SCBT
SANTA CRUZ BALLET THEATRE
Moving the Art of Ballet Forward

the Studio
THE STUDIO, SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL BALLET
PROFESSIONAL BALLET TRAINING ACADEMY

FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

The Studio & Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre | partners in excellence serving Santa Cruz County for over 30 years
Robert Kelley and Diane Cypher, Artistic Directors | Sandy Nelson, Academy Registrar | Mark Swan, SCBT Board President

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

Mark your calendar for the following opportunities to see our talented dancers in their element!

GAIL RICH AWARD 20TH ANNIVERSARY PERFORMANCE OF PAST AWARDEES SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6 AT CABRILLO CROCKER THEATER

In 2009 Robert Kelley and Diane Cypher were recipients of a Gail Rich Award for the company's contributions to the local arts scene. In honor of the award's twentieth anniversary, past awardees will perform at the Crocker Theater. Included in the vast array of performers is the Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre Senior Company, which will perform a new piece choreographed by Robert to music played live by Watsonville Taiko. Artistic Director and Composer Ikuyo Conant is also a former Gail Rich Award winner, so combining the two makes perfect sense. Especially with our history of collaborating with the traditional Japanese drumming group.

SANTA CRUZ SYMPHONY CONCERTS CHILDREN'S CONCERTS FEBRUARY 21 FAMILY CONCERT SUNDAY, MARCH 6 AT THE SANTA CRUZ CIVIC AUDITORIUM

Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre will participate in the upcoming Santa Cruz Symphony Children's and Family Concerts in what has become an annual tradition. Instigated by former Symphony Music Director Larry Granger, the concerts are arranged and conducted by current Music Director Maestro Daniel Stuart. The Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre Petite and Junior Companies will participate in these fun performances. Tickets can be purchased for the Family matinee concert by using the link on the SCBT website Tickets page.

SANTA CRUZ BALLET THEATRE IN CONCERT AT THE CROCKER THEATER SATURDAY, APRIL 2

One of our crowning achievements is the annual spring repertory concert, In Concert. This performance gives the dancers a chance to expand their skills with a diversity of dance styles, and the audience benefits.

This year's offering includes a world premiere by Robert Kelley to music by Sergei Prokofiev. Showcasing the talents of this season's Senior Company dancers, the piece exhibits why our talented director is known throughout the region and the country for his stellar contemporary choreography. Robert has won the Regional Dance America Choreography Award several times in his career, and his dynamic use of this Prokofiev score displays the athleticism of our dancers.

A world premiere by guest choreographer and alumnus Nahshon Marden will be also be featured. Nahshon is currently studying Dance at the Cornish School of the Arts in Seattle. He has constructed a multi-layered modern piece for our Senior Company titled "Atmos; Smokey Black" to a commissioned score by young composer Max Rico. The dancers were given vivid images of smoke in its many different forms to inspire their movements and interpretation of the choreography. It is hauntingly beautiful and showcases the artistic range, commitment and maturity of our Senior Company dancers.

A west coast premiere of "10 in Four Movements" rounds out the program with neoclassicism performed by nine Senior Company dancers plus guest artist Skylar Burson. Artistic Director of Utah Regional Ballet, Jacqueline Colledge won the RDA Choreography Award a few years ago with this piece. Skylar dances with Utah Regional Ballet and is an alumnus of South Bay Ballet, another RDA/P company that Robert has worked with over the years. To a lovely score by Handel, the piece showcases swirling technical mastery en pointe of our females as well as the partnering abilities of our men.

Fulfilling the future of Santa Cruz Ballet will be performances on the concert by the Junior and Petite Companies. Also choreographed by Robert Kelley, these pieces will exhibit the vision of what is to come. Here are tomorrow's dancers in performance today. Watch and encourage their growth and development over the next few years … they will become proficient artists before your very eyes. Tickets will be available for In Concert soon through Cabrillo Crocker Theater.

continued on next page …

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES *continued*

REGIONAL DANCE AMERICA/PACIFIC FESTIVAL MAY 4-7

ORPHEUM THEATER ~ PHOENIX, ARIZONA

The annual Festival will be hosted by the whole Pacific Region and Michael Uthoff is our Adjudicator and the Artistic Director for the event. At our company's Adjudication mid-March, he will choose one of our offerings for performance in Phoenix, either Robert's new Senior Company piece or Nahshon's "Atmos: Smokey Black". The Orpheum is beautiful old theater downtown within walking distance from the Festival hotel and Phoenix Convention Center.

Our dancers will be participating in master classes and seminars as our Artistic Directors will be connecting with peers and other professionals in the field. We have met so many great choreographers and guest teachers through RDA and this opportunity is an annual refreshing of ideas and inspiration. Watching companies from all over the region is especially motivating. There are some truly wonderful companies and performers in the Pacific Region to learn from and make friends with. We look forward to seeing what our Adjudicator puts together from his Adjudication Tour, and we especially look forward to seeing our dancers dance!

CONGRATULATIONS LEVEL IIb GIRLS

The current Level IIb class has worked hard since September in anticipation of starting preparatory pointe training. All have succeeded in being invited to join the class. Awareness in ankle and foot alignment as well as core strength and placement are necessary to begin pre-pointe training, and all of the dancers have made good progress in the required areas during the first semester. The class will add a weekly Pre-Pointe class to their regular curriculum. Depending on further progress, some may begin pointework as early as this summer. Keep up the good work girls!

