

THE GRADUATE COLLEGE OF DANCE

NEWSLETTER

The Graduate College of Dance
Term 2 May 2006

Welcome to another school year.

The Graduate College of Dance ended 2005 with a very challenging and rewarding season of *La Bayadere* at the Quarry Amphitheatre.

Our sincerest thanks go to our guest artists: Simon Dow, Artistic Director of West Australian Ballet and Board member of The Graduate College of Dance, for giving his time and vast stage experience to the role of the Rajah Dugmante; former student and West Australian Ballet Principal Dancer Jacinta Ross-Ehlers and Brett Simon, emerging star of West Australian Ballet.

I know all involved with the College are extremely proud of what was achieved. In particular, I congratulate those involved in the *Kingdom of the Shades* scene. For this scene, the technique together with the precision required of the corps de ballet, which comprised students from Years 8 to 12, is indeed commendable. Dawn Weller and Margaret Jones' trust in their students to perform this notoriously difficult piece of choreography and the students' evident determination are to be saluted.

Chavaune Francis
Editor



FORMER WA BALLET DANCER JOINS FACULTY



At the beginning of 2006, The College was delighted and proud to welcome former member of West Australian Ballet, Andrew Hull, to our teaching faculty. Andrew joined West Australian Ballet in 1989 after graduating from The Australian Ballet School.

Andrew retired from the stage at the end of 2004 with over 15 years of experience as a professional dancer, having performed many featured, solo and principal roles in that time. As a professional dancer Andrew was known not only for his versatility and acting skills, but also for technical polish and consistency throughout his career.

As an educator, Andrew has been active on a number of levels. Whilst with West Australian Ballet, Andrew was an integral part of the company's education program, having spoken as a positive role model to many thousands of school children around WA. As part of that same program, which he had helped to devise, Andrew also conducted dance workshops for students in remote areas.

**Paul Boyd
Visiting Choreographer**



For six days in February 2006, we were privileged to welcome professional dancer Paul Boyd back to the College, to choreograph and rehearse three works (a female solo, male solo and ensemble) for the Term 1 Assessment of our Year 12 students. Paul's aim was to provide the opportunity for students to have works created especially for them to showcase their versatility and push the boundaries of the classically based dance repertoire. He also conducted master classes with the Year 10, 11 and 12 students and lectured the Year 11 and 12 theory classes on Australian Choreographers.

Paul had a very successful dancing career, including 23 years as Principal Dancer with three leading European ballet companies. On returning to Australia, he spent seven years as Principal Dancer, Company Coach and Choreographer with Queensland Ballet.

On Thursday 16 February, a special reception in honor of Paul's visit was attended by staff, students and parents and we very much hope to welcome Paul back to the College next year.

Australian Ballet School

*Timothy Harford, Alexander McKinnon
and James Treweek at the College before
making the move to Melbourne.*

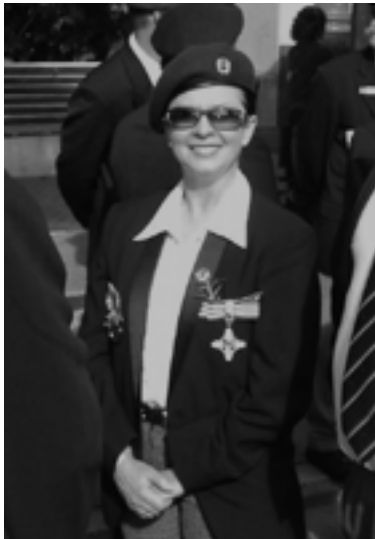


Last year, the College said farewell to three male students after they had the great honour of being accepted into the Australian Ballet School. Before making the move to Melbourne, Timothy Harford, Alexander McKinnon and James Treweek completed Year 9 at The Graduate College of Dance in 2005. During a visit to Melbourne in March 2006, College Director Dawn Weller took time to catch up with the boys and is pleased to report that they are working hard and enjoying the experience.

Guest Assessor

It is important for students to be assessed by professionals in the dance industry and in early 2006 we welcomed Margaret Illmann to the College as guest assessor for the Term 1 Assessments.

Originating in Australia, Margaret has had a highly successful career spanning the Americas and Europe. She is now back on Australian shores to continue her career as Classical Dance Co-ordinator and Lecturer at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts.



