

ITHACA BALLET

NEWS

FALL 2011

Ballet Celebrates its 50th Performance Season

Anticipation is building as the Ithaca Ballet prepares to celebrate its 50th Anniversary season by performing, for the first time ever, three full-length ballets. Opening the season this fall is a presentation of the full-length ballet *Cinderella*—a piece that especially honors Alice Reid, who first staged this ballet in Ithaca in 1960. The classical fairy tale is told in three acts, set to one of Prokofiev's most beautiful scores. Originally choreographed by company founder Alice Reid and reworked over the years by Cindy and Lavinia Reid, it beautifully showcases the high technical ability of Ithaca Ballet's pre-professional dancers. Dancing the role of Cinderella is Principal Dancer Teresa Lynn, with Johann Studier as the Prince. Returning professional alumnus Lindsey Staley takes the role of the Jester. It

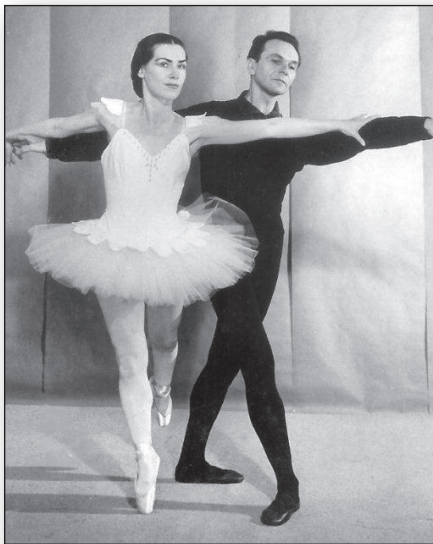
will play on October 15 and 16 at 3:00 p.m. at the historic State Theatre.

The Ithaca Ballet travels to Geneva in December to stage the holiday classic, *The Nutcracker*, before it returns to the State Theatre stage on December 9–11. The Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra brings the magic of live music to the Friday night performance, but order your tickets early, as this show promises to again have record-breaking attendance. As part of educational outreach, the Ballet also stages a Friday morning performance for schoolchildren. Attendance at this show has grown each year as the theater fills with children who may never have had the opportunity to see a live ballet.

Concluding our special performance season, the romance and beauty of *Swan Lake* remain

a favorite of ballet companies and audiences throughout the world. Its four acts are set to the memorable music of Pyotr Tchaikovsky and use much of the choreography of Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov, with additions by our own Cindy Reid. Don't miss this wonderful production at the State Theatre on April 28 and 29. A special highlight of this performance weekend will be a gala celebration. Come enjoy an opportunity to eat great food, and catch up with old friends and meet some new ones! Stay tuned for details in the coming months.

We hope you will join us as we showcase this unique jewel of upstate New York and celebrate 50 years of the Ithaca Ballet. Tickets for all three shows can be purchased at the State Theatre box office, either in person or on their website at www.stateofithaca.com.



In Memoriam: Alice Reid

The Ithaca Ballet lost its co-founder, Alice Reid, on May 1, 2011, at Cayuga Medical Center. Ever the heart and soul of the Ballet, she died shortly after the curtain came down on last season's premiere of our full-length *Sleeping Beauty*.

Alice's accomplishments and contributions over her lifetime were many, and were joyfully highlighted at "The Tribute to Alice Reid" this past December. Each of us has our own wonderful memories of all she did for the ballet and the greater Ithaca community.

To honor her legacy, the Ballet Guild board of directors announces the establishment of the

"Alice Reid Endowment Fund." Working in partnership with The Community Foundation of Tompkins County, this fund will help provide a stable financial base for the Ithaca Ballet's next 50 years and beyond. Such a fund was a longtime goal of Alice's, and an initial target goal of \$20,000 has been set to help ensure that her dream is realized.

Look for more information on this fund, and how you can contribute, in your mail as well as on our website, ithacaballet.org, in the coming weeks. We hope that you will contribute to Alice's dream fund in memory of this remarkable woman.

