
VARIATIONS

Spring 2006

The Connecticut Ballet Newsletter

Vol. 2.5

RAGS TO RICHARDS

RICHARDS
GREENWICH

BENEFIT FASHION SHOW PLANNED

The 25th Anniversary Gala Committee has announced plans for an exciting Spring fashion show on **Wednesday, April 26 from 6:30-8:30pm** at Richards of Greenwich, 359 Greenwich Avenue, in downtown Greenwich. The *Rags to Richards* theme is in keeping with the focus on the upcoming *Cinderella* production.

Women's designer fashions will be modeled by professionals along with five top-bidding patrons. Aux Délices of Greenwich, our official caterer, will provide delicious passed hors d'oeuvres and plenty of wine and champagne. Three special raffle prizes will be awarded and all attendees will receive a 25% discount coupon toward their own purchase of Richards merchandise.

The Fashion Show Committee includes Linda Clarkson, Wendy DiChristina, Kristen Fortnoy, Barbara Goldsmith, Renee Gregory, Gretchen Hamilton, Jeanne Hendrickson and Renee Ware. Tickets are \$75/person and may be reserved by calling 203-964-1211 during business hours.



CINDERELLA PRODUCTION POSTPONED

Due to an unfortunate conflict with The Bushnell's May 2006 production of *The Lion King* in Hartford, the company lost prime dates which were meant to coincide with dates in Stamford. A decision was made to postpone the entire production until the Fall as follows:

October 20-21 – Ridgefield Playhouse

October 28-29 – Palace Theatre, Stamford

November 3-4 – Belding Theater, Hartford

Lead corporate sponsor for the *Cinderella* production is Xerox Foundation.

SAVE THE DATE

The new date for the Cinderella Ball is **Saturday, October 28**, following the 7:00pm performance at the Palace Theatre, Stamford.



LET'S GET FIT! ASSEMBLY PROGRAMS GO STATEWIDE

A new program has joined the company's existing *Backstage at the Ballet* and *World of Dance* offerings to schools: *Let's Get Fit!* brings the message of physical fitness and healthy food choices to youngsters. Using the old fashioned power of suggestion, our dancers recite troubling health statistics (such as the fact that the average teenage boy consumes 868 cans of soda per year!), perform a 'fast food dance' and a puppet show featuring the five food groups. A complimentary copy of Lizzy Rockwell's excellent *The Busy Body Book, A Kids Guide to Fitness* is donated to the school library.

During the winter/spring, the program will be seen in elementary schools in Bridgeport, Danbury, Hartford, Portland, and Stamford. Director of Education Dana Rodriguez has been busy organizing professional development workshops for physical education teachers and arts specialists in order to deepen the program's impact. A new *Curricular Guide* for Teachers is available for downloading at www.connecticutballet.com.

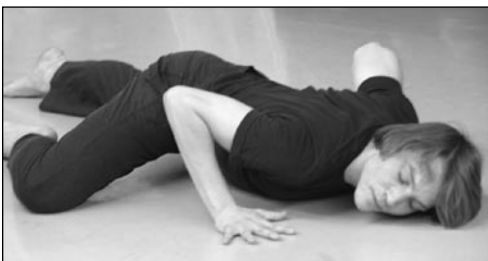
The *Let's Get Fit!* tour has received much appreciated support from Danbury Cultural Commission, Fairfield County Community Foundation, Westport Young Woman's League, and UBS. For a complete schedule of performances, visit our website and click on *Education Programs*.



Let's Get Fit! dancers (left to right) Eve Keller, Danielle Dube, Alfredo Millan, Pamela Kelly and Nanako Kitagawa in their work-out outfits.

ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DINNER DRAWS A RECORD CROWD

Connecticut Ballet Center parents, students and friends turned out in force for the annual International Dinner on **Sunday, January 22nd**. Delicious and exotic foods from the Philippines, Poland, Haiti, Italy, Colombia, India, Mexico, and Turkey were sampled by all while children created huge dance murals using magic markers, magazine cutouts, and colorful papers. A performance featured African percussion, Afro-Haitian dance, the Teen Funk class, and a guest solo by Ian Bell, a promising choreographer based in New York City. All in all, a great way to celebrate our cultural diversity.



Ian Bell in performance at International Dinner.

Guests enjoying foods of the world.



Photos: Lech Jablonka

CITIBANK SUPPORTS DANCE EXPOSURE PROJECT

Ellen Tower and Lily Lopez of Citibank Community Relations in Stamford recently visited Connecticut Ballet's Dance Exposure Project to present a check for \$5,000. Thank you Citibank for your continuing support!



