

To the Pointe Spring 08

New Ballet Ensemble
brings together
 children
 from all
backgrounds
 by providing a
professional standard of
training,
 regardless of the
ability to pay.

Greetings!

The New Ballet staff and Teaching Artists have been hard at work implementing our vision and mission by bringing together a diverse group of talented youth and providing a professional standard in our community-centered studios, in schools and for human service organizations, becoming a hub for dance and a place Memphis children are calling "home".

Please allow me to express how very grateful I am to each of you who have invested in New Ballet, a unique community school of the Arts. **February marked our first mention in a national publication, *Dance Magazine!*** Thus far this year, we have danced in over six Memphis public and Crittenden County schools while holding residencies in Carver High School, Campus School at the University of Memphis, Rhodes College and Dunbar Elementary in the Orange Mound neighborhood. Additionally, Girls, Inc. just finished their 12-week residency at New Ballet studios.

I am immensely grateful for **YOU** ... if you are a student, performer or teaching artist, *your work*; if you are a parent, *your support* of your child's endeavors; if you are a volunteer or Board Member, *your many hours of work*; if you are a donor, *your financial support* that makes all we do possible; if you are an audience member, *your applause*. We need your continued support to make New Ballet a sustainable program for years to come. Look for information in this newsletter about **The Assisi Foundation's** challenge grant just awarded to New Ballet!

I look forward to seeing you at our annual production of ***Springloaded* on June 13 and 14, 2008** at the Buckman Performing Arts Center. In typical New Ballet fashion, this show is loaded with surprises!

Katie



EXCELLENCE

Martha Graham Company Teaching Artist Elizabeth Auclair leads a free community Master class at New Ballet studios



DIVERSITY

(Level IV) Left to right Katie, Morgan, Raychel, Misty, David, Danielle and Harlan (center)



LEADERSHIP

Katie instructs Downtown Elementary students post "*Peter and the Wolf*" performance.

PROFILES - Christti Streeter and Kate Mashburn



What does being a ballet dancer mean to you and how long have you been training in the art of ballet?

Christti: I've been officially training in ballet for 6 months. Ballet is very important to me and I know it is necessary to have this professional training to open doors to dance anywhere.

Kate: Honestly, I would like to consider myself a "dancer" rather than a "ballet dancer." In the dance world today, one has to be versatile and unique but still have the classical training and technique of ballet. Being a dancer is not just a job, it really is a way of life. I've been training since I was five years old. It all started with the Saturday morning creative movement class, which I hated at first because I had to miss the Saturday morning cartoons!

What does being a company dancer at New Ballet mean to you?

Christti: This is a beautiful opportunity to be a company member of NBE. It's not every day you get an opportunity to be a part of a ballet company as a hip hop dancer. I am quite happy! Being at New Ballet is helping me to grow not just as a dancer but as a person. NBE is very important to my growth, not to mention I have met and continue meeting lots of new people. So it's a lot like school.

Kate: We really are fortunate to have Katie teach us a very intense ballet technique class each morning, which even makes some Royal Swedish Ballet dancers envious of our group. I think New Ballet Ensemble is a bit like Forrest Gump's box of chocolate, "you never know what you are going to get". All in one season we've performed classical repertoire, been exposed to William Forsythe, Twyla Tharp, and Martha Graham's choreography, performed Chris Robert's distinctive contemporary ballet, "Dredg", experimented with mixing the local dance phenomenon of Jukin' with classical ballet, and have been taught contemporary flamenco. The things the company has learned, created, and performed this past year are unlike anything I could have experienced anywhere else in the world.

What do you see yourself doing 5 years from now?

Christti: Not sure but hopefully wherever God wants me to be happy and entertaining!

Kate: In 5 years I will be 26 years old. Hopefully I will be a college graduate who is dancing somewhere amazing, maybe even in Europe, and no longer living with my parents!

What is your favorite part of your job as a professional dancer?

Christti: Performing in front of large crowds. My most rewarding experiences are when I make people smile.

