



En Pointe

Fall 2007

Ballet Hawaii's *Nutcracker* to Star Guest Artists from Premier Ballet Companies

Excitement is in the air! Sugar plum fairies are flickering; snowflakes are flurrying; the Honolulu Symphony musicians are at the ready. It's Ballet Hawaii's signature production of the *Nutcracker* at the Blaisdell Concert Hall, December 21, 22 and 23!

Maui residents get the first opportunity of the season to enjoy this full-length production. In partnership with the Maui Academy of Performing Arts, Ballet



Joaquin De Luz and Megan Fairchild

Hawaii brings the *Nutcracker* to the Maui Arts & Cultural Center, December 1 and 2. Approximately 160 aspiring young dancers from Maui and Oahu will star with Robert Fairchild and Megan Fairchild, principal dancers from New York City Ballet. "It's thrilling for the children and the community to have Ballet Hawaii on Maui," said Lyn Soma whose daughter Taylor appears as Marie. "The students have been eagerly rehearsing for months. They are so focused and excited. Maui is going to love this production!"

Jim Hutchison will appear in the role of Herr Drosselmeyer.

Peter Rockford Espiritu, director of Tau Dance Theatre, will also be a special guest artist.

Hawaii's own Noelani Pantastico, now of Pacific Northwest Ballet, joins the Maui cast. Additional principal dancers for both Maui and Oahu include Lilyan Vigo Ellis and Timour Bourtasenkov of the Carolina Ballet.

Ballet Companies

New York City Ballet,
San Francisco Ballet,
Pacific Northwest Ballet
and Carolina Ballet

The *Nutcracker* Performances:

Maui Arts & Cultural Center

Saturday, December 1, 7:30 pm
Sunday, December 2, 2:00 pm

Regular Tickets: \$25-\$45
On sale at the MACC Box Office
Charge by phone: 242-7469
or buy online at mauiarts.org

Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall

Friday, December 21, 8:00 pm
Saturday, December 22, 7:30 pm
Sunday, December 23, 2:00 pm

Regular Tickets: \$25-\$75
On sale at all Ticketmaster locations including Times Supermarkets and Neal Blaisdell Box Office.
Charge by phone 1-877-750-4400
or buy online at ticketmaster.com.
Discounts are available for students, seniors, military and groups.

Mahalo to Ballet Hawaii Nutcracker Sponsors:

Hilton Hawaiian Village
Beach Resort & Spa



Hilton Grand Vacations Club
at Hilton Hawaiian Village



Cades Foundation
Hawaii State Foundation
on Culture and the Arts
McInerny Foundation
Strong Foundation



The *Nutcracker* Opening Night Celebration

Friday, December 21, 6:30 to 8:00 pm
Blaisdell Concert Hall

Premium Package includes:
Parking, dinner catered by some of Honolulu's finest restaurants served on Ward Ave. lanai, VIP performance seating, intermission reception with champagne and dessert. \$150 per person.

For more information and reservations
call Judy Muncaster at 521-8600

Message

*from Executive Director
John Parkinson*

I joined Ballet Hawaii as its new Executive Director in August and feel lucky to have come on board at this wonderful time of year. Our production of *Cinderella* was truly inspiring. Now, the *Nutcracker* rehearsals are in full swing. The excitement in the studio is palpable! The “why” of what we do is so very evident! We truly live our mission to promote, produce and present dance for Hawaii’s communities everyday.

First, we return to Maui where I know the desire to dance is burning strong. We had over 160 dancers audition to dance in the *Nutcracker* and the chance to share the stage with Ballet Hawaii’s starring cast, including professional artists from the mainland. Mahalo to our Maui partners who support this great opportunity for the community.

Our performances at the Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall showcase many of our talented, dedicated Ballet School students who are looking forward to dancing with principal guest artists in the *Nutcracker* this year. As always, we are planning on fine music from the Honolulu Symphony.

