

# Alexandra Ballet

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## Calendar of Events

- Giselle—March 4-5
- 50th Anniversary Celebration—March 4
- Auction—April 29 Algonquin Country Club
- Dvorak, Festival, Minneapolis Minnesota—May
- Origami—Warrenon Arts Council—April
- Jillana Audition—January 28
- Walnut Hill Audition—January 20
- Jeffrey Audition—February 25

## From the Artistic Director

Dear Friends,

We started our new season with a non-stop three and a half month performance schedule. This year choreographers began their ballets during the two week Summer School Intensive Program and were able to get a head start. I'm certainly glad we did as our fall season has been busier than ever. We began by performing for the Arts & Entertainment kickoff St. Louis On Sale fundraiser in September. Four of our dancers performed Trinette Singleton's *Flute Fantasy*, and others graced the event dressed in costumes giving out information on the upcoming event. An additional promotion was done at the Saint Louis Galleria where our dancers did a short demo with excerpts from *Coppelia*.

In October we worked with guest artist and choreographer Marek Cholewa on our production of *Giselle* and choreographer Dace Dindonis on excerpts from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Midsummer was presented in conjunction with the Saint Louis Symphony's Kinder Konzert series at Powell Hall. The company danced six performances in November. What a thrill it was to see the children's reaction to the music and dancing of the ballet. David Amado was the conductor, senior dancer Jennifer Deckert danced Titania, and guest artist James Cramer partnered her as Bottom.

Our dancers took little time off and went right into *Nutcracker* promotions, first at the Chesterfield Mall, highlighted by welcoming in the holiday season. Jessica Ruhlin and Rebecca Alaly ushered Santa Claus down a staircase and introduced him to several hundred children anxiously awaiting his arrival. Our next stop was the Saint

Louis Galleria where we promoted Dance St. Louis's story telling event of the *Nutcracker* with three performances. Kristta Loggins as the Sugar Plum Fairy led the Spanish Dancers, Arabian, Chinese, Trepak, Clara, Fritz, and a mechanical doll in a story telling version of the ballet with narrator Karen Young and music by the Landolfi String Quartet. The mysterious Drosselmeyer was performed by our own Ann Marie Skinner.

This was our third season at the Magic House. We performed with the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet for this program. What a wonderful place to feel the magic of the holidays.

Our last two events were at Neiman Marcus where dancers Emily Stephenitch and Jessica Ruhlin welcomed children to Breakfast with Santa.

After a short rest for the holidays we will start intense rehearsals for *Giselle*, prepare for adjudication for the Regional Dance America Festival, and our school lecture demonstrations.

I'm blessed with three dedicated Ballet Mistresses who teach and rehearse our Company with me, Norma Gabriel, Laura Karmi, and Amy Scheers, and together we look forward to the year 2000 and another fine season of performances led by thirty-seven talented young dancers.

Alexandra Zaharias

## News of New Things!

The Board has many new things to share with you. Like what, you ask?

**New Officers:** Andy Ruhlin (President), Judy Miniace (Vice President), Mike Ruben (Treasurer) and Hillary Zimmerman (Secretary).

**New Members:** Dennis Fanger, Lindsay Godfrey and Hillary Zimmerman. Another new and very promising member—John Kalai—will be moving to California, which is unfortunate for us, but a great opportunity for John.

**New Staff:** We are so excited about the creation of the part-time Company Administrator position and doubly excited to have Amy Scheers filling that position. It was a financial “leap of faith” to establish this job, but it will mean so much to the efficiency and professionalism of Alexandra Ballet.

**New Office Systems:** Thanks to partial funding from the Regional Arts Commission, we now have a new computer, printer, scanner and copier. This new hardware and software opens up new opportunities for us.

**New Website:** Alexandra Ballet now has its own website ([www.alexandraballet.com](http://www.alexandraballet.com)) and is also a participating organization in the Communities pages at [www.postnet.com](http://www.postnet.com). You can check out rehearsal schedules at the Postnet site. In the near future, these two sites will be linked. Also, every member of the artistic staff can be emailed at ([theirfirstname@alexandraballet.org](mailto:theirfirstname@alexandraballet.org)).