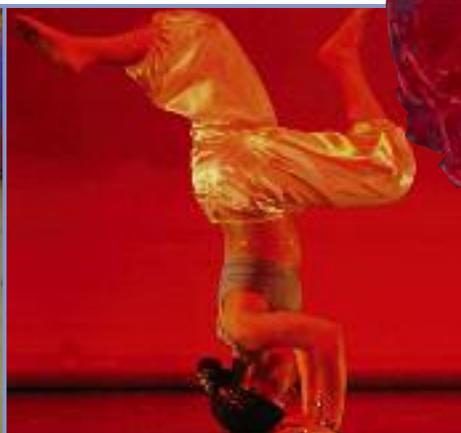
Kate: The electrifying buzz I get dancing on stage and the bow after a performance I'm proud of.



Christti Streeter



Christti instructing Dunbar Elementary students



How did you first get introduced to New Ballet?

Christti: Through the CityDance program with the Subculture Royalty Hip Hop dance company. (NOTE: CityDance is an intensive 2-week summer program that offers professional training in ballet to students free of charge. NIKE has sponsored the program for the past 3 years).

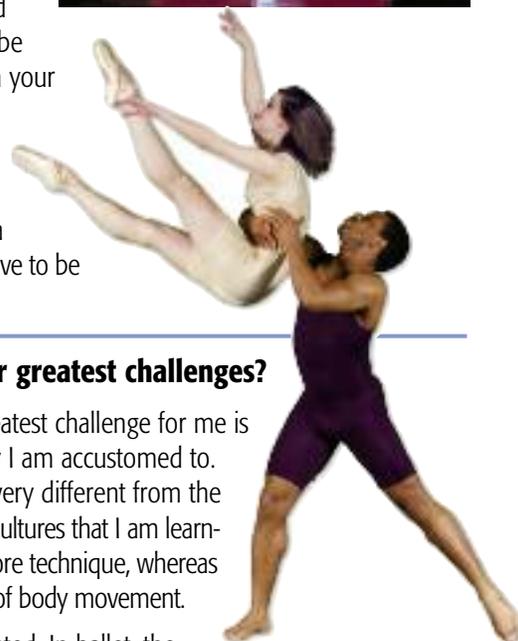
Kate: There came a time in my dancing, after training for 10 years at another ballet school, when it became evident that I needed something different than what I was currently being offered. I wasn't exactly sure what to do or where to go from there when one summer day my mom came and told me she had great news. She was driving down Central Avenue and saw a sign for a new ballet school! This new school had small class sizes, meaning tons of individual attention, which was exactly what I was looking for. I began taking classes and many tears were shed as my whole ballet world was turned upside down, but even with the tears I knew, and still know, I had made the right choice.



How do you most benefit from your dance experiences at NBE?

Christti: I benefit the most by being able to learn different styles of dance and performing them for audiences. Working with new choreographers who may be more demanding and have higher expectations for professional behavior than your average hip hop teacher helps me build tough skin.

Kate: New Ballet has helped me build traits that will last a lifetime such as commitment, discipline, and perseverance. Dancing here has also taught me to be ready for anything and to always be prepared. Life sometimes throws you a curve ball, both in and out of the dance studio. I have learned that you have to be flexible and courageous enough to still knock it out of the park.



Kate Mashburn

What are your greatest challenges?

Christti: The greatest challenge for me is not dancing the way I am accustomed to. The hip hop culture is very different from the ballet, flamenco and modern cultures that I am learning. These types of dances have more technique, whereas in Hip Hop there is one rule: freedom of body movement.

Kate: Learning dance is quite complicated. In ballet, the dancer has to think about 50 things at once – pointing their foot correctly, keeping their abdominals strong, and keeping their “watoosies” engaged using the inner thigh to rotate legs correctly for proper turnout – all while staying on rhythm and using the right counts for the choreography that was given. However, in my opinion this is not the hardest part. The most challenging element of dancing for me is keeping a smile on your face and making your movements look effortless while your nerves are going crazy because you’ve put one foot on the stage.