I hope your plans for the Christmas season include a family outing to attend the *Nutcracker*. More years ago than I care to admit, I had the privilege of seeing the *Nutcracker* as part of a family night out. I clearly remember that evening to this day (even though as a ten-year old boy I was determined not to like it!). I forgot I was in a theatre as the party scene magically changed into a battle of mice while the tree grew bigger and bigger. Then the stage changed again into the beauty of the snow scene. I know you will enjoy our production of the *Nutcracker* and that you will remember it long past the final curtain call.



Gift of Dance

The **2007-08 Annual Fund** has started and we hope you will participate! If you have not received your brochure in the mail, please call us at 521-8600. The annual fund is critical to Ballet Hawaii as it helps with the portion of the budget not funded by ticket sales and school tuition. Ballet Hawaii keeps a watchful eye on expenses and has been able to successfully balance its budget these past few years. We are again asking for your assistance.

AIG Hawaii has generously extended their wonderful offer of matching a portion of the funds raised from either new or increased donations.

The 2007 Joy of Dance Awards

Some of Ballet Hawaii’s long time sponsors and supporters were recently recognized at a special reception at the Sub-Zero/Wolf showroom on Piikoi Street. Bev Gannon, chef and owner of the Hali’imaile General Store on Maui donated her time to team up with Sub-Zero’s chef Carol Nardello to present a delectable array of food stations in each of the model kitchens. Those receiving awards were:



Left to right: *Bev Gannon, Carole Nardello, Melvin Sakurai, Jean Nakanishi and Sawako Hayashi*

Hilton Hawaiian Village
Beach Resort & Spa
Hilton Grand Vacations
Club
AIG Hawaii
Bank of Hawaii
Horizon Lines
Hawaiian Airlines
Mary Philpotts McGrath
Joanne Holmes
Shigekane Fund
Strong Foundation
Cades Foundation
Marilynn Metz
Macy’s West

Dancers at Heart: Ballet Hawaii Volunteers

When Lesley Young retired after more than 35 years as a United Airlines flight attendant, she hoped her people skills and positive disposition would find a new purpose. Fortunately for Ballet Hawaii, she has settled into an equally valuable niche as Volunteer Coordinator.

Originally hired through special grant funding from the Hawaii Community Foundation for a part-time position, Lesley now directs on-going volunteer activities. Ballet Hawaii’s extensive network of parents, students and supporters account for nearly 1,417 hours of donated service annually. Young was among the volunteer ranks before taking the part time position. “I manage a hula halau that rents studio space from Ballet Hawaii, so I connected with the company on many levels before joining the staff.” she said. “I enjoy the challenging work.



Farewell Steve!

Ballet Hawaii hosted a well-attended “Farewell Party” for Steve Knox, who retired after serving more than two decades as Executive Director.



It's rewarding to interact with so many dedicated volunteers who assist in nearly every aspect of the company," she continued. "Many volunteers grew up with ballet in their own lives and it's great to see them give back to our dance community by assisting with Ballet Hawaii's mailings, events, chaperone duties, sewing, security, novelty sales, computer consultations, ushers and office assistance."

Ballet Hawaii's Board of Directors are among the volunteers who provide countless hours of service and expertise. Mahalo to all those who help keep Ballet Hawaii running smoothly.

Macy's Community Day

Ballet Hawaii's participation in Macy's recent Community Shopping Day was a huge success! The credit for raising almost \$17,000 from this fund raising opportunity goes to all the



students, parents, family and friends who supported this by selling and buying \$10 tickets to the event! Mahalo to all those who helped Ballet Hawaii retain its number one sales position for the third year in a row! Proceeds will help to fund costs for new costumes.

Prizes were given to the top four sellers (from the top):

1. Kayla Kunasaki
2. Jerika Palpallatoc
3. Esther Beatty
4. Elisabeth Kurashige

Nuts about Nutcrackers

Lori Komer can't remember when she first fell in love with decorative nutcrackers, but her unique collection of this holiday icon is filled with specialty styles and ethnic diversity! A two-foot Native American nutcracker decked in authentic Indian attire, including a feathered headdress, is among her most prized!

