

news from

ITHACA BALLET

fall 2012



Lindsey Staley and Teresa Lynn, 2011

COMING SOON: THE NUTCRACKER

Sunday, November 25, 2012 • 3:00 p.m. | Smith Opera House, Geneva, New York

Friday, December 7, 2012 • 7:30 p.m. | Saturday, December 8, 2012 • 3:00 p.m.

Sunday December 9, 2012 • 3:00 p.m. | State Theatre, Ithaca, New York

An Ithaca tradition for more than 30 years, Ithaca Ballet will proudly present Lavinia Reid's *Nutcracker* during holiday 2012.

What do you want to say about the lead roles?

Other featured roles will be IC student Ryan Shuler as the Nutcracker, who vanquishes the Mouse King, as played by Wayne VanCamp; Ithaca Ballet Apprentice Alison Ke as Clara; Allen MacNeill as the mysterious Dr. Drosselmeyer; Senior Dancer Sylvie Finn as the Dewdrop Fairy; Guest Alumnus Trenton Loughlin as the Snow King; and Ithaca Ballet Soloist Annelise Schmidt as the Snow Queen.

THE NEW ITHACA BALLET COMPANY, 2012-2013

Soloists: Catherine Branche, Annelise Schmidt

Senior Dancers: Gabrielle Branche, Sylvie Finn, Prisca Hoffstaetter, Kateri Lickona, Alta Millar, Maggie Sawyer, Bridget Schmidt, Keara Soloway

First-Year Seniors: Callie Kaplan-Wright, Sarah Strauss, Frida Brown, Claire Derry, Aylin Erkan, Ruby Williams, Kyiah Steel

Apprentice Dancers: Julia Luna, Colibri McMillan, Raina Timberlake-Freedman, Anatto McMillan, Alison Ke

Auxiliary Dancers: Aurora MacNeill, Emily Healy



PHOTO: JOHANN STUDIER

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 on Thursday, November 8, 2012 at 7 p.m., Cayuga Heights Fire Station, Second Floor Conference Room.

UPDATE ON THE ALICE REID ENDOWMENT FUND

As many of you may know, the Alice Reid Endowment Fund was created in 2011 to honor Alice's decades of tireless effort to bring the beauty of dance to Upstate New York. The goal of the fund is to provide a stable financial foundation for the Ithaca Ballet for the future. Partnering with the Community Foundation of Tompkins County (www.cftompkins.org), the great

news is that we are more than halfway to our initial goal of \$20,000!

Join those of us who have already contributed to help us reach our goal. And, if you have already donated, thank you very much, and will you consider an additional gift this year? Please write your check directly to the Community Foundation

of Tompkins County noting "Alice Reid Endowment Fund" in the memo line. Your fully tax-deductible gift will ensure that the Ithaca Ballet is here for future generations to enjoy!

Linda Warner, President
Ithaca Ballet Board of Directors



Carnival of the Animals



Carnival of the Animals



The Sorcerer's Apprentice

PHOTOS: JOHANN STUDDIER

FALL SHOW 2012 UPDATE

Ithaca Ballet presented a family-friendly fall 2012 show on October 13 and 14 at the State Theatre, featuring two Lavinia Reid ballets not seen in quite a while.

Carnival of the Animals, to the well-known Camille Saint-Saens score, was last performed in 2005. Danced in front of a green, jungle-like backdrop, the colorful animal costumes really popped.

As always, the Elephant, danced by Frida Brown and Callie Kaplan-Wright, received the most audible appreciation from the audience, but there were numerous charming and funny moments with the mama and baby Kangaroos (Catherine Branche and Alison Ke), the Hen and Rooster (Emily Healy and Trenton Loughlin), as well as the monkeys, lions,

swans, et al. In addition, *Carnival* provided moments of stunning beauty, with the brightly plumaged birds flitting their way through the pyrotechnical choreography, and the Wild Horses (Keara Soloway and Annelise Schmidt) leaping gracefully at breakneck speed.