PLEASE RESPECT RESERVED PARKING SPACES FOR OTHER SUITES AT OUR BUILDING ~ WE REALIZE PARKING CAN BE DIFFICULT AND APPRECIATE YOUR RESPECT OF OUR NEIGHBORS ~ THANK YOU

The Studio will be CLOSED
Monday, February 15 for Presidents Day

— missed classes can be made up within the term —

Also, we would like to remind our students that extra classes *at* or *below* your level can be taken at any time for no additional charge.

Congratulations
Petite Company Dancers



The 2016 Petite Company photographed by Jim Schwartz

GET TO KNOW THE **SENIOR COMPANY DANCERS**

Our Senior Company dancers maintain the high technical requirements of pre-professional classical ballet and spend up to thirty hours in the studio to do so. They are also very interesting young people. Read on to learn more …



Joseph is a 19-year-old Cabrillo College student whose dance training began in Modern two years ago. He enjoyed dancing the Arabian pas de deux this past "Nutcracker" and enjoys Math and oil painting. He appreciates the human expression of dancing and admires California hip hop choreographer Patrick Cruz for his talent and generosity of spirit.



Riley likes steamed clams, Math in school and swimming recreationally. Her favorite role has been the Chinese soloist in "The Nutcracker" and she admires Alessandra Ferri for her character and expression.



Flora is learning the lead role in a new piece by Robert Kelley, which is her favorite ballet to dance so far. When she's not dancing she enjoys archery and rock climbing, her favorite subjects in school are Art and Math, and she admires the stage presence of SFB principal dancer Mathilde Froustey.

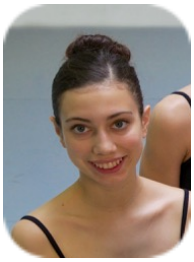


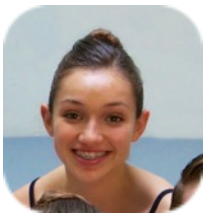
Maya appreciates that in ballet there is always something to work toward. She enjoyed dancing "La Volonta" last season, her favorite subject in school is Art and she likes stand up paddleboarding. She admires principal dancer Misty Copeland of ABT for her strength and grace.



Cailley is a 17-year-old dancer who appreciates the beauty, artistry and strength of dancing. Her favorite role so far is the Dewdrop Fairy in "The Nutcracker". He enjoys singing and being in her school Choir when she's not dancing. Polina Semionova of ABT inspires her because of her ability to lure the audience into the story.

Phoebe is a devout vegan whose favorite subject in school is Physics. She started dancing at 2 years of age and her favorite piece to dance has been Eva Stone's "Cadence and 1". She loves the classic Tchaikovsky score for "Swan Lake".

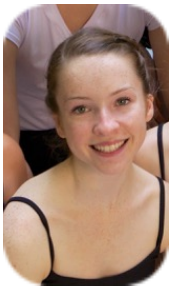




Lauren is quickly recovering from a broken foot after having danced a breakthrough "Nutcracker". Like her Arabian partner Joseph, she enjoys Math and painting. She admires our alumna Lauryn Winterhalder and "Swan Lake" is her favorite ballet.



Alicia likes her Art class in school and enjoys hunting (clay pigeons) and photography. She enjoys being able to express herself through dance and the challenge of making herself better. One of her favorite ballets is "Cinderella" for its entertainment factor.



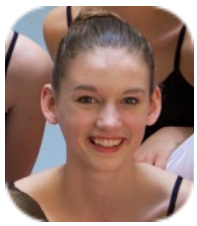
Carolyn enjoys her Algebra class at school, and hiking and reading in her spare time. The piece she is currently rehearsing "Atmos: Smokey Black" presents her favorite role to date. She admires SFB dancer Vanessa Zahorian and Houston Ballet.



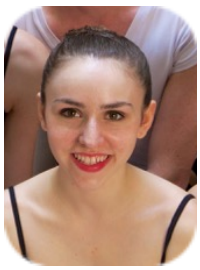
Caroline is the youngest Senior Company dancer (edging out Flora by a few months). Her favorite non-dance activity is reading and favorite academic subject is History. She relishes performing with her friends, comparing it to flying, and so far her favorite role to dance is as the Dewdrop Fairy in "The Nutcracker".



Michael is a returning company member who admires companies which utilize technique to challenge artistic, visual and contextual concepts. He appreciates how dancing allows him to escape into a magical and creative land of expression, while being in tune with his body. When he's not dancing he enjoys cooking and surfing.



Lily enjoys her Science and Art classes. She appreciates being able to take on a character when dancing, which she enjoyed as a Spaniard in "The Nutcracker". Mathilde Froustey is her favorite dancer, whose character interpretations are remarkable.



Emma will graduate from Santa Catalina this spring and intends to pursue a degree in Architecture. She enjoys her Physics class and embroidery when she's not dancing. Her favorite roles have been Candycane in "The Nutcracker" and "Cadence and 1" last season. She appreciates that in ballet hard work and determination lead to freedom.