"I was an avid ballet dancer throughout childhood and college," she says. "Like so many of our young students, I had dreams of becoming a ballerina—and made it as far as an audition for Robert Joffrey when I was a junior in high school. But at 5'9", odds were not in my favor!" Komer's passion for ballet never diminished. She recently joined Ballet Hawaii's Board of Directors and has been a long time patron. Her nutcracker collection is also a happy reminder of how the ballet has been such a wonderful holiday tradition for her family over the years.

Komer has a keen eye for finding unusual nutcrackers. "I was easily drawn to an Herr Drosselmeyer nutcracker in Germany," she says, "but I am very selective now. I look for the ones that 'speak to me'." Her treasured pieces include a Pirate nutcracker with a peg leg (he's hard to balance!), a Merlin the Magician, a hand-whittled cowardly lion from the Wizard of Oz, Robin Hood, Friar Tuck and many others. "I have my sights on the Tin Woodsman at Nieman Marcus this year."

Komer admits to having one favorite: an old standby metal nutcracker she uses for pecans!



Upcoming Ballet Hawaii Presentations

Les Ballet Trockadero De Monte Carlo

February 16 and 17, 2008, Hawaii Theatre

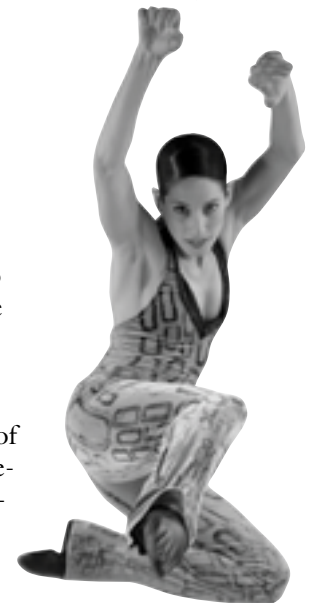
The world's foremost all-male comic ballet company returns to present its playful, entertaining parodies of traditional, classical ballet. Performed "en transfesti," Les Ballet Trockadero combines true talent with campy humor. Watching heavy bodies delicately balance en pointe as swans, water sprites and princesses conveys the beauty and discipline of ballet. With chest hairs peeking out above frilly pink tutus, male ballerinas incorporate exaggerated foibles, accidents and the underlying incongruities of serious dance to delight and amuse.



Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago

March 16, 2008
Hawaii Theatre

Dynamic and diverse, Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago is redefining American jazz dance with an ensemble of top-flight dancers who continually expand the boundaries of this dance form. Critically-acclaimed new works and a wide repertoire of polished original choreography create a sensational entertainment experience.



A Return to Elegance



Susan Schull, Thurston Twigg-Smith, Sharon Twigg-Smith, Douglas Himmelfarb



Mark Wong, Guy Merola, Cheryl Bates, Jack Bates



Sherman Hee, Cherye Pierce, Larry Johnson, Stephanie Hee, Claire Johnson, Jim Napier, Joyce Tomonari



Larry Heim, Amerjit Ghag, Kirstin Chan, Michael Chan



Hank Stackpole, Vivien Stackpole, Jo-Ann Komori, Larry Takumi



Carol McNamee, Mary Philpotts McGrath, Jackie Jones, Don Jones

Over two hundred guests recently enjoyed Ballet Hawaii's Return to Elegance event at Ka'aha'aina, the lovely home of Douglas Himmelfarb.

Photos Cathy Thourson



Heidi Mosley, Ruth Hirshfield



Anie and John Parkinson and Les Jeunes Filles du Ballet Hawaii



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

808 521-8600
www.ballethawaii.org

Non-profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Honolulu, HI
Permit No. 1501

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED