


ITHACA BALLET

NEWS

SPRING 2011

Ithaca Ballet Launches Celebration of Its 50th Year with Premiere of The Sleeping Beauty

xcitement is building at the Ithaca Ballet as we get closer to the premiere of *The Sleeping Beauty*, April 30 and May 1 at the State Theatre. The story of *The Sleeping Beauty* is the classic fairytale told in a prologue and three acts to the magnificent Tchaikovsky score.

The beautiful Princess Aurora is born, a fabulous christening is planned, and one fairy, the evil Carabosse, is omitted from the christening. Carabosse is so angered by being excluded that she casts a spell that the princess will prick her finger on her 16th birthday and die. The Lilac Fairy has not yet present-

ed her gift to the infant princess, so she decrees that Aurora will indeed prick her finger on her 16th birthday; but rather than die, she will fall asleep for one hundred years until a handsome prince comes to awaken her from her slumber with a kiss.

We have been rehearsing since right after our *winterdance* in February because there are so many variations, dances, pas de deux and corps pieces in this four-act ballet to be learned, polished, and perfected. The cast of 40 is made up of company dancers, with guest actors and dancers to fill the multitudes needed of courtiers, royalty, fairies, storybook creatures as well as princes who are looking to take Princess Aurora's hand in marriage.

Every new full-length production we undertake (*Romeo & Juliet* in 2005, *Swan Lake* in 2008, *Giselle* in 2010, and now this) involves the work and efforts of many besides the dancers and yours truly. Countless new costumes are being constructed, overseen by our man of all trades, Scott Dolphin (see him onstage as the King!) and ably assisted by Toby Hamilton, Hilary Sharp, Pamela Markham, and others. Set pieces and decor are supervised by our production manager, Courtney McGuire and her crew.

Ithaca Ballet alumna Beth Mochizuki will be returning from Boston, where she has been doing freelance ballet work, to take on the role of Princess Aurora. Her Prince Florimund will be played by Brent Whitney, another professional freelance dancer, who partnered Beth last year in *Giselle* with wonderful results.

The evil fairy Carabosse, is played by Melissa Schmidt, and the very benevolent Lilac Fairy is danced by Ithaca Ballet

(continued on page three)



Teresa Lynn as Princess Aurora with Johann Studier, her Prince.



The production of The Sleeping Beauty is made possible, in part, with support from the Cayuga Radio Group and with grant support from the Community Arts Partnership.

Alumni News



A long update from **Maggie (Mateer) Pasquarelli**:

"I was sad to miss the Alice Reid tribute in December; we were in Ithaca, but not until after that, and we left before the New Year. I hope it went well! It's nice to be kept informed about goings-on at the Ithaca Ballet through email and Facebook. It was a busy holiday for my family; my sister got married, and it was my daughter's first Christmas!

I graduated from Vassar in '01 with a degree in English and a minor in



Liz Shefter and her husband at their wedding reception.

women's studies. Vassar did not allow a major in dance, but we had a small rep. group there, and it was a lot of fun. I staged 'Moksha' there one year and 'Blues' another. After Vassar, I moved to NYC and got a job with a victims' service agency (Safe Horizon). My plan was to work with domestic violence victims, a group I'd done some volunteer work with while in college. My second day of work was 9/11/01, though, so my job ended up having to do with the World Trade Center disaster. I worked as a crisis counselor and case manager helping victims and families of victims for about a year. I danced a little while I was in New York, but the job was pretty intense, as you can imagine.

I met a fabulous and fairly sane guy named Demian, and we've been happily married for three years. I got my master's degree in English education, and I teach AP literature (college-level English) at a local high school.

Last May, we had a baby girl, Flynn Elise Pasquarelli. She's pretty terrific. Going back to work has been a challenge because I always overcommit, but Flynn attends a daycare at my school, so I get to see her a lot during the day. She just started crawling and pulling up on everything. It's a lot of fun!

Anna Nolan-Wheatley sent me a holiday card with her FOUR kids on it (I



Maggie (Mateer) Pasquarelli and her family.

knew she had three!). She and her husband are in New Orleans. He is a lawyer, and I think she works part-time. Her sister, **Julia**, married her Italian boyfriend from college, Pino, and they live in Italy right now. They have a son who is about a year old. **Courtney Ryan** lives in Seattle and just got married and had a baby girl. **Michele Lucas** lives in the Midwest and has a five-year-old son. She teaches physical education and is a baton coach. She is pregnant with her second child. **Liz Shefter** got married recently and has lived in Chicago for a while."