Kate teaches *Peter and the Wolf* to Keystone Elementary students

Kate is a former student and now a member of the New Ballet Professional Ensemble. Christti is a past scholarship student and is now a professional trainee in the Ensemble. Both dancers take class and rehearse daily, performing together on stage, in schools and leading workshops as Teaching Artists throughout the city.

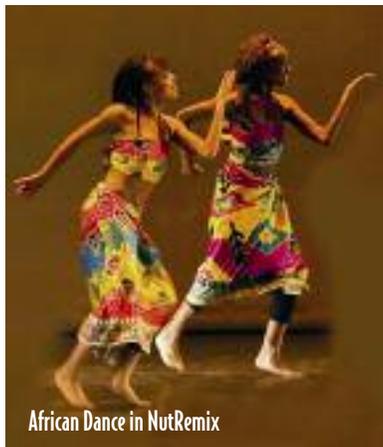
Nut Re-Mix Recap

Several months have passed but the buzz about this year's *Nut Re-Mix* production still fills our halls and is present throughout the community. All three performances plus a first-annual school performance sold out this year for a total of over 1,200 audience members. This year 81 students and company members performed and through a Tennessee Arts Commission grant, the dancers were given an opportunity to rehearse for the performance with Ms. Christina Bernal, formerly of the San Francisco Ballet.

We are grateful to Candance and John Washington of the Nubian Theater Company and Carver High School joined by their sons who provided choreography and live drums for the African dance.

We are also thankful to our partnership with Terran Cooke and her Sub-Culture Royalty group who specialize in the art of Hip Hop and improvisation.

Nut Re-Mix is an annual production that fuses ballet, hip-hop, Flamenco and urban dance styles with the classical score of Tchaikovsky. Audiences experience the classical ballet of the Sugar Plum juxtaposed with the raw energy of urban dance that has come to be associated with New Ballet. You won't want to miss this annual holiday performance in 2008 as we expand it another weekend to accommodate the growing demand.



African Dance in NutRemix



New Ballet IV in NutRemix 2007 Chinese Flower



NutRemix 2007 Act I

Springloaded - June 13th & 14th at 7:30 p.m.
At the Buckman Performing Arts Center, located at St. Mary's School



Martha Graham Exercise with New Ballet Artists

The Martha Graham Company was in residence at New Ballet for 2 weeks thanks to the generous support of **St. Mary's School** and **First Tennessee Bank**. The company dancers will perform two Graham solos and one original piece by Blakeley White McGuire in *Springloaded* and at the Brooks Museum of Art June 13, 2008.



Graham Company Member, Blakely White McGuire, with New Ballet Ensemble trainees, Charles Riley and Rudy Peyton



Noelia Garcia Carmona

Barcelona native and New Ballet Resident Teaching Artist, Noelia Garcia Carmona, brings a new work to the Buckman stage. Inspired by Flamenco and Spanish tradition, this work is made possible by the **ArtsMemphis ABC** grant award and will be performed in *Springloaded*, June 13 and 14.

New Ballet Ensemble 2009 Season:

Freefall: October 24 7:30pm & October 26 2:30pm

Nut Remix: Two weekends! December 5-7 & 12-14

Springloaded: June 2009

Performances at the Buckman Performing Arts Center

If you or your business would like to purchase an ad for the performance programs in support of New Ballet, please contact Carrie Pohlman Vaughan at (901) 726-9225 ext 224.

Staffing Update

New Ballet welcomes Katherine Coburn and Carrie Pohlman Vaughan to our staff

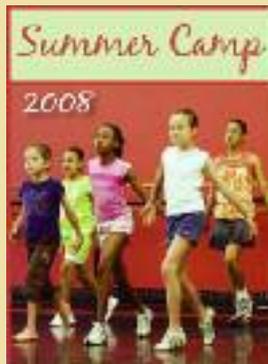
Many of you have met Katherine who was introduced to New Ballet through a partnership with Bridges USA. Katherine is at the studio Tuesday – Saturday 11am until 7pm. Contact Katherine if you need information about classes, upcoming performances, birthday parties or any general business as it relates to New Ballet.

