



A non-profit arts organization

Footnotes

The Newsletter of Delaware Dance Company
November / December 2011, Volume F, Number 2

Nutcracker cast prepares to delight audiences

The dancers cast in this year's production of *The Nutcracker* began rehearsing in September. With each passing weekend, more and more hours have been spent working on the various dances that make up the production. With each passing weekend, the excitement among the cast has grown as they can begin to see the pieces coming together to be the full ballet. Younger dancers sit wide-eyed watching the older dancers rehearse. The presence of the guest artists at the rehearsals brings awe and excitement to those who have not danced with them before. Most in the cast are very familiar with DDC's *Nutcracker* and know that each year is a little different-- some new costuming, some changes in the Party Scene plot, some adjustments to choreography to fit the new dancers will make this particular *Nutcracker* unique to this year and to this cast. Proud and excited to be a part of this year's *Nutcracker*,

they are working very hard to make it as memorable an experience for their audience as it will be for them.

This year's cast features the Performing Company principal dancers, Julianne Borden, as the "Sugar Plum Fairy", and Hunter Raysor, as the "Snow King". Hunter will also dance lead in Arabian opposite Company soloist Kasey Huang, who will also dance as "Snow Queen", and is partnered with Hunter to lead the Waltz of the Flowers in a Dew Drop pas. Julianne's "Cavalier" will be Leyland Simmons of New York's Ballet Noir, who danced the role last year. Andres Gonzales of Urban Ballet Theatre has danced many roles with DDC, most recently "Snow King" and "Spanish". This year he is the "Nutcracker Prince" with Jacki Miller as "Clara". Scott Mason will return to portray "Drosselmeyer".

Performances are Saturday, Dec. 10th at 2pm and 7pm and Sunday, Dec. 11th at 2pm. Tickets are available at the studio and from the website. Prices range from \$30 to \$18. Children 10 yrs and younger receive a \$5 discount. Don't miss this year's special show!



Artistic Director

Sunshine Webster-Latshaw

Board of Trustees

Suzanne Fitzgerald (President),
Allan Carlsen (Vice-President),
Rhonda Owens (Secretary),
Beth Thomas (Treasurer),
Valerie Foy-Alberto, Ed
Gregware, Karen Gartley, Kim
Kreckmann, Brenda Nieves

Faculty

Jody Anderson, Joan Beatson,
Allyson Cohen-Sherlock, Kim
Camacho, Kathleen Gallant,
Jenifer Haggarty, Sherry Hiott,
Shannon Lynch, Nichole
Masters, Heather Reynolds,
Melissa Rivera, Kimberly
Schroeder, James Zynda

Junior Faculty

Julianne Borden
Samantha Gartley
Samantha Rex
Alexis Rubin
Teagan Thomas

Office Staff

Jessica Billy
Rachel Gregware

Business Manager

Mary Roth

Studio Address

Madeline Crossing
Suite 101
168 Elkton Road
Newark, DE 19711
Phone: 302-738-2023
Fax: 320-738-1820
ddcoffice@verizon.net
www.delawaredance.org

DDC's sensational *Cinderella* ballet returns to Newark

In the spring of 2008, DDC premiered its version of the classic, fairytale ballet *Cinderella* in the then brand-new Thompson Theatre at the University of Delaware's Roselle Center for the Arts. The full, theatrical staging with great comic acting, beautiful costumes and exceptional choreography captivated audience members from three years to ninety. On May 19 and 20, 2012, DDC will once again present *Cinderella* in the Thompson Theatre. Performances will be at 2pm and 7pm on Saturday and at 2pm on Sunday. Tickets will be \$25 for adults and \$15 for children 10 years and younger. Tickets will be available at DDC starting in mid-March.



Auditions for *Cinderella* will be held on February 3rd and 4th. On Saturday, *pointe* audition will be at 2-4 pm. On Sunday, Ballet levels 2 and 2x are scheduled for 1-2:30pm and dancers 7 to 10 years for 3-4pm. A \$10 audition fee will be charged.

