

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, Administrative Manager | Mark Swan, SCBT Board President

CONGRATULATIONS PETITE COMPANY DANCERS!

Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre welcomes our 2017 Petite Company dancers. These young students will begin rehearsal for a new work by Robert Kelley early this month, to be performed at our In Concert performances Saturday, April 8. We look forward to seeing you dance!

THE ARTS ARE UNDER FIRE

Our country's new administration is doing its best to remove funding for the arts (among other things). Please sign this petition to help keep the National Endowment for the Arts alive; read and sign here: change.org

CONGRATULATIONS JUNIOR COMPANY

on your performances with the Santa Cruz Symphony! Hundreds of schoolchildren and families enjoyed our Junior Company in two pieces on the symphony's Children's and Family Concerts. Beautiful job, dancers!

The Studio will be CLOSED

Saturday, February 4

**SCBT Senior Company only:
RDA Adjudication**

SPECIAL MASTER MODERN CLASS

**for Levels II & III Friday, February 3
5-6:30 pm**

The Studio will be CLOSED

**Monday, February 20 for
Presidents Day**



Our Senior Company dancers — shown at left — are getting ready to present a Company class and 4 pieces to Regional Dance America Adjudicator Jeffrey Gribler on February 4. The dancers have prepared Eva Stone's "End of a Year," Nahshon Marden's "us/them," a new piece by Robert Kelley to an original string quartet by composer Jerome Begin, and a new piece by student choreographer Carolyn Jones. The pieces will also be shown at In Concert in April — except for Carolyn's "Contentious Parallels," which will be shown at the Emerging Choreographers Showcase in June. After the Adjudication event is over, the dancers will start work on the classic "Paquita," and will continue rehearsing the Peasant Pas de Deux from "Giselle."

Have a great spring season, dancers!

Photo of 2016-2017 Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre Senior Company by Jim Schwartz.

REGIONAL DANCE AMERICA

The mission of RDA/Pacific is to raise the standards of American ballet through education, performance and community engagement.

Regional Dance America is a national organization of pre-professional dance companies. Our Pacific Region is made up of 21 companies from California, Arizona, Utah, Oregon, Washington and Idaho. The criteria of the Pacific Region includes that the companies are primarily ballet companies, and exacting standards of technique, choreography, performance and organizational qualities are upheld by our region. New companies have to pass a strict standards review by our Membership committee, and must prove their consistency in participation at two consecutive festivals. They are evaluated for full membership after this period, and if they successfully become full members, they are eligible for awards and scholarships. The Artistic Director(s) attends bi-annual meetings and is also expected to take on a job for the region. At these meetings budgets are approved, standards are discussed, new companies mentored, plans are made.

For the past few years, the Pacific Region has hosted the annual Festival as a region, with each company taking on jobs on behalf of planning and running the event. The past few years have been hosted this way and the directors are happy with the outcome of everyone having a responsibility to make the event run smoothly. The festival is primarily for the benefit of the dancers. The dancers gain exposure through being seen by recruiters from prestigious professional companies, summer programs and college and university dance department faculty members. Scholarships are awarded. The dancers who perform are also seen in this light by the same recruiters, which can make or break a job offer. Over the years, SCBT has had 4 jobs offered our students because of their performance both onstage and in classes.

The dancers take master classes with world-renown instructors in Ballet, Pointe, Mens and other forms of dance, as well as attend informative dance-related seminars. Each member company performs one piece at the Festival, and emerging choreographers are groomed and their works performed as well. Artistic Directors make the most of the networking opportunities, with other directors, choreographers and professional recruiters. The directors also learn by watching the master teachers in action.

This May, Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre Senior Company dancers, Executive Artistic Directors, some Junior Company dancers and a slew of adult chaperones will travel to Phoenix for the annual Festival. This year the Festival is a National event, with all 5 regions participating. It is only the fourth National Festival in history. The participants will view performances from each company in every region. Each region has its own set of standards and criteria for membership and performance. Other regions

may bring other forms of dance to the performances; not just classical or contemporary ballet. The Festival will afford our dancers total immersion in their chosen art form for a whole week. What fun! Enjoy this unique enriching experience dancers!



SPRING AUCTION EVENT

FRIDAY, APRIL 21

5-9:00 PM

MEXICAN FIESTA!

This will be an Adults-Only event (with the exception of Senior Company dancers who will be on hand to help).

Donation requests will be sent out soon. DONATIONS ARE NEEDED. Special requests are tickets to arts events, holiday rental homes, hand made items. The Guild will be setting up a receiving area in the lobby of The Studio for donations. Already procured for the silent and/or live auctions are stained glass windows, tickets to "Hamilton" in San Francisco and a Florida vacation home!

Ticket information will be posted in the March newsletter.



PARENT CONFERENCES

Sandy will take appointments in April for Parent Conferences on Saturday, May 13, which are available for all Professional Program students in Levels II and up. Conferences are with the Directors and are 15 minutes in length; prepare any questions you may have.