



Fall 2008

En Pointe

Visions of Sugar Plums

Nutcracker

December 19–21

Some dream of Sugar Plums dancing, while others prefer the rambunctious Rats. Some love the sensuous Arabians and others the winsome Flowers and some slumber dreaming of the Snowflakes gracefully swirling while the stage is silently covered with white, gossamer flakes.

It is one thing to dream of such things, but to actually dance in a production of the *Nutcracker* would be, for some, a dream come true.

Almost 200 dancers and dreamers auditioned on Sept. 21 at the Ballet Hawaii Studios for our 2008 *Nutcracker* production. After a day of auditions and another of “call backs,” Artistic Director Pamela Taylor-Tongg cast 160 dancers in this year’s production.

There are three months of rehearsals before opening night, including acting coaching, learning the choreography and endlessly practicing it, being fitted for costumes, learning how to apply the appropriate stage make-up and hair styling.

As time grows closer to opening night there are rehearsals at the Blaisdell Concert Hall to become familiar with the large stage and the enchanting sets and props. More practice is required when the professional dancers arrive from around the world and when the Honolulu Symphony joins the company. Some of the younger-yet-seasoned cast members say that this is their favorite time of the year.

Backstage, opening night, is extraordinarily exciting. Each performer anticipates the opening of the curtain, the beautiful, familiar Tchaikovsky music, and the eager audience rewarding their hard work with enthusiastic applause.

Ballet Hawaii has presented *Nutcracker* for the people of Hawaii for 33 years. Our production truly is *A Holiday Tradition*.

This should be the most lavish production ever with an all-star cast drawn from the nation’s leading ballet companies and the addition of Gregg Lizenbery, professor, director and graduate chair of the dance program and chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Hawaii at Manoa making his debut as Drosselmeyer.

In addition to Lizenbery, *Nutcracker* lead roles include the return of two of the most acclaimed dancers in the country: Joan Boada, principal danseur from the San Francisco Ballet, as the Cavalier Prince and Megan Fairchild, principal dancer



Megan Fairchild from New York City Ballet in Ballet Hawaii’s Nutcracker



Joan Boada from San Francisco Ballet in Ballet Hawaii’s Nutcracker

from New York City Ballet, as the Sugar Plum Fairy. Other featured dancers are Lilyan Vigo Ellis, winner of the Princess Grace Award and a member of Carolina Ballet, as the Dew Drop and Snow Queen; Timour Bourtasenkov from Carolina Ballet as the Snow King and Arabian; Andre. *(cont. page 2)*

Veyette from New York City Ballet as lead Russian dancer and Soldier Doll; Derek Sakakura now with Uelana on Maui, formerly a principal dancer with Diablo Ballet, will join the Russian Trepak; Daphne Hargrove as Arabian; and Ben Moffat as Mother Ginger.

The 2008 production is sponsored by AIG Hawaii, Macy's, Continental Airlines and Starwood Hotels & Resorts Hawaii

Tickets are on sale now at the Blaisdell Box Office and all Ticketmaster locations for the December 19 to 21 performances at the Blaisdell Concert Hall: Friday at 8 pm, Saturday at 7:30 pm and Sunday at 2 pm. Tickets are priced at \$35 to \$75 and also may be bought by calling toll free to 1-877-750-4400 or on-line at www.ticketmaster.com.

Nutcracker Opening Night Party

The opening night of Nutcracker is always a special event, but you can make it even more special if you purchase the Opening Night VIP package. A "White Christmas" will be this year's theme, with decor by board member Lori Komer and Anne Namba. There will be delicious fare offered by some of Hawaii's top restaurants and the Hawaii Youth Opera Chorus will serenade the diners. The package also includes VIP seating and parking.

December 19 at 6:30 pm, Ewa Lanai, Blaisdell Concert Hall. \$150 per person. Reserved tables of 10 also available. Information at 808-521-8600. Among those catering are Ruth's Chris Steak House, Romano's Macaroni Grill, Bistro Catering, Cake Works, Hokulani Bakery, Nico's at Pier 38, Top of Waikiki, Le Bistro, Stage, Beijing Chinese Seafood Restaurant, The Willows, Hawaiian Host, Starbucks, Southern Wine & Spirits and JMD Beverages.

