

Summer 2008

En Pointe

Ballet Hawaii Presents Masterpiece *Giselle*

Considered to be the jewel of classical ballet, *Giselle* tells the tale of a love that knows no earthly boundaries.

First performed in 1841 by the Paris Opera Ballet, *Giselle* continues to be one of the most prevailing ballets in the classical repertoire.

Featuring music by Adolphe Adam, Ballet Hawaii's production is staged by Robert Barnett and features dancers from New York City Ballet.



New York City Ballet Stars Add Lustre to *Giselle*

Ballet Hawaii is proud to welcome stars from around the world for its summer production of *Giselle*.

New York City Ballet soloist Tiler Peck will dance the title role, while principal dancer and Hawaii audience favorite Joaquin De Luz will perform as Albrecht. Peck and De Luz have both appeared in numerous New York City Ballet productions in leading and original roles.

Broadway luminary and Tony award nominated artist John Selya will perform as Hilarion in the program. Selya is widely acclaimed for originating the lead role in Twyla Tharp's Broadway smash hit *Movin' Out*. Locally, Selya has captured ballet audiences in recent productions of Ballet Hawaii's *Nutcracker* and *Copellia*. Selya is also teaching in Ballet Hawaii's 2008 Summer Intensive.

Among the supporting cast of *Giselle* will be New York City Ballet dancers Savannah Lowery and Jonathan Stafford and Hawaii-born Noelani Pantastico from Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo.

Cover photo: Joaquin De Luz

Photograph by Paul Kolnik

Only 2 Performances of *Giselle* available!

Aug 16, 2008 at 7:30 pm

Aug 17, 2008 at 2:00 pm

Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall

Regular Tickets \$25 - \$75 at

Neal Blaisdell Box Office and

all Ticketmaster locations.

Charge by phone 1-877-750-4400

or online at ticketmaster.com.

Group discounts available.

Summer Intensive Gives Students Unforgettable Ballet Experience



Artistic Director
Pamela
Taylor-Tongg

The Summer Intensive program at Ballet Hawaii provides talented young students the opportunity to study with master teachers and the chance to perform with acclaimed professional dancers in a full-length ballet with a live orchestra, elaborate sets and detailed costumes.

Great technical progress can be made during the intensive three-week program. The classes offered include Technique, Pointe, Partnering, Modern, Jazz, Character, Body Conditioning, and Acting for Dancers.

Students complete the intensive with a newfound understanding and respect for the art of dance. A student from last year's summer intensive said that she "...felt as though she had never worked so hard, made so much progress, and developed life-long friends."

Ballet Hawaii is fortunate to have leading instructors sharing their wisdom and experience with local dancers in the program. This summer's guest teachers include Robert Barnett, Maria Vegh and John Selya.

Robert Barnett was the Artistic Director of the Atlanta Ballet from 1962 to 1994 following a brilliant 12-year career with the New York City Ballet. He has served as head coach for the American delegation at the International Ballet Competitions in 1980, 1981 and 1992. Barnett also served on the competitor Selection Committee and as Master Teacher for the 1998 USA International Ballet Competition. He has been honored by many dance organizations in this country and has been an adjudicator or teacher in all five regions represented by regional Dance America.

Maria Vegh is a noted ballet instructor and author of the book *To Dance*. She danced professionally with Ballet Repertory Company of New York for 13 years. She was co-director of New York's prestigious Harkness Ballet School. Vegh established the Pennsylvania Repertory Company and School and later became Director of Marin Ballet School. She now operates her own studio in Petaluma, California and guest teaches extensively throughout the United States and Japan.

We are also delighted to have John Selya join the Ballet Hawaii Summer Intensive teaching staff. Selya danced for several years with American Ballet Theatre and is currently starring in a revival production of *Damn Yankees* at Lincoln Center. His experience on Broadway, as a choreographer, and in professional dance will provide a creative and original outlook for those students fortunate enough to take his classes.

