



**LAKE ERIE
BALLET**

2008-2009, Volume 4

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the **B**ancers **beat**

When people think of dancers, what do they think of immediately? Be honest. Do they think of people like Fred Astaire or Cyd Charisse? Do they think of those popular TV shows like, "Dancing with the Stars" or "So You Think You Can Dance"? Or do they think of people like President Obama's Chief of Staff, Rahm Emanuel? When you consider a dancer, what do you think of?

Any one who's ever taken a dance class can tell you, dance is a discipline. It's a discipline that attempts to harmoniously marry the mind with the body. When an individual masters this connection, there is literally nothing that can stop them from doing what they set out to do.

Since becoming the new Executive Director of this 61 year old organization last July, I've discovered that the time people spend in the LEB studios is monumentally important in shaping the type of person they become. This has been proven in the numerous conversations I've had with LEB alumni that have gone on to study medicine, science and the law. Each has excelled in their chosen fields to become leading professionals in their trade. Let's face it - regardless of profession the competition is fierce, no matter which direction you're headed in.

The one thing I've found LEB alumni have in common is their ability to "dance" through their lives. When obstacles arise in their path, they observe, adapt and overcome. They've all figured out a way to create their own paths through self knowledge, sheer ingenuity and probably most importantly - integrity. There is no denying the rigorous process dancers put them selves through quickens the mind, body and inevitably, one's resolve. I am extremely proud to continue to secure that legacy at Lake Erie Ballet.

These days have been exceptionally difficult for many arts organizations. In the past few months we've seen incredible ups and downs with funding for the Arts in the House and Senate. On Tuesday, 7/14 the Pennsylvania House of Representative Republicans plan to put SB 850, which eliminates the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts, back up for vote in the House Appropriations Committee. This bill holds dire consequences for the future of the arts in Pennsylvania. I've found myself writing letters to legislators and asking local officials to support the arts. For the most part, I feel I have been somewhat effectual. But in reality, it is not up to me or just a few people at the top. The presence of organizations like the Lake Erie Ballet in communities like Erie is really up to you. Every single person who cares even the slightest about art must act, act now and continue to act in order to secure its presence.

The first thing you can do is be vocal about your convictions. Be an advocate for art in your community. Write or call your local and state officials about supporting the arts where ever and when ever they can. Secondly, you can give to the arts. Volunteer your time or talent - it is relatively easy and possibly one of the greatest gifts you could give. Lastly you can make a contribution to your favorite local arts organizations. Believe me, there is no contribution too small. I encourage you to examine the role that art plays in your life and the lives of those around you and then act on it. I trust with the help and support of people like yourself, the Lake Erie Ballet will be able to continue to offer its on going legacy of providing others with the gift of "dancing though their days". With your continued help and support I look forward to a very successful 2009-2010 season and eagerly look forward to securing LEB's legacy for another 60 years.

Visit our website: www.lakeerieballet.org/sponsor and commit yourself to the arts today!

Yours in Dance,

Alethea Bodine

Lake Erie Ballet School Changes Name

This year the Lake Erie Ballet board of directors, administrators and advisors have decided to change the name of the Lake Erie Ballet School to better reflect the type of dance training available to the entire community of Erie. The new name of the training arm of the organization will be called the Lake Erie Academy of Dance.

The Lake Erie Ballet Academy of Dance offers classes to students ages two and a half and older. The curriculum is rooted in classical ballet, but students are also required to study in several disciplines of movement. Disciplines like jazz, tap, modern and contemporary movement are also offered with only the best professionals in the field. *Did you know every instructor at the Lake Erie Ballet holds a college degree or espouses years of experience as professional performer?*

Each year the Lake Erie Ballet affords its student body and company the opportunity to work and study with artists currently producing work in the field of dance. Those students wishing to take full advantage of the program are offered the opportunity to study and work with our artists in residence. That's part of the LEAD difference!

Programming is offered in three, ten to sixteen week intervals: Sept. - Dec. / Jan. - May / June - August; each culminating in a full length production or presentation. At eight week intervals students are issued progress reports by their primary instructor. During this time, the parent or guardian is allowed to observe classes and assess their child's progress. At the end of each Term students are tested and evaluated for advancement. Performance is not mandatory for advancement but encouraged and required of those students enrolled in the Company Track of study. Students of the most advanced levels of the curriculum are afforded the opportunity to audition for the LEBC and Jr. Company.

Enroll in classes today and experience the LEAD difference!



Linnea Stureson, LEBC 2009-2010

Extraordinary!

Villa Maria Elementary Studio

This Fall the Lake Erie Academy of Dance will be offering classes at the Villa Maria Elementary. Children's Division will be offered Tuesday and Thursday mornings. To read more about these and other LEAD classes log onto at: www.lakeerieballet.org/school

LEAD Student Benefits

A Tuition Voucher (\$44/1 hour) will be awarded to every returning LEAD student for every new student enrolled in a full term of classes. Each voucher will be credited to initial account once the new student has paid the term in full. If the new student is paying on a monthly basis, the referring student's account will be credited the last month of the term. Contact lead@lakeerieballet.org for more information.