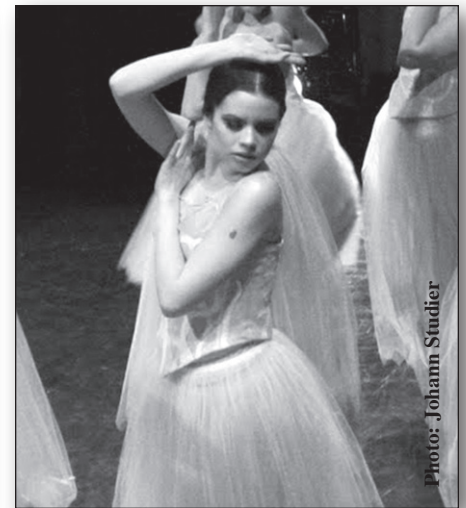
>>ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE – To all members of the Ballet Guild of Ithaca: The annual meeting of the Ballet Guild of Ithaca, Inc., will take place at Sunday, October 23 at 11:00 a.m., 420 Hanshaw Road, Ithaca, NY. Election of new members to the board of directors and officers for the 2011–2012 fiscal year will take place at said meeting. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact Linda Warner at lw30@cornell.edu as soon as possible.



Elice McKinley



Rosie Grady Sayvetz



Ana Zimmerman

Alumni News

Lotsie Cash: “I’m dancing with Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and this will be my fourth season here. I’m also a 200-hour certified vinyasa flow yoga teacher and am teaching a lot in the Boston area. I’m still choreographing here and there, at places like Harvard Ballet Company and Contrapose Dance.”

Sonia Dvorak: “I am currently dancing with Ballett Kiel, a new ballet company in northern Germany, under the direction of Heather Jurgenson and Yaroslav Ivanenko. I’m one of 20 dancers, and we are premiering our first ballet of the season (*The Nutcracker*) in the beginning of October. As of right now, I will be dancing Chinese,

Spanish, and Clara (respectively). I never thought dance would take me so far from home, but I’m having a wonderful experience in Europe!”

Micki Kolberg: “I’m living in Hawaii and teaching ballet at Sacred Hearts Academy, an all-girls academic school with an up-and-coming performing arts program. I’ve choreographed a full *Nutcracker* that has become an annual event at the school. I am also a registered yoga teacher with my own business called Grace in Motion. I offer private and group ballet, and yoga lessons. And I am a distance-learning student of California College of Ayurveda. Life is pretty full right now, and I feel honored to be able to share ballet with girls who may never have believed they could dance.”

Elice McKinley: “I’m currently a corps member of the Carolina Ballet. We’ve just opened in September with our first program! I’m going into my third season with the company. Previously, I danced with Miami City Ballet for four years.”

Beth Mochizuki is dancing with State Street Ballet in Santa Barbara, California.

Rachel Myers: “This year, I am very excited to be traveling on a project throughout the U.S. The goal is to see how we can turn small good deeds for individuals and community into something bigger.

I’m also hoping to take ballet classes in studios throughout the country. I’d love to stay in touch with everyone! Please email me at rachmyers2@gmail.com, or keep in touch through my travel website at www.richardandrachel.com.”

Rosie Grady Sayvetz is with the Ballet Austin trainee program.

Katie Taylor is a pre-med student at Vassar College, and she’s dancing with Vassar Repertory Dance Theatre.

Ana Zimmerman is a trainee with Ballet Magnificat in Jackson, Mississippi. She is getting married in June.



Sonia Dvorak



Rachel Myers

What's Happening in Wardrobe?

For many years, the Ithaca Ballet relied on the creative talents of Alice Reid and Toby Hamilton to design and construct the beautiful costumes our dancers wear. Over time, this job grew, requiring more hands. We have been very fortunate to have several talented people willing and able to take on this huge task. In the past three years, the costume department has expanded to include Scott Dolphin, Hilary Sharp, and her two assistants—Carrie and Sharon Lampman—along with other volunteers. Together, we have designed and constructed new costumes for *Giselle*, *The Nutcracker*, and *Sleeping Beauty*, and refurbished a number of Alice's original costumes.