Youth Dance Ensemble will hold *Winter Dance Celebration* in February

**Join YDE for their
Winter Dance
Celebration!
Performances will
be at 1:00 pm &
3:00 pm on
Sunday,
February 12th.
Tickets: \$2**

With its newly expanded roster that boasts 25 members, the Youth Dance Ensemble is preparing for an exciting and busy winter and spring after an event-filled fall. New members Isabel Bueno-Presnail, Chloe Cowden, Kelli Henshaw, Casey Kelly, Cecelia Pruitt and Marissa Smith immediately began rehearsing to perform at Newark Day on September 18th. Having been invited for the fourth year to perform at the Domestic Violence Awareness Breakfast held at the Riverfront, the whole troupe was also preparing a new piece, "Skyscraper". YDE is pleased to contribute to this event and their performances are always very well received. Many YDE members also attended the Maryland Dance Festival on the weekend of October 8 & 9. Four members

received scholarships (see next page) and all who attended enjoyed the classes offered.

YDE members are now preparing for their *Winter Dance Celebration*. Unlike previous years, the concert will be held in February, on the weekend before Valentine's Day. Two performances will be offered on Sunday, February 12th, at 1pm and 3pm. The dancers hope that many DDC members and friends will join them for this delightful afternoon of dance. The concert will be held in Studio A. Tickets are \$2 and seating is very limited.

Continuing their busy schedule, YDE plans to perform at Cokesbury Village retirement community in January, at the Delaware Dance Festival in March and at the Elkton Relay for Life later in June.

YDE members perform at Newark Day. Left, Katie Capristo and Holly Stevens leap during a Modern piece. Right, Katie Capristo, Meaghan Kenney, Mary Volk, Holly Stevens, Briar Dobson, Erin Schulze and Caroline Gerwig strike a ballet pose.



Dancers awarded scholarships at the Maryland Dance Festival



Mary Volk and Katie Capristo after the awards ceremony at the Maryland Dance Festival in Fredrick Maryland.

The Maryland Dance Festival sponsored by the Maryland Council for Dance is held every fall at rotating venues throughout the state of Maryland. The Festival offers classes in many styles of dance, taught by instructors from all over the East Coast, as well as scholarship auditions. DDC dancers and the Performing Company have attended the Festivals intermittently for more than two decades. For the past three years, the Performing Company has performed at the Festival with both Company and YDE members attending the workshops and

scholarship auditions. This year, as in the past three years, DDC placed well in the auditions. Katie Capristo received the award for the best dancer in the 9 to 12 yr age group. Amanda Haggarty and Mary Volk also received scholarships in this group. In the 13 to 15 yr age group, Isabel Bueno-Presnail, Megan Hopkins and Sarah Mack received scholarships and Julianne Borden, who has received recognition each of the past three years, along with Alexis Maxwell and Jacki Miller received scholarships in the 16 to 22 yr age group.

Instructor James Zynda Announces his Retirement

Jim Zynda, who has taught at DDC since 2006, will retire from teaching in December. His professional career spanned twenty-five years and included dancing with Radio City Music Hall, Les Grands Ballet Canadiens, and American Ballet Theatre. Immediately before relocating to Delaware, Mr. Zynda was the Director and Principal Teacher at Academy of Ballet Etudes, the Artistic Director of their Repertory Company and Associate Director of Palace Performing Arts Center all in Norwalk CT. With a strong desire to increase the appeal of dance to young men, Mr. Zynda has taught technique class specifically for male dancers in addition to intermediate and advanced level ballet at DDC. His Teen/Adult ballet classes during the regular year and summer sessions have been very popular. His choreography was featured in *Emotion in Motion II*, DDC's spring gala 2007 and he has assisted with various dances in DDC's *Nutcracker*. Mr. Zynda was seen on stage in DDC's premiere of *Cinderella* in 2008 as the "Dance Master". His many talents include excellent costume design and construction and DDC has been fortunate to have him use those talents here. His vision led the costuming of *Cinderella* and has transformed the look of many scenes in *The Nutcracker*. His talents will be missed, but we hope he will remain a good friend of Delaware Dance Company.

DDC Performing Company moves through usual busy schedule

Performing Company members began their year welcoming three dancers to the troupe. Siobhan Daurety and Lianne Hastings are new Trainees. Erin Foltz, who recently moved to the area from Dover, was accepted into Company at the Junior level.

Performing pieces that were choreographed at the summer Company workshop, the group was part of the demonstrations at Newark Day in September and the Dancers'

Showcase at the Maryland Dance Festival in October. All members have been busy with rehearsals for *Nutcracker* since the second week of classes at DDC. After *Nutcracker* in December, the members will turn their focus toward 2012. Spring events will include the Delaware Dance Festival in March, but the main focus for Company dancers will be *Cinderella* to be presented at the Thompson Theatre in late May.

Performing Company members at Newark Day. Kasey Huang, Kristen Hyland and Jacki Miller (seated) begin a contemporary piece by guest instructor Vincent Thomas (near right). Kasey Huang, Alexis Rubin, Hunter Raysor, Kyla Jacobs and Kaelyn Burns in arabesque on the steps of Wolf Hall (far right) in "Get the Led Out" by Jody Anderson. Photos by Diane Miller.



Looking Ahead

Wednesday, November 23-

Sunday, November 27

Studio closed-Thanksgiving

Tuesday, December 6-

Sunday, December 11

Studio closed-Nutcracker

Saturday, Dec. 10, 2 & 7 pm

Sunday, Dec. 11, 2 pm

Delaware Dance Company

presents

The Nutcracker

John Dickinson Theatre

Thursday, December 22-

Wednesday, January 4, 2012

Studio closed-Winter break

Saturday, February 4, 2012

Cinderella Auditions

Sunday, February 12, 2012

1pm & 3pm YDE's

Winter Dance Celebration

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Studio closed-In service

March 12-17, 2012

Parent Observation Week!

One World! DDC School Concerts 2012

Sunday, June 10: 1:00pm, 4:00pm & 7:00pm at Mitchell Hall

Information on DDC's 2012 School Concerts will be distributed during the last week of November. All information will also be available on our website. Each class will perform in one of the three scheduled concerts. Classes that meet on Monday and Tuesday will perform at 7:00pm; on Wednesday and Thursday at 4:00pm; and on Friday and Saturday at 1:00pm. Please note the date and time that your student(s) will perform. Permission forms and costume payments are due by Wednesday, December 21, 2011, the last day of classes before winter break. More information about rehearsals and tickets will be distributed in spring. *Please try to get your permission form(s) and payment turned in before winter break!*

Other important dates for spring and summer....

May 19 & 20 **Cinderella** at the Thompson Theatre in Newark

June 3, 2012 Tot Performance Parties at DDC Studios

Summer camp weeks: June 18-22, June 25-29, July 16-20, July 23-August 3

Themes and details to be announced soon. Check the website for the latest information

Sustaining Donor Annual Fund Campaign Information Enclosed

Information about Delaware Dance Company's annual Sustaining Donor campaign is enclosed with this newsletter. This year the Board hopes to raise additional funds to undertake some much needed capital improvements. The Board of Trustees appreciates the support shown by patrons through their involvement in DDC's many programs, and hopes that those who are able will offer extra support of those programs through a tax-deductible donation. Contributions of any size are gratefully accepted. Please see enclosure for more information.

Annual Fund Campaign Information Enclosed

Delaware Dance Company programs are made possible, in part, by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency committed to promoting and supporting the arts in Delaware.



Madeline Crossing, Ste 101
168 Elkton Road
Newark, DE 19711

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 172
NEWARK, DE