Director joins ANZAC march

Director of The Graduate College of Dance, Dawn Weller, proudly joined the South African Military Veterans Organisation of Australasia (SAMVOA) to march in Perth on ANZAC day. A South African veterans' group, SAMVOA is dedicated to South Africans who made the supreme sacrifice on the battlefields of Africa, Asia, Europe and at sea. Dawn is a heritage member of SAMVOA, in memory of her father John (Jack) Weller who served in the British and South African navy during World War II.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

We are focusing on improvements to the College facilities as part of our commitment to ensuring that students have the best available in Perth. Air conditioning is top of the agenda and we have had detailed discussions with Perth Modern's facilities manager and consulting architects to work out how we can get this done. There are engineering difficulties and financial constraints which have been holding us back but we now have a plan to air condition one studio and change facilities ready for next summer's heat.

The main engineering problem is that the electrical distribution system within the school buildings is at maximum capacity so a new cable has to be laid from the local area distribution point in Roberts Road to the Ballet studios. The financial problem is that there are currently no funds in Perth Modern's maintenance budget to commit to air conditioning for the studios, and there will not be any funds in the capital works program either when Perth Modern buildings are upgraded. Approximately \$100,000 is needed to achieve our objective and the Ballet Support Group has taken on this challenge and established an appeal fund. This is a tremendous and very challenging initiative on their part and we ask everyone to support this very worthwhile cause.

Earlier this year the College refurbished the small store room in the heritage building and has created a College Library. It has an initial small but unique collection of books, periodicals and reference materials for students use, and the College has appointed Andrew Hull as the Librarian. We also plan to set up a computer workstation in the library to enable students to access on-line publications and other library resources.

The College has appointed John Michael Swinbank as the College's publicist and promotions consultant. John Michael is well known in Perth in the arts and media circles so he will be generating a lot of increased exposure of the College and its activities through the media over the forthcoming months. This is an important role and essential for continued growth and development of the College. Welcome aboard John!

David Hilditch Chairperson

Board of Management

SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED AT LA BAYADERE

On 25 November 2005 on stage at the Quarry Amphitheatre, The Graduate College of Dance was pleased to present the Fogarty Foundation and Simon Lee Foundation scholarships. Annie Fogarty and a representative of The Simon Lee Foundation made the presentations to the following recipients:

The Fogarty Foundation

Year 8 2006	Kirby Selchow
Year 9 2006	Laurie Price

The Simon Lee Foundation

Year 8 2006	Paige Macliver
Year 9 2006	Sue-Mae Watt
Year 10 2006	Jessica Rogerson
Year 11 2006	Georgina Rowse
Year 11 2006	Jessica Steyntjes
Year 12 2006	Bianca Grafton
Year 12 2006	Kirsten Romeo

Congratulations to the successful students and a sincere thank you to The Fogarty and The Simon Lee Foundations for their continued support of the College and our students.



THE GRADUATE COLLEGE OF DANCE

Where Are They Now?

On Friday 2 December 2005 at His Majesty's Theatre, The Graduate College of Dance bade a fond farewell to the graduating students of 2005 as they took their first step on what we hope will be an exciting post-school journey. We are pleased to share with you what 2006 holds in store for the class of 2005:

Ashleigh Berry: First year Bachelor of Dance Performance, Adelaide Centre for the Arts

Brodie Gillespie: First year Bachelor of Dance Performance, Adelaide Centre for the Arts

Heidi Hudson: First year student at London Studio Centre, England

Tamsin Raistrick: First year Bachelor of Production and Design, Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts

Ashley Smallwood: First year Bachelor of Dance Performance, Adelaide Centre for the Arts

Gabrielle van der Elst: Returned home to Kuala Lumpur

Nicole Ward: First year student at New Zealand School of Dance

The Ballet Support Group

The Ballet Support Group is a committed group of ballet parents who support the College through fundraising and friend-raising activities and events. For 2006, the focus of the Group is to raise much-needed funds for purchases that will benefit the students, such as air-conditioning.

On Saturday 11 February 2006 at The Ballet Support Group's AGM, Jacqui MacIver was elected Chairperson and Ian Hughes Deputy Chairperson. The College wishes to thank outgoing Chairperson Bruno Romeo for his support and leadership of the group over the past three years.

On Saturday 25 February the newly elected committee of the Ballet Support Group held its first meeting of the year. On the agenda was the Group's first fundraising activity held on Friday 24 March; the highlight of the evening, especially for the students, was the attendance of Principal Dancer with West Australian Ballet, and former student of the College, Jayne Cooper. The highly successful evening included a raffle with the first and much sorted prize being a signed pair of Pointe shoes kindly donated by the West Australian Ballet. This function was an ideal opportunity for parents, students and faculty members to socialise and raise money for the College.

Parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend Ballet Support Group meetings, which are held on the last Saturday of every month at 9.00 am.