The History Of Nutcracker, From Page To Stage, Around The World

By Carol Naish



Believe it or not, "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King," written by E.T.A. Hoffman, in 1816, was a rather dark story not intended for children. Alexander Dumas Pere revised the story to be more optimistic and this version of the story was the inspiration for the original *Nutcracker* Ballet.

Based on the success of their earlier collaboration on *The Sleeping Beauty*, Marius Petipa commissioned Peter I. Tchaikovsky to write the score for *Nutcracker* in 1891. They worked together on the story as he wrote the music. Petipa began work on the choreography, and his assistant Lev Ivanov, completed the Ballet.

Nutcracker premiered in December of 1892 at the Maryinsky Theater in St. Petersburg. Other than the "Snow Scene" featuring 60 dancing snowflakes which "drew unanimous praise," the ballet received very poor reviews; nonetheless, the ballet continued to be performed, although often just the second act variations. It was first performed by the Bolshoi Ballet in 1919, and the Kirov Ballet in 1929. As students in Russia, George Balanchine, Rudolf Nureyev, and Mikhail Baryshnikov all danced the role of the Prince in productions of *Nutcracker* in the Maryinsky Theater.

The first production of *Nutcracker* outside of Russia was at the Sadler's Wells Theater in 1938. Alicia Markova danced the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy and a 15-year old Margot Fonteyn made her debut as a snowflake.

The first U.S. performance of *Nutcracker* was in 1940 when the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo presented a condensed one-act version based on the Ivanov choreography in New York City. The Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo toured the U.S and South America extensively in the 1940s. With George Balanchine by then as ballet master and choreographer for several years, excerpts of *Nutcracker* were often included in their performances. Balanchine's choreography was inspired by his experience at the Maryinsky Theater where he had started his *Nutcracker* career as a mouse, and danced in a variety of roles ranging from the child prince to Mouse King and Trepak.

The first full-length production of *Nutcracker* presented in the U.S. was by William Christensen for San Francisco Ballet. It premiered on December 24, 1944. Mr. Christensen met with Alexandra Danilova and George Balanchine during their stay in San Francisco on tour with Ballet Russe. Since



he had never seen the full ballet himself, he wanted to learn about the Maryinsky production that they both had performed in earlier in their careers. San Francisco Ballet has presented *Nutcracker* each year during the holiday season since 1950.

Based on the successful New York premiere of George Balanchine's production in February 1954, the ballet was scheduled for a full month the following Christmas. New York City Ballet has presented it every year during the holiday season since then, and it is largely responsible for making the ballet a Christmas tradition in the United States.

OVERHEARD BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Ever wish you could be backstage and hear all the comments made by the talented youngsters in *Nutcracker*. Here are some interesting tidbits overheard in conversations...



“The fight between the Rat King and the Nutcracker Prince changes a little in every performance. One time I got hit on the head with the King’s sword. Then the Prince’s sword broke in half. We just kept dancing because we aren’t allowed to laugh.”

“In one performance the soldiers rolled out the cannon, aimed it at the rats and pulled the trigger. Instead of firing some smoke, the wheels fell off and the cannon collapsed. It had to be carried off stage.”



“In one performance, Marie [the young star of the ballet] was so excited to get on stage she went out forgetting that she was wearing some of her curlers in her hair.”

“Once two of the angels, who were really young, forgot that they are just supposed to walk across with their horns and harps and they started waving to their families. Then some of the old people got cross! Well, not really, but sort of.”

“One year Drosselmeyer ran after the mechanical rat because it was going the wrong way, and when he picked it up only the top came off and the engine part was still on the stage and it turned around and started chasing him and he tripped over his cape and it was really funny. Whenever we want to laugh at the studio we watch that tape. It *always* makes us laugh.”

Our Holiday *Angels*

Nutcracker is one of the world’s most beloved stories and it is something that every child should see once in a lifetime. Ballet Hawaii has an **Angel Program** that provides funds to enable young children from Title I schools and social service organizations to see this ballet at no charge. The Angels in our midst are **The Alexander & Baldwin Foundation** and **The James and Abigail Campbell Foundation** who are making it possible for over 600 student to attend a *Nutcracker* performance.

The fortunate recipients are the following:

Ala Wai Elementary
Dole Middle School
Kuhio Elementary
Lincoln Elementary
Palolo Elementary
Campbell High School
Ilima Intermediate
Waipahu High School
Muscular Dystrophy Association
Queen Lili‘uokalani Children’s Center.

