC Berkeley Chancellor’s Community Partnership Fund, which supports partnerships between UCB (in this case Cal Performances) and projects that benefit Berkeley residents. Those grants covered teacher training costs, master classes taught by founding teachers from the Mark Morris Dance Group, and

ongoing biweekly free classes taught by BBT’s DFPD faculty. Currently, all expenses associated with our Berkeley classes are paid by *PD Active*, and our classes in San Francisco are fully funded by *PDSF Network*. Both are PD advocacy groups founded in order to support ongoing DFPD classes in their communities, which is a testament to the transformative power of dancing together for people affected by Parkinson’s disease.

Important Dates

April 4-10 Spring Holiday: No Children’s Classes
 Saturday April 16 *Sur La Glace* tickets go on sale
 Sunday April 24 Easter: No Classes Held
 Tuesday April 26 4-6:30 PM
 Zoya Marie Gilbert Master Class
 Saturdays April 30, May 7, 14
 Mandatory Full-Call Rehearsals
 Wednesday May 18 4-8:30 PM
Sur la Glace Dress Rehearsal
 Thursday May 19 10 AM
Sur la Glace Outreach Performance
 4-7 PM
Sur la Glace Dress Rehearsal
 7-9 PM
 Adult *Collage* Dress Rehearsal
 Friday May 20 7 PM
Sur la Glace Performance
 Saturday May 21 11 AM
 Pre-Ballet *Une Année sur le Lac* Performance
 2 PM, 7 PM
Sur la Glace Performances
 9:30 PM
 Gala Reception
 Sunday May 22 2 PM
Sur la Glace Performance
 6 PM
 Adult *Collage* Performance
 Tuesday May 24 4-6:30 PM
 Peter Brandenhoff Master Class