We also received a brief note from **Lot-sie Cash**: "I'm dancing with Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre in Cambridge, Massachusetts."



Ithaca Ballet dancers at the tribute to Alice in December.

Alice Reid is Honored at December Tribute

This season's performance of *The Nutcracker* was highlighted by a special celebration. After Saturday's show, more than 200 alumni, family and friends gathered at the Holiday Inn in downtown Ithaca to honor Alice Reid, our founder. Alice sparkled as she greeted everyone, some who traveled across the country just for this event.

With Alice surrounded by her family, we enjoyed a wonderful collage of Alice's life, beautifully produced by

Cindy and narrated by Tom McHugh and Scott Dolphin. Personal reminiscences by alumni and friends followed, expressing from the heart the impact Alice has had on so many of us and sparking both laughter and tears.

Her accomplishments are many, and her love of children and her dedication to keeping ballet alive in Ithaca will never be forgotten. It was a special night for a most special and remarkable woman.



50th Performance Season to Open with *Cinderella!*

The Ithaca Ballet is thrilled to announce its exhilarating 50th performance season. This fall, the full-length ballet *Cinderella*, choreographed by company founder Alice Reid and artistic director Cindy Reid to music by Prokofiev, will play on October 15 and 16 at the State Theatre. This piece also honors Alice, who originally staged this ballet in Ithaca in 1960.

After traveling to Geneva, the Ithaca Ballet will stage an Ithaca holiday classic, *The Nutcracker*, at the State The-

atre on December 9-11. Continuing what has become a tradition, the Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra will bring the excitement of live music to the Friday evening performance.

This year, in lieu of our usual winter show, the Ithaca Ballet will perform several pieces in conjunction with regional artistic groups at different venues. Stay tuned for announcements of these special events, which may include both classical and cutting-edge choreography that highlight the artistry

and versatility of our dancers.

Concluding our special season will be *Swan Lake*, a favorite of ballet companies and audiences throughout the world. This wonderful production will be staged and directed by Cindy Reid at the State Theatre on April 28-29.

We hope you will join us for all our shows this year as we celebrate 50 years of outstanding ballet in Upstate New York!

Ithaca Ballet Launches Celebration of Its 50th Year, cont.



The maids in The Sleeping Beauty.

(continued from page one)

principal dancer Rachel Myers. Other roles include Bluebirds Rosie Grady Sayvetz and Trenton Loughlin; the White Cat and Puss in Boots, danced by Julia Hellmich and Johann Studier; the King and Queen portrayed by Scott Dolphin and Wendy Jones; and Cattelabutte, the Master of Ceremonies, played by the inimitable Tom McHugh.

The Sleeping Beauty promises to be a magical feast for the eyes and is filled with amazing dancing. Join the Ithaca Ballet as we proudly present this regional premiere of a timeless classic.

Cindy Reid, Artistic Director

Ballet Guild of Ithaca, Inc.
P.O. Box 4341
Ithaca, NY 14852-4341

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ITHACA, NY
PERMIT NO. 74

Be sure to visit us on the web at
www.ITHACABALLET.org!

Summer Day Camp in Dance



Students rehearse at the studio.

The Ballet Guild of Ithaca will offer its annual Summer Day Camp in dance this year from June 27-August 5, Monday through Friday. The first session is from June 27-July 15, and the second session is from July 18-August 5.

This intensive program is designed for kids 8-18 years old. Along with our talented and distinguished faculty, we include guest instructors for workshops.

Daily activities include:

- dance technique classes including ballet, pointe, modern, jazz, stretch, and character
- workshop covering music, mime, stagecraft, anatomy, nutrition, and more
- daily recreational activities including swimming
- performance experience

Camp hours are 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Ballet Center of Ithaca, 504-506 N. Plain Street in downtown Ithaca.

A deposit of \$100 is due by May 15 to register your child. Registrations received after that date will be subject to a \$25 late fee. Call 257-1967 or visit our website at www.ithacaballet.org for more information.

ITHACA BALLET

Join us at The State Theatre for the premiere of *Sleeping Beauty* on Saturday, April 30, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 1, at 3:00 p.m.