



Summer 2010

En Pointe

Ballet Hawaii

Brings the *Summer Spirit*

to the Stage

This summer we're a little bit Gershwin, a little bit Bach and a little bit Tchaikovsky. Ballet Hawaii's August program will feature a mix of dances with equal measures of lightness, fun and floating beauty.

"This is perfect summer fare," says Ballet Hawaii Artistic Director Pamela Taylor-Tongg.

The pieces will star some of the nation's top principal dancers along with our own Ballet Hawaii students who participate in our summer intensive program. This summer we'll be joined by New York City Ballet principals Megan Fairchild, Robert Fairchild and Andrew Veyette, Ballet West principal and Hawaii-born Romi Beppu, Carolina Ballet's Timour Bourtasenkov and Eugene Ballet's Mark Tucker.



"When audiences see a performance by Mainland companies they would normally see the principals dancing just the main roles, with the other parts performed by soloists," Taylor-Tongg says. "Here in Hawaii, we're fortunate because we have all these principals together on one stage at the same time. It's a real treat."

Ballet Hawaii students also have the rare opportunity to work with these professionals during the summer intensive.

"To work with dancers of this magnitude of talent is just amazing," Taylor-Tongg says. "And they are always very willing to share their advice and experience with our students."

The program will be performed at the University of Hawaii's Kennedy Theatre and will include *By George!* a witty backstage view of a Broadway-style musical, complete with off-stage flirtations and comical misunderstandings. The late Tom Pazik said he was out to entertain when he choreographed the piece, which is set to the hits of George Gershwin. He injects the ballet with an ingenious sense of humor, letting the audience in on various sight gags and missed cues.

Ballet Hawaii will also stage another Pazik piece, called *Trio*. Pazik, who created more than eighty ballets in his lifetime, in-

fused *Trio* with playfulness and poetry. Taylor-Tongg has a special connection to Pazik's work — he was her dance partner when she was with Atlanta Ballet.

Also on the program this summer is George Balanchine's *Serenade*, set to the music of Tchaikovsky. This is the first original ballet Balanchine created in America. It is performed by dancers in blue costumes before a blue background.

"*Serenade* is just a legendary ballet," Taylor-Tongg says. "It is so beautiful and it's a real privilege to be able to do this. It's fun, too, because it started with a rehearsal piece that Balanchine



Photos Paul Kolnik

did on his students. When one dancer was late and couldn't find her place in the formation, he incorporated that into the ballet. When one student fell, he put that in, too."

"We really have the best of everything," she adds. "At the end of the show, you'll be leaving with a smile on your face."

Join us

The summer show will be performed at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa's **Kennedy Theatre on Saturday August 21 at 7:30 pm and Sunday August 22 at 2 pm**

Tickets will be available July 1

More info on how to buy tickets at our website www.balleshawaii.org

Fashion in Motion

A new artistic collaboration was born when legendary dancer **Mikhail Baryshnikov** was introduced to the design of Hawaii's **Anne Namba**. While he was here in the fall for a Ballet Hawaii show, he fell in love with her fashions and the two began working on a project.

Before Namba traveled to New York to present her new collection at the Baryshnikov Art Center, she staged a benefit show for Ballet Hawaii at the Halekulani. Ballet Hawaii dancers helped model the garments in segments that were inspired by the fire of Latin dances, the dark edge of modern dance and the soft flow of lyrical dance. Jewelry was provided by **Anna Meng** of **The Meng Dynasty**.

The brunch raised \$19,000, which Ballet Hawaii will use to support training, outreach programs and upcoming shows.

Our warmest mahalo goes to **Anne Namba**, **Gerald Glennon** and his staff at the **Halekulani Hotel**, and our supporters — particularly **Kathy Louie** of **Continental Airlines**, who provided the grand prize for the drawing.

The Guests



Susie Fitzgerald and Vi Loo



Julia Ing, Anne Namba and Nery Heenan



Jeanie Chun and Dr. Larry Tseu



Susan Schull, Anne Namba, Gerald Gannon



Marion Miller, Anna Meng

Ballet Hawaii Dancers



The Fashion Show



En Board

Ballet Hawaii is pleased to welcome two fantastic people to the board of directors.