This year promises to be more thrilling than ever! We look forward to working with all the local dancers as well as those from the mainland and Japan who are coming to experience the excitement of our Summer Intensive!

For more information, please call Ballet Hawaii's office at 808 521-8600, or email info@ballethawaii.org.

New Board Members Welcomed

Ballet Hawaii welcomes three community leaders to its Board of Directors.

Janie Davis has supported Ballet Hawaii since the early 1980s when she helped to apply make-up to pre-school *Nutcracker* dancers. Janie has worked as a social worker for a variety of community organizations in the thirty-five years she has been a Hawaii resident. Today, Janie spends part of her year in Manhattan, and is an active supporter of the arts in both Honolulu and New York. She is married to attorney Mark Davis and has two daughters, Erin and Rebecca, both alumni of Ballet Hawaii.



Barbara Giles' career spans 32 years as an executive with United Airlines. Her most recent position was in Hong Kong where she served as Regional Manager of Human Resources for the Pacific operation. She was an active member of the American Chamber of Commerce while there. She currently volunteers for the Academy of Arts, the Guild, and the Outrigger Canoe Club. Barbara resides in Manoa with husband Kent and their two soft-coated Wheaten Terriers, Kona and Leilani.



Floria "Lori" Offer Komer was born and raised in Hawaii. After graduation from La Pietra, she attended the University of Hawaii. While in school, Lori studied ballet and recalls peering from the wings of the Waikiki Shell to see Margot Fonteyn and Rudolph Nureyev perform in 1960. Lori has been a member of the Junior League of Honolulu and the board of La Pietra and served as president of the La Pietra Alumnae Association. Currently Lori serves on the Hawaii Opera Theatre board. She and husband Jaymark have two sons, Benjamin and Joshua.



Three Phantoms Sing for Ballet Hawaii

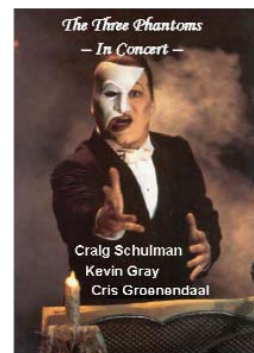
Return of the Three Phantoms Benefit Concert September 12, 13, 14, 2008

Three of Broadway's top performers, Craig Schulman, Cris Groenendaal and Kevin Gray, are returning to perform at the Hawaii Theatre in association with Ballet Hawaii.

Each has portrayed the Phantom in over 2000 performances of *Phantom of the Opera*. Their credits also include *Sweeney Todd*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Miss Saigon*, *Les Misérables*, *Evita* and many more.

As a special feature, Ballet Hawaii dancers will perform a *Phantom of the Opera* Ballet accompanied by the 1922 Robert Morton Theatre Organ.

For tickets call Hawaii Theatre at 808-528-0506.



Ballet Hawaii Students Dance in Youth American Grand Prix

Two Ballet Hawaii students, 12 year-old Yoshiko Kamikusa, and 10 year-old Gabrielle Chock, recently competed in the renowned Youth American Grand Prix Ballet competition.

It was Yoshiko's second time competing in the event. Last year she placed third in the pre-competitive division regional semi-finals, and qualified for the international competition in New York City. This year Yoshiko competed in the regional semi-finals, Classical Ballet category, held in San Francisco and placed in the top 12.



Yoshiko Kamikusa and Gabrielle Chock competed in the 2008 Youth American Grand Prix

The Youth American Grand Prix event was Gabrielle's first competition. She scored in the top 12 in the pre-competitive division, regional semi-finals, held in Long Beach, California, and qualified to compete in the international competition in New York City.

We are very proud of Yoshiko and Gabrielle, who represent the high caliber of training available through Ballet Hawaii.

Macy's Foundation Supports Nutcracker Performances

Macy's has offered to be one of the corporate sponsors of Ballet Hawaii's 2008 *Nutcracker* performances at the Blaisdell Concert Hall on December 19, 20 and 21. Ballet Hawaii wishes to thank everyone at Macy's for their continued generous support.