**New Funding Sources:** The Board's Corporate & Foundation Committee is doing a terrific job of finding new sources of funding for Alexandra Ballet. At the same time, if you know of a business, a foundation or an individual that may be a potential donor, please let us know.

**New Relationships:** ABC will be working with Chesterfield Arts, the Warrenton Arts Council and of course, the Saint Louis Symphony. These new partnerships are very promising.

**Other Things in the Works:** Gloria Ruben and the 50th Anniversary Committee are planning a wonderful event to celebrate Miss A's years of service to dancers and this community. Sandy Alaly is chairing the Auction Committee and reminds us that everyone needs to support this project by soliciting items for both the silent and oral

auction.

**Closing Thoughts:** Many people think that the primary reason boards exist is to raise money. I don't. I believe that ABC's Board, along with all of you, is here to offer classical and contemporary ballet for our dancers and for our audiences. It's very invigorating to see that happening so beautifully. As we all recognize, doing that requires more resources, especially human resources. It's encouraging to see the “circle widening” and the Board is grateful to so many who give generously of their time and talent to make ABC a success.

**The Good News:** We have new office systems (computer; Windows 98; Office 97; and Quicken for business). We have a part-time Company Administrator who will assist the treasurer. We are ready & willing to purchase any recommended software to help the situation.

**We Need:** Some immediate assistance to get us “up and running” - advice on software, some instruction & “hand-holding” for our treasurer and administrator to develop standard procedures for the efficient and legal processing of financial items.

Keep April 29, 2000 open for our annual auction. The auction will be held at the Algonquin Country Club.

### CAN YOU HELP US?

PLEASE CALL ANDY RUHLIN (961-9100)  
OR AMY SCHEERS (918-8020 OR 469-6222)  
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Thank you very much.

Andy Ruhlin  
President of the Board



### WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Dennis Fanger

Lindsay Godfrey

Hillary Zimmerman



Alexandra Ballet Website  
[www.alexandraballet.com](http://www.alexandraballet.com)

## Miss Alexandra Celebrates 50 Years

This year marks the 50th year that Alexandra Zaharias has taught classical ballet. That landmark will be commemorated on Saturday, March 4, 2000, after our evening presentation of "Giselle" when a dessert reception will be held in Umrath Hall on the campus of Washington University, offering an opportunity to reminisce about earlier days.

Tickets are \$5 and may be obtained by calling the studio at (314)469-6222.

Please contact the studio if you would like to order an Alexandra School of Ballet Commemorative T Shirt.



**Alexandra Zaharias celebrates 50 years teaching classical ballet**

## A Midsummer Night's Dream

For the second year in a row, Alexandra Ballet was asked to perform with the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra in their annual fall Kinder Konzert. It's always a great honor to be asked to perform with a world class orchestra such as the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra. This year nineteen members of the Companies performed in A Midsummer Night's Dream. Choreography for this piece was done by Dace Dindonis. The cast of dancers were: Jennifer Deckert as Titania, Rebecca Alaly as Cobweb, Melanie Duncan as Peaseblossom, Krista Loggins as Moth, Cornithea Henderson as Oberon, Brian Moore as Puck, Alicia Beranek, Ashley Martin, Rachael Moore, Beth Rabinowitz, Jessica Ruhlin, Natalie Smith and Meghan Wilson as Wood Nymphs, and Megan Buckley, Kirstie Keller, Mary Kessel, Madeline Noelker, Caroline Watson, and Consuelo Williams as Fairies. Joining the cast was guest artist James Cramer as Bottom.

From the November 29 Letters to the Editor section of the Post-Dispatch:

The St. Louis Symphony Kinder Konzerts are a jewel in the city's crown. My children and I attended a concert at Powell Hall. Conductor David Amada teased the children before each piece, using his introductions to capture their imaginations.

This year, the audience of children was awed by a special treat—a performance by the Alexandra Ballet of "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

An opportunity like this can't immediately be measured, but it will be with my boys all their lives. It is the St. Louis Symphony that has made it possible to attend these concerts for less than it would cost to take them to the movies. For this, I want to applaud the Symphony and say thank you.