Filling out the middle of the program was "Valse Fantastique" from *Raymonda*, staged by Artistic Director Cindy Reid. To a gorgeous Glazounov score, this classical excerpt ballet in lavender tutus was a perfect counterpoint to the other two humorous ballets, with its elegant corps de ballet work.

Closing the show was *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, last performed in 1996. The Paul Dukas score was famously featured in Dis-

ney's *Fantasia*, and the story is essentially the same (sans Mickey). Our Apprentice was played with youthful exuberance by Ithaca Ballet Guest Alumnus Trenton Loughlin, and the Sorcerer was portrayed with dark humor by Allen MacNeill. The Brooms, headed up by Annelise Schmidt, provided one of the very memorable moments. After the Sorcerer has gone to bed, the Apprentice puts a spell on the broom to do his chore, bringing buckets of water to the well so that he can take a nap. He wakes to find the chamber flooded and in his desperation to stop the broom from continually filling the overflowing well, he whacks it with an axe. As splinters re-form brooms, and pop up—one broom after the other, after the other—Lavinia has created an awesome effect with her choreography!



Stratus



Boyceball



Not sure what this is

50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

On June 2, 2012, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Ithaca Ballet at the State Theatre in Ithaca, New York. The performance included an oral history and slideshow of the company, as told through six of its pivotal works.

Alumni dancers and choreographers came from all over the country to join current company members and dance in pieces from different periods of the ballet's history, and celebrate the importance of the Ithaca Ballet in their lives.

This was a touching tribute to the Ithaca Ballet one year after the passing of founder and visionary Alice Reid.

SUMMARY OF THE PROGRAM

Stratus: Choreography by Lavinia Reid, music by Billy Cobham

Duet from Themes on a Cloth: Choreography by Joseph Locarro, music by Rachmaninoff

Boyceball: Choreography by Larry Brantley, music by William Boyce

Reaching Moksha: Choreography by Heather MacNeill, Maggie Mateer, Lena Rose Magee, Anna Nolan-Wheatley; music by Mouth Music and Enya

Chattanooga Choo Choo (from *Senti-*

mental Journey): Choreography by Bonnie Valant-Spaight

Bolero: Choreography by Helena Baron and Ralph DiRienzo

Alumni with company() dancers*: Simone Bruyere-Fraser, Laura Carstensen, Lotsie Cash, Peter Doll, Nadia Drake, Katarina Dvorak, Sylvie Finn*, Dasha Kittredge, Trenton Loughlin, Beth Mochizuki, Rachael McCloud, Michele Lucas-McGraw, Rachel Myers, Anna Nolan-Wheatley Regnier, Lena Rose Polzonetti, Courtney Ryan, Shona Mari Sapphire, Keara Soloway*, Lindsey Staley, Johann Studier*, Katie Taylor



Stratus



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IN MEMORIAM

The Ithaca Ballet Community is saddened to hear of the passing of Mary Ellen Sprague, an ardent supporter of the dance world. Mother of alumna company dancer Samantha Sprague, she served on the Ithaca Ballet board for years, spearheaded one of the major renovations of the ballet studio, was an active and generous sponsor. As owner of Body Gear, she provided leotards, ballet and pointe shoes to at least two decades of Ithaca Ballet dancers.

Right: *Dasha Kittredge,
Rachel McCloud,
Peter Doll, and Trenton
Laughlin gather at the
Ithaca Ballet's 50th
Anniversary Gala.*



Exciting new ballet coming in the spring: The Little Mermaid

THE ITHACA PREMIERE! CHOREOGRAPHY AND MUSIC BY LAVINIA REID
SATURDAY, MAY 4, 7:30 P.M. • SUNDAY, MAY 5, 3 P.M. • STATE THEATRE
ticket information: visit ithacaballet.org or stateofithaca.com