Carolyn Berry

Personal stats There are those in town who raise an eyebrow when Carolyn describes herself as “a simple little girl from West Virginia.” But that is, indeed, where she grew up. She married the late George Berry in 1956 and they had four children. Carolyn was always busy with different organizations, including being the only female coach of a boys’ Little League team. She moved to Hawaii in the late 80s and is one of Hawaii’s greatest supporters of music and the arts and education. Her warmth and generosity are renowned.

Also known as the grandmother in the *Nutcracker* party scene. Carolyn has joined us on stage for four years.

Favorite on-stage moments “When the children and I are able to connect. I play grandmother and, in real life, I am a grandmother 12 times. So I love connecting with the young



people playing and dancing. They are as excited as I am. My grandson has been there with me in the party scene three years, too.”

Favorite ballet “After *Nutcracker*, I would have to say *Swan Lake*.”

Ballet is important to Hawaii because “it is another art form that young and old alike can enjoy.”

I joined the Ballet Hawaii board because “I know most of the people on the board and work with them during the *Nutcracker*. If they think I can help them in some way I am willing to try. I respect those I have met on the board and I feel they are doing a great job presenting the community with quality entertainment and classes for children and adults who are really interested in dancing as their career.”

Affiliations Carolyn’s philanthropy and involvement is longer than a prima ballerina’s en tendu. She supports many arts-oriented organizations but her love for basketball has made her one of the University of Hawaii hoop’s best supporters. She is grandma to them, too.

Favorite activities “Designing houses — I designed my own and started my own design company to decorate and furnish all my own homes and offices. Another great joy is painting. I have paintings hanging in business offices in China, Florida, Michigan and all my friends have a “Carolyn” picture for their homes. I am also an avid reader. My favorites are Sherlock Holmes and anything about Henry VIII.”

Paul Jurcsak

Occupation Paul is the regional manager and a senior operations analyst for MIKEL, Inc, an undersea technology company. Paul retired from the United States Navy in 2003 after 21 years of service in the submarine force. During this time he served on fast attack submarines in the Atlantic fleet and on operational submarine staffs in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets.

Personal stats Paul grew up in Albany, NY. He has a BS in mathematics from St. Lawrence University and an MBA from the Lally School of Business and Technology. He lives with his wife, Hiroko, and his daughter, Mariko (a Ballet Hawaii dancer), in Waikale.

Dance background “To be honest, I really only became interested in ballet when my daughter started dancing. But once bitten, I am now totally committed to supporting ballet on all levels.”

Favorite ballet “It has to be the *Nutcracker*. It is a Christmas tradition for our family, made even more special now that my daughter has the opportunity to perform.”



Ballet is important to Hawaii “to promote the cultural development of our future generations. The arts are such a vital component of any society and it is so important that we don’t lose sight of how essential they are.”

I joined the Ballet Hawaii board because “I see the results. The dancers who come out of the Ballet Hawaii system have learned much more than dance. They have a better perspective on life and living. Ballet Hawaii instills in its students the essential qualities of commitment, dedication and responsibility; things that will benefit them for the rest of their lives.”

Affiliations Paul is the International Service Chairman and the incoming president-elect of the Rotary Club of Honolulu Sunset. He is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the public relations officer for the Bowfin Base chapter of the United States Submarine Veterans Incorporated. He also serves on the pastoral council and as hospitality ministry director at the Resurrection of Lord Catholic Community in Waipio.

Favorite activities “Golf...when I can fit it into Mariko’s schedule! I am also very active in community service projects. Giving back to the community is one of the most fulfilling activities one can get involved with. When I get the chance, I also like to go snorkeling with my daughter and spend time on the beach with my family.”

Petites Pointes

• Everything's PONO

Over the last year, Executive Director John Parkinson has participated in the Hawaii Community Foundation's PONO program, which fosters leadership in non-profit organizations.

As part of the program, Ballet Hawaii received a \$24,000 grant from HCF, which has provided new software to manage the organizations information.

