

THE GRADUATE COLLEGE OF DANCE NEWSLETTER

The Graduate College of Dance
Term 1 February 2004

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our returning students and to students who are joining The Graduate College of Dance for the first time in 2004.



2003 ended on a high for the College with the extremely successful season of *The Nutcracker* at His Majesty's Theatre. I am pleased to report that over 3,000 people attended the six performances, a significant increase on 2002 audience numbers, with the College receiving a tremendous amount of very complementary feedback. Thank you to parents who volunteered their time to help backstage which contributed greatly to the success of the event.

There is very positive news of our 2003 graduating students. Daniel Smith has now commenced classes with the New Zealand School of Dance based in Wellington and Deborah Whiteley has been accepted into the Victorian College of the Arts. We wish them all the best with their future studies.

This year will see the retirement of our Patron Sir Charles Court and we look forward to another successful chapter in the history of the College with Richard Court accepting the Board's invitation to become our new Patron.

Chavaune Francis
Editor



STUDENTS GUEST LECTURERS AT SCITECH

Year 12 students Hollie Armstrong, Lauren Romeo, and Bianca Silcox joined Director Dawn Weller on Wednesday 21st and Friday 23rd January 2004 to present a series of lectures as part of Scitech's school holiday programme *Toys: Science at Play* - everything you ever wanted to know about toys. The students talked to children about how they developed their characters for *The Nutcracker* and demonstrated how to move like a toy.

Pictured above are (L-R) Hollie Armstrong, Lauren Romeo, Bianca Silcox and Dawn Weller.

COMPETITIONS AND AWARDS

A number of national and international competitions and awards will be considered for students of the College to participate in during 2004. The selection process for entering students will be extremely stringent. Students who have achieved distinctions in Term 1 Assessments 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.

AUDITIONS

This year, auditions for entry to the Senior School in 2005 will be held on Saturday 12 June 2004. Auditions for entry to the Junior School will be held on Saturday 23 October 2004. Please contact Suzan if you require further information about auditions for entry in 2005.

PIANO APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who contributed in 2003 to The Graduate College of Dance Appeal Fund. A reminder that 2004 contributions for gifts pledged over two years are now due. Letters will be sent as reminders in Term 1.

The College has continued to make steady progress towards our target, with additional pledges being made to the appeal at the end of 2003. We are committed to purchasing a baby grand piano for our students in 2004. If you have not made a contribution to the 2003/2004 Appeal Fund and would like to do so please contact Suzan on 9380 0551.

TRACKSUITS

The College tracksuit is now available to order. Fittings of the tracksuit will take place on Saturday 6th March from 11.00 - 11.30am. No orders will be taken after this date. If you are interested in ordering a tracksuit please see Suzan.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

In 2003 the Graduate College of Dance enjoyed unprecedented success with four of our students being offered places at the Australian Ballet School, one student being offered a place at the New Zealand School of Dance and another student offered a place at the Victorian College of the Arts. The students offered places at the Australian Ballet School were Kiara Martinez (Year 9), Tegan Erichsen (Year 9), Rhiannon Chapman (Year 9) and Jonathon Read (Year 10). 2003 graduating students Daniel Smith and Deborah Whiteley were offered places at the New Zealand School of Dance and the Victorian College of the Arts respectively.

This says a lot about the high standards of tuition and professionalism offered by our faculty under the Directorship of Ms Dawn Weller. Congratulations to these students and to our graduating students and also to our staff.

The Board of Management continues to work hard to ensure that all students have the best opportunity to achieve their goals and continues to look at ways in which we can make dance education more affordable. There has been no significant increase in fees during the past couple of years, largely due to increased efficiencies by the College in the use and allocation of funds, resulting in the College being able to operate on a balanced Budget.

