

this issue

season opener company b P.1

school news P.2

meet our new dancers P.3

trace bundy and sungha jung P.4



*Pictured: Serenade
Photo: Terzes Photography*

Season Opener Company B!

The Grand Rapids Ballet Company's 40th Anniversary season opens with *Company B*, a repertory program featuring George Balanchine's *Serenade* and Joseph Hassreiter's *Fairy Doll* as well as Paul Taylor's acclaimed piece of Americana, *Company B*. Performed to the classic 1940's songs made famous by The Andrews Sisters, *Company B* is an important contribution by one of America's best-known choreographers. Performances run from September 16-25 at the Peter Martin Wege Theatre.

Production sponsor:



Also don't miss *The Aquatic Adventures of Johnny Starfish and the Mermaids* with Peter and the Wolf and a reprise of *Fairy Doll* at Forest Hills Fine Arts Center November 5th. The perfect family experience! Call the Ballet box office at 454-4771, ext. 10.

Thank You!

The dancers and staff of the Grand Rapids Ballet Company extend their sincere thanks to Board Members Steve Frykholm and Andy Terzes for their dedication during their nine-year term. During their tenure, Steve and Andy have contributed thousands of hours of their time and talent toward the artistic creation of many of our brochures, postcards, artwork and more. Please join us in thanking them for their service!

We also extend our thanks to the 2010-2011 Board President Lee Murphy. Lee has been a wonderful leader for this organization and continues to work very hard as a Board Member, donor, subscriber, advocate, and friend to the Ballet. Thank you Lee!

Nutcracker Opens Thanksgiving Weekend
Tickets ON SALE September 23rd
Call 454-4771, ext 10 to reserve your seats!

Visit grballet.com for all the Ballet information

Special thanks to Grand Rapids Ballet photographers: Andrew Terzes & Rob Schumaker, Terzes Photography; and Wende Alexander Clark

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This is an exciting time of year for the Grand Rapids Ballet. It marks the moment when all the careful planning for the season culminates with a thrilling opening night. After a break during June and July, the return of the dancers instantly energizes the entire organization as they begin the rehearsals of the ballets we first announced last April. And, celebrating our 40th Anniversary milestone only adds to the excitement! With the help of many volunteers, we spent the summer researching our history and re-connecting to our roots. Learning about all of the people who played important roles in our Company's history gives everyone a new appreciation of how we have become the organization you see today. We stand on the shoulders of all who came before us and we are proud to continue the long tradition of excellence started 40 years ago.

We fittingly begin the season - dedicated to the memory and legacy of Mrs. Betty Ford - with our 40th Anniversary Celebration event



Tickets are on sale
for *Dracula!*
October 27-30
Peter Martin Wege Theatre

Call the Ballet at 616.454.4771, ext. 10

featuring former Grand Rapids Ballet luminaries Maria Kowroski and David Schultz. These are just two of the many Grand Rapids Ballet Company students and dancers that have gone on to make wonderful contributions in the dance world. Seeing them return to Grand Rapids to celebrate this monumental year with us is a very special reminder of what we all work so hard to create - a place for artists to grow and for their art to enrich our community. It takes the support of donors, ticket holders, artists, students, faculty, staff, volunteers, and Board members to make this Company what it is today and we thank everyone so much for the role they've played in our success.

In celebration of this milestone year, we are pleased to announce a new Artist-in-Residence program to showcase and engage emerging choreographers. Thanks to a grant from the Edsko & Claire Hekman Trust, our first Artist-in-Residence is Olivier Weavers, a July 2011 recipient of the prestigious Princess Grace Award in Dance. In addition to Weavers, we'll be collaborating with other new choreographers as well as other local artists to complete the series of three productions that will turn the Peter Martin Wege Theatre into a "dance laboratory." Performances of the works will be in the spring of 2012...stay tuned for more information.

The 2011-2012 season is sure to be an historic season of dance and celebration. We look forward to seeing you in the theatre!

~ Glenn Del Vecchio



2011-2012 Board of Directors

Jeffrey Muth, President
Dana Baldwin
Peggy Bishop
Bill Bussey
Bill Dani
Steffany Dunker
Matt Hanlon
Todd Hoppe
John "Otis" Jackoboice
Michael Lindley
Martin Moran
J. Lee Murphy
Patricia Pence Waring
Steve Wert



James H. Schindler Presents
Trace Bundy & Sungha Jung
Friday October 7, 2011 at 8pm
Peter Martin Wege Theatre

An accomplished acoustic guitar virtuoso, Trace Bundy sells out shows across nineteen countries with his rare combination of expert capo and fingerpicking techniques, unique stage banter, and jawdroppingly difficult arrangements.

Sungha Jung, a South Korea native, posted a video of himself playing Trace's arrangement of "Pachelbel's Canon" when he was just nine years old. That video went viral leading to over 300 million YouTube views.

Tickets available through the Ballet Box office or through Ticketmaster.com. For more information visit grballet.com.