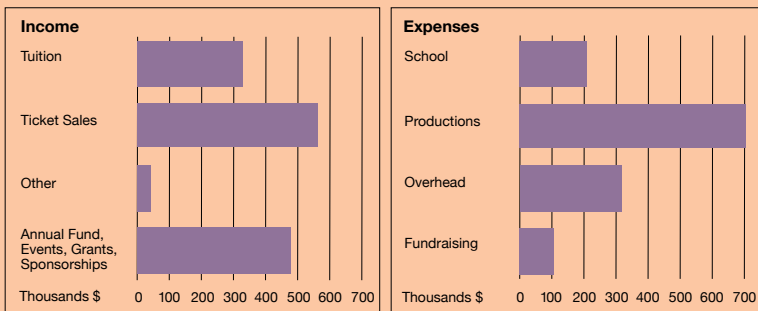
"With the number of students we have and the number of locations we have, processing all that information is a mind-numbing, never-ending task of data management," Parkinson says. "With this new software, information is instantly and easily available to everyone who needs it."

Those running the school will have access to roll lists, class lists, payment schedules and contact information. Students and parents will have their own accounts, too, and will be able to register, sign-up for classes, view their schedules, purchase tickets to performances and, eventually, even shop at an online Ballet Boutique.

Jonagustine Lim of **Lim Pacific** has been assisting Ballet Hawaii with the upgrades.

• Budget crunching

Did you ever wonder about the breakdown of the ballet's \$1.3 million budget? Below you can see both where our money comes from and where we spend it.



If you have not yet contributed to our 2009-2010 Annual Fund, there is still time. Mailing donations before June 30 will help us reach our fiscal year goal of \$58,000. Our mailing address is Ballet Hawaii, 650 Iwilei Road, Box 221, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817. Thank you for all of your support.

• Sponsors

Ballet Hawaii is pleased to welcome two new *Nutcracker* sponsors. **Nordstrom** and **First Insurance** will add their support to this year's productions. The **Hickam Officer's Spouses' Club** is also offering financial assistance. Our mahalo goes to our ongoing sponsors: **Continental Airlines**, **Pension Services Corp.**, and **Starwood Hotels and Resorts Waikiki**.

• Studio move

As you may know, our lease on our Dole Cannery studios expires in August. At press time, we were still looking for a new location. A ballet studio has particular needs, not the least of which is large spaces without columns. Any leads? Contact Executive Director John Parkinson.

• Well designed

At this fall's performances, keep an eye out for our brand new novelty sales kiosk. The kiosk was the winning entry in a design contest held by local artistic think-tank Interisland Terminal. Architects **Luke Altenau** and **Katie Coffman** created a design that pulls on the abstracted profiles of ballet dancers and uses tubular steel and reused sails. Ballet Hawaii is honored to be the recipient of their creative endeavors.

• "Pointe" to a Green and Sustainable Future

This year Ballet Hawaii's students, parents and staff sold the HonuGuide, Hawaii's sustainable island living guide. The \$20 books gave purchasers more than \$4,000 in coupons for goods and services promoting a healthy lifestyle. Fifty percent of the proceeds directly benefited Ballet Hawaii.

Through this fundraiser, more than \$14,500 was raised for the purchase and maintenance of costumes. Mahalo to all those who helped to make this fundraiser a success.

Prizes were given to our top six sellers: **Khloe Webster**, **Kenya Glenn**, **Noelle Tarumoto**, **Hailey Lovelace**, **Mariko Jurcsak** and **Kaitlyn Buehler**.

A special thank you also goes to the following companies who donated prizes: **HonuGuide**, **Discount Dance Supply**, **Jamba Juice**, **Tea at 1024**, **z pizza Hawaii**, **Step-n-Up**, **Wet n Wild Water Park** and **Rascals Family Fun Center**.

Joy of Dance AWARD

Hundreds of costumes, yards and yards of tulle, flocks of dancers and loads of backstage excitement ... as Ballet Hawaii's chief wardrobe meisters, Donna Auld and Sharie Hartwell have been juggling it with aplomb for years.

For all they have done — first as volunteers and later as employees — Donna and Sharie recently received this year's Joy of Dance Award. "They have just been two dedicated, fabulous individuals," says Development Director Judy Muncaster.

