



Ballet Theatre Midwest Fall 2009 Newsletter

Ballet Theatre Midwest (BTM) celebrates 5 years!

Did you know we are celebrating 5 years of progress and accomplishment?! Founded in 2004 by Daniel R. Simmons, Artistic Director and Nancy Fountain, Director, BTM achieved 501(c) (3) status in 2006. Our repertoire now features five premiere works choreographed by Artistic Director Simmons: *Puss in Boots and the Princess Cat*, *The Steadfast Tin Soldier - A Retelling of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker*, *Cinderella*, *Verdi's Requiem "Procession of Angels"* (all four are full-length ballets) and *Beatrix Potter Portfolio* (a charming one-act work). Over the next five years we plan to increase BTM's community outreach and visibility throughout the region. Excellence is a hallmark of our organization. With a combined background of more than five decades in the field of dance, Simmons, who performed internationally, and Fountain now share their professional performing backgrounds, costuming and theatrical training, along with their teaching credentials (both have teaching certification from the Vaganova school and Simmons additionally possesses the prestigious Professional Teachers Course (PDTC) Certification - from the Royal Academy of Dancing - London) with all of our students!

Spiritwear Sale Coming Soon



We are planning to sell BTM spiritwear in addition to the performance specific t-shirts. Hopefully order forms will be available in October and a "drop box" will be placed in the lobby. Questions or suggestions, contact Stuart Gibbon, stugibbon@gmail.com.

Please Attend the October 8 Encore/Parent Meeting 7-8 pm at the studio: The Nutcracker

Casting will be posted at the meeting! Come help us plan for the production. We need help from every family to make this a success: from ticket sales, to backstage help, to associated fundraisers! We will explain the performance schedule and rehearsal calendar. Feel free to contact the parent coordinators, Cristy Minor, bceminor@aol.com and Nicolay Walz, nicolay.walz@cchmc.org with questions or suggestions if you can't make it to the meeting.

BTM Opens a Snooty Fox Account



To help raise money for BTM, the Encore Committee has opened an account with Snooty Fox at the Mariemont location on Wooster Pike. There will be a box in the studio lobby where you can drop off donations. Donated items can be women's, children's and men's clothing in good to new condition. Furniture and home accessories can also be donated. Feel free to contact Cristy Minor, bceminor@aol.com, with any questions or if you need to make arrangements for larger furniture to be donated.

Meet our Instructors: Kara Jones Louis

Kara Jones Louis is the Administrator for Ballet Theatre Midwest and an Instructor in the Children's Division. The recently married Mrs. Louis is a Cincinnati native who trained with Daniel Simmons and Nancy Fountain. Kara had a passion for dance from a young age and dreamt of becoming a professional dancer. She majored in dance at Mercyhurst College in Erie, PA dancing under the direction of Tauna Hunter and received her Bachelor of Arts in Dance in May 2007. Following graduation, Kara auditioned for many dance companies. She received a call back from Radio City Music Hall, fulfilling a dream of dancing with the Radio City Rockettes. Mrs. Louis now enters her third season traveling across the country with the Rockettes, performing over 100 shows each year in The Radio City Christmas Spectacular. Kara feels extremely fortunate to be living her dream as a professional dancer and teacher. She hopes to inspire her students to dream big, persevere, and achieve great things in life.

Meet our Dancers: Stephanie Kraemer

I am 16 years old, and a junior at Saint Ursula Academy. I started dancing at age 4, and have been dancing ever since. I initially practiced tap, jazz, and ballet. When I turned 7, I chose to mainly focus on ballet with some jazz classes. I began taking classes with Mr. Simmons and Ms. Fountain that year. One of my favorite roles I have performed was the Jester in Cinderella. I really enjoyed dancing that role because the character required a fun personality. I think that one of the best parts about dance is becoming the character, showing the audience how much fun dancing is. Some of the other activities I am involved in through school are community service, yearbook, yoga club, French club, and diplomats. Almost all of the clubs I join at school relate to dance in some way. I consider the outreach performances at dance as community service because we perform to underserved children, giving them the opportunity to experience the arts, in particular ballet. Having yoga club before dance really helps me feel centered and ready to exercise. French club relates to dance because I further understand the terminology and vocabulary of dance. Basically, dance has always played an important role in my life, and I hope to continue dancing in some way throughout the rest of my life.

Help Students Experience the Joy of the Nutcracker

Every production, BTM does a Friday morning student performance. We are looking for school(s) to come to the Nutcracker. Did you also know that BTM goes to schools to do lecture demonstrations? You can make a tax deductible contribution to bring the ballet to school children who have never seen a ballet! If you know of a school that may be interested, you want to help make school/community performances possible, or you have any questions about our education outreach contact Nicolay Walz, nicolay.walz@cchmc.org.



Thanks to the Youth Group at Hyde Park Community UMC for letting us use their sno-kone & popcorn machines for our Verdi's Requiem movie night. The treats made for a fun evening.