

The Nutcracker

Co-presented with Chesterfield Arts

December 6, 2008 - 7:00pm * December 7, 2008 - 2:00pm
Purser Center (Logan College Campus)
Adults \$15 ♦ Children \$6

This performance has been sold out for the last two years!
Don't Be Disappointed - Buy Your Tickets Early at 636.519.1955

Cinderella

March 7, 2009 - 7:30pm * March 8, 2009 - 2:00pm
Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center

Mark your calendars for this timeless fairytale ballet
which has the necessary magic to enchant children and the clever
humor and ingenious choreography to delight devoted ballet fans.



68E Four Seasons Center
Chesterfield, MO 63017
www.alexandraballet.com
314.469.6222

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Where Are They Now?

Here is what we have heard from some alumni recently:

- Ian Archer is performing in "Before the Swan Takes Flight" with New Dance Group in New York City
- Suzie Bonnot graduated from Oklahoma University and was a production assistant at The Muny Opera this summer
- Megan Buckley is an apprentice at Milwaukee Ballet
- Anna Jennings married Nathanael Morejon on July 26th and they will make their home in New York state
- Rachel Moore graduated from Butler University and is teaching dance in Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Congratulations to Rachel (Peppin) and Robert Parker, proud parents of Olivia born on March 8th
- Jennifer Reed is playing the part of a ballerina in a documentary being filmed in Los Angeles, California
- Jessica Ruhlman graduated from Butler University and is an apprentice at Louisville Ballet
- Aggie Schmank received the Freshman Dancer of the Year Award at Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana

We love hearing from you! Contact us at alexandraballet@msn.com to let us know where you are now.

Be An Angel

We need many angels working behind the scenes to continue our mission to educate, elevate, and enrich St. Louis through the art of dance. You can be an AB Angel by making a contribution to the Company in the way of durable goods or services.

We are in need of the following items:

- Dehumidifier for Costume Preservation
- Bottled Water for Rehearsals
- Hi8/digital 8 Camcorder Tapes
- VHS Tapes
- HP 92, 93, 94 and 97 Printer Cartridges
- Permanent Marley Floors for the Studios

If you are able to donate any of these items, please contact our office at 314.469.6222 or alexandraballet@msn.com. We will direct you to the proper individual, and provide a receipt for your tax-deductible donation.

Every little bit helps, so please be an angel!



The ViewPointe

Volume X Issue I Fall 2008

ALEXANDRA ZAHARIAS, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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Alexandra Ballet is
a proud member of:

Chesterfield Arts
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Alexandra Ballet is
funded in part by:



Celebrating Our Most Special Season Yet!

by Alexandra Zaharias, Artistic Director

Happy Anniversary! In all my years in dance, I've never experienced anything like the anticipation of this incredible season. I have the immense pride of seeing the company I founded in 1984 celebrate its Silver Anniversary just in time for our MainStage Production of *Cinderella* next March, and I am most proud to realize that at the same time, I will have achieved sixty years of dance education in St. Louis!

Before I discuss the season to come, allow me a brief look back. It hardly seems possible so much time has passed since I opened up my school at its first location in St. Louis at Olive & Boyle. I was eager to begin my teaching career, having traveled to New York to study at the School of American Ballet under the great George Balanchine with teachers like Anatole Oboukhoff and Muriel Stuart, and then subsequently with the legendary teacher of teachers, Thalia Mara. From them, I realized my dream was to create great dancers and I have never wavered from that vision.

I am humbled to know I have played a role in creating some truly great dancers in the last 60 years - Ian Archer, Antonio Douthit, Elizabeth Ferrell, Louise Nadeau, Rachel Peppin, to name a few, but it is just as humbling to know I have helped to shape the minds and bodies of so many who went on to become truly great in other professions. Nearly every week, a former dancer walks through the doors of my studio to say hello, give me a hug, and to tell me I influenced them to be more than they thought they could be. I am amazed and gratified by their visits.

I could never have withstood this test of time without the help of many trusted friends and energetic supporters. On countless occasions you have shared my vision, dreams, and the workload. I am excited to share this season with all of you who have stood with me throughout the years.