Student Spotlights

School of the Grand Rapids Ballet alumni have gone on to study and perform around the world with companies such as: New York City Ballet, Ballet West, Joffrey Ballet, National Ballet of Canada, Royal Danish Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, San Francisco Ballet and Hubbard Street Dance. Here are some notes about some of our more recent student achievements:



Pictured: Ben Winegar

After studying at the School of American Ballet for the past year, Ben Winegar has accepted a contract with Los Angeles Ballet. Taylor Niemer is now on the faculty of the School of the Grand Rapids Ballet and will begin studying at Aquinas College this fall. Katie VanKlombenberg is attending Belhaven University on a dance scholarship. 2011 seniors Choe McCallum and Briana Dean received dance scholarships at Grand Valley State University; and Kendall Niemer will be a part of Western Michigan University's Dance Program this fall.



Pictured: Attila Mosoylgo, Junior Company Artistic Director

A note from the new Junior Company Director

I am very excited to begin my first year as Artistic Director of the Junior Company- taking on this responsibility is a privilege that I am honored to fulfill. I am committed to providing our students with the highest quality of dance as well as many performances where they can share their passion of the art form with our community. I look forward to working with all of the students and inspiring them to challenge themselves as dancers and artists. I am thrilled with all the wonderful performance opportunities that the Junior Company will have this season to showcase their talents. I hope to see you in the audience! - Attila Mosoylgo

School of the Grand Rapids Ballet classes are available for ages 3 - adult at all levels of experience. Concentration, coordination and self-discipline serve each dance student forever along with a knowledge of and appreciation for the most beautiful and athletic of the performing arts. For more information on how to enroll your student contact School Administrative Director, Amanda Sekelsky at 616.454.4771, ext. 17.

News from the School of the Grand Rapids Ballet

School of the Grand Rapids Ballet holds auditions for new Junior Company

Students of the School of the Grand Rapids Ballet are looking forward to some exciting opportunities during the 40th Anniversary Season. After auditions, more than 45 children were invited to join the School's new Junior Company. The Junior Company will replace the previous Professional Trainee program and will be available to students ages 10-19.

The goal of the Junior Company is to provide more performance opportunities for students in order to broaden their education in dance.

Headed by Junior Company Artistic Director and Company dancer Attila Mosoylgo, the Junior Company's first performance will be alongside the professional company in *The Nutcracker* with the Grand Rapids Symphony. In February, they will present

their own production of *Snow White* in the Peter Martin Wege Theatre and in March they will perform *Carnival of the Animals* with the Kalamazoo Symphony.

They will end their season in April with their own production of *Adventures of a Dreamer* also in the Peter Martin Wege Theatre.

Additionally, the Junior Company was invited to perform at the Orange Bowl in Miami, Florida this coming January. The halftime performance is choreographed this year by Mandy Moore, who also choreographs for the popular television series "So You Think You Can Dance."

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to perform in front of 70,000 spectators - an experience the students won't soon forget.

Meet Our New Dancers

The Ballet is pleased to welcome eleven new dancers to Grand Rapids. They come from as far away as Japan and as close as Muskegon. We hope you enjoy their performances this season and welcome them to our community. To learn more about them visit grballet.com

Company Dancers



Connie Flachs
South Hadley, MA



Steven Houser
Portland, OR



Yuka Oba
Fukushima, Japan

Congratulations to Yuka - Gold Medalist in this summer's All Japan Ballet Competition and the National Ballet Academic Competition.

Apprentices



Megan DeMuro
Muskegon, MI



Darrell Haggard
Oakhurst, CA



Dave Naquin
Compens, SC



Hannah Wilcox
Valencia, CA

Trainees



Donelly Ditzhazy
Granville, OH



Tara Gragg
Flint, MI



Cassidy Isaacson
Redmond, WA



Elizabeth Kelley
Port Huron, MI

Dancers Spend Summer in China



GRBC Professional dancers Nick and Laura Schultz were invited to join the Long Beach Ballet in California to prepare for a three-week tour of China in July and August. The Schultzes, who trained at the School of the Grand Rapids Ballet prior to becoming professional company members in 2003, performed a pas de deux from *Swan Lake*, among other pieces with the Long Beach Company. After three-weeks of rehearsals in California, the troupe traveled to 10 cities throughout China. To read more about their journey, visit their blog - <http://nlschultzchina2011.blogspot.com>

40th Anniversary Events

The Grand Rapids Ballet Company's 40th Anniversary Celebration continues throughout the season. We have some special events planned for our past and present donors, volunteers, and dancers:

October 20, : An "Inside Look" at *Dracula*. All past staff, faculty and Board members are invited to this event in addition to "Friends" donors at the \$150 level and up.

November 25 – Opening performance of *The Nutcracker*. Anyone who has ever performed in the GRBC's *Nutcracker* production is invited to attend the performance at a discounted rate, and also enjoy a cookie and punch reception following the performance!

February 1 – An "Inside Look" at *Amore and More*. All past and present donors and subscribers will be invited to this event.

April 26 – An "Inside Look" at *Black and White*. All volunteers, Guild/En Pointe members are invited to this event.

If you would like more information about any of these events, or would like to make sure you receive an invitation to these events, please contact Stacey Walworth at 616-454-4771, ext. 13 or email Stacey at staceyw@grballet.com.