



Parade Chat

Volume 10, Number 4

Newsletter of The Stapleton School of the Performing Arts

Apr. 2005

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Stapleton families,

Spring is here! What a delightful treat it has been to see sunshine and blue skies after a rather wet winter. I've been enjoying the sight of the beautiful daffodils sprouting throughout our town. Spring also means that we are busy with many exciting projects: our spring concert, our end of year demonstrations, our upcoming summer workshop and planning for the 05/06 school year.

Perhaps most exciting is the news that the Stapleton School will

venture abroad this summer! Our school first traveled abroad in the mid-eighties, when a group of dancers and parents toured Russia. In 1992, we took our production of Tom Sawyer to Scotland for the Festival Fringe in Edinburgh. This summer, we will be traveling to Central America to participate in an intensive summer workshop. The story on the reverse side features all the details. We'll hope you'll consider joining us for what is sure to be an educational and enriching excursion.

I hope to see many of you at our Spring Concert. Until then, enjoy the glory of springtime and our beautiful surroundings.

Warm regards,
Virginia

Spring Concert 2005

We are extremely excited about the Spring Concert, to be held on Saturday, May 7 at The Showcase Theater at Marin Center. The Spring Concert includes the story of PETER AND THE WOLF, presented as a ballet. This magical tale is directed in a delightful, theatrical style by Charles Torres, and brings to life the beloved characters of Prokofiev's musical score. The concert also features excerpts from the 3rd Act of SLEEPING BEAUTY, with Yoira Esquivel-Brito as Sleeping Beauty and Charles Torres as the Prince. The concert will also feature some repertory pieces.

This concert is extremely child-friendly and is a great way to introduce younger children to classical ballet. Children will recognize the characters from the classic "SLEEPING BEAUTY", and PETER AND THE WOLF will feature narration and a special introduction to the "instruments" that come to life in this enchanting story. This is certain to be an entertaining and educational experience! As a valued member of the Stapleton family, you are receiving a special coupon for this concert. This show is a significant undertaking for the school and we need your support! We are hoping to sell out both shows in the Showcase Theater. Please order your tickets today!

Wine Tasting Benefit

Back by popular demand: another delightful evening of fine wine, scrumptious snacks, and socializing! Please make plans to join us at our upcoming Wine Tasting Benefit, held at The Ross Valley Winery in downtown San Anselmo. This elegant evening features wonderful wines and fabulous foods. In addition to the tasting, wines may be purchased by the glass, bottle or by the case. Purchasing wine is a "win-win" transaction....you acquire delicious, premium wines to enjoy, while our school receives a donation for every purchase that is made that evening! And you're helping to support a wonderful, local business.

Our inaugural wine tasting event was held in November and a wonderful time was had by all who were in attendance. Please make plans to join us! Advance tickets required.

Tickets are \$30 each and are available at the Studio. Call 454-5759 for more info. See you at The Ross Valley Winery!

CALENDAR CORNER

Apr. 4-Jun 11
Session 4 - Tuition Now Due

Apr. 11-16
NO CLASSES
Spring Break

April 23
Wine Tasting Benefit
The Ross Valley Winery

May 7
Spring Concert 1 pm & 5 pm
Showcase Theater, Marin Center

June 5 & 12
Dance Demonstrations

End of Year Demonstrations

All students were mailed a copy of the dance demonstration and rehearsal schedule (included with your invoice for session 4). Locate your child's class, day, and time on the grid, and in the column to the right you will see the rehearsal time (*in italics*). **PLEASE NOTE:** Plan to arrive 15 minutes prior to the designated rehearsal time. This will allow time for costume distribution and changing, prior to the actual rehearsal. All rehearsals are held at The Playhouse, 27 Kensington Road.

Every family receives two tickets to their child's performance. If your child takes more than one class per week, OR is in the Youth Company, you must let us know which performance you want the tickets for. If we do not hear from you by May 1, we will randomly assign 2 tickets. Extra tickets will go on sale at the studio beginning Monday, May 23 for \$10 each. Seating is limited in The Playhouse, and after distribution to students we will release the remaining tickets. Anyone is not planning to perform should have already informed us.

We're going to Panama City!