Unfortunately, as many of you know, our

summer was marked by sadness. Our dear friend and colleague, Petrus Bosman, who spent a wonderful week with us in June to begin staging our MainStage Production of *Cinderella*, passed away suddenly on July 19th. It was a joy to watch him work with the dancers and he touched each and every one of them with his knowledge, artistry, amazing energy, and good-natured humor. One of his closest colleagues and dearest friends, David Keener, will continue to stage the production in his place, and we are truly grateful to him for accepting the torch passed on to him. Of course, though we are devastated to know he will not finish his work, we know Petrus will be on stage with us in spirit next March, and our production is dedicated to his memory.

Looking ahead, we plan to celebrate this season with more dance performances than ever before featuring the world premiere of *Hora Tango*, choreographed by Lyn Whiltshire with original music by Arles Estes; the return of our master of the classics, Marek Cholewa, staging Michael Fokine's *Les Sylphides*; and continuing our tradition of presenting European national dances, a Polish suite entitled *Krakowiak*, choreographed by Barbara Banasikowski Smith. Don't miss these performances! Check the newsletter calendar or our website for all the details and come prepared to celebrate a great past and an even greater future.



Circa '84 Auditions with Alexandra Zaharias

Alexandra Ballet's 2008-2009 Season

CLASSIC 99'S

RHAPSODY IN BLOOM

Saturday, September 27, 2008
11:00am and 1:00pm
Missouri Botanical Gardens
FREE

GRAND OPENING:

DANCING IN THE STREET

Presented by the Grand Center, Inc.

Saturday, September 27, 2008
4:30pm
Grand Center (Washington Stage)
FREE

POLONAISE BALL

By the Polish American Cultural Society

Saturday, October 11, 2008
Sunset Country Club
By Invitation

THE NUTCRACKER

Co-presented with Chesterfield Arts

Saturday, December 6, 2008
7:00pm
Sunday, December 7, 2008
2:00pm
Purser Center (Logan College)
Tickets: \$6 - \$15

WINTER REPERTORY PROGRAM

Sunday, January 25, 2009
2:00pm
Purser Center (Logan College)
Tickets: \$10 - \$20

Cinderella:

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PERFORMANCE

Friday, March 6, 2009
9:30am and 12:45pm
FREE

MAINSTAGE PRODUCTION

Saturday, March 7, 2009
7:30pm
Sunday, March 8, 2009
2:00pm
Touhill Performing Arts Center
Tickets: \$10 - \$40

RDA Festival

Alexandra Ballet was one of twelve companies who participated in the Regional Dance America (RDA) Mid-States Festival May 8 – 10 in Indianapolis, Indiana. This three day festival provided 350 dancers a unique opportunity to learn from, perform for, and interact with some of the brightest leaders in the dance world today.

Each day consisted of intense ballet training with nationally renowned instructors during the day and performances by the participating companies each night. Some of the faculty the dancers enjoyed included Deborah Dawn, former principal dancer with Joffrey Ballet, Oleg Gorboulev, former soloist with Pacific Northwest Ballet, Michelle Merrell, former principal dancer with Miami City Ballet, and Tong Wang, Assistant Professor of Ballet at Butler University.



Dillon Malinski, CiCi Houston, Jasmine Smith, Alexandra Zaharias and Makensie Howe

The talented dancers of Alexandra Ballet were noticed by the panel of independent judges during the scholarship audition. At the Gala Banquet on the last evening, it was announced that Alexandra Ballet dancers Makensie Howe and Dillon Malinski were recipients of monetary scholarships, and Jasmine Smith won a scholarship for a one week Summer Intensive at Alexandra Ballet.

Alexandra Ballet's commitment to excellence was obvious during the RDA Mid-States Festival. The company's performances and dancers shined brightly amongst all the regional stars.

Dancers Travel

Alexandra Ballet dancers traveled from coast to coast to further their dance training this summer by attending additional summer intensive programs.

- Rachel Butchko - Jordan Academy of Dance in Indianapolis, Indiana
- Alexandra Goen - Jordan Academy of Dance in Indianapolis, Indiana
- Makensie Howe - American Ballet Theatre (National Training Scholar) in New York City, New York
- Dillon Malinski - Kansas City Ballet (Scholarship Recipient) in Kansas City, Missouri
- Appie Peterson - Kansas City Ballet in Kansas City, Missouri
- Claire Smith - Pennsylvania Youth Ballet in Carlisle, Pennsylvania
- Madison Hardy - ABT Young Dancers Workshop in Los Angeles, California
- Andrea Lucas (alumni) - Radio City Rockettes, New York City, New York

In Memorial



Choreographer, teacher and friend
who inspired all who knew him.

