



the pointe! news from berkeley ballet theater

September 2007

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

CONTACTING TEACHERS

Please be aware that the appropriate route for asking questions of teachers is by making an appointment in advance. While your child's teacher may seem available in the hall before or after class, your question will be at least distracting if not actually delaying the start of class or the teacher's later activities. We appreciate your courtesy.

NEW MASTER CLASS SERIES

In 2007-2008 we are initiating a series of master classes for students in the Pre-Professional Program and Level 7. These classes will be held several times during the year, during regular class hours, and will be taught by current and former professionals. We are thrilled that our most advanced students will have the opportunity to learn from these amazing dance artists.

Our first Master Class on September 18th, will be taught by David Leventhal, of the Mark Morris Dance Group. David is well-known to Berkeley audiences as the Prince in "The Hard Nut" and the beautiful blue bird in "L-Allegro, il Penseroso, ed il Moderato." Mr. Leventhal has danced with the Mark Morris Dance Group since 1997. He studied at Boston Ballet School and graduated with honors in English Literature from Brown University in 1995.

ABT will be sending a master teacher while the company visits UC Berkeley in November. Joanna Berman, former SF Ballet Principal, will teach a class in January. We will announce specific dates, details, and other teachers as they are confirmed. Observation of Master Classes will not be allowed.

YOUTH COMPANY NEWS

The annual BBT Youth Company audition will be held on Saturday September 8 from 12-2 PM. Casting for "The Nutcracker" takes place at this time. The Youth Company's first activity will be a mandatory Parent Meeting on Saturday September 29th from 12-1 PM, followed by rehearsal from 1-5 PM.

NUTCRACKER REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Full Call Saturday Rehearsals	12-6 PM	10/27 through 12/1 (not 11/24)
Dress Rehearsals	4-8:30 PM	12/5, 12/6, 12/12, 12/13
Sugar Plum Party	4 PM	12/8
In-Studio Performance	3 PM	12/12
Outreach Performances	10 AM	12/11, 12/13
	12 PM	12/11
Performances	2 PM	12/8, 12/9, 12/15, 12/1
	7 PM	12/7, 12/8, 12/14, 12/15

YOUNGER STUDENTS' SEMINARS

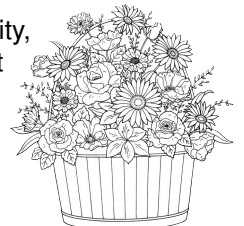
We will also be beginning a two-to three-session seminar series for students in Levels 1-6. Presentations will address safety, nutrition, and other relevant topics. More information will follow in future newsletters.

SENIOR FAMILY MEETING

Saturday, September 15 from 12-1PM in Studio B, Assistant Artistic Director Susan Weber will lead a meeting about college admissions. Susan is a graduate of UC Berkeley Extension's certificate program in College Advising. Designed for current seniors and their parents, the meeting will include a review of the fall application timeline and a description of college dance options. There will be time for questions and answers. Next spring Ms. Susan will hold another meeting for juniors and younger students.

CONGRATULATIONS, BBT GRADUATES!

As the school year begins, we send best wishes to the young women of BBT now attending college: Nadia Brunner-Velasquez at UC Santa Barbara, Tessaly Jen at Stanford, Christina Larson at the University of Washington, Imogene Roach at San Francisco State, Santelia Rose at Princeton University, Emily Tsaconas at USC, and Sofia Williams at Westmont College.





SOLANO STROLL SEPTEMBER 9

BBT will again send a contingent of dancers walking down Solano Avenue in this year's "Going Green"-themed event. Green tutus and costumes of all types and sizes will help to deliver the message of environmental awareness. A sign-up sheet is posted on the stairs. The BBT booth will be in the same spot as last year: in front of the 76 gas station near Colusa. Come by and say hello!

BON VOYAGE TO ANDREA BROSNAN

Our hearty congratulations go out to Ms. Andrea Brosnan, BBT children's and pre-ballet teacher extraordinaire. She has moved to Prague, where she is beginning a 6-year medical school program. We are so proud of her!

BBT BOARD RECRUITMENT

Our Nominating Committee is seeking volunteers to enlarge the BBT Board's numbers and expertise. Legal, fundraising, and public relations skills are helpful, though a love of dance and BBT is qualification enough. The Board meets monthly. If you are interested in considering becoming a Board member, please contact Susan Weber in the BBT office (843-4687, ext. 7). Thanks!

THE FOOT BONE'S CONNECTED TO THE ANKLE BONE

We have purchased "FUNctional Anatomy," a 3-year curriculum by Deborah Vogel, Director of the Institute for Performance Studies at Oberlin College. Students in Levels 5 through 7 will spend 5-10 minutes weekly during regular class time on these lessons (Level 5 on Mondays, Levels 6 and 7 on Fridays). When the anticipated 4th-year curriculum is ready, we will add lessons in Pre-Professional classes, too. There will be weekly hand-outs that will eventually accumulate to create a wonderful anatomy text.

BBT GETS (AND SEEKS) GRANTS

Many many thanks to our grants-mistress Maria Winston for her tireless and productive work on our behalf. Target awarded us a \$3000 grant to support our Outreach Program, and the City of Berkeley's Civic Arts Program has approved a \$1227 grant for Program Support. Both grants are larger than we've received in the past. Please convey your appreciation to adult student Maria. We are always looking for more funding sources. If you know of an organization that supports the arts and/or arts education projects, please come to the office and let us know.

\$\$\$ MONEY MONEY MONEY MONEY \$\$\$, AND TALENT!

BBT is forming a new committee for the purpose of addressing our fundraising needs. The Chairperson will be a member of the BBT Board, and we are seeking volunteer members from our school community, ideally both adult students and parents of students in the Pre-Ballet and Children's Divisions. Among other activities, this group will plan our Talent Show Fun-Raiser which will be held on April 5, 2008. This could be a fun way to satisfy your volunteer commitment! Please contact Sarah Marcus, Artistic Director, (843-4687, ext. 1) if you are interested in learning more.



9/4	Children's Division Classes Begin
9/8	12-2 PM Youth Company Audition
9/9	10 AM- 4 PM Solano Stroll
9/15	12-1 PM Senior College-Planning Meeting
9/19	6:30-7:30 Levels 7 and Pre-Professional Q & A Clinic
9/29	12-1 PM Youth Company Mandatory Parent Meeting 1-5 First Youth Company Rehearsal
10/20	9 AM -12 PM Photo Day
10/27	12-6 PM First Nutcracker Full-Call Saturday Rehearsal Nutcracker Ticket Sales Begin
11/3	Nutcracker Parent Volunteer Sign-Up Day
11/22	Thanksgiving Day - No Classes Held
11/22-25	Thanksgiving Holiday - No Children's Classes Held
12/17-1/1	Winter Break - No Children's Classes Held