Pictured are Ellen Tower and Lily Lopez with Dana Rodriguez, Director of Education and Dance Exposure Project instructor Ase Kariamu. Students pictured are (from left to right, back row) Caroline Grant, Rosalinda Patino (left to right, front row) Caitlin MacDonald, Janina Puno, Matylda Jablonka, Kelly Lang, Julia Kovalskiy, and Kim Lang.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



CBC TO EXHIBIT WORKS BY TOVA SNYDER

Oil and watercolor artist **Tova Snyder** will be featured in an exhibit at Connecticut Ballet Center just in time for luscious Spring colors! Opening on **Sunday, April 2nd and running through April 29th**, the works feature the picturesque Italian landscape around Turino where the artist resides.

Ms. Snyder will be on hand for the opening reception (3-5pm) and her works will be on sale to the public (with a percentage to benefit Connecticut Ballet's programs). All are invited to attend. For information, visit www.connecticutballet.com.

Harrison-Late Fall by
artist Tova Snyder

25TH ANNIVERSARY RAFFLE DRAWING ON APRIL 29

Last chance to purchase chances to win great prizes and help raise monies for the company's production and outreach programs! Prizes include a week's vacation for two in Carcassonne, France, use of a vacation condo in Key West, and an original David Yurman bracelet. Raffle tickets are only \$5/each or \$20 for a book of four. Tickets are available for purchase at Connecticut Ballet Center now through April 29th.

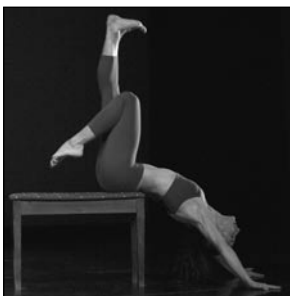
TICKET NUMBER _____

CONNECTICUT BALLET, INC.
RAFFLE DRAWING
Saturday, April 29, 2006 10:00pm
Palace Theatre, 61 Atlantic St., Stamford

\$5.00 per ticket

1st Prize: European Holiday for Two to France
Five days, four nights, accommodations at the Hotel de le Cite, Carcassonne, France, airfare, rail transport, overnite in Paris at Hotel Normandy for two. Includes breakfast for two, and local taxes.

2nd Prize: Vacation Condo in Key West, Florida
Eight days, seven nights in two-bedroom suite for two



Marcela Figueroa (guest artist in Paquita) in Brett Raphael's New World Order for Zig Zag Ballet

EDUCATION OF THE DANCER PERFORMANCE ON MAY 27

Connecticut Ballet & Connecticut Ballet Center will present *Education of the Dancer* on **Saturday, May 27 at 2:00pm** at the Rich Forum, Stamford Center for the Arts. The end-of-year performance will feature students from the school in specially-choreographed sections by faculty members Jessica Delia, Kenichi Ebina, Peniel Guerrier, Ase Kariamu, Kari Nealis, Brett Raphael and David Rider.

Connecticut Ballet's participation will include a production of *Paquita*, a one-act Spanish-style classical ballet to music by Ludwig Minkus. The ballet has been staged by former American Ballet Theatre soloist and Connecticut Ballet company teacher Oksana Konobeyeva. Marcela Figueroa (former principal with Connecticut and Zig Zag Ballets) will return to dance the ballerina role. Tickets are available (after April 1st) by calling the Rich Forum box office at 203-325-4466.

CONNECTICUT BALLET PROFESSIONAL AUDITION WORKSHOP

For the second year in a row, Artistic Director Brett Raphael has arranged a unique audition opportunity for prospective dancers. From **June 11-17**, dancers will take technique classes and participate in workshops with the artistic team and guest instructors including Rebecca Darling (Pilobolus), Derrick Minter (Ailey 2), and Alexander Tressor (teacher at Steps on Broadway/NYC). Housing, meals, and a field trip to New York City are included in the workshop fee. Apprentice and corps de ballet contracts for the 2006/2007 season will be discussed with the participants at the conclusion of the session. For information, contact Kimberly Levesque, Company Manager, at 203-964-1211.



Cynthia Gregory teaching at last year's Audition Workshop. Photo: Tim Coffey



Dance Trivia Quiz

What American Ballet Theatre star ballerina danced the lead in the 1995 Connecticut Ballet production of *Paquita*?

(Answer on back page.)

**OUR
WISH
LIST**

- A mini-van in good running condition
- Upright gym lockers
- Head forms for wig storage
- Office supplies
- Current phone books for Danbury, New London, New Haven, Waterbury, Westchester County

Please call 203-964-1211.

Trivia Quiz answer: Irina Dvorovenko

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Delta Air Lines is the official airline of both Connecticut Ballet and Zig Zag Ballet.

Zig Zag Ballet is the resident dance company of Stamford Center for the Arts.



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