

The HARID Conservatory

HARID Performances Brighten December Holiday

The Harid Conservatory presented its 2009 Holiday Performances at the Countess de Hoernle Theater on December 12 and 13.

The program opened with the spirited Gypsy Dance from the ballet *Esmeralda*. Staged by Svetlana Osiyeva to music by Cesare Pugni, the piece featured three female dancers—one of whom performed as a soloist. The ladies wore beautiful red and black tutus, and their tambourines added crisp accents to their brilliant footwork and soaring jetés!

Next came a Russian folk dance, *Old City Quadrille*, performed to traditional Russian music. HARID's character dance teacher, Bertha Valentin, staged the piece after original choreography by the acclaimed Igor Moiseyev. Full of fun and comedy, the piece featured four pairs of dancers: a sophisticated married couple, an army officer and his girlfriend, high-school sweethearts, and a generous couple (who were more overweight than philanthropic!). Four additional ladies, the Wallflowers, created quite a scene by vying for the gentlemen's attention. The dancers obviously enjoyed the opportunity to portray a variety of colorful characters; the piece was lots of fun and very successful.

Midnight Whisper, a modern-dance premiere choreographed by Josée Garant, followed the Quadrille. The piece opened with a central couple and five other dancers moving gently through pools of light on an, otherwise, darkened stage. The performers then danced in both canon and unison, transitioning through a series of spellbinding formations shaped with long lines and sustained poses. The piece was wonderful—almost meditative—in nature.

Following intermission, the curtain was raised for HARID's holiday tradition, *Divertissements from The Nutcracker, Act II*. Many new faces appeared in Spanish

Chocolates, Arabian Coffee, Chinese Tea, Dance of the Mirlitons, Waltz of the Flowers, and the magnificent Grand Pas de Deux. All in all, the performances were very successful and well received. Thanks to everyone who attended!



Nancy Loch ©



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Above: Harid students Sun Jia and Fernando Duarte in the grand pas de deux from *The Nutcracker*.

Below: Dancers in *Old City Quadrille*



Photo Alex Srib ©

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HARID Welcomes New Students

In January, HARID welcomed three new students into the program. Japanese students Asami Ihira and Saho Shibayama were invited to enroll following their participation in the Japan Grand Prix last summer, at which faculty member Victoria Schneider served as a judge. Brazilian student Alice Machado was invited to enroll after attending HARID's Summer School last June and July. Each of the three students chose to complete the academic year at home before moving to Florida. (Unlike North America, both Japan's and Brazil's academic year coincides with the January—December calendar year.)

New Student Outreach Program a Resounding Success

HARID's dancers entertained more than two thousand fourth- and fifth-graders during three "student-outreach" performances at the Countess de Hoernle Theater last December 9 and 10. The outreach program was generously underwritten by Northern Trust, which made the performances available to South Palm Beach County public schools free of charge, including the school buses and drivers! Three performances of HARID's *Divertissements from The Nutcracker, Act II* were given during the weekday mornings. In each case, the theater was filled to capacity by excited children and their teachers. HARID senior, Deanna Wiese—who was injured and could not perform at the time—provided an informative and entertaining introduction prior to each performance. Given the success of the program, HARID plans to make the series of outreach performances an annual event.

Summer School is Filling Up

Once again this year, sixty-five dancers have been invited to attend HARID's upcoming Summer School, June 21—July 17. They were selected from more than three-hundred applicants who auditioned in various cities across the U.S. in January and February.

"We held auditions in twenty-one cities this year," says director Gordon Wright. "We've also received numerous videotaped applications from international students. I'm very happy with the level of the finalists, and especially pleased that we'll have a strong class of male students this summer."

HARID Offers Scholarship Prizes

To heighten its profile in Europe, HARID will offer a summer school scholarship as a prize at the Certamen Internacional de Danza Ciutat de Barcelona. The ballet competition will be held in Barcelona, Spain, in May. HARID already provides scholarship prizes for competition winners at the Prix de Lausanne in Switzerland, the Japan Grand Prix, and the Youth America Grand Prix in New York City.

Year-End Dance Performances—May 28, 29, & 30

HARID's faculty and dancers are hard at work preparing an exciting program of classical and contemporary ballets for the Year-End Performances.

Les Patineurs, choreographed by Norbert Schmuki and staged for HARID by Olivier Pardina, will open the performances. This "skating" pas de trois features a male and two female dancers. The beautiful and exotic Greek Dance from *Le Corsaire*, staged by Victoria Schneider, will follow.

Following intermission, the audience will be treated to another new and unpredictable delight by Mark Godden, HARID's principal guest choreographer. Godden's creativity never fails to surprise, challenge, entice, and entertain. His newest work will be no exception!

Excerpts from Act I of *The Sleeping Beauty* will conclude the performances. The various dances will include the Waltz, Ladies of the Court, and—of course—the famous "Rose Adagio" featuring Princess Aurora and her four princely suitors. *The Sleeping Beauty* has been staged by Svetlana Osiyeva and Victoria Schneider.

The Year-End Performances will be held at the Countess de Hoernle Theater at Spanish River Community High School (5100 Jog Road at Yamato Road) on Friday, May 28 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, May 29 at 3:00 p.m.; and Sunday, May 30 at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$28 and \$22.

Treat yourself, your family, and friends to one of HARID's upcoming performances. You will not be disappointed. For tickets, visit our ticket office at 2285 Potomac Road in Boca Raton (Monday—Friday, 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.) or call 561-998-8038.

HARID's Ongoing Commitment to Fred Lieberman's Vision

HARID's founder, Fred Lieberman, insisted that the Conservatory be tuition free for all students. He believed that talent and commitment—rather than a family's ability to pay—should serve as the criteria for admission. To that end, HARID remains tuition free, and it remains committed to providing financial assistance to students whose families cannot afford the living costs at the school. The funds for such assistance are raised each year through our Annual Fund Campaign.

This year, we seek to raise \$75,000 from individuals, private foundations, and corporations. While we are more than halfway there at this time, we do need your help to successfully achieve our fund-raising goal by June 30.

Please show your caring and support for HARID's talented young students by contributing generously to our Annual Fund Campaign. Each and every dollar we raise will be used to offset the fees for student housing and food. The dancers and their families—along with the faculty and staff—will be very grateful for your help.

Ensure the success of our Annual Fund Campaign by sending a generous, tax-deductible contribution today.

Alumni Update

In recent months, HARID has made a concerted effort to reconnect with its hundreds of alumni. We have received many exciting updates on the lives of former students, a few of which are highlighted below:

Matthew Bledsoe (Class of 2000) currently serves as general manager of both the Leipzig Ballet in Germany and Angel Corellas' new ballet company, Danza Ballet, in Spain.

Kelly Cabrera (1989) performed with Cirque de Soleil before joining Celine Dion's production "A New Day" at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas. She is currently living in Athens, Greece.

Kristi Capps (1999) is a principal dancer with Cincinnati Ballet.

Jennifer Cardy (1995) danced with Boston Ballet II after leaving HARID. She then went on to earn a bachelor's degree in humanities from University of Chicago, followed by a master's degree in education from Harvard University.

Jason Chinae (1995) became a soloist with Ballet West in Salt Lake City. He recently graduated from Firefighter Academy.

Erica Chipp (2004) is currently in her sixth season with Festival Ballet Providence. In addition, she is working to complete a bachelor of science degree in homeopathic medicine.

James Clark (2005) is dancing with the Royal Danish Ballet in Copenhagen.

Kathleen Breen Combes (1999) is a principal dancer with Boston Ballet.

Janelle Cornwell (1992) danced with the Richmond Ballet after leaving HARID. She then lived and worked for the Peace Corps in Guatemala for a period of time. After completing her undergraduate degree, she earned a master's degree in international studies, followed by a PhD in economic geography. She currently teaches at the University of Massachusetts.

Mariana Dias (1993) is dancing with the Deutsche Oper-am Rhein in Düsseldorf, Germany.

Ashley Doyle-Lucas (2001) recently completed her PhD in Sports Nutrition and Chronic Disease at Virginia Tech. Her dissertation focused on energy metabolism and optimal performance in female athletes—specifically ballet dancers! While in Virginia, Ashley also directed the Center for Dance. One of her students has been accepted to attend HARID's upcoming Summer School.

Chalnessa Eames (1993) is a soloist with Pacific Northwest Ballet in Seattle.

Laura Faria Sciortino (1996) danced as a soloist and principal dancer with several companies before opening her own ballet school. She is currently the owner and artistic director of Turning Pointe Dance Studio, Falmouth, Massachusetts.

Amy Fote (1990) was a principal dancer with Milwaukee Ballet before joining Houston Ballet where she is also a principal dancer.

Elizabeth Gaither Kossenas (1989) danced with Houston Ballet, Ballet Memphis, and American Ballet Theatre before joining the Washington Ballet where she is currently a principal dancer.