In our ongoing effort to focus on developing the "whole dancer", we are pleased to announce a very exciting and enriching learning opportunity for our students. Faculty members Yoira Esquivel-Brito and Virginia Stapleton will escort a contingent of students and parents to Panama this summer. The students will participate in Amparo Brito's International School of Dance Summer Workshop from August 1 to 14 in Panama City. This intensive workshop, for children 10 years and older, is directed by Amparo and co-directed by her daughter, Yoira. The workshop offers classes in technique, pointe, variation, contemporary dance, pas de deux, flamenco, salsa, makeup and more. Classes are held daily, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the workshop will culminate in a performance. Amparo is widely considered one of the greatest ballerinas of the twentieth century. She is the First Ballerina, Maitre and Methodologist of the Cuban School of Ballet. She received the gold medal at the 1973 International Competition of Moscow and in 1983 won the gold medal for best ballerina at the Competition of Latin-America Ballet. She has assembled an outstanding

Advertise in Spring Concert Program

Placing an ad in the Spring Concert program is a great way to advertise your business and support our school at the same time! Our Spring Concert is a major financial undertaking which will heighten the profile of the Stapleton Ballet in the Marin performing arts community. Program ads and ticket sales are our primary source of revenue to support this endeavor. Help us spread the word about this effective way to support our school by asking businesses you patronize regularly to consider advertising. Suggestions: your dry cleaner, video store, dentist or orthodontist, favorite restaurant, hair stylist. Rates begin at just \$50 for a business card-sized ad.

The deadline to place an ad is April 20. If you are interested in placing an ad, please contact Lani at lani@stapletonschool.org or call 454-5759.

teaching staff for the workshop.

One low price includes the workshop tuition, airfare, transfers, accommodations at a three star hotel, and breakfast and dinner daily. Weekends and evenings can be spent exploring the fascinating and beautiful sights of Panama. Panama is most closely associated with the engineering marvel that is the Panama Canal, linking the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. But this country has many other incredible sites: lush forests, beautiful beaches and coral reefs, and cosmopolitan cities. The diverse culture of this country includes seven tribes of indigenous people. Panama City is Central America's most modern city, and minutes outside the city is Parque Natural Metropolitano, which is known as "the most accessible rain forest in the world." Thanks to the cash infusion from the Canal, the economy in Panama is strong and the infrastructure is well maintained. English is widely spoken and dollars are the currency of choice. Dancers must be 10 or older to participate in the workshop/trip. The initial deposit is due by April 15, so if you are interested in learning more about the trip, please call Virginia at 454-5759.

PLAYHOUSE FUNDRAISER

For over 80 years, The Playhouse in San Anselmo has served the community as a performing arts center. This local treasure has been utilized as a performance venue by our school for many years. In addition, Virginia is on the board of directors of The Playhouse. The Playhouse is faced with the challenge of raising funds to cover necessary repairs and renovations to maintain this historic building. The Playhouse, in conjunction with Marilyn Izdebski's 100th performance, will be the site of a fundraiser to benefit the Playhouse fund. The event is being catered by Insalata's of San Anselmo, and will take place at 8:15 p.m. on Friday April 22. The event follows the 6:00 p.m. performance of Izdebski's 42nd Street, which marks her 100th production in Marin! Please make plans to join us at this gala event. Call Katie Pereira at 456-1650 for info.

2005/06 School Year Registration

As the end of the school year approaches, it's time to start thinking about next year! Packets with complete information on the 2005/06 school year, including class schedules, session dates and registration cards, will be mailed to all current students at the end of May.

Last year we implemented a new, mail-in registration procedure for returning students. It was a great success and families really appreciated the convenience of registering by mail, not to mention eliminating standing on a long line on Greenfield Avenue! This year, we will again accept priority registration by mail for returning students only. All mail registrations will be processed in random order based on the date received. In order to qualify for priority registration, you must be a returning student (active as of May 2005): have no outstanding balances; and submit full payment including the registration fee and session 1 tuition. Upon receipt of the registration packet, qualifying families may submit their registration by mail.

The deadline for priority registration is Monday, June 13, 2005.

Open, in-person registration for new and returning students will take place on **Tuesday, June 14** from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Greenfield Avenue studio.

Jazzercise is here!

Jazzercise is the original dance exercise phenomenon! Easy to follow fun choreography includes a gentle warm up, 30 minute aerobic workout, muscle toning and strengthening segment with weights. Deborah Russo, a certified Jazzercise instructor, is offering Jazzercise two mornings a week: Mon & Wed from 8:45 to 9:45 at the Greenfield Avenue studio. This convenient time slots allows you to drop your children off at school and then drop by to try a class. Once you try Jazzercise, you'll be hooked!