

THE NATIONAL BALLET SCHOOL CHOOSES ST. JOHN'S FOR PILOT STUDY

At Canada's National Ballet School, we believe in the power of dance to profoundly change people's lives," said Mavis Staines, NBS Artistic Director.

Whether a child with a dream to dance professionally, and aspiring teacher with a gift for guiding young people, or an adult who is seeking a creative way to keep fit, dance can and does enrich lives in so many ways.

With this point of view in mind, and as a part of its 21 city National Tour of Auditions, Open Classes and Workshops, Canada's National Ballet School visited St. John's on October 19 and 20 with an expanded series of outreach activities designed to expose the broader community to the art of dance.

A little over a year ago, Kittiwake's Artistic Director, Linda Rimsay, was asked by Mavis Staines to join a committee at the NBS to look into ways in which the NBS could play a more expanded and integral role in dance communities across Canada. Since that time Rimsay has been meeting frequently with members of the NBS administration and faculty in planning this pilot project which included not only the auditions but a number of other activities involving a wide range in age and activities.

For the first time, the audition team went into two elementary schools where they worked with grade four and five students in creative movement. This was followed by a special workshop for elementary school teachers which emphasized the use of movement in the classroom and how it can relate

to many subject matters.

The advanced balleted students were treated to a special balleted class which included repertoire from some of the classics.

Another first was the open community forum on dance, consisting of two members of the NBS audition team and two dance teachers from our own community, along with Shirley Newhook as moderator. It was held at the Arts & Culture Centre and open to everyone: dancers, students, teachers, parents, and anyone who likes dance in any form of dance. This was a great opportunity to ask questions and discuss issues pertaining to all aspects of dance, both amateur and professional. A number of areas were explored during the forum, such as career options, training, and dance for everyone at any age.

It was, indeed, an honour," said Rimsay, "to have this community selected for a pilot project where we can try new ideas, events and approaches to expanding interest and participation in dance at many levels and for any age. The National Ballet School has invited us to join them in an exchange of ideas and activities which can enrich our lives. It was exciting to see members of this community taking advantage of this opportunity.

This year's activities will be evaluated and hopefully expanded in the future, not only in St. John's but in other communities across Canada as well.

A SUMMER OF ACTIVITIES

This summer KDT was fortunate to receive funding from several sources to hire dancers for 6 – 8 weeks. The Summer Student Career Placement program and Student Work and Service Program provided four members of the company with the opportunity to pursue their career goals during the summer months. Through out July and August **Jane Hammond, Melissa and Megan Hoskins** and **Nikolas Baril** performed throughout the downtown area as street mimes and step dancers, entertaining literally thousands of passers by.

In August Kittiwake performed at the LSPU Hall

featuring new works by **Andrew Draskoy, Kaitlin Penney, Larissa Rog,** and **Sarah Stoker**. Guest performer **Catherine Wright** presented one of her more recent works with music by **Eric West**.

The following weekend KDT, a co-sponsor of Dance Events, participated in SummerDance, the provinces annual outdoor dance festival held in Pippy Park on the grounds of the Fluvarium where hundreds of people sit on the grass enjoying their picnics while the watch a variety of dance performances from belly dancing to classical ballet and step dancing.

DICK STOKER WINS AWARDS

People close to Kittiwake have always known that **Dick Stoker** is indispensable, but now we have the proof! Dick Stoker, Kittiwake's Technical Director, has been recognized with two awards in the past year. In 2003, he received the SOCAN Patron of Music Award, and this year he won the Canadian Institute of Theatre

Technology Professional Development Award. In addition to this, he recently became the National President of the Canadian Dance Assembly, a pan-Canadian National Service Organization for dance.

Congratulations, Dick!



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KITTIWAKE LOSES A MEMBER OF ITS ARTISTIC STAFF

About three years ago **Larissa Rog** joined Kittiwake's artistic staff during which time she taught ballet and created a series of new ballet and contemporary works for the company. In addition, she performed key roles in THE NUTCRACKER and various contemporary works.

Larissa, her family arrived in Canada several years ago from Estonia. Igor, her husband, was the creator of the fabulous nutcrackers decorated by local artists and auctioned at last year's NUTCRACKER NIGHT OUT.

The Rogs moved to Vancouver in August. We will miss them and wish them all the best.

A GUILD IS FORMED

With the increased costs of running a dance company and cuts in funding, KDT has formed a Guild whose primary purpose is to fundraise and promote the company. While new and small in number, the guild has launched full speed into the Tutu Project, the creation of tutus for young aspiring dancers as a major fund-raising project for the fall.

While in the midst of this project, the members are exploring new ideas and activities which will provide the funds necessary to keep KDT's many projects and performances alive and growing.

