

THE GRADUATE COLLEGE OF DANCE NEWSLETTER

The Graduate College of Dance
Term 4 October 2004



Due to my own work commitments it has been difficult for me to participate as fully as I would like in the life of The Graduate College of Dance. However, as I put this newsletter together I am impressed and excited by the immense activity occurring at the College and the vast array of opportunities available to our students. Our present and past students continue to excel at the highest level and we have profiled a number of these successes in this newsletter.

Congratulations to staff and students on the wonderful achievements of the past few months. I look forward to joining you in celebrating the success of 2004 at the end of year performances of La Sylphide at the Quarry Amphitheatre.

Chavaune Francis
Editor



SYDNEY TOUR

In September, Year 10 students Rebecca Charleston, Jessie Chennell, Allise Hender, Sarah Jasper, Kristian Pisano, Mikaila Purchas, Kirsten Romeo and Callen Toner and Year 11 students Brodie Gillespie, Tamsin Raistrick, Kelly Reed and Aaron Smith travelled to Sydney to participate in classes at three of Sydney's prominent dance schools – Ecole Ballet Studios, Tanya Pearson Classical Coaching Academy and Alegria Dance Studios. Other activities the students were involved in included attending open classes at the Sydney Dance Company and personalised shoe fittings at BLOCHS.

Year 12 student Julie-Anne Taylor represented the College in the Society of Dance Arts' 2004 Scholarship Competition on Friday 17 September and successfully reached the semi-finals. Congratulations to Julie-Anne on being one of the 25 entrants selected out of 74 for the semi-finals.

Assistant Director Margaret Jones and Office Administrator Suzan Gvozdenovic accompanied the students, with College Director, Dawn Weller joining the group later in the week.

*Dawn Weller with
(L-R) Nina Svraka, Brodie Gillespie,
Julie-Anne Taylor and Tamsin Raistrick
outside His Majesty's Theatre where
students created an atmosphere before the
performance of West Australian Ballet's
Romeo & Juliet in September.*



CONGRATULATIONS

... to Georgina Rowse (Year 9) who was successful in her audition for The Australian Ballet School and was short-listed for a place in Level 5. Georgina was asked to attend a final evaluation in Melbourne but has decided she would prefer to continue her studies with the College. Georgina has since been offered a place in the Interstate Junior Programme Level 4 for 2005.

... to 2002 graduate Laura Brook who was selected to tour with The Royal New Zealand Ballet for its season of Coppelia.

VISITS BY EX-STUDENTS

It is extremely pleasing to welcome back past graduates of The Graduate College of Dance. In recent months we have welcomed 2003 graduate Deborah Whiteley who has returned to Perth after training at the Victorian College of the Arts and will join Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts in 2005, Kiara Martinez, who is now studying Level 4 at the Australian Ballet School and Daniel Smith, another 2003 graduate, who is in his first year with the New Zealand School of Dance. We are delighted to announce that Daniel will be guesting with us for our end of year season of La Sylphide.

CHOREOGRAPHIC NIGHT

The annual Choreographic Night was held on Friday 6 August and Saturday 7 August and was two evenings of innovative works choreographed and performed by students from Years 6 to 12. The Year 12 students are to be congratulated on producing and staging an event that showcased the inspiring talents of our students.

Guest choreographer Andrew Lyons from Brisbane was brought to the College to work with our Year 12 students. This gave the student's involved invaluable experience and skills, which was demonstrated by their sensitive performance of Bella Voce.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS OF THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY

On Thursday 16 September 2004, Sharon Prudham gave birth to a beautiful and healthy son named Harrison. Our congratulations and best wishes go to Sharon, David and Oliver.

We welcome Keira Mason-Hill and Jacqueline Birch to the College as replacements for Sharon. Keira is responsible for contemporary training and shares theoretical studies with Jacqueline.



