



September 2010

news from berkeley ballet theater

JULIA MORGAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

2640 COLLEGE AVE BERKELEY CA 94704 510.843.4687

BBT WELCOMES NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

Caitlin Kakigi is a BBT alumna. She has worked for Damian Woetzel at the Vail International Dance Festival, and she assists with BBT's Dance for Parkinson's Disease Program. Caitlin received her B.A. from Harvard, where she served as director of the Harvard Ballet Company.

Lou Fancher comes to us from Company C, where she had been Ballet Mistress since 2004. Prior to her move to California, Ms. Lou worked at Minnesota Dance Theater and the James Sewell Ballet, where she taught and directed beloved BBT alumni and long-time Nutcracker Prince John de Serio.

Yuko Katsumi was born in Tokyo, Japan and received her training in West Germany, Japan, Zimbabwe, and at London's Royal Ballet School. She has danced professionally with the Matsuyama Ballet, Tampa Ballet and Colorado Ballet, where she was a principal dancer.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S SUMMER VACATION

Ms. Ilona taught for a week as a Guest Artist at Evansville Ballet. Artistic Director Mark Bush danced with ABT, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, and Ballet Austin; former illustrious guests have included Gelsey Kirkland and Patricia Barker. We are so fortunate to have Ms. Ilona here at BBT all the time!

KT NELSON TO CHOREOGRAPH FOR SPRING SHOW

On October 18, KT Nelson, Co-Artistic Director of ODC/SF will hold an audition in preparation for choreographing on our Modern 2 dancers in the Spring Show. We are thrilled to welcome KT to BBT, and know that her creative, high-energy work will be thrilling for dancers and audience alike. Ms. KT choreographed the popular *Velveteen Rabbit* at ODC, and has received three Isadora Duncan Dance Awards.

AFFIRMING BBT ON THE WEB

Please show your love for BBT by writing positive reviews on Yelp (yelp.com) and at Berkeley Parents Network (<http://parents.berkeley.edu/post.html>). High user ratings definitely help to attract new students to our community.

DAVID LEVENTHAL MASTER CLASS

Youth Company members will learn choreography from the Mark Morris Dance Group's repertoire at a Master Class Tuesday September 28 from 4-6:30. MMDG will appear at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall from Thursday September 30 through Sunday October 3.

MAO'S LAST DANCER

Xiao Liu-Moore, beloved BBT teacher, grew up inside the Chinese ballet training system portrayed in the film. While Ms. Xiao and the film's subject, Li Cunxin, were never in the same class, her classmates were his classmates when they were young, and his teachers were her teachers. She reports that the part of the film set in China was very accurate. Reflecting Mao's philosophy, the arts changed during her childhood from being open only to the elite class to instead include villagers, factory workers and the military in both training and performances.

Ms. Xiao left her parents' home when she was only eleven years old, moving to live and study at the Hunan State School. Ben Stevenson, Artistic Director of Houston Ballet, visited each year to teach and set work, later offering teaching and feedback to Chinese choreographers.

Former BBT Artistic Director Corinne Jonas and Diablo Ballet's Erika Johnson (a regular BBT adult student) both danced in Stevenson's Houston Ballet during Li's tenure and saw the film together. Ms. Corinne's comments:

"We thought the dancers who played Li were all dead ringers. Especially the main actor/dancer even got his voice! We loved seeing Ben portrayed as so nurturing and fatherly.

"I am fortunate to have danced with Li Cunxin during my years in the Houston Ballet from 1985-1995. Although he was a Principal dancer in the company and I was in the corps, I was partnered by Li in every Opening cast of *Nutcracker* (he was the Nutcracker Prince and I was Clara) and also in *Swan Lake* when I was the Neapolitan Princess and he was Siegfried. I enjoyed how Li was portrayed because they really captured his sweet nature, caring heart and pure love of movement. Also, his work ethic was beyond compare! Li's dancing radiated complete joy and a feeling of freedom in both his movement quality - he could tear up space like no other dancer, and in his facial expression - full smiles and passion even in rehearsal!"

**CREATIVE VOLUNTEER SWAP
ALLOWS PARENTS TO SEE THEIR
CHILDREN PERFORM**

This year, in order to allow more parents to watch the Pre-Ballet Spring Showcase, we are offering pre-ballet parents the option of volunteering to work during BBT's Nutcracker. In exchange, parents from the Children's Division will help backstage during the Pre-Ballet Show. Watch for a letter with details (coming via your child's teacher) and if you have any questions, please contact our Pre-Ballet Volunteer Coordinator Jennifer Sime at jensime@sbcglobal.net, or Miss Deborah at deborah@berkeleyballet.org.

**ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
ACCEPTS FACULTY POSITION AT UC
BERKELEY**

Susan Weber is teaching *Intermediate Ballet for the Contemporary Dancer* in the Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies Department. Congratulations, Ms. Susan!

**MEET OUR NEW INTERNS FROM UC
BERKELEY**

Brian Batugo will be creating a film about Artistic Director Emerita Sally Streets, documenting her teaching and philosophy, as well as creating promotional films about BBT. Brian grew up in Stockton, and his majors are Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies and Ethnic Studies. One of his films was nominated for Best Drama at Campus Movie Fest in 2009. He describes himself as having been "overly ambitious" in high school.

Navpreet Sambhi, with majors in Sociology and Molecular Cell Biology, will work in BBT's Dance for Parkinson's Disease Program this year. She grew up in Sacramento and plans to attend medical school after graduation. She describes her high-school self as "ambitious, hard-working, social, and ready to take on the world!"

SOLANO STROLL

On Sunday September 12, an enthusiastic cohort of BBT students, staff, and Board members presented a welcoming face to the community. The BBT table offered a raffle, with winners getting *Nutcracker* tickets, an adult class card, tickets to our Adult Show *Collage* next spring, and (thanks to Fred Schnider's donation) two tickets to upcoming Mark Morris Dance Group performances at UC Berkeley. We are so grateful to the participants in this year's Solano Stroll. BBT relies on the time and help of our dancers in all divisions, parents,

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

and additional volunteers to make our presence known in the community so we can continue to offer all our wonderful programs.

**DONATE YOUR "OUTGROWN"
UNIFORMS AND NUTCRACKER BLACK
BALLET SHOES**

If your child has been promoted and has leotards in a color s/he can no longer wear to class, please consider donating them to BBT. We keep a boxful for students who forget their clothes. Similarly, please recycle outgrown black ballet shoes (needed for *Nutcracker* by students in Levels 2, 3, and 4). Thanks!

IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday 9/25	12-1 PM
	Mandatory Youth Company meeting
	Youth Company rehearsals begin
Thursday 10/7	6:30-7:30 PM
	College planning for seniors and their parents
Monday 10/25	5-9 PM
	Taping of Senior DVDs in the JMCA Theater
Saturday 10/30	
	First Full-Call Nutcracker rehearsal
	Nutcracker ticket sales begin
Thursday 11/25	
	Thanksgiving Day, no classes held
11/26-28	
	Thanksgiving Holiday – no Children's Division classes
12/20-1/3	
	Break – no Children's Division classes

**NUTCRACKER REHEARSAL AND
PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

Full-Call Saturday Rehearsals	12-6 PM
	10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, 12/4
Dress Rehearsals	4-9 PM
	12/8, 9, 15, 16
Sugar Plum Parties	4-5 PM
	12/11, 18
In-Studio Performance	3 PM
	12/15
Outreach Performances	10 AM
	12/14, 16
	12 PM
	12/14
Performances	7 PM
	12/10, 11, 17, 18
	2 PM
	12/11, 12, 18, 19