For *Cinderella*, Hilary, Toby, and Sharon have designed new costumes for Spring, Autumn, and Winter, and a refurbishment of Summer. The godmother's attendants,

Cinderella and her Prince, also will have new or refurbished costumes.

The Nutcracker will show off costumes in the "Waltz of the Flowers" with new bodices for the corps de ballet. These costumes closely follow Alice's original designs and colors. Last year, Hilary and Carrie made new tutus for the waltz corps, demi-soloists, and Dew Drop, while Scott designed and made new bodices for the Waltz demi-soloists. Scott and Hilary also remade the Sugar Plum costume with a new bodice, plate (by Scott), and tutu (by Hilary).

Current plans for *Swan Lake* include 20 new white swan tutus, in addition to a new bodice, plate for the Black Swan, Odile, and a new coat for the Prince. So much volunteer time and hard work go into making the Ithaca Ballet's costumes



The Golden Vine Fairy Costume

eye-catching and artistic. We hope you will enjoy this year's costume changes.

Hilary Sharp

Company Roster

The Ithaca Ballet held open auditions for the 2011–2022 performance season on Saturday, September 10, at the Ballet Center studios. Artistic Director Cindy Reid gave the audition class, from which 22 members, both new and returning, were chosen. We are all looking forward to a rewarding year of dancing! The Ithaca Ballet Company now consists of the following dancers:



Principal Dancers: Nora DeMott Grady and Teresa Lynn; **Soloists:** Catherine Branche and Katarina Dvorak; **Senior Company Dancers:** Gabrielle Branche, Sylvie Finn, Prisca Hoffstaetter, Alta Millar, James Potter, Bridget Schmidt, Keara Soloway; **Apprentice Dancers:** Frida Brown, Claire Derry, Callie Kaplan-Wright, Kyiah Steel, Sarah Strauss, Ruby Williams; **Auxiliary Dancers:** Emily Healy, Aurora MacNeill, Rebecca Roberts, Maggie Sawyer, Alexa Wnorowski.

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[www.ITHACABALLET.org!](http://www.ITHACABALLET.org)

Summer 2011 at the Ithaca Ballet

The Ballet Guild of Ithaca Summer Dance Camp 2011 was the largest in many years, attended by 50 students.

The talented staff included Camp Director Cindy Reid, with longtime instructors Gunilla Lieberman, Dancingtree Moonwater, and Amanda Moretti, as well as Ithaca Ballet alumna Lena Rose Polzonetti, who was returning home to teach Modern in the first session. New to the staff was Cornell graduate Sarah Koehler, teaching Jazz. Graduating Ithaca Ballet Dancer Ana Zimmerman assisted Head Counselor Dancingtree before leaving to become a trainee at Ballet Magnificat in Mississippi in August.

Ithaca Ballet alumni were engaged

to give Camp Workshops: Rosie Grady Sayvetz, on her way in August to become an apprentice at Austin Ballet, gave a workshop in Irish Step Dance. (Eryn) Lotsie Cash, a professional dancer at Boston Ballet Theatre, gave a workshop in Yoga, and Rosie's cousin, Nora DeMott Grady, gave a workshop in Irish Music. In addition, workshops in Swing Dance were held, which were taught by Diana Leigh, who has just been appointed the new executive director of the Ithaca Ballet.

Perfect-attendance certificates were awarded to Sylvie Finn, Katherine Hayes, and Rebecca Fallon, who attended all six weeks and didn't miss a day. An extremely fun and productive summer was had by all.

Upcoming Performances

Cinderella

(State Theatre, Ithaca)

Saturday, October 15, at 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 16, at 3:00 p.m.

The Nutcracker

(State Theatre, Ithaca)

Friday, December 9, at 10:00 a.m. (school show)

Friday, December 9, at 7:30 p.m. (with FLSO)

Saturday, December 10, at 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 11, at 3:00 p.m.

Swan Lake

(State Theatre, Ithaca)

Saturday, April 28, at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 29, at 3:00 p.m.

Ticket information

Visit ithacaballet.org or stateofithaca.com.

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