Lara Garcia Zanella (2003) received her bachelor of fine arts degree in dance (with highest honors) from the New World School of the Arts in Miami. She then danced with Arts Ballet Theatre before moving to Los Angeles where she is currently in her sophomore year studying biomedical engineering.

Marcelo Gomes (1997) is a leading principal dancer with American Ballet Theatre in New York City. In addition, he has performed as a guest artist with the Dutch National Ballet, the National Ballet of Canada, Houston Ballet, Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, Teatro Municipal Do Rio de Janeiro, and the New York City Ballet. In the summer of 2008, he accompanied Alessandra Ferri on her farewell tour in Japan and Italy. Marcelo is a recipient of the prestigious Prix Benois de la Dance, which was presented to him in Moscow.

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Alumni Update *Continued*

Megan Gray (2004) is leaving her position with Boston Ballet to join the Dutch National Ballet in Amsterdam next season.

Amanda Green (2003) is a soloist with Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet.

Chansri Green (1989) completed a bachelor of fine arts degree in dance education at Columbia College. She later received a master's degree in performance, choreography, and dance education at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Katherine Lawrence Orlowski (1998) is a soloist with Ballet West in Salt Lake City, Utah.



Britta Lazenga (2000) danced with the Joffrey Ballet before being selected for the role of Penny in the North American premiere production of "Dirty Dancing" in Toronto. She later performed the same role at the Cadillac Palace Theater in Chicago for the U.S. premiere. Britta is currently

dancing with the Los Angeles Ballet.

Riolama Lorenzo Lasa (1992) danced with New York City Ballet for five years before joining Pennsylvania Ballet where she is a principal dancer. Riolama also has a bachelor's degree in physical therapy and recently received a merit grant to attend the University of Sciences in Philadelphia.

Robin Mathes (1997) received a bachelor of fine arts degree in dance from the Juilliard School. She then danced with Ballet Tech in New York City and Les Ballet Jazz de Montreal, where she was a soloist. Robin currently performs with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montreal.

Michael McGowan (1990) danced with Hubbard Street Chicago and the River North Chicago Dance Company. He also performed as a soloist in the Radio City Christmas Spectacular and was dance captain and principal performer in a German tour of "Tabaluga und Lilli". Michael is currently head of the performing arts department at the Spence School in New York City.

Elizabeth McGrath (2001) is a soloist with Ballet West in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Abigail Cheney Moreland (1993) graduated from the School of Business at Stanford University. She works as a project manager at the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Ellen Rath (1996) danced with Ballet Arizona before becoming co-artistic director of The Nebellen Dance Company. She will graduate this May from Arizona State University with a bachelor's degree in architecture. Ellen plans to continue her studies at graduate school.



Penny Saunders (1995) danced with American Repertory Ballet in New Jersey and Ballet Arizona before joining MOMIX. She is now a member of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago.

Andre Silva (2002) danced with Texas Ballet Theater, during which time he won a silver medal at the Shanghai International Ballet Competition. He is now with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montreal.

James Sofranko (1997) graduated from The Juilliard School before joining San Francisco Ballet where he is currently a soloist.

Benjamin and Matthew Stewart (1997) both graduated from The Juilliard School and then moved to California where they are now dancing with San Francisco Ballet.

Uldis Strongins (1999) danced with the Peter Schaufuss Ballet before joining the Royal Danish Ballet in Copenhagen.

Alison Trumbull (2007) will graduate from Indiana University in May (after only three years!) with a bachelor of science degree in ballet performance and nonprofit management. Allison is also a certified Pilates instructor.

Connor Walsh (2001) was recently promoted to principal dancer with Houston Ballet.

Sara Webb Bardo (1996) is a principal dancer with Houston Ballet.

Daniel Wiley (1999) graduated from the Juilliard School before joining North Carolina Dance Theatre where he became a principal artist. He and his wife now own and direct a ballet school in Kannapolis, North Carolina.

Joanna Wozniak (1999) is completing her ninth season with the Joffrey Ballet, along with an associate science degree (with high honors).

Bridgett Zehr (2002) danced with Houston Ballet before joining the National Ballet of Canada where she was recently promoted to the rank of principal dancer.

Justin Zuschlag (2003) danced with Dance Kaleidoscope before completing a master's degree in arts administration at Indiana University. He currently teaches contemporary dance as a member of the faculty at Indiana University.

Congratulations and best wishes for continued happiness and success to all our amazing alumni!

We hope you have enjoyed reading HARID's Spring Newsletter. The next issue will be published in November.

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