Erie; a great place to dance

~ a letter from the LEAD School Director

For over 9 years I was an instructor, ballet director, competition choreographer and coach at Carlsbad Dance Centre, which was rated the #1 dance school in all of San Diego County, one of the Top 5 dance schools in California, and #32 in the entire United States. The entire staff was reputable for the knowledge and experience each brought to their craft and we often attended conventions in Los Angeles, San Diego, and Las Vegas in order to continue our educations and study with some of America's best known dance instructors and choreographers whom now regularly appear on So You Think You Can Dance - instructors like Mia Michaels, Tyce Diorio, Bryan Friedman, Wade Robson, (Emmy Award Winner) Marguerite Derricks, and too many more to name. These experiences shaped the staff's approach to creating well prepared dancers for the dance world.

On the television series SYTYCD, a dancer first auditions within their favorite or best genre in order to get noticed. They are then sent to learn and re-audition doing a Hip-Hop combination (They choose this genre because this is where you can most quickly notice who can adapt and pick up new choreography quickly). When the dancers reach the semi-finals in Las Vegas, they must quickly learn and perform short dance pieces in Contemporary, Jazz, Hip-Hop, Ballroom, and Musical Theatre. This is how, in just two short days, the judges are able to choose their top 20 dancers from nearly 150 contestants! Once a dancer has reached the top 20, they must then perform whatever dance they pull out of a hat and then put their fate in the hands of America's voting viewers. By the end of the finals, the last four dancers will have each performed dances in Jazz, Musical Theatre, Contemporary, Ballroom, Disco, Hip-Hop, and the newest genre to be added, Classical Ballet!

I am proud to share the news that any student attending Lake Erie Academy of Dance will have the good fortune to not only receive outstanding ballet training along with opportunities to perform with the Lake Erie Ballet Company, he/she will now also have the opportunity to learn the most cutting edge techniques and styles, comparable to what they are seeing on television, which will open doors to professional dance performance careers much wider than it would have been just two years ago!

The city of Erie is a community that has undergone many changes and much growth over the last ten years. With this growth, it is only right that the artistic culture continue to evolve as well. Lake Erie Academy of Dance looks forward to the opportunity to facilitate this evolution. As the director of this school, I find myself thriving on introducing the dance students of Erie to the most progressive styles of dance, as well as different methods of teaching and training. I would like to extend a heartfelt invitation to the many dancers in the area who are becoming aware of Dance's growing width and breadth, and who would like to explore what we have to offer.

Hope to see you in the studios soon!

Kirsten Carpenter

Read this letter in it's entirety online at www.lakeerieballet.org/Documents/LEADsummerletter09.pdf

LEB Company Dances on

Many of our former Company members are having great success in the dance world. Here are a few updates on their successes and summer endeavors.

Amanda Johnson recently moved to Annapolis, Maryland and has started dancing with Ballet Theater of Maryland. She is happy in her new home, and working hard as an Apprentice with the company. Elizabeth Clain-Stefanelli is joining Amanda there, also as an Apprentice with Ballet Theater of Maryland. She is participating in their summer intensive and will be performing with the company at the end of the summer. Lauren Stenroos is now living in Nashville, Tennessee where she is participating in the Nashville Ballet summer intensive. She recently announced that she has been accepted to Nashville Ballet II. Congratulations Lauren!

Sarah Klock is currently working as the Administrative Assistant for the Mercyhurst Summer Dance Experience right here in Erie. She has also been accepted as an Apprentice with Omaha Theatre Ballet in Nebraska and will be moving there at the end of the summer.

Congrats and good wishes to all of our former company members with their new dancing careers!

Some of our current company members are also doing fun and interesting things this summer as well. Caitlin Burke is participating in the Mercyhurst College Summer Dance. Jessica Borowczyk is taking summer courses at a community college in her hometown Naperville, IL and is also has begun private pilates to remain in shape. Both will be returning in the fall as LEB Company members.

~Contributing writer: Rachael Leavenworth, LEB Intern

Welcome Summer, the Green Season

Help LEB go "Green" this summer! We are focusing on making a small difference as Green dancers, and you can help. Not sure how? Here are some easy everyday activities that can make you, and LEB, more Green than ever.

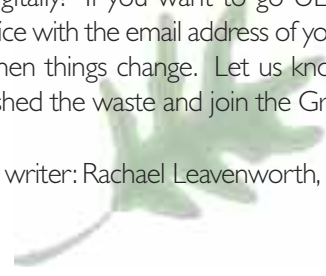
Typically, dancers have many hours of classes in the summer, because of intensives. These long days of classes leave dancers both thirsty and hungry. Here's a thought: instead of purchasing or using a new plastic water bottle each day, buy and refill a reusable one. In addition to saving a vast amount of plastic from entering a waste sight, you could also save up to \$200 from not purchasing those plastic water bottles! Also, when you are packing a lunch or snacks for that long day in the studio, try putting them into reusable containers or brown paper bags as opposed to plastic bags and disposable packages. Every ounce of waste we save helps!

One last suggestion to go green - carpool! Driving together saves parents time, energy, and money. Riding together is fun and eco-friendly.