Ballet Hawaii Executive Director John Parkinson and Deena Nichols, Macy's Sr. V.P. Director of Stores for Hawaii and Guam, at the check presentation to the ballet from the Macy's West Foundation

Ballet's Costumes Benefit from Macy's Shopping Day Fundraiser

Ballet Hawaii was a charitable beneficiary of Macy's Community Shopping Day fundraiser held on Oahu on Saturday, June 21.

By purchasing a \$10 Macy's Community Shopping Day coupon from a Ballet Hawaii student or volunteer, supporters helped raise money for the Ballet's costume programs and enjoyed a 10% to 20% savings on purchases at Macy's Oahu stores. Macy's employees also sold coupons to their customers. Funds raised by Macy's employees were split among qualifying participating charities, including Ballet Hawaii.

Ballet Hawaii students competed for prizes by selling coupons. The winners of the contest were: **Kayla Kunasaki, Victoria Zembic, Maya Miyata, Brianna Corpuz, Elizabeth Kurashige, Rayce Sato, and Nicole Kirihara.**

Ballet Hawaii raised over \$18,000 in coupon sales—more than any other participating organization!

We want to thank all the wonderful students and parents who participated.

Volunteers Make Our Success Possible

Ballet Hawaii relies on many parents, board members and friends to serve as volunteers to stage our performances and fundraisers. For each production, a volunteer book is kept in the office where parents of children in the production can sign-up according to the role their child is performing. Help with make-up, chaperoning, dressing, novelty sales, ushering, ticket taking, security, and parties before and after the ballets is always needed. Community volunteers are also required to assist in most of these areas.

During our last season we needed 100 volunteers for two performances of *Cinderella*, 200 for three performances of *Nutcracker* and 125 for two performances of *Nutcracker* on Maui. Volunteers are also called upon to help with our fundraisers. These occur at various times throughout the year and are considered by most to be fun rather than work.



Two of Ballet Hawaii's great volunteers: Sandy Kondo and Stephanie Laws (l to r)

We will require 75 - 100 volunteers to help with our two upcoming *Giselle* performances August 16 and 17. If you are interested in volunteering in any area, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Lesley Young, at lesley@ballethawaii.org.

A special thank-you to all of the wonderful volunteers that have helped us in the past. We could not have done our job without you!

Ballet Hawaii Announces Starwood Partnership

The sponsor partnership with Starwood Hotels & Resorts in Waikiki will help support Ballet Hawaii's 2008-2009 season.

"We are proud and excited to partner with Starwood Hotels & Resorts in Waikiki, which recognizes the importance of the arts to the visitor and local climate of Hawaii," said Executive Director John Parkinson.

"This sponsorship helps make it possible for us to attract top talent from major performing companies," Parkinson explained. "Ballet Hawaii is proud to bring principal dancers from around the world to appear in our productions. We offer our dancers an opportunity to perform with professionals, and we give the community a chance to enjoy the best the dance world has to offer. Starwood Hotels and Resorts will help us to continue this tradition."

Starwood Hotels & Resorts Waikiki

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THE LUXURY COLLECTION



Mahalo to Ballet Hawaii Giselle Sponsors



An Evening with the
Three Phantoms
Dinner and
Entertainment

September 6, 2008

**MUSIC
OF THE
NIGHT**

For more information,
please call
Judy Muncaster
at 808 521-8600.

Save The Dates!

Giselle

Saturday, Aug. 16, 2008 at 7:30 pm
Sunday, Aug. 17, 2008 at 2:00 pm

Return of the Three Phantoms

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
Sept. 12, 13, and 14, 2008

Nutcracker

Friday, Dec. 19, 2008 at 8:00 pm
Saturday, Dec. 20, 2008 at 7:30 pm
Sunday, Dec. 21, 2008 at 2:00 pm

Lines Ballet

Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009 at 7:30 pm



Lines Ballet Dancer Laurel Keen Photographed by Marty Soh



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www.balleshawaii.org

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