Continental Airlines

welcomed as a

New Sponsor
for *Nutcracker*

Ballet Hawaii is delighted to announce that Continental Airlines will serve as the exclusive Airline Partner for the 2008 annual production of *Nutcracker*. Continental will provide all airline travel for our out of town artists. “Their support of our production shows what a great cultural and community minded organization Continental is. They have a fantastic team here in Hawaii and we hope everyone flies Continental if they have the choice”, said Susan Schull, Ballet Hawaii’s Board President.

Tickets On Sale Now!

ALONZO KING'S LINES BALLET



Italy...France...Dallas...Indianapolis...The Joyce Theater in New York...San Francisco...and four stops in the Aloha State, including a flagship kick-off February 21 at the historic Hawaii Theatre.

That's the Spring 2009 touring schedule for the California-based LINES Ballet.

Ballet Hawaii is bringing this celebrated contemporary company here as part of our 2008-2009 season that also included *Giselle* and *Nutcracker*. And it's only right that we bring founder Alonzo King "home" since he was a member of the Honolulu City Ballet in the mid-1970's, a company that "morphed" into our own organization.

Founded in 1982, LINES is praised for drawing on a "diverse set of deeply rooted cultural traditions and imbuing classical ballet with new expressive potential." In the past year alone, Gavin Newsom presented King with the 2nd Annual Mayor's Art Award, singling him out as "embodying the best of San Francisco." In June, he won the Jacob's Pillow Creativity Award. Earlier major awards have included the US Artists Fellowship, the Bessie Award for Choreographer/Creator, the NEA Choreographer's Fellowship, five Isadora Duncan Awards, two honorary doctorates and many others. In addition, last year dancer Meredith Webster became the fifth company dancer to receive the coveted Princess Grace Award.

King will bring his acclaimed teaching techniques to Ballet Hawaii with a master class on February 20. His LINES Ballet is committed to dance education and community involvement through the San Francisco Dance Center and its recent BFA partnership program with Dominican University of California, the only one in the U.S. led by an active, world-renowned master choreographer. Call 521-8600 to register. There is a cost of \$50 per student to participate which also includes a ticket to the show. Don't miss this exhilarating production on February 21 only at 7:30 pm, filled with "vulnerability and tenderness, but also of furious abandon and exhilarating freedom." *Tickets are on sale now at the Hawaii Theatre Box Office, 528-0506 or www.hawaiitheatre.com. Tickets are \$38-58, with discounts available;*

DANCER'S CORNER

By Dr. Jennifer Kin,
Pediatric Sports Medicine
Kapi'olan. Women and Children's
Medical Center

In order for dancers to perform at their highest potential, you need the energy to do so. Energy comes from the calories that you consume in your diet. For dancers or any active individual, the calorie needs of the body are much higher than for someone that is inactive, even if they are the same weight and height. For example, most female dancers need an extra 45-50 calories per kilogram of weight per day and male dancers need 50-55 calories per kilogram of weight per day. If you are a competitive or performing female dancer that weighs 100 pounds, you need an extra 2200 calories in your diet!. Not taking in enough calories will affect your performance and your endurance and may also lead to more injuries... so remember, if you're burning the calories and they are going out of your body, you need to put them back in!

It is also important to keep up with your fluid needs. Sweat losses can be up to two liters per hour of rehearsal. Dancers typically require eight ounces of fluid for every 15 minutes of dancing to replace fluid losses. It's important to remember that by the time you are thirsty, you are already dehydrated and dehydration leads to poor performance.

The teen years are a critical time to build bone density. To build optimum bone density, you need sufficient calcium and vitamin D in your diet. More and more research is showing that our teens are calcium and vitamin D deficient. The current recommendations are that teens get 1200-1500 mg of calcium per day and 500 IU of vitamin D per day. Here are some examples of calcium sources...

Milk 8 oz	300mg
Tofu ½ cu.	130mg
Yogurt 1 cu.	300mg
Graham cracker .	150mg

Make sure you give your body enough energy sources and enough fluids to keep you dancing for a lifetime!

Giselle

AN ARTISTIC TRIUMPH

Ballet Hawaii's Summer Intensive culminated with the presentation of *Giselle*, an artistic triumph at the Blaisdell Concert Hall. Stars from around the world jetted in to appear with students from around the globe who were in the three-week-long program with acclaimed visiting teachers Robert Barnett, Maria Vegh and John Selya. Our two principal leads—Tiler Peck and Joaquin de Luz from the New York City Ballet—arrived just in time from Spain for dress rehearsal. We also were

proud to present Noelani Pastastico from Les Ballet de Monte Carlo, Savanna Lowery and Jonathan Stafford from the New York City Ballet, and Selya, whom we've come to view as one of Hawaii's "own" with his many appearances here. We'll miss him in *Nutcracker* this month but wish him all the best—he's been cast in the revival of *Guys and Dolls* on Broadway! The magnificent score by Adolphe Adam was interpreted beautifully by guest conductor Carmon DeLeone and musicians from the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra. In beautiful costumes and full sets, *Giselle* made its mark on the summer cultural calendar in Honolulu.



MUSIC OF THE NIGHT A GALA FUNDRAISER

Leah Ball's photos courtesy HI Luxury Magazine



Stanford and Kathy Carr, Susan and Gunner Schull, Jackie Takashita



Craig Schulman, Janie Davis, Mark Davis (with lei), Kevin Gray, Chris Groenendaal.



George Hopkins, Kathy Louie, Lecanne Gabriel, John and Anie Parkinson

On September 6 Ballet Hawaii held a spectacular fundraising event at the Nu'uaniu estate of Mr. and Mrs. Stanford Carr. Guests enjoyed a pre-dinner reception with libations from Kai Vodka followed by dinner catered by Bistro Catering. Those attending were entertained by our "Three Phantoms"—the wonderfully talented Broadway stars, Craig Schulman, Cris Groenendaal, and Kevin Gray, accompanied by Sue Anderson. A special mahalo to Richard Vida, who took time out from the Broadway tour of "The Drowsy Chaperone" to fly to Hawaii for a visit and to stage manage our show.



John Riley, Ben Komer, Laurie and David Callies



Jim and Jan George, Kauli and Doug Philpotts.

AND THE LUCKY WINNERS ARE...

Ballet Hawaii held a fundraising drawing during the intermission of the Saturday performance of *Three Phantoms* in Concert at Hawaii Theatre September 13. Little ballerinas in costume drew the following names to receive one of the fabulous prizes offered.

Congratulations to our winners whose donations help support our dance programs:

Carol and Nick Myrianthis
Robert and Cara Chapman
Mary Lewis
Melanie Holt
Sylvia Baldwin
Bruce and Ginny Lloyd
Jay Pell

A special thank you to Continental Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines, Naish Hawaii, Wai-kiki Nei, P.F. Chang's, Nico's at Pier 38 and Judy Muncaster for donating the prizes.

SHOP AT THE BALLET BOUTIQUE!

Looking for just the right present for balletomanes of all ages? Then shop at the Ballet Boutique at the Blaisdell Concert Hall, open during all three performances of *Nutcracker* December 19-21.

There are such beautiful items as tree ornaments, dolls, New York City Ballet Collector Dolls by Tyler Wentworth, and Tyrell Katz ballet bags and other items from the collection and more. There also are ballet-inspired books, such as *The Scarlet Stockings* by Charlotte Kandel, and *Nutcracker* memorabilia. Tutus, Ballet Hawaii logowear and other dance items will enable the show to continue beyond the holidays.

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New Faces – Backstage

Ballet Hawaii is comprised of hardworking staff and volunteers who make our programs happen. We are proud to welcome two new individuals to our “family.”



Gerry Allen—Administration and Development Associate
Gerry provides operations management for the office at Dole Cannery and assists in event planning. She also brings an analytical view to fundraising and helps to prioritize the needs of the Development Department. A recent graduate of Cham-maine University's MBA program with a focus in Not-for-Profit organizations, Gerry is a member of the International Honor Society, *Delta Mu Delta*. Her previous experiences include working with the Battleship Missouri Memorial, as well as volunteering at the Honolulu Academy of Arts and Hospice Hawaii.



Jodi Leong—Board of Directors
Jodi is a broadcast journalist at KITV News. She has been a reporter and anchor since she began her television career in 1991. Jodi has a degree in Psychology and French from Amherst College and a degree in Broadcast Journalism with a minor in Political Science from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She is a staunch supporter of the arts in Hawaii and has nearly 30 years of theatre experience behind her. She also continues to fit tap and jazz dance classes into her busy schedule. Be sure and look for Jodi in this year's *Nutcracker*!



Ballet Hawaii
650 Iwilei Road, Box 221
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

808 521-8600
www.ballethawaii.org

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