Donna Baringer

St. Louis

## Tribute Fund

Alexandra Ballet has established The Alexandra Ballet Tribute Fund. Tribute cards are available at the studio and can be used for a \$10 minimum donation in honor of someone, a special occasion, in memory of an individual, a special thank you or just to make a thoughtful contribution.

Please contact the studio if you wish to send a tribute but don't have any cards.

Our address is: Alexandra Ballet, 68 Four Seasons Center, Chesterfield, Missouri 63017



**Midsummer Night's Dream at Powell Symphony Hall**

In Memory Of:

Nellie Zaharias

December 25, 1906

October 13, 1999

## Nutcracker At The Fox

Dance St. Louis and Les Grands Ballet Canadiens, along with the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, will take to the stage at the magnificent Fox Theater on December 9-12 to present *The Nutcracker*. Congratulations to the following

dancers who adorned the stage: Ashley Martin as an Oriental, Lara Alexander, Meghan Klosterhoff, JoBeth Black, Madeline Noelker, Caroline Watson, Mary Kesel, and Mallory Duncan as Angels, and Allison Moritz as a Rat.



## Alumni News

Rachel Peppin has been promoted to Senior Soloist of the Birmingham Royal Ballet, U.K. She's busy this season dancing a number of works: Swanilda in *Coppelia*, Clara in *The Nutcracker*, Twyla Tharp's *Upper Room*, Peasant Pas de Deux in *Giselle* and a new work with music by Duke Ellington. There's rumor the company may come to the United States next year.

Louise Nadeau and her beautiful daughter Emma adorned the back page of *Dance Magazine* in the Mirella ad. Louise manages to be a wife, mother, and perform as a principal dancer with the Pacific Northwest Ballet in Seattle. Miss A recently had the pleasure of seeing her dance in Balanchine *Serenade*— She was magnificent!

Jennifer Reed performed with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis this summer, and is now a member of the Cincinnati Ballet. Jennifer will dance the role of *Giselle* in our upcoming performance.

Christa Bross, Ellie Dugbately and Antonio Douthit are attending the North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem. Christa will be a guest artist, dancing the lead Spanish, for the Old Dominion University Ballet, in Norfolk Virginia,

in *The Nutcracker*. Antonio will be performing Spanish in North Carolina School of the Arts production of *The Nutcracker*. Ellie is the proud recipient of the Coca-Cola Scholarship which includes her summer study at American Ballet Theatre in New York.

### Tid Bits

- ◆ Janet Woolverton Strzelec is now teaching at Lindenwood University and St. Louis University High School. She has 68 boys in her classes. Wow!
- ◆ Jill Duncan Schantz has moved back to St. Louis from Peoria, and we are certainly glad she is back in the area. We hope the school will benefit from her return as a substitute teacher.
- ◆ Rodney Hamilton returned to Juilliard this fall after performing at the Muni Opera this past summer.

### Babies—Babies—Babies

Elizabeth Farrell, Julie Levin, and Sharon Lanpros awaiting their first arrivals.

“Louise manages to be a wife, mother, and perform as a principal dancer with the Pacific Northwest Ballet in Seattle”

## Nutcracker Magic

A magical evening of *Nutcracker* excerpts featuring our company and the beautiful sound of the Saint Louis Symphony Brass Quintet entertained children young and old at The Magic House Children's Museum. *Nutcracker* magic was performed by: Jessica Ruhlin as Clara, Krista Loggins as the Sugar Plum Fairy, Melanie Duncan as the Mechanical Doll,

Megan Buckley, Katie Fanger, and Ashley Baumgartner as Clara's Friends, Katie Cooper, Rachael Moore, Meredith Ruben, and Sabrina Walker as Trepak, Amanda Barker, Natalie Smith, and Meghan Willson as Arabian, Beth Rabinowitz and Emily Stephenitch as Spanish, Kirstie Keller, Andrea Lucas and Consuelo Williams as Chinese, and Brad Rabinowitz as the *Nutcracker* greeter.



