

THE GRADUATE COLLEGE OF DANCE NEWSLETTER

The Graduate College of Dance
Term 3 September 2005



Welcome to New Faculty Member

The Graduate College of Dance is pleased to welcome Alice Holland (pictured above) who joins the College as a teacher of Contemporary and Theoretical Studies. Alice is a graduate of WAAPA and studied in North Carolina for her Masters Degree.

Recently, she was invited to choreograph and perform a work for The Yard at Martha's Vineyard.

The Yard was the first dance colony in America and now is one of only a few in the US. It is unique in that it offers not only a place to work and perform, but also housing and a beautiful setting for artists to grow creatively.

This was not the first time Alice had been involved with The Yard.

In 2004 she successfully auditioned as a performer but his time there was no need for the rigorous audition process, as she was invited back as a guest choreographer and performer.



Students prepare to depart for London and The Royal Ballet School's International Summer School programme. Photographer A Scogings.

The Royal Ballet Summer School

Each year The Royal Ballet School in London offers two International Summer Schools for young male and female dancers from the UK and overseas.

These International Summer Schools are a wonderful opportunity for young dancers to experience the highest levels of coaching from world-renowned teachers and to begin to determine whether the prospect of full-time training is something they would welcome.

This year, The Graduate College of Dance selected ten students from Years 8 and 9 and six from Years 10 and 11 to apply. The Royal Ballet School received more than 1,200 applications and of the 16 submitted by the College, ten were offered places and three waitlisted. The students who accepted and participated in the Summer Schools were Timothe Audin, Brodie James, Emma Cullinan, Timothy Harford, Jessica Rogerson, James Treweek, Bianca Grafton, Allise Hender and Kirsten Romeo.

The students left for London in July, accompanied by Dawn Weller and Margaret Jones, and returned to Perth early August.

*L - R: Year 9 students Emma Cullinan,
James Treweek and Jessica Rogerson
perform Diverts from August
Bournville's Napoli at the RAD
Combined Schools Concert.
Photographer Karin Shugrue,
Dance Photography*



THE GRADUATE COLLEGE OF DANCE PERFORMS

The first half of 2005 has been busy for students as they participated in a number of concerts and events, thereby gaining very valuable performance experience.

Majkidz

In June, The Graduate College of Dance was invited to participate in a ballet workshop for Majkidz held at His Majesty's Theatre, a workshop normally conducted by West Australian Ballet. Dawn Weller and students James Treweek and Jessica Rogers enjoyed presenting the world of ballet to more than 100 children aged between 10 and 12 years.

This wonderful program is for children who have a keen interest in learning about the performing arts and the many disciplines of theatre through interactive workshops. The College would like to thank Rodney Phillips, General Manager of His Majesty's Theatre, for inviting us to contribute in promoting the theatre and the arts to a young generation.

Perth Modern School European Tour Farewell Concert

In April, students from Perth Modern School participated in a Music Tour to Europe. As a farewell to the touring group, and as part of Perth Modern School's annual Music Concert, students from Years 8 and 10 performed Ballet Egyptian. The performance was of an extremely high standard and The Graduate College of Dance is honoured to have been part of this event. Costumes were specially made for the performance and they now form part of our substantial and ever-increasing wardrobe.

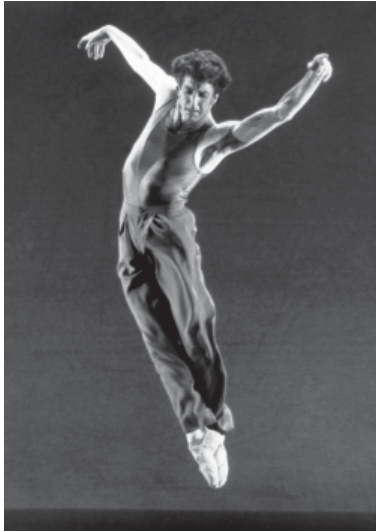
RAD Combined Schools Concert

2005 brings the 70th anniversary of the Royal Academy of Dance in Western Australia. A gala performance incorporating the Combined Schools' Concert was held in May, to acknowledge the significance of this milestone and pay tribute to the pioneers who first began teaching the RAD syllabus.

Year 9 students from The Graduate College performed Diverts from August Bournville's Napoli.

AICD Choreographic Festival

The AICD Choreographic Festival gives dance schools and students an opportunity to perform their own choreographic works. For this year's event, held at Swan Park Theatre in Midland, our Year 11 students were selected to represent the College and perform their own choreographed work 'Chaotic Minds'. This highly entertaining and innovative dance piece was also performed at our Choreographic Night where, judging by the reaction of the appreciative audience, it was a highlight.