Carrie is the Director of Development and comes to New Ballet with experience in fundraising after taking 5 years off to stay at home with her two children. Carrie was introduced to New Ballet through the Creative Movement class her daughter participates in. Carrie is available to assist you with any fundraising, marketing and public relations needs.

Kevin Trent Thomas, Artistic Director of **Collage Dance Collective**, former Principal dancer with **Dance Theater of Harlem** and guest with the **Royal Ballet** is in residence at New Ballet this spring working with the company on exciting repertoire to be performed in *Springloaded* and leading a new **Boys Ballet** class. Mr. Thomas will be premiering a new short work and performing in *Springloaded*.



Kevin Trent Thomas



Summer Camp Schedule

**Make Plans
to Attend
Summer Camp
at New Ballet**

**May 26 - June 15
Summer Intensive - Intermediate & Advanced**

**June 2 - August 8
Creative Movement- On a class card basis**

**June 23 - June 27
Half-day Camps - Ballet 2, 3A, 3B**

**June 30 - July 3
Half-day Camp - Ballet 1**

**June 30 - July 3
Full-day Camp - Ballet 4**

This Year at a Glance . . .



KITE Foundation Sponsors School Performances

Thanks to a generous donation from the **KITE Foundation**, children from six Title 1 Memphis City Schools have seen a live performance of *Peter and the Wolf* this year. *Peter and the Wolf* is designed to give students the opportunity to learn about the composer and story where instruments are used to represent characters, see a live performance, participate in post-production workshops learning the choreography they have just seen, and in some cases audition for scholarships in the New Ballet core program. **Last year New Ballet reached over 8,000 students through School Performances and Residency Programs. Over 6,000 have been reached thus far this year.**

Recent reviews from Bruce Elementary teachers say:

"Students were 100% engaged"
"They were riveted"
"You had them in the palms of your hand"
"I have never seen a more engaged audience"

In some instances, schools themselves pay for the performance through their budget or even the PTA. Other times, New Ballet receives funding for such performances through individuals, foundations and corporations.

Contact Carrie Pohlman Vaughan at 901-726-9225 ext 224 if you are interested in bringing *Peter and the Wolf* to a local school or would like New Ballet to perform at your company's upcoming event.



Wolf in training with company dancer Brandon Conger



Teaching Artist Mandy Possell instructs girls at Downtown Elementary School, March 2008



- 1 Teaching Artists Coley Webster instructs audience members including NBE students Sabrina Spence (left) and Crystal Nouwen (center) post performance at the Benjamin L. Hooks Library.
- 2 Girls, Inc. dancers accept flowers with Katie and Teaching Artist Emma Crystal post performance. Through a **Tennessee Arts Commission Funds for At-Risk Youth Grant**, New Ballet partnered with Girls, Inc. for the fourth consecutive year providing a professional standard of training to 40 girls in the program. The girls were taught by Teaching Artist Emma Crystal and concluded this year's program on April 15 by performing for their families and friends.
- 3 New Ballet was proud to partner with **Opera Memphis** this year through the generosity of a **First Tennessee BRAVO Award**. In January, four New Ballet students performed with Opera Memphis in *Macbeth*. Additionally, New Ballet has partnered with Opera Memphis for the next five operas during this season and next through a First Tennessee BRAVO Award.
- 4 Charles Riley with 5th graders at Dunbar Elementary. New Ballet is in residence twice weekly. (See photo next page).