Petrus Bosman

June 3, 1928 - July 19, 2008

Alexandra Ballet will never forget
his smile, laugh and endearing ways.

Oh, You Beautiful Doll!

by Jo Lucas

Faithful St. Louis dance fans are certainly familiar with the story, but few of them arriving at the theater could have known that they were in for the special treat that was Alexandra Ballet's 2008 MainStage Production of *Coppélia* on March 7, 8, and 9 at the Touhill PAC. This lively, lighthearted, beautifully presented ballet was the radiant highlight of another successful season for this talented non-profit dance company.

Productions of this caliber require the interplay of many factors, all of which must come together at the same time with the same high standards. Most notable of these factors was the impeccable casting coordinated by artistic director Alexandra Zaharias. Guest artist Anthony Krutzkamp possessed the perfect combination of rascal and rogue as Franz, the fickle love interest of Swanilda, who was portrayed by the thoroughly charming Kristi Capps.



Kristi Capps and Anthony Krutzkamp

Capps also proved to be perfect for her role as Swanilda, the feisty young peasant girl who takes on the guise of Dr. Coppélius' "living doll" in order to win back her true love. They made a delightful couple, completely believable as the two free-spirited youngsters who seemed to attract trouble wherever they went.

Other guest artists included James Cramer from Indianapolis as Dr. Coppélius, and St. Louis theater favorite Bill Lynch as the Burgomeister. Both men have appeared in several productions over the years with Alexandra Ballet, which may have something to do with how easily and comfortably they performed with the diverse company of dancers.

Longstanding friend of Alexandra Ballet, Tim Hubbard, served as stage manager and lighting designer. Now working in Atlanta, Hubbard procured exquisite sets and backdrops for the production created by the great set designer George Verdak of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. In addition, Hubbard played an important role in the free Young People's Performances of *Coppélia*, explaining to students the various backstage jobs necessary for the show to go on.

Another longtime friend of AB, master teacher, and choreographer Marek Cholewa of Butler University, provided

the superb choreography for *Coppélia*, set to the music of Leo Delibes. Nearly fifty dancers, actors, and children from the school worked with Cholewa for several months on the choreography, which required pieces for every level of ability from beginner to professional. Cholewa's mastery of the classical ballet technique shone throughout the ballet, especially in the Spinners' variation, danced beautifully by Makensie Howe, Dillon Malinski, and Claire Smith (members of AB's First Company), and the Waltz of the Hours Pas de Deux brilliantly performed by Neta Johnson (Saturday) and Appie Peterson (Sunday) with JohnRobert Jones. Chelsea Hollenkamp danced Dawn with lyrical grace and Elizabeth Unal brought a sense of purity to Prayer which introduced the Wedding Pas de Deux flawlessly performed by Capps and Krutzkamp. Just as importantly for a ballet like *Coppélia*, Cholewa is also a Fulbright Award winning expert on character dance, and this may well be the reason that the entire ballet was imbued with a special authenticity that can only come from such extensive knowledge. The Mazurka, danced by Rachel Butchko and JohnRobert Jones, and the Czardas, performed by Alyse Tyndell and Dillon Malinski, had the polish and credibility seldom seen in ballets today. War & Discord, danced by the male corps de ballet, could only be described as awesome.

And of course, bringing all these elements together with the same standard of excellence is the inimitable Alexandra Zaharias. Through Cholewa's shining choreography, Hubbard's stunning stage, the gifted work of talented guest artists, and the amazing cadre of dedicated company dancers, Zaharias has once again provided the St. Louis community with an exceptional opportunity to experience the joy of ballet.

Thank you once again, Miss A,
this time for *Coppélia* - Oh, you beautiful doll!

Fond Farewell to Seniors

We wish our graduating seniors happiness and success
as they continue their academic endeavors.

- Emily Bell is majoring in Biology at Hendrix College, in Conway, Arkansas.
- Chelsea Hollenkamp is majoring in Pre-Med and Biology at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.
- Aaron Rasbury is majoring in Biology with a minor in Dance at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio.
- Bryan Rasbury is majoring in Computer Science at Colgate University in Hamilton, New York.
- Ricardo Rique-Sanchez is majoring in Dance at Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri.
- Elizabeth Unal is majoring in Biology at Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois.