



# FOOTNOTES

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 4

SPRING 2006

## *A LOOK BACK: WHAT A MAGNIFICENT WEEKEND*

BY: CAROLYN POSTON, BOARD PRESIDENT



Wow, what a weekend! For those of you who witnessed any or all of the Charleston Ballet's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Celebration, you know of the excitement and artistic excellence that the Charleston Ballet offered. For those of you who missed it, you truly missed one of the greatest performances and celebrations that this valley has ever seen.

Leading off the Friday performance, the Charleston Ballet was honored to have in attendance the First Lady of West Virginia, Mrs. Gayle Manchin. She presented the Ballet with a Proclamation from the Governor, which included a Certificate of Recognition to the Charleston Ballet for its outstanding cultural contributions to the Mountain State for 50 years. She also joined approximately 100 audience members and dancers at the Marriott for a reception immediately following the performance. We thank Mrs. Manchin for her presence. It was an honor for me, personally, to have had the opportunity to meet and introduce her to the audience during such an exciting time.

On Saturday, many present and former company members mingled over a brunch held at the Marriott, which included a flurry of individuals who had a common thread in their lives, the passion for dance.

Saturday's performance began with honoring Monique Van Damme and Marie Claude Van Damme Turner, the daughters of founders Andre and Maggy Van Damme. Their presence was particularly sentimental since the entire performance was a tribute their parents, who pioneered the Charleston Ballet 50 years ago. Others present in the audience who were recognized included former company members, as well as Audrey Keene Hill, who was a former dancer with the NY Metropolitan Opera Ballet. She performed here with Mr. Van Damme before the Charleston Ballet was even formed.

Immediately following the final performance of Bolero on Saturday was a heart felt tribute and toast amongst the audience members and the dancers to the man responsible for the evening, Andre Van Damme. What an appropriate ending for such a weekend.

A standing ovation should be given not only to the Artistic Director and dancers, but also everyone else involved, including the hard work from the stage crew, staff, the Friends of the Ballet, the Board Members and the incredible audience. From the curtain speech with the First Lady, to Bolero, to the toast, it truly was a magnificent weekend!

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF BALLET

The Board of Directors of the Charleston Ballet welcomes these new board members to our organization:

**Dr. R. Augustus Hamrick**  
**Scot Jackson**

We also welcome new Friends of the Ballet to our organization:

**Patty Ball**  
**Vic Bastron**  
**Don Carnell**  
**Zenda Carnell**  
**Ron Townsend**  
**Jeff Vandall**

## Be a VOLUNTEER

We need and welcome all gifts of time and talent. If you are interested and would like to play a role in the Charleston Ballet's future, call the office at 342-6541.



Andrea Di Gregorio  
Winner of Valentine Raffle

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**CHARLESTON BALLET TO PERFORM WITH MONTCLAIRE DURING FESTIVALL**

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The Charleston Ballet will combine with the Montclair String Quartet this year to present a performance during Charleston's FESTIVALL on June 25, 2006 at 3:00 pm at the WV Cultural Center Theater. The program will consist of original light classical and contemporary dance works accompanied by live music of the talented musicians of the quartet. This performance will be open and free to the public.

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**SUMMER DANCE SESSIONS**

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The American Academy Ballet will offer summer classes with the first session running for 5 weeks, June 5 – July 7, 2006. This session will offer classes to children including Creative Movement ( 4 – 5 yrs ) , Ballet ( 6 – professional levels), Adult Beginning Ballet, and Pilates (Beg and Advanced), and a Bodysculpt Class. Adult classes are open and cost \$12.72 per class. The Pilates classes are offered with the purchase of a class card.

The second summer session will run from July 31 to August 25, 2006. No audition is necessary. Please feel free to call the ballet office for more information at 342-6541.

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**AAB School Recital and Photo Opportunity**

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The annual American Academy Ballet school recital will be held on Friday, May 26, 2006, at the Civic Center Theater at 7:30 pm. Students will present dances demonstrating skills that they have learned during the year. Dancers from the Charleston Ballet will also offer performances. Tickets will be \$10 for Adults and \$6 for Children 12 and under.

Students will also have the opportunity this year to have their photograph taken in costume by the official photographer of the Charleston Ballet, Mr. Jurgen Lorenzen of Nicholas Photography. Photos will be taken on Tuesday May 16 beginning at 4:00 pm. Make sure you schedule your session early. Information will be distributed during student classes.



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**TO THE POINTE**

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*"Nothing is quite so painful as the agony of de feet"*  
Unknown

*"To live in balance is to own every aspect of our existence, not ignoring anything -the good and the bad- accepting it all, and growing with it".*  
Unknown

**WV Dance Festival April 28-30, 2006.** The Festival offers dancers an opportunity to take jazz, modern, and ballet classes from internationally known instructors David Howard, Ronnie DeMarco and Shane O'Hara. The Charleston Ballet Company and its apprentices will perform a trio of dances from "She Loves You" music of the Beatles on Friday , April 28, 2006.

**CHARLESTON BALLET WISH LIST:**

Contributions of gently used leotards and dancewear, all sizes, for our \$1.00 rack in the Tulle Box Shop.  
( Please no used tights)

Someone to work in the Tulle Box. Will exchange partial tuition for hours.



Join the Charleston Ballet for the second annual Fun For The Family event on Saturday, June 17, 2006, at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Mrs. R. Edward Hamrick, overlooking the city of Charleston. This will be a wonderful evening of entertainment for the whole family.

The kids will enjoy activity stations like the Jupiter Jump, a giant 16-Foot Slide, Tattoo Tent, Door Prizes and Silent Auction. Everyone will enjoy the food stations of hot dogs, drinks, popcorn, and sno cones. A favorite disc jockey, Rick Cochran from WV Radio Corporation, is scheduled to be there to provide all the current musical favorites for us. Bring your friends and park at the bottom of Fort Hill Drive and ride by Trolley to the top of the hill.

Advance tickets are now available at the Charleston Ballet office for \$25.00 per person and \$75.00 per family. Tickets may also be purchased from a board member or by calling the Charleston Ballet office at 342-6541.

Sponsorships are still available at 2 levels and provide recognition and include Family Tickets. This is a great summer event that supports your ballet company and is a whole lot of fun for all. Get your tickets early .

### Charleston Ballet Auditions for 2006-07 Season

The Charleston Ballet, official WV State Ballet, under the direction of K. R. Pauley will hold two separate audition classes for company membership and apprentice positions for the upcoming 2006-07 season.

The Company audition will be held 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 3, 2006. Male and female dancers of advanced ability with a classical ballet background are encouraged to audition for the company. Dancers must be at least 14 years old and women must be proficient in pointe work.

The Apprentice audition will be held at 4:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Friday, May 5, 2006. For the apprentice positions, male and female dancers must be between 11 and 14 years old with a classical ballet background and possess at least an intermediate level of technique. Girls must be working on pointe. All interested dancers and their parents must comply with the company membership regulations.

Programs for the Charleston Ballet's upcoming 2006-07 season will include performances of PAQUITA, COUNTRY MOON, chamber works with the Montclair String Quartet, and annual series of THE NUTCRACKER, with the WV Symphony Orchestra. Auditions will be held at the 818 Virginia Street East studio location. Please call 304-342-6541 for additional information.

## MEMORIES FROM THE HEART VALENTINE RAFFLE

Congratulations to this year's winner Andrea Di Gregorio of February's Valentine Raffle. Andrea is the principal cellist in the WV Symphony Orchestra and the cellist in the Montclair String Quartet. Her daughter, Renata, is an apprentice with the Charleston Ballet. Andrea was very excited with her win and said " I have never won anything except a bicycle helmet and I don't even have a bike". The prize package that she took home included:

A Weekend Package at Charleston Marriott, Chop House dinner package, Visions Day Spa package, necklace from Calvin Broyles Jewelers, Gift certificate from Charleston Town Center, Massage from Specific Kneads, 2 tickets to WV Symphony Symphonic/Pops concert, 2 tickets to Charleston Ballet "A Look Back", 2 tickets to Marquis Cinema, Bottle of champagne from the Wine Shop, Bouquet of flowers from Charleston Cut, a special gift from Eggplant, cooking class with Luisa DiTrapano, power teeth bleaching from Dr. R. Augustus Hamrick, and chocolates.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff, we want to thank our sponsors and everyone for their support of the *Memories from the Heart Raffle*. All 300 hundred tickets were sold and \$6,000 was raised to help fund the ballet's 50th anniversary gala performances. A special thanks to WCHS TV 8, board member Jim Strawn, WV Radio Corporation, V-100, and to everyone for making this fundraiser such a success!

### GETTING TO KNOW Jesse Tidquist

**Pet Peeve:** Ha ha, I have so many! I suppose the biggest thing that gets on my nerves is closed-mindedness. I'm not sure if that's really a "peeve". It's something I absolutely can't stand.

**Most Important Item in my Dance Bag:** Probably my toe spacers. Without those, dancing is a lot more painful!

**Favorite TV show:** I don't really have a favorite. I skip around from channel to channel a lot. The channels I watch the most are probably Cartoon Network, MTV, American Movie Classics, and Bravo. That's about the weirdest combination one could come up with..... I think.

**What do you do on your time off:** Sleep! I work 9 to 5 and dance 5:30 to 9. Once I get home, there's just enough time to grab dinner, relax for a little bit, and head to bed. On days I don't work/dance, I 'm usually at home relaxing or seeing local bands play.

**Most memorable performance experience:** That is probably dancing "Spanish" in the Nutcracker with Drew. He's one of my best friends and I don't think I've ever felt so comfortable or had so much fun dancing a role.

**Future Roles:** My favorites would have to be Giselle or Kitri. They're my goals.

**Other Interests:** Music, photography, painting, and costuming. I've made patterns and diagrams for just about every dress in the Clay Center art gallery now. I'm such a costume nerd that I 'm actually working on a replica of Drew Barrymore's ballgown from Ever After. Ha Ha Ha.

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## 2006 - 07 SEASON

**April 28-30** WV Dance Festival at the Cultural Center (free admission)

**May 26** American Academy Ballet Recital 7:30 p.m. at the Civic Center

**June 5 - July 7** American Academy Ballet Summer Session I

**June 25** FESTIVALL w/ Montclair 3:00 pm Cultural Center (free admission)

**July 31 - Aug 25** American Academy Ballet Summer Session II

**August** American Academy Ballet Open House; class registration TBA

**September 5** American Academy Ballet fall semester classes begin.

**October 28 - 29** Charleston Ballet Season Opener Civic Center Theater