## From The Friends . . .

The Friends of ABC have started the Millennium Season with great enthusiasm. Many projects are under way and some have already completed starting with the first annual Arts and Education "St. Louis on Sale" promotion.

Many thanks to Becky Noelker for chairing this project. We all worked tirelessly to make this a successful fund raiser and have the honored position of having sold more shopping cards than any other arts organization in St. Louis.

October was an extremely busy month for the Friends. Much applause and thanks to our corps of parents who helped chauffeur, house, feed and entertain our guest choreographers and artists. A very special thank you is extended to the Reverend Richard Moore who tirelessly sat at his sewing machine while at the studio for an entire weekend. (Yes, he came directly from his worship service on Sunday) to create and alter costumes for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Our Ballet Boutique opened with huge success. Lori Keller and Jo Lucas have done an outstanding job of stocking, coordinating and displaying the Boutique and have already broken all previous sales records. I don't know who has more fun. . . The crowds of people making purchases or Lori and Jo working the Boutique? We're looking forward to many more successful days of selling during the holiday season.

November 7 was the date of our first School Picture Day. Families of Alexandra School of Ballet were invited to purchase photographs of their ballerinas while at the same time supporting our company dancers. Photos will be returned in time for holiday gift giving. Many thanks to

Sharon Alexander for chairing this very successful project.

As the saying goes, "there's no rest for the weary!" November has also brought the kick-off of our annual Christmas Tree Skirt Raffle. Always an exciting event, we look forward to selling many raffle tickets. The skirt is hand-stitched and composed of panels representing various dancers from "The Nutcracker." Many thanks to Jo Ellen Black and her committee consisting of: Marilyn Lorenz-Weinkoff, Beth Kesel, Lori Keller, Phyllis Zipprich, Tess Stephenitch, Marsha Duncan and Christine Korakanitis for their many hours of stitching.

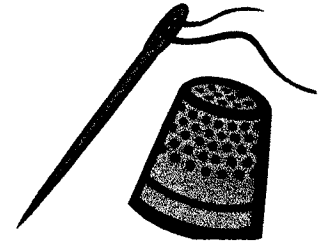
November is also the kick-off of our ad-sales campaign. Company families and board members will be selling program ads for our March performances of "Giselle." Our program book is always exceptional and this season's promises to be even better.

Much appreciation is extended to Ann Marie Ruhlin for coordinating backstage efforts at our fall performances of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and local "Nutcracker" appearances. Our dedicated parents helped in the dressing rooms with costumes and props and made sure our flooring was just right for our dancers. Many thanks to all who helped Ann Marie.

As we move into the holiday season, we wish everyone much health and happiness and look forward to more exciting projects from the Friends of Alexandra Ballet.

Gloria Ruben

President of Friends of ABC



Many thanks to all who tirelessly worked on performance costumes.

As we move into the holiday season, we wish everyone much health and happiness and look forward to more exciting projects from the Friends of Alexandra Ballet.

## Giselle Gift Certificates Available

Alexandra Ballet is excited to announce that *Gift Certificates* are being offered for our spring performance at Edison Theatre. Price of the certificates will be the same as a single ticket. When it comes time to choose that special gift for anniver-

saries, birthdays, holidays, etc. why not give the gift that celebrates with dance and purchase Alexandra Ballet Gift Certificates.



Giselle Gift Certificates now available

**ALEXANDRA BALLET  
68 FOUR SEASONS  
CHESTERFIELD, MO 63017**

Phone: 314-469-6222  
Fax: 314-469-6222  
Email: [newsletter@alexandraballet.org](mailto:newsletter@alexandraballet.org)

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
WWW.ALEXANDRABALLET.COM**

Dance communicates ideas and feelings through creative  
imagery. A dancer combines freedom of spirit and  
disciplined precision. With rhythm, grace, and balance,  
art comes to life before your eyes!

*We are the Alexandra Ballet.*

We're dedicated to increasing the awareness and  
appreciation of dance in the community

Alexandra Ballet is funded in part by



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