These are just a few suggestions that can assist us in promoting Green dancers everywhere. Together we can make a difference.

ULTRA GREEN BULLETIN: If you would like to be as "Green" as you can be, LEB can provide you with all of its announcements and publications digitally! If you want to go ULTRA GREEN, please provide the office with the email address of your choosing and keep us updated when things change. Let us know if you want to go "paperless" - shed the waste and join the Green Revolution!

~Contributing writer: Rachael Leavenworth, LEB Intern



ANNOUNCING

Lake Erie Ballet Company 2009-2010

Company Members:	Apprentices:
Alyssa Alger	Amy Deer **
Jessica Borowczyk *	Alyssa DiSantis
Caitlin Burke *	Heather Gorres **
Samantha DeBoer **	Sarah Hartmans
David Jakobson *	Jennifer Lane
Katie Spagnoletti **	Tori Scott **
	Linnea Stureson

* Indicates promoted member
** Indicates new member

Congratulations!

~ SPECIAL EVENTS ~

- **LEAD Registration 2009-2010 Season**
July 20 - Aug. 20
www.lakeerieballet.org/school/SchoolSched.htm#reg
- **Celebrate Erie, 2009, Aug. 14 - 16**
Generously supported by Erie Children's Museum
- **Nutcracker Audition**
Sat. Sept. 12, Mercyhurst College DanceSpace
10:30-12:30 am - ages 12 & up
www.lakeerieballet.org/Nut09
- **Nutcracker Children's Audition**
Sat. Sept. 19, LEB Studios
12:00-4:00 pm - ages 2 1/2-13
www.lakeerieballet.org/Nut09
- **2009 Nutcracker Gala**
Sponsored by Friends of the Ballet

Find Lake Erie Ballet on **Facebook!** Join the network!

A vehicle to call our own ...

Do you have an old van or truck you just don't have a use for anymore? The Lake Erie Ballet is in *dire* need of a vehicle to call our own. Every season the Lake Erie Ballet does numerous outreach and lecture demonstration programs - off site. Often times, equipment such as ballet barres, costuming and flooring are required at these events.

The Lake Erie Ballet has had the great fortune of finding assistance in transporting these items in the last few seasons - but we can not rely on luck. It would be fabulous to have access to our "dream vehicle" when we need it.

Other items on our wish list include:

19" + Televisions
DVD and/or VCR players
Amplifiers, Speakers and CD players
Video recorders and/or Tripods
Wood, Paint, Elbow Grease and Constructive Ingenuity

If you have any of these items you would like to donate to the Lake Erie Ballet, please contact our Administrative Intern, Rachael Leavenworth at 871-4356 x6.

At the heart of LEB:

Action Printing
ArtsErie
Border's
Career Concepts, Inc.
Citizen's Bank
Discount Dancewear Center
Domino Insurance
Erie Art Museum
Erie Children's Museum
Erie Times News
Fox 66 TV & yourerie.com
Hagan Business Machines
Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield
Mercyhurst College
Mercy Center on Aging
Northwest Savings Bank
Romolo's Chocolate
Royal Homes
Urraro's Photography and Gallery
Villa Maria Elementary and PreSchool

Special Thanks to those who have supported and continue to support the programs at the Lake Erie Ballet.

Special Thanks to the Erie Regional Assets Funding Committee for funding LEB's 2009-2010 season of collaboration in dance.

The Nutcracker

Featuring

The Lake Erie Ballet Company
Michele Gifford of the NYCB
Matthew Prescott of the Joffrey Ballet
The Lake Erie Ballet Orchestra, 12/19

Historic Warner Theatre

Friday, Dec. 18 10:00 am Special Children's Performance \$5 / \$10 / \$15
Friday, Dec. 18 7:30 pm Special Performance \$5 / \$10 / \$15
Saturday, Dec. 19 1:00 pm -Special Performance \$5 / \$10 / \$15
Saturday, Dec. 19 7:00 Performance (with Orchestra) \$18 / \$24 / \$32
Sunday, Dec. 20 2:00 Performance - \$12 / \$20 / \$28

Matters of the Heart

Contributing Erie Dance Companies:

Bayfront Dance Company
Dafmark Dance Theatre
Lake Erie Ballet Company
SheWorks
Shen and Bones Performance Group
Somar Dance Works

H. O. Hirt Auditorium, Blasco Library

Feb. 11, 2010 8:00 pm Special Performance \$5 / \$10 / \$15
Feb. 12 & 13, 2010 8:00 pm \$10 / \$25 / \$40 per couple

Art MOVES

Featuring

Lake Erie Ballet Company
Lake Erie Academy of Dance
Erie Art Museum: Private Collection

Historic Warner Theatre

Friday, May 14 10:00 am & 12:30 pm Special Student Performances \$5 / \$10 / \$15
7:00 pm Gala Event \$12 / \$18 / \$24

McDowell Intermediate High School, Little Theatre

Friday, May 21 7:00 pm Special Performance \$5 / \$10 / \$15
Saturday, May 22 2:00 Performance \$10 / \$15 / \$20

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