



The ViewPointe

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Alexandra Ballet is a proud Member of:

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Coppélia - Magic, Mayhem, and the Original Living Doll

What's at the heart of a woman? Eccentric toy-maker Dr. Coppélius wants to know, and he's planning an experiment to bring his mechanical doll, Coppélia, to life – all he needs is the right spell.

When Dr. Coppélius leaves Coppélia on his workshop balcony, she causes quite a stir in the village, particularly in the heart of red-blooded Franz, and the jealous mind of his clever fiancée, Swanilda – who's mistaken the mannequin for a living, breathing rival. With a wild mix of abracadabra, some mischievous maidens, and the changeable affections of a young man, comic chaos is riotously unleashed when humans and automatons collide in Dr. Coppélius' spooky toyshop.

On March 8th and 9th, audiences will delight in *Alexandra Ballet's* MainStage Performance at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. *Coppélia* takes the timeless elements of the sparkling music of Léo Delibes and Charles Nutter's whimsical adaptation of the original story by ETA Hoffman (better known to most for *The Nutcracker*). Last presented in St. Louis in 2001, this production is made anew by the fresh choreography of Marek Cholewa, also known to *Alexandra Ballet* audiences for his past productions such as *The Firebird*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *The Sleeping Beauty*. Mr. Cholewa is currently a Professor of Dance with Butler

University, and is sought after internationally for his brilliant restagings and original choreography.



Guest Artists, Kristi Capps and Anthony Krutzkamp

Assuming the lead roles of Swanilda and Franz are Kristi Capps and Anthony Krutzkamp, principal dancers with the Cincinnati Ballet. Ms. Capps, a Cincinnati audience favorite, is highly regarded for her dramatic portrayals in story ballets. Having trained with the School of American Ballet, Harid Conservatory, North Carolina School of the Arts, and the Hungarian State Ballet School, Ms. Capps has also been a member of the Atlanta Ballet and the Chautauqua Ballet Company.

Mr. Krutzkamp is excited to return to *Alexandra Ballet*, where he first gave an electric performance as "Lucien" in our 2006 production of *Paquita*. A graduate of Virginia School of the Arts, he furthered his training with the Houston Ballet and Boston Ballet. Mr. Krutzkamp also danced with

Kansas City Ballet prior to joining Cincinnati Ballet, where he has rapidly climbed the ranks over the past seven years. *(continued on page 3)*

Alexandra Ballet is a non-profit organization committed to education, elevating, and enriching the community through the magic of dance.

Winter Rep Warms Hearts

Alexandra Ballet warmed the hearts of hundreds at their Winter Repertory Program on Sunday, January 27th at the beautiful new Purser Center on the campus of Logan College. The audience enjoyed company premiere performances of *Konservatoriet*, *Pollacca Guerriera*, *Tarantella*, and *Les Patineurs (Excerpts)*.

To begin the performance, the First and Apprentice Company members performed August Bournonville's *Konservatoriet*, which is known and loved internationally for its Degas-like evocation of classes in the dance academy of the Paris Opera.



**Chelsea Hollenkamp
JohnRobert Jones
Elizabeth Unal**

In this Danish Romantic ballet with music by Holger Simon Paulli. JohnRobert Jones was the ballet master instructing his students in a lesson of challenging enchaînements. Seniors Chelsea Hollenkamp and Elizabeth Unal beautifully portrayed Victorine and Elisa, a pair of sisterly rivals, vying for the attention of their teacher. A lovely pas de trois was superbly danced by Chelsea, Elizabeth and JohnRobert. The style of 19th-century Romantic ballets is hard for 21st century American dancers to assimilate today, but *Alexandra Ballet* made the difficult seem not just easy, but sublimely enchanting.

Pollacca Guerriera, with music by Hans Christian Lumbye, was originally created and danced by the famous Danish choreographer August Bournonville and reconstructed for *Alexandra Ballet* by Bournonville expert, Kennet Oberly. In this version, we saw a young soldier, Dillon Malinski, returning home on leave. Upon being reunited with his beloved, Makensie Howe, the two threw themselves into a whirling national dance, as if to alleviate the pain of their impending farewell. The couple beautifully expressed their feelings of love, joy, and exuberance. As the soldier's



**Dillon Malinski
Makensie Howe**

departure approached, their sadness, concern, and anxiety were apparent. Their artistic expression of the range of their emotions was captivating. The original presentation of this ballet occurred in 1846, but the feelings of the young couple reflect the emotions of those who must leave their loved ones to defend their country in today's world.

The Junior Company performed the delightful *Tarantella*, choreographed by *Alexandra Ballet's* own Norma Gabriel. This Italian folk dance was derived from the belief if one is bitten by a tarantula, the clapping of the tambourine would scare away the spider, while the vigorous dancing would sweat out the venom. The dancers played their tambourines and executed the instantaneous spins and directional changes with skill beyond their years.



Erica Weilbacher

It was exciting to see their brightly colored costumes moving to and fro with the exhilarating rhythm of the music by Louis Moreau Gottschalk. It was a joy to watch *Alexandra Ballet's* youngest dancers in this thrilling performance.

The performance was concluded with the renowned British choreographer, Sir Frederick Ashton's *Les Patineurs (Excerpts)*, restaged by Petrus Bosman, an Ashton expert. *Les Patineurs* is a captivating ballet about several groups of people ice skating. The First Company dancers delightfully sashayed, spinned and slid around the imaginary ice

rink to the sparkling music by Giacomo Meyerbeer. Unexpectedly, the ballet had a charming sense of humor with its lighthearted choreography with the "skaters" even falling at times. The dancers expertly performed the difficult movements to appear as if they were effortlessly gliding across the stage. This totally enjoyable ballet was the perfect finale to an exceptional performance.



