



# the pointe! news from berkeley ballet theater

September 2008

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

## SOLANO STROLL SEPTEMBER 14

"Health" is the theme of the 2008 Solano Stroll, and BBT will operate a booth and march in the parade as usual. The parade will begin at 10:00am and lasts

approximately 1 hour. We are hoping to find several adult students willing to participate this year, since of course grown-ups as well as children reap the health (and happiness) benefits of dancing at BBT. Sign-up sheets are posted on the stairs.



## ABT'S ILONA MCHUGH JOINS BBT'S FACULTY

Former American Ballet Theater dancer Ilona McHugh will teach in Levels 4 and 6 this school year. Currently studying landscape architecture at UC Berkeley, Ilona brings a great depth of knowledge and experience to our students. She enjoys teaching and in addition to her performing career has

worked as ballet mistress for a touring company made up of ABT principals.

## DONATIONS NEEDED

BBT would like two or three new AVRs so that teachers can use iPods for music during classes without accompanists. And we are still seeking a heavy-duty Vacuum cleaner.

## MS. CORINNE LEAVES REGULAR TEACHING AT BBT IN 2008-2009

"This was a really tough decision for me because I love watching the growth and progress of the students as well as connecting with the BBT families. Needing to take a year off from teaching was based on my family, wanting to be there after school as my kids begin 1st grade and preschool. I will miss seeing everyone on a regular basis and working closely with BBT's amazing faculty. However, I look forward to subbing classes in all levels and of course cheering from the audience during performance time." We will miss Ms. Corinne and wish her and her family much happiness.



## MASTER CLASS SEPTEMBER 30

David Leventhal of the Mark Morris Dance Group will return to BBT twice this year to teach our Youth Company dancers. David's first visit coincides with the MMDG's "Romeo and Juliet" appearance at Zellerbach Hall this month. Students will learn bits of choreography from the show, so it's time to order tickets.

Performances are September 25-28 and tickets are available through the Cal Performances box office:

(510) 642-9988 or online at

[http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu/presents/season/2008/dance/mmdg\\_romeo\\_and\\_juliet.php](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu/presents/season/2008/dance/mmdg_romeo_and_juliet.php)

## YOUTH COMPANY NEWS

Saturday September 13th from 12-2 will be the annual BBT Youth Company audition, where "The Nutcracker" principal casting takes place. A mandatory Parent Meeting will be on Saturday September 27 from 12-1 PM, followed by the first rehearsal from 1-5 PM.



## NUTCRACKER REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

**Full Call Saturday Rehearsals**  
12-6 PM, 11/1, 8, 15, 22 and 12/6

**Dress Rehearsals**  
4-8:30 PM, 12/10, 11, 17, 18

**Sugar Plum Party**  
4 PM, 12/13, 20

**In-Studio Performance**  
3 PM, 12/17

**Outreach Performances**  
10 AM, 12/16, 18  
12 PM, 12/16

**Performances**  
2 PM, 12/13, 14, 20, 21  
7 PM, 12/12, 13, 19, 20



## SENIOR FAMILY MEETING FOR COLLEGE PLANNING

Thursday September 18th from 6:45-7:45 PM, seniors in high school and their parents are invited to a free session with Susan Weber,

Assistant Artistic Director. Susan is a certified college advisor, and will help students and their families think about college options, the application timeline, and resources for more information. There will be time for questions.

## Q & A CLINIC FOR LEVELS 7 AND PRE-PROFESSIONAL

Saturday September 20th from 12-2 in Studio A, Ms. Sarah and Ms. Susan will hold a Question-and-Answer Clinic for upper-level dancers. This session will provide an opportunity for individual goal-setting as well as addressing alignment, execution, and performance issues. Bring your questions!

## DANCE FOR PARKINSON'S DISEASE PROJECT RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AND COMPETITIVE GRANT

BBT, in partnership with the Mark Morris Dance Group, Cal Performances, and PDAActive, has received a UC Chancellor's Community Partnership Fund grant to support our new program which will offer free dance classes for people with Parkinson's disease. Over \$825,000 was requested for various community service and neighborhood improvement projects; our fully funded proposal was among the fortunate \$212,000 awarded.

## MORE SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Koret Foundation and the City of Berkeley have also awarded funds to BBT to support our general operations. As always, Maria Winston deserves credit and our gratitude for her excellent work writing grants for BBT.



## PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

If you have skills in marketing, sales, graphic design, journalism, or public relations, please consider sharing your talents with BBT. The Public Relations Committee works with Artistic Director Sarah Marcus to prepare press releases and calendar listings, to design and distribute publicity materials, to sell advertising in our programs, and to coordinate the raffle during performances. If you'd like to find out more, please call Ms. Sarah at 843-4687, extension 111. or just come by during her office hours.

## LEVEL PARENTS NEEDED!

To help distribute information and streamline communication to our BBT community, we ask a parent (or two) from each level to be a level parent. This parent(s) will liaise between Artistic staff and the other families in their level. This job also fulfills a parent's volunteer duty. If interested, please contact Ms. Deborah ext. 114 in the BBT office.

## BOYS' DAY! SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2009

Mark your calendars! In 2009 BBT will begin a (hopefully) annual program designed to introduce boys to the enjoyment and benefits of dance. We will plan fun activities (pool worm combat techniques and hip-hop, for example) and reach out to young men in the broader community. If you are interested in helping to plan this exciting day, please contact Ms. Sarah in the office or call her at 843-4687, ext. 111.



## IMPORTANT DATES

9/13, 12-2 PM

Youth Company Audition

9/14, 10 AM

Solano Stroll

9/18, 6:45-7:45 PM

College Planning for Seniors and their parents

9/20, 12-2 PM

Q & A Clinic- Levels 7 and Pre-Professional

9/27, 12-1 PM

Mandatory Youth Company Parent Meeting

1-6 PM

Youth Company Rehearsal

11/1, 12-6 PM

First Nutcracker Full-Call Saturday Rehearsal

Nutcracker Ticket Sales Begin

11/1

Nutcracker Parent Volunteer Sign-Up Day

11/27

Thanksgiving Day - no classes held

11/27-30

Thanksgiving Holiday - no children's classes held

12/22-1/4

Winter Break - no children's classes held

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Newsletter: Sarah Clagett, Artistic Director  
Susan Weber, Assistant Director  
Kai Yao To, Layout