Both Donna and Sharie got involved with Ballet Hawaii when their daughters were dancing, but they have continued on, juggling the intricacies of the wardrobe even with daytime jobs and families.

Artistic Director Pamela Taylor-Tongg calls Donna her "go-to" person for organizing the myriad needs of a production, whether it's an overnight delivery for last-minute leotards or a lipstick smear just before call-time.

"I really rely on Donna because I

know she always comes through," Taylor-Tongg says.

Sharie, meanwhile, is the seamstress extraordinaire.

"Every year, the dancers have different body types and Sharie has the knack to make the costumes fit perfectly," Taylor-Tongg says. "She also has an incredible ability to put together — overnight — the most beautiful costumes."

Donna and Sharie, please take a bow and our mahalo.

SAVE THE DATE!

Song of India September 25 Royal Hawaiian Hotel



Namaste

Join us for an evening of exotic music, dance and entertainment with Ballet Hawaii's annual fundraiser, Song of India, on September 25 at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. For information, contact Development Director Judy Muncaster at 521-8600.



Accolades

Brava to Ballet Hawaii's Gabrielle Chock who, for the third year running, made it all the way to the Youth America Grand Prix finals in New York.

Gabrielle was one of five Ballet Hawaii students who traveled to the semi-finals on the west coast earlier this year. She and Courtney and Stephanie Schenberger, Sabrina Ocasio and Marée Miller were among more than 5,000 students from around the world who auditioned, either in person or via video.

Courtney earned a scholarship to the Washington Ballet's summer intensive program by placing in the Top 12 in the junior division in Los Angeles. Stephanie placed in the Top 12 in the pre-competitive division. And Sabrina's contemporary dance earned her third in the junior division in San Francisco.

Gabrielle took the highest award, the Grand Prix, in the junior division in San Francisco. Her win took her on to New York in March, where she joined 500 solo finalists and 475 ensemble members for a week of exciting competition.

The Ballet Hawaii contingent in San Francisco had another uplifting moment when Artistic Director Pamela Taylor-Tongg was honored with an outstanding teacher award.

"It's just so inspirational to see our dancers do so well," says Taylor-Tongg. "The incredible dedication that they have and their loyalty to the studio, not to mention the devotion of all the parents, volunteers and teachers ... it was just a combination of everyone doing what they do best."

Remembering

Where would Ballet Hawaii be without former Mayor Frank Fasi and Bob Dye? As both men passed away this year, we remember their role in bringing ballet to Hawaii.

In 1976, Mayor Fasi was the man who decided that no city could be complete without dance. Bob Dye was his executive assistant and the man charged with making the Honolulu City Ballet a reality.

Dye had no background in ballet, but make it happen he did. Along with Jim Hutchison and Tessa Magoon (who later



Mayor Frank Fasi and Bob Dye

married Dye), he recruited professional dancers from Hawaii and Los Angeles, and the Honolulu City Ballet took its first steps. Running a bal-

let within a city budget could often be like fitting a square peg in a round hole, "but Bob was very astute in how to use city administrative functions to get things done," remembers Bob Sandla, who later took over the company's leadership and is an advisory member of the Ballet Hawaii board. When city budget crunchers ques-

tioned why ballet dancers needed more pairs of shoes per year than police officers or fire fighters, Bob Dye was able to convince them. When city lawyers didn't understand the concept of "choreography," Bob Dye was able to explain it.

In the early 1980s, the federal government phased out the CETA program, which funded the company, and so Ballet Hawaii was born. Thirty years later, it serves hundreds of students and brings professional-level ballet to audiences across the state.

For all of that, we thank you, Mayor Fasi and Bob Dye.

Save these dates

August 21 & 22 Ballet Hawaii's summer show with Balanchine, Bach and Gershwin
University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Kennedy Theater

September 25 Ballet Hawaii's *Song of India* fundraiser
Royal Hawaiian Hotel

October 16 Complexions Contemporary Ballet
Hawaii Theater

December 17–19 Nutcracker
Blaisdell Concert Hall

The New-York based troupe,

Complexions Contemporary Ballet

comes to Hawaii October 16