Catherine Zaegel

After the performance, the Board of Directors hosted the first annual Heart Warmers Reception for *Alexandra Ballet* supporters in the beautiful lobby of the Purser Center. After a champagne toast and welcome by our current board co-presidents, Geoff Rigabar and Peter Karutz, Artistic Director, Alexandra Zaharias, introduced the many special guests and expressed her appreciation for their support over the years. In attendance were past Board of Director Presidents Dr. Austin Peppin,

(continued on page 3)

Dancers Bestowed Honors

Under the gifted artistic direction of Alexandra Zaharias, *Alexandra Ballet* continues to excel in sending highly trained, talented dancers into the ranks of professional companies around the world. We are proud to acknowledge the important accomplishments made by two of our First Company dancers, Makensie Howe and Neta Johnson.

Fourteen year old Makensie Howe was chosen to be a 2007 – 2008 American Ballet Theatre National Training Scholar. One of only sixteen new recipients nationwide, Makensie was selected for her outstanding talent, ability and promise as displayed during the 2007 ABT Summer Intensive she attended in Tuscaloosa, Alabama last summer for three weeks.

The goal of American Ballet Theatre National Training Program is to encourage a small number of young dancers to continue their dance training and complete their academic education in their home communities. The scholarship covers a portion of their local dance school fees, as well as tuition to attend the six week ABT Summer Intensive this summer in New York City.



Makensie performing at Missouri Botanical Gardens

Makensie aspires to be a professional ballet dancer and with this honor she has moved a *grande jeté* closer to achieving her goal.



Neta at Grand Center's Dancing in the Street

Neta Johnson was named the recipient of the Dance Theatre of Harlem 2007 Image Award. Neta received a scholarship to attend DTH's 2007 Masters and Mentors Summer Intensive program last summer, after catching the eye of DTH's School Director, Endalyn Tylor, while she participated in the Regional Dance America's National Festival with *Alexandra Ballet* last April.

Sixteen year old Neta traveled to New York City last July, where she participated in a comprehensive six week course of study in several forms of dance, with a focus on classical ballet. She was introduced to a number of dance luminaries, including Arthur Mitchell, Founder and Artistic Director of DTH. In addition, Neta performed at the Annual Summer Street Festival in New York City at the conclusion of the Summer Intensive.

Winter Rep (continued from page 2)

Mr. Andrew Ruhlin, Mrs. Hillary Hebler (Zimmerman) and Mr. Greg Chastain. The crowd enjoyed scrumptious delicacies and delightful conversation. The entire afternoon warmed the hearts of all in attendance.



Peter Karutz, Geoff Rigabar, Austin Peppin, Alexandra Zaharias, Hillary Hebler (Zimmerman), Andrew Ruhlin, and Greg Chastain

Coppélia (continued from page 1)

James Cramer will perform the quixotic role of Dr. Coppélius. A graduate and staff member of Butler University, Mr. Cramer has recently been seen in *Alexandra Ballet's* production of *The Nutcracker* as Herr Drosselmeyer, and has also graced our stage in past productions of *La Fille Mal Gardée*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and our 2001 production of *Coppélia*.

Our Young People's Performances of *Coppélia* will be presented on Friday, March 7th at 9:30am and 12:45pm. These performances provide area school children with the experience of attending a live ballet, often for the first time.

The hallways and studios of *Alexandra Ballet* have been bubbling over with anticipation while preparing for this joyous ballet. Come and see why – from the high spirits of the collaborating dancers to the exquisite detail of Jude Bonnot's costumes (especially the four-tiered, hand-painted skirt of *Coppélia's* dress!). Both humorous and heartfelt, *Coppélia* is guaranteed to lift the hearts of the entire family.

Coppélia

A story of love, comedy and magic!

March 8, 2008 - 7:30pm ♥ March 9, 2008 - 2:00pm

Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center

Adults \$15 - \$40 ♥ Children \$8

To purchase tickets: 314.516.4949 or touhill.org

KFUO Classic99's

Friday Morning with the Arts

Friday, February 22nd - 8:00am

Featuring an hour of music and interview with Artistic Director Alexandra Zaharias and Ballet Mistress CiCi Houston on the subject of Léo Delibes and *Coppélia*.

Tune in at 99.1 FM or stream online at www.classic99.com



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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:

- Bottled Water for Rehearsals
- New Coffee Pot
- 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!

Thank You to the Following Angels

Here are just a few of the angels who been so generous to assist us recently:

- Anonymous donation by a "Fairy Godmother" which allowed the retirement of our 2005 Festival loan
- Anonymous donor who generously provided a new computer for the office
- Talented photographic services and pictures donated by On Location Photography by Tynetta Chastain
- The Dance Bag generously donated costume supplies
- Diane Hardy donated clothes racks and plastic containers for wardrobe
- Dennis and Linda Hollenkamp provided the invitations and postage for the Heart Warmers Reception
- Dave Houston assisted with obtaining beverages for the Heart Warmers Reception
- Lisa Howe purchased several promotional materials
- Gary LaTurno thoughtfully donated his handyman services
- Jo Lucas provided additional props for our *Nutcracker* production
- Cindy Maasen graciously donates studio needs and supplies
- Laurie Murphy donated her Back Stage Manager talents for our *Nutcracker* performances
- All of our wonderful volunteers for your many labors of love!