Donor Spotlight

Hohenberg Foundation Challenge Grant Met

A special thank you to everyone who contributed to the annual fund in an effort to meet the \$25,000 challenge grant issued by **The Hohenberg Foundation**. In just three months, New Ballet reached its goal and received the The Hohenberg Foundation award. We are grateful to the Foundation for their on-going support and to all of **YOU** who contributed to our efforts. We continue to raise funds for New Ballet programs and scholarships. Your meaningful contributions support our mission. **Please use the enclosed donor envelope if you would like to join our efforts TODAY!**

Assisi Foundation of Memphis Issues Challenge Grant

New Ballet is pleased to announce a challenge grant award in the amount of \$100,000 from **The Assisi Foundation of Memphis** to support the on-going capital campaign. The Foundation has supported the building of our new studios for the past two years. The new studios are now open and filled daily with children and adults from all areas of the community helping New Ballet expand the programs. Please join our efforts **TODAY** to help us meet The Assisi Foundation's challenge and *ensure that equal access to dance is given to all children.*

Ways You Can Help

Contact Carrie Pohlman Vaughan 901-726-9225 ex 224

- Contribute to the annual fund to support programs, scholarships and operations.
- Support our on-going capital campaign.
- Help us meet the Assisi Foundation Challenge Grant.
- Sponsor a school show or in-school residency program.
- Sponsor a child for a year of training through contributing to the scholarship fund.
- Support our productions of *Free Fall*, *Nut Remix* and *Springloaded* through ad and ticket sales.
- Volunteer opportunities are available.

Contact New Ballet at 726-9225.



Annual Fund Contributors

The following have contributed to the general fund Aug 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008.

Please excuse our oversight if your name was unintentionally omitted.

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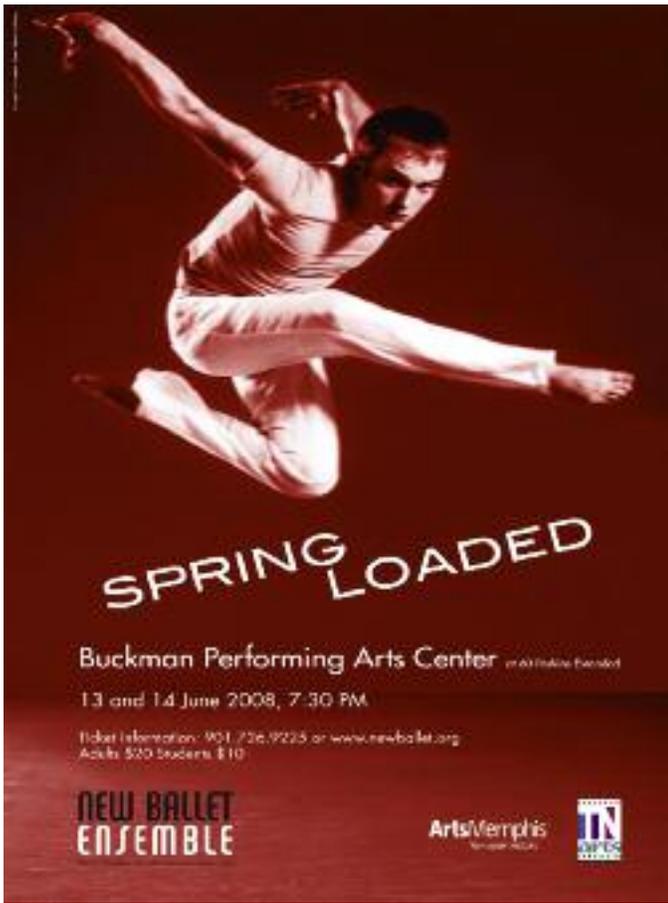
Capital Campaign Contributors

The following have given to the renovation of the building. Please help us to retire building costs. Naming rights are still available.

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Board of Director Updates

New Ballet welcomes the following Board members to our organization: Samuel Hurst, Assistant Director for Administration of CREP (Center for Research in Educational Policy) at the University of Memphis; Tim Mashburn, Associate Dean for Finance and Administration at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine; James Nelson, Administrator of Mayor's Assistance Center Shelby County Government; Margaret Paige, Attorney at Large, Harris, Shelton, Hanover, Walsh PLLC and Robert Rogalski, VP and CFO, BRIDGES USA. These individuals join our other 17 Board members who work tirelessly on behalf of New Ballet. We are grateful for their efforts and commitments.



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