While the existing group is energetic and full of ideas, it is always open to any and all dance enthusiasts who would like to support local dance. Everyone is welcome and those interested should call Kittiwake. Join the fun and help keep us alive!



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THREE SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISERS (FOOD INCLUDED!)

SUNDAY DINNER WITH BRIANY NEWELL

Our first fundraiser of the year was Sunday Dinner with Briany Newell at the Masonic Temple in February. Thanks in large part to Briany's antics (well...**Stephen Lush** might have had something to do with it...), the event was a big success. Thanks to all the volunteers!

DESSERT PARTY

Even a snowstorm can't deter Kittiwake! Although our dessert party was postponed, it finally went ahead at the Masonic Temple on June 6th. A delicious time was had by all! Many thanks to **Barry Ross** and **Margaret Hitchens** for the entertainment.



CHILI DINNER

Kittiwake's ever popular chili dinner happened again on Sunday, October 24 at the Masonic Temple. This event has become a favourite with our supporters over the years with **Lorraine Mercer's** meat chili and **Bob Rimsay's** meatless version enhanced with buns, salad and home-made desserts - plus, of course, coffee and tea.

Our many thanks to **Sarah Small**, the **Holy Heart Madrigal Choir** and guitarist **Barry Ross** for providing the entertainment. Funds raised through this event are used to support Kittiwake's creation of new works as well as our ongoing outreach program.

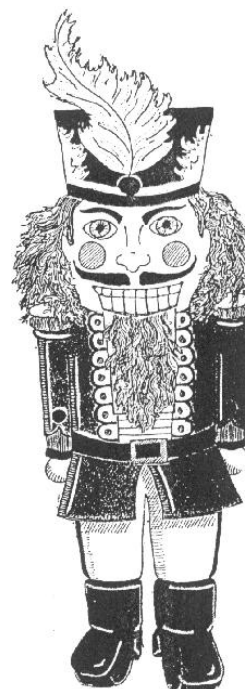
IT'S NUTCRACKER TIME AGAIN!

It is that time of year again when we haul out the costumes, check the set and props for repair and begin rehearsals for our annual production of **THE NUTCRACKER**. Auditions were held October 1 & 2 during which time we saw nearly 150 aspiring cast members full of energy and talent.

The casting is done and rehearsals are in full swing for our 18th annual production of this Christmas tradition. As in the past, **Martin Vallée** and **Jennifer Foley** will be joining us as well as **Patrick Lavoie** and **Rebekah Rimsay** from The National Ballet of Canada.

Block booking rates are available. Check the Centre Box Office for ticket prices and times.

THE NUTCRACKER
DECEMBER 17, 18, 19
FOR TICKET INFORMATION CALL
THE CENTRE BOX OFFICE
729-3900



LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT FOR YOUR YOUNG DANCER?

Look no further. Kittiwake's guild has been busy making the perfect gift for the young dancer in your family. Since the middle of August members of the Guild have been busy making tutus for sale in support of this year's production of **THE NUTCRACKER**. Nearly one hundred individually-made tutus in various colours complete with wand and tiara come as a set which includes a signed note from the Sugar Plum Fairy.

These adjustable tutus are appropriate for those ballerinas age 3 to 8 years of age. While our initial intention was to sell these sets at **THE NUTCRACKER**, word has gotten out and we have already sold a number of them. The sets, which sell for \$20, will be available for a pre-Christmas sale at Kittiwake Dance Theatre on Saturday, December 11 from noon to 3:00 p.m. The remaining tutu sets will be sold at **THE NUTCRACKER** performances at the Arts and Culture Centre on December 17, 18 and 19.

KDT NEWS, founded in April 1992, is a publication of
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MARGARET HITCHENS HOLDS A NEW RECORD!

Not new to the stage, Margaret's experience with the chorus and in supporting roles is extensive and varied. MY FAIR LADY, FINIAN'S RAINBOW, SHOWBOAT, THE KING AND I, THE SOUND OF MUSIC, WEST SIDE STORY, and recently a third time as Yenta the Matchmaker in FIDDLER ON THE ROOF - this is only a short list of the many productions in which she has been involved.

Equally popular (and performed at the drop of a hat) are monologues expounding upon the adventures of Mr. and Mrs. Ramsbottom and their son Albert, part of the music hall tradition of the British Isles.

For several years she has been a guiding force behind the scenes of Kittiwake Dance Theatre in her role as Chair of the Board of Directors. In addition, she is the only member of **THE NUTCRACKER** cast to have performed in every performance of every production for what is now our 18th season. Our records are a bit skimpy, but as best we can determine, some time during this year's run of **THE NUTCRACKER**, Margaret Hitchens will give her 100th performance as Granny. Congratulations!