Finally, 2004 will be a significant year for our Patron Sir Charles Court who will be retiring after many years of tremendous service and support to the College. A formal ceremony to mark the occasion and to thank Sir Charles and Lady Court will be held at the College. At the same time we will welcome our new Patron, Richard Court, who has kindly accepted our invitation. We are delighted to have Richard on board at the College and look forward to having his energy and enthusiasm as Patron in what promises to be a very busy year.

David Hilditch
Chairperson

DIE FLEDERMAUS

At the end of 2003, students Lana Dodds, Jonathon Read, Nina Svraka, Daniel Smith and Deborah Whiteley volunteered their time to perform in the Australian Opera Studio's season of Die Fledermaus at His Majesty's Theatre. The dance scenes, choreographed by Dawn Weller, provided students with a wonderful new experience and the opportunity to work in another area of the arts.

All students are to be commended for their involvement and the professionalism they showed, particularly Deborah Whiteley who stepped into a role she had not rehearsed when a fellow student fell ill. Following is an extract from a letter sent by John Milson to Dawn Weller regarding the participation of our students in Die Fledermaus.

"I hope this is an adequate indication of my gratitude to you and your five splendid students for such a valuable input into the production of Die Fledermaus. All were a joy to work with; so pleasant and so fast at picking things up! I'm particularly thankful to you for the re-rehearsing you put in when Johnny was taken ill. I was astounded at how well the kids adapted to the emergency and would defy anyone present in the audience to have realised that anything was amiss!"

WEST AUSTRALIAN BALLET

WA Ballet's 2004 season begins on 11th February at the Quarry Amphitheatre with three world premieres and the return of the work *Munaldjali* by renowned creator Stephen Page. All students are encouraged to attend. For more information about WA Ballet's 2004 season and other events and productions please refer to the Student Notice Board.

YEAR PLANNER - TERM 1 (FEBRUARY / MARCH 2004)

(information is correct at time of printing however subject to change without notice)

DATE	THE GRADUATE COLLEGE OF DANCE
Mon 2nd Feb	TERM 1 COMMENCES - STUDENTS RESUME Term 1 Fees - full payment due 8.00 - 10.00am - PMS Assembly - no classes
Wed 4th Feb	5.00 - 6.00pm - Yr 12 Orientation (Studio 1)
Thu 5th Feb	11.25 - 11.55am - Yr 12 Monthly Meeting
Fri 6th Feb	4.45 - 5.45pm - Yr 10 Orientation for Parents and Students (Studio 3)
Sat 7th Feb	9.00 - 10.50am - Lost Property 10.00 - 11.00am - Yr 5 Orientation for Parents and Students (Studio 3) 11.00 - 12.00pm - Yr 8 Orientation for Parents and Students (Studio 1)
Mon 9th Feb	3.40 - 4.40pm - Fitness Program - Ian Lowther / Year 11/12 4.30 - 5.15pm - Yr 9 Orientation for Parents and Students (Studio 2)
Wed 11th Feb	7.30 - 9.00am - Board Meeting 5.00 - 6.00pm - Yr 6 Orientation for Parents and Students (Studio 2)
Thu 12th Feb	5.15 - 6.15pm - Yr 7 Orientation for Parents and Students (Studio 1)
Fri 13th Feb	4.50 - 5.50pm - Yr 11 Orientation for Parents and Students (Studio 1)
Mon 16th Feb	Orders Close for TGCD Towels 3.40 - 4.40pm - Fitness Program - Ian Lowther/ Year 11/12 5.15 - 5.45pm - Coaching Classes Commence
Mon 23rd Feb	3.40 - 4.40pm - Fitness Program - Ian Lowther/ Year 11/12
Tues 24th Feb	Yr 11 Class with Judy Maelor-Thomas
Wed 25th Feb	Y12 Repertoire with Simon Dow
Mon 1st Mar	Public Holiday - Labour Day
Wed 3rd Mar	Y12 Repertoire with Simon Dow
Thu 4th Mar	11.25 - 11.55am - Yr 12 Monthly Meeting
Sat 6th Mar	9.00 - 11.00am - Lost Property 11.00 - 12.00pm - Tracksuit Fitting Day - monies due
Mon 8th Mar	3.40 - 4.40pm - Fitness Program - Ian Lowther/ Year 11/12
Tues 9th Mar	Farewell Ceremony for Sir Charles Court
Wed 10th Mar	Y12 Repertoire with Simon Dow
Thu 11th Mar	5.00 - 6.00pm - Y11 + Y12 Seminar - The Next Step - Simon Dow (Studio 2)
Sat 13th Mar	No Performance Studies for Senior School 9.00 - 10.30am - Choreographic Night Committee to meet with all years to discuss 2004 event

YEAR PLANNER - TERM 1 (MARCH / APRIL 2004)

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DATE	THE GRADUATE COLLEGE OF DANCE
Mon 15th Mar	3.40 - 4.40pm - Fitness Program - Ian Lowther / Year 11/12
Tues 16th Mar	Yr 11 Class with Judy Maelor-Thomas
Mon 22nd Mar	3.40 - 4.40pm - Fitness Program - Ian Lowther / Year 11/12
Fri 26th Mar	No Year 8 Classes - PMS Beach Carnival
Sun 28th Mar	AICD Choreographic Festival
Mon 29th Mar	3.40 - 4.40pm - Fitness Program - Ian Lowther / Year 11/12
Thu 1st Apr	3.15 - 4.30pm - Yr 9 Term 1 Assessment 4.45 - 6.15pm - Yr 10 Term 1 Assessment
Fri 2nd Apr	3.00 - 4.30pm - Yr 11 Term 1 Assessment 4.45 - 6.15pm - Yr 12 Term 1 Assessment
Sat 3rd Apr	8.00 - 9.00am - Yr 5 Term 1 Assessment 9.10 - 10.10am - Yr 6 Term 1 Assessment 10.20 - 11.20am - Yr 7 Term 1 Assessment 11.30 - 12.45pm - Yr 8 Term 1 Assessment 2.00 - 3.15pm - Yr 10 / 11 / 12 Selection Class
Mon 5th Apr	3.40 - 4.40pm - Fitness Program - Ian Lowther / Year 11/12
Tues 6th Apr	Yr 11 Class with Judy Maelor-Thomas
Wed 7th Apr	7.30 - 9.00am - Board Meeting
Thu 8th Apr	LAST DAY OF TERM 11.25 - 11.55am - Yr 12 Monthly Meeting
* Mon 19th Apr	9.00 - 10.15am - Conditioning Work Yrs 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 (Studio 1) 9.00 - 10.30am - Conditioning Work Yrs 9 / 10 / 11 / 12 (Studio 2)
Tues 20th Apr	9.00 - 10.15am - Conditioning Work Yrs 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 (Studio 1) 9.00 - 10.30am - Conditioning Work Yrs 9 / 10 / 11 / 12 (Studio 2)
Wed 21st Apr	9.00 - 10.15am - Conditioning Work Yrs 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 (Studio 1) 9.00 - 10.30am - Conditioning Work Yrs 9 / 10 / 11 / 12 (Studio 2)
Thu 22nd Apr	9.00 - 10.15am - Conditioning Work Yrs 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 (Studio 1) 9.00 - 10.30am - Conditioning Work Yrs 9 / 10 / 11 / 12 (Studio 2)
Fri 23rd Apr	9.00 - 10.15am - Conditioning Work Yrs 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 (Studio 1) 9.00 - 10.30am - Conditioning Work Yrs 9 / 10 / 11 / 12 (Studio 2) 11.00 - 12.00pm - Faculty Meeting
Tues 27th Apr	TERM 2 COMMENCES - STUDENTS RESUME

*** Please note that students are advised to attend conditioning classes from Monday 19th April to Friday 23rd April.**