

THE GRADUATE COLLEGE OF DANCE NEWSLETTER

The Graduate College of Dance
Term 1 February 2003

Welcome to our first edition for 2003. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our returning students and to all first time students of the College.



It is wonderful to see the enthusiasm and commitment with which students have already embraced 2003, with many students participating in conditioning classes the week prior to the official commencement of the school year.

This year we have the capacity to distribute our newsletter electronically, which will help us in delivering news to you more efficiently and help reduce printing and postage costs. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically please provide your email details to gslide@inet.net.au. We are also increasing the distribution of the newsletter to include former students and parents. If you are aware of anyone who would like to receive the newsletter, please ask them to provide their details to me.

In this newsletter you will read about a number of initiatives being implemented by the College's Director, Dawn Weller. I would like to encourage your support of these as we look forward to another successful year.

Chavaune Francis
Editor

THE NUTCRACKER

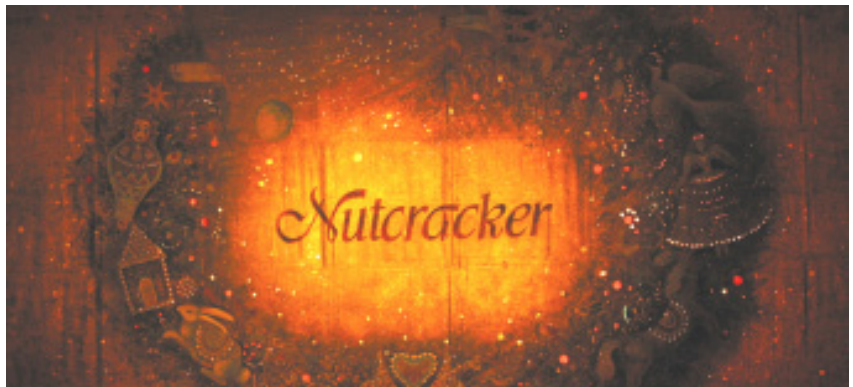
2002 ended on a high for The Graduate College of Dance with the extremely successful season of The Nutcracker at His Majesty's Theatre. Close to 3,000 people attended the season, with the College receiving a tremendous amount of very complementary feedback. The College's Patron, Sir Charles Court, and his wife, Lady Judy Court, attended the performance on Saturday night. Following is an extract from a letter sent by Sir Charles to Dawn Weller regarding The Nutcracker.

"Saturday night was a memorable performance of The Nutcracker, not only by The Graduate College of Dance, but in relation to the many performances of this great work I have seen over my lifetime.

"You and your staff and all involved, including the students and parents, can be proud of the professionalism they showed on Saturday evening. This in turn means that a lot of dedicated effort has gone into the performance by you and your staff, the students, parents and all involved.

"Because of my long association with music and the theatre I am very conscious of the tremendous effort that is required by people like yourself and your colleagues as well as from the dancers themselves.

"The performance gave us a wonderful night of ballet at its best. It was hard to realise how young most of the participants were."



BALLET SUPPORT GROUP

Bruno Romero is the new Chairperson of the Ballet Support Group. He replaces Judy Farr following her retirement as Chair last year. Bruno has two children at The Graduate College of Dance - Lauren who is in Year 11 and Kirsten in Year 9.

Other office bearers are:

Jill Whiteley - Secretary
Lorraine Harford - Treasurer

For any information regarding the Ballet Support Group please contact Bruno on 0419 045651 or email cooeeromes@aol.com

DANCE AUSTRALIA

Asked to list the 'Most Significant Dance Event' in 2002 for Dance Australia, Susan Whitford, journalist with the publication, reported the following which can be seen in the February/March edition of Dance Australia:

"Changing of the guard: Simon Dow replaces Ted Brandsen at WAB while Dawn Weller replaces Terri Charlesworth at Graduate College."

ADULT CLASSES

Have you ever wanted to dance like Margot Fonteyn or Rudolf Nureyev? Beginning on 25 February 2003, the College's Director Ms Dawn Weller, along with her piano accompanist Mr Gennaro Di Donna, will conduct ballet classes for adults. You don't need to have ever danced before or have a dance background as classes will provide participants with the fundamentals of ballet and a background understanding of what students are studying at the College. All you need to get going is comfortable clothing, ballet shoes or socks, towel and water.

Classes will be held in Studio 2 at The Graduate College of Dance on selected Tuesdays from 5.30 to 6.30 pm (please see below for complete timetable). The cost of the classes is \$10 (incl GST) per person per class. Book a series of ten classes and you will only pay for nine (\$90). For all enquiries and booking please contact Suzan on 9380 0551. All proceeds from the classes will go towards the College for the benefit of the students. Ms Weller, Mr Di Donna, Ms Diana de Vos and Ms Christina Federici are donating their time in support of the College.

February	25	March	4, 11, 18, 25
April	1, 8	May	13, 20, 27
JUNE	3, 10, 24	July	29
August	5, 12, 19, 26	September	2, 9, 16
October	21, 28 (last for year)		

2002 GRADUATING STUDENTS UPDATE

The College is very proud of the success already achieved by our 2002 graduating students. Emma Farr is one of only two recipients of the West Australian Ballet's inaugural 2003 scholarship. Over 50 young hopefuls auditioned in Perth and Sydney for the prestigious award. Emma commenced her scholarship in January and will spend most of this year rehearsing with the company. The scholarship will also give Emma an insight into operations at WA Ballet such as administration, production, marketing, theatre and education.

Fellow Year 12 graduates Laura Conroy and Amy Drew have been accepted into the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, their studies at the College gaining them entry directly into second year. Meanwhile Wenn-Sze Koh will commence studies at university in March.

After spending a week with her mum checking out the delights of New Zealand, Laura Brook has now commenced classes with the New Zealand School of Dance based in Wellington. Word from Laura is that she is having a great time and dancing morning, noon and night!

ADVERTISING

This year The Graduate College of Dance will make available one page of advertising space in our newsletter. The newsletter is distributed at the beginning of each term to the parents of all our students, representatives of like minded organisations such as WAAPA, WA Ballet and the Education Department, our supporters such as Sir Charles Court and Simon Lee and other key stakeholders of the College.

If you are interested in promoting your business through the newsletter or would like to obtain further information and advertising rates please contact Chavaune Francis at glide@inet.net.au or 0408 982890. The booking deadline for advertising in the Term 2 newsletter is Monday 7 April 2003. Later in the year we will also make available advertising space in our end of year season program.



NEW ADDITION TO THE COLLEGE

Our congratulations and best wishes to Gennaro Di Donna and Christina Federici on the birth of their first child Luke on November 9, 2002.

COSTUME HIRE

The Graduate College of Dance has an extensive wardrobe of costumes, many of which will soon be available for hire. From 2003, you and members of the general public will have access to these wonderful costumes.

WISH LIST FOR 2003

Each year the College puts together a 'wish list' of items required. If you can assist by donating any of the items below or by providing funding to assist in their purchase, please contact Bruno Romeo on 0419 045651 or email cooeeromes@aol.com

- new piano
- airconditioning in lecture room and girls' and boys' dressing rooms
- benches and tables for verandah and under large tree
- re-vamp of the garden on the north side of the College
- light fitting in the parents' waiting room
- television for the lecture room
- piano chairs for all the studios (current piano stools have no backs)
- plain white tea service set for when guests visit (ie cups, saucers, milk jug)
- cake plates and tray

COMPETITIONS AND AWARDS

The College has identified a number of competitions and awards it will participate in during 2003. These are the Alana Haines Australasian Awards, AICD Competition and MacDonald Competition. The selection process for entering students will be extremely stringent. Students will have the opportunity to participate in selection classes held by the College. Our selection panels will consist of judges of the highest calibre who are comparable in professional standing with competition adjudicators. The selected students will then be coached appropriately in order to prepare them for the competitions.

We would also like to announce the establishment of the Dr A Scogings Scholarship. Thanks to an extremely generous donation from Dr Andrew Scogings, \$1000 will be made available each year for the next two years to students selected to participate in identified competitions. The money will go towards travel, accommodation and registration costs.

CONDITIONING CLASSES

Conditioning classes will be held for all students in the week prior to the beginning of Term 2. Please take note of the following schedule:

Tues 29 April	9-10.15am	Yrs 5/6/7 - STD 1
	9-10.30am	Yrs 8/9 - STD 2
	10.30-12	Yrs 10/11/12 - STD 1
Wed 30 April	9-10.15am	Yrs 5/6/7 - STD 1
	9-10.30am	Yrs 8/9 - STD 2
	10.30-12	Yrs 10/11/12 - STD 1
Thu 1 May	9-10.15am	Yrs 5/6/7 - STD 1
	9-10.30am	Yrs 8/9 - STD 2
	10.30-12	Yrs 10/11/12 - STD 1
Fri 2 May	9-10.15am	Yrs 5/6/7 - STD 1
	9-10.30am	Yrs 8/9 - STD 2
	10.30-12	Yrs 10/11/12 - STD 1

COLLEGE HOUSEKEEPING

lost property

Parent Wendy Treweek has kindly volunteered to run the College's lost property and second-hand shop. The shop will operate from the wardrobe on the following Saturdays from 9am to 11.30am. There will be a \$2 charge to retain lost items.

1 March • 5 April • 10 May
7 June • 2 August • 13 September
1 November • 13 December

office hours

The Administration Office is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 1pm and from 2pm to 5pm. The office is **CLOSED** everyday from 1pm to 2pm and all day Saturday.

answering machine

The College now has an answering machine to take messages when the phone is unattended. If you phone and get the machine, please leave a message as these are checked regularly and calls returned promptly.

medical reports

All medical reports regarding student injuries are to be addressed to the Director of The Graduate College of Dance, as outlined in our Student Injury Procedure. Medical reports should not be given to teachers.

The College has a number of procedures in place to ensure the safety and well-being of students. For a copy of the Student Injury Procedure please refer to The Graduate College of Dance prospectus.

payment of fees

The prompt payment of student fees is essential for the effective running of the College. A large number of invoices for Term 1 fees still remain unpaid. Please note that all outstanding fees require immediate payment.

The College offers a discount of \$25 on term fees paid prior to the start of each term. No discount will be given on fees paid after the start of term. This discount is not applicable to those receiving fee assistance.

NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE'S BOARD

On behalf of the Board I welcome back all staff, students and parents and extend a particular welcome to new students and their parents. This year will be exciting for all, as our talented students and staff work hard to achieve excellence in dance education and training and as our parent support group continues to support the needs of the Dance Program.

The Board is responsible for the long-term health of the College. To this end, Board members have spent much of January working on the Budget and the Constitution. We are pleased that we have the help of a lawyer on a pro bono basis who is a specialist in Association Constitutional matters. Things are proceeding quickly and the Board's goal is to have the amended Constitution lodged and operational by Easter. This Constitution will bring the College up to date and well placed to continue the dynamic development that has occurred last year.

I hope that our students and their families have had an opportunity to enjoy the variety of dance offered during the Perth International Arts Festival.

The WA Ballet's show at The Quarry Amphitheatre is a relaxed way to enjoy fine contemporary ballet. I encourage you to support this company which is, in turn, very supportive of The Graduate College of Dance.

Lynn Fisher

Chair, Board of Management

BUSY BEES

There are a number of very important jobs that need to be undertaken at the College in 2003 and parents have suggested creating Busy Bee Teams to complete these tasks. We are now actively looking for parents to become members of the teams outlined below. If you are able to assist please contact Bruno Romeo on 0419 045651 or email cooeeromes@aol.com

painting team - parent assistance is required to paint the parents' waiting room, Studio 3, wardrobe, lecture room, archive room and fitting room and to sand and repaint all portable barres.

library - a parent is required to catalogue books in the library and volunteer one afternoon a week to assist with student book loans.

wardrobe - parents are required to run and oversee the hiring of costumes in the wardrobe (one day a week), maintenance of all costumes and to assist on assessment, exam and audition days as dressers.

catering team - a team is required to be responsible for providing refreshments for the adjudicating panel on assessment, exam and auditions days and provide refreshments on choreographic and graduation nights.

administration team - parents are required to assist with audiences at assessments, exams, choreographic night and graduation ceremony. People are also required to come into the office once a term to assist with mailouts.

carpentry team - a team is required to undertake shelving in the wardrobe for storage of shoes, fix mirror on wall in the fitting room, notice board in parents' waiting room and fix a wooden strip on wall in the girls' and boys' dressing rooms.

outings coordinator - a parent is required to arrange and organise student attendance at dance orientated performances in Perth.