*Paul Boyd performs the pas de deux,
choreographed by Youri Vámos for Basel
Ballet, Switzerland.
Photographer Peter Schnetz.*

VISITING CHOREOGRAPHER - PAUL BOYD

In June, The Graduate College of Dance was honoured to have former Principal Dancer, Paul Boyd, visit us as a guest assessor for the Term 2 Assessments. After the Assessments, students had the privilege of working with Mr Boyd in Masterclasses held at the College. Having an internationally experienced choreographer and dance teacher visit the College helps to broaden the scope of what students are exposed to and elevate the standards to which they aspire.

Paul has more than 25 years' professional dance experience and has been Principal Dancer with a number of leading European ballet companies, including Deutsche Oper am Rhein in Dusseldorf, Stadtische Buhen in Dortmund, Oper der Stadt in Bonn and Basler Ballet in Switzerland. He also spent several years as Principal Dancer, Company Coach and Choreographer with the Queensland Ballet. Paul is now a freelance choreographer, teacher and coach.

In February 2004 he was a guest teacher at, and created a new work for, the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts. In January 2005 he travelled to London to restage two existing works for The Royal Ballet Upper School and has been invited by Australian Ballet's artistic director, David McAllister, to create two works for the Company.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

2005 is proving to be an excellent year for the College. The success of 12 of our students in being offered places at the prestigious The Royal Ballet School's Summer School held at White Lodge and Covent Garden in London speaks volumes of the high standards of dance performance consistently being achieved at the College. In addition there are students who have successfully auditioned for a place at the Australian Ballet School in Melbourne, which provides an opportunity for students to make an early career choice should they wish to do so. The 'SINtilations' Choreographic Season at the end of July was truly outstanding and a great credit to all students involved, particularly the Year 12s for their highly professional management and organisation of these performances, which form the basis of their Task 4 Curriculum Council Subject Outcomes. These are indeed heady days at the College!

This is the sixth year that the Dance Performance Course has been delivered by the College at Perth Modern School since being relocated from Swanbourne Senior High and we are currently having discussions with representatives of the Department of Education and Training about the future plans for Perth Modern. A Master Plan has been prepared which includes some exciting new ideas and new facilities plus a residential college. The Master Plan will be fine-tuned in the forthcoming months with input from all Perth Modern School stakeholders including the College.

The second half of the year is going to be very busy as students prepare for their stage exams, year-end academic examinations and rehearse for Dawn Weller's production of 'La Bayadere' to be staged at the Quarry Amphitheatre at the end of November. This is a particularly challenging ballet, which premiered at Maryinsky Theater, St Petersburg, on 4 February 1877. Our students attending The Royal Ballet School's Covent Garden Summer School were privileged to have seen the Kirov Ballet performing 'La Bayadere' in London. Interestingly, 'La Bayadere' originally premiered just one year after Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone! Would he ever have imagined that 128 years later just about everybody has a mobile phone and these have to be switched off to ensure an uninterrupted performance of 'La Bayadere'.

David Hilditch
Chairperson

THE GRADUATE COLLEGE OF DANCE

NEWSLETTER

YEAR 12 PHOTO CALL 2005



*Our Year 12 students ham it up for the camera as part of a photo shoot for their CVs and Choreographic Night and End of Year production programmes.
Photographer Ashley De Prazer.*

Susan Whitford Visit

In April, Dance Australia journalist and reviewer, Susan Whitford, was welcomed to The Graduate College of Dance to talk with our Director, Dawn Weller, and observe our students at work. We thank Susan for the time she spent with us and extend a warm invitation for a return visit.

Australian Ballet School Information Sharing

Recently, Year 7 students Paige Macliver, Brantley-Marie Philpot and Sarah Gatzonis accompanied Dawn Weller, Margaret Jones and Cristina Federici di Donna to an information sharing session run by the Australian Ballet School. The sessions covered new ideas in training techniques and Dance Science that have been subsequently introduced to the training at The Graduate College of Dance.

Choreographic Night

'SINtilations was this year's title to Choreographic Night, an annual event managed and staged by the Year 12 students at The Graduate College of Dance. Held at the Perth Modern School Auditorium on 29 and 30 July, Choreographic Night featured works choreographed and performed by the talented students of the College in Years 6 to 12. Congratulations to the Year 12s for the high standard achieved.