Congratulations to Year 12 student Julie-Anne Taylor (pictured with Andrey Popov) who has been awarded the prestigious Royal Academy of Dance Solo Seal. Julie-Anne also won the Advanced II Solo Seal Majors Scholarship for Western Australia.

HIS MAJESTY'S GALA PERFORMANCE

Following our students' successful appearance in *Die Fledermaus*, John Milson, who staged and directed this operetta for the Australian Opera Studio, has invited the College to participate in a gala performance at His Majesty's Theatre on Sunday 19 December. Our Year 12 students will be featured in this event.

PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME

One of the goals of The Graduate College of Dance is to develop opportunities for the College to work with the wider community to showcase and promote the art of Dance and provide vital stage experience and audience exposure for our students. In line with this, the College introduced a Performance Programme in 2003. As part of this programme in 2004, our students performed at Perth Modern School, Loreto Nedlands, Lumen-Christi College and Presbyterian Ladies' College and will perform at Princess Margaret Hospital and at His Majesty's Theatre as part of Morning Melodies. It is extremely pleasing to see this programme develop and provide essential training for our students.

PERTH MODERN SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

In early July, Year 8 students from the College were invited to take part in the graduation event for students of the Intensive Language Centre at Perth Modern School. Our students performed the Mazurka from *Coppelia* to a very appreciative and receptive audience.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

2004 is rapidly drawing to a close and preparations for our year end production of *La Sylphide* at the Quarry Amphitheatre are well under way. The year has been one of strong consolidation for The Graduate College of Dance and also one of high achievement by our students who continue to attract the attention of professional dance schools in Australia and overseas.

In July I was fortunate to see our current Year 12 students go through their paces at the New Zealand School of Dance in Wellington, New Zealand. Dawn Weller and I met with the director Garry Trinder who expressed delight at the way our recent graduates Daniel Smith and Laura Brook are working at the School. Garry was also impressed with the audition performances of our Year 12 students. In September I visited the Adelaide Institute of TAFE (AIT) and met with the Director of Dance, Sally Collard-Gentle. AIT has superb facilities and presents an excellent opportunity for any of our Year 12 students who may wish to pursue a career in contemporary dance.

At the September Board meeting, we confirmed the appointment of Anna Taylor as a co-opted member of the Board for the next 12 months. Anna has expertise in marketing and promotion and has also been very much involved in fund-raising. We are delighted to have Anna on the Board. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of another parent, Andrew Scogings who has been working tirelessly in recent weeks with Anna in promoting The Graduate College of Dance and attracting new students.

David Hilditch, Chairperson

THE LUCIE SARONOVA MEMORIAL AWARDS

Dawn Weller's standing in the dance community has been further recognised with an invitation to be on the panel with Lucette Aldous to audition students for the Lucie Saronova Memorial Awards. These Awards, organised by the Chechetti Society, will be held in October at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts.

A further invitation has been extended to Ms Weller by the dance department of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts to be an examiner for its Year Three Advanced Diploma in Performing Arts (Dance).

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NEWSLETTER

Coming Events Term 4

Auditions

Years 5 to 7 Junior School Auditions for entry in 2005.

Date: Saturday 23 October 2004, 9:00 am to 12:00 midday.

Venue: The Graduate College of Dance
Corner Hamilton Street and Subiaco Road, Subiaco.

Applications: Contact Suzan on 93800551
during office hours.

La Sylphide

Romantic *August Bournonville* ballet set in Scotland and performed by our students in Perth's stunning Quarry Amphitheatre.

Dates: 14 to 16 December 2004.

Venue: Quarry Amphitheatre, Oceanic Drive, City Beach.

Graduation Night

Celebrate with our Year 12 graduates as they complete their Senior School career. Join us afterwards for refreshments.

Date: Friday 17 December 2004.

Actual ceremony from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

Venue: Perth Modern School Auditorium, Roberts Road, Subiaco.

Bookings: Contact Suzan on 93800551 during office hours.
Bookings essential.