

ALEXANDRA ZAHARIAS, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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## Friends of Alexandra Ballet

The Friends is a group of individuals committed to the support of Alexandra Ballet. In addition to the functions listed below, we help with almost any job needed to keep Alexandra Ballet thriving, such as transporting guest dancers and choreographers, altering costumes, and bulk mailing.

Everyone is welcome to be a Friend of Alexandra Ballet. We have no dues and we meet monthly. If you know a friend, relative, neighbor, or acquaintance, who is interested in being a part of a support organization to help promote quality ballet in St. Louis, please let us know.

*Alexandra Ballet is a Proud Member of:*

- Chesterfield Arts
- Dance St. Louis
- Missouri Citizens for the Arts
- Regional Dance America (MidStates Honor Company)
- Classic99 KFJQ-FM Circle of Friends

Alexandra Ballet is Funded in Party By:



## Old Traditions and New Territories

Jackie Goen

With one foot in tradition and the other in new territories, Alexandra Ballet's twenty-second season explores dance through the centuries. Featuring a challenging slate of programs, the season culminates in a Main Stage production of the challenging and seldom-produced Stravinsky breakthrough masterwork *The Firebird*.

As is its tradition, the Company kicks off the holiday season with its Sugar Plum Parties at the Saint Louis Galleria on Friday, November 24. Company dancers present this child-friendly abbreviated production of Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*. St. Louis storyteller Karen Young narrates.

In collaboration with Chesterfield Arts, Alexandra Ballet presents *The Nutcracker* at Marquette High School on December 8. Longtime friend of the company Anne Marie Ruhlin narrates this perennial favorite, newly expanded with the Mother Ginger music, the angels, and an expanded battle scene.

Members of the First Company will treat attendees of the Snow Ball (Saint Louis Art Museum's biennial gala) to excerpts from the delightful *Pas de Quatre*. In honor of



*Moldavian Suite*

the event, the Snow Ball will also feature Alexandra Ballet's talented CiCi Houston's choreography of the Snow Scene from *The Nutcracker*. Other members of the company will appear in holiday vignettes around the museum's beautiful foyer.



*Papillons*

The Winter Repertory Program is a performance benefiting AB's scholarship fund on Sunday, February 4, at the Missouri History Museum Theater. *Pas de Quatre*, *Fairy Doll*, *Moldavian Suite*, *de l'innocence*, and *Papillons* comprise the program. The talented husband and wife team of Zhanna Dubrovskaya and Sergey Kozadeyev, longtime friends of Alexandra Ballet and artistic directors of Salt Creek Ballet, collaborated on the choreography for *Fairy Doll*. Ms. Dubrovskaya restaged *Pas de Quatre* for Alexandra Ballet, while Mr. Kozadeyev choreographed *Moldavian Suite* for the Apprentice Company.

Alan Hine line has choreographed *de l'innocence*, set to the German Dances by Franz Schubert. Mr. Hine line is a resident faculty member for the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, a faculty member of Ballet East in New York City, and a freelance choreographer. CiCi Houston choreographed *Papillons* for the Junior Company. Robert Schumann's piano pieces provide the back-ground to this lovely portrayal of emerging butterflies.



*The Fairy Doll*

This season, Alexandra Ballet's annual Young People's Performance presents *The Firebird* at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on Thursday, March 15. Teachers may choose to bring their students to a morning or afternoon performance. All participating classes receive an educational workbook in advance of the performance to better prepare the students for their theatre experience. Stage Manager Tim Hubbard presents an interactive presentation, "What's Going on Back There?" and Alexandra Ballet faculty introduces students to dancers' roles in costume before the program begins.

## And For Our Next Performance...

Edited by Sharon Butchko

### **The Great Russian Nutcracker**

December 3, 12:00 pm and 4:00 pm  
Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center  
Tickets: Touhill Box Office 314-516-4949

Back for a fourth consecutive year, Alexandra Ballet hosts Moscow Ballet's *Great Russian Nutcracker!* Local dancers representing area ballet schools participate in this production, and have been rehearsed by the gifted ballet mistresses of Alexandra Ballet. They join the prestigious 50 member Russian company in this dazzling holiday tradition. Alexandra Ballet is proud to provide the community with this truly exciting experience – an incredible production unsurpassed in the St. Louis region!

### **The Nutcracker**

December 8, 7:00 pm  
Marquette High School  
Presented by Chesterfield Arts  
Tickets: Adults \$12,  
Children (12 & under) \$6  
Reserve your tickets by calling  
636-207-2541  
or online at  
www.rockwoodcommunityed.com

Alexandra Ballet is proud to present this newly expanded, delightful production of *The Nutcracker* in collaboration with Chesterfield Arts. Perfect for children of all ages, this 45 minute narrated version presented at the Marquette High School Theatre was created especially for families like yours. Make this thrilling new production part of your family's holiday tradition!

### **Snow Ball**

December 9  
Presented by The Friends Board  
of the Saint Louis Art Museum  
Tickets: 314-655-5140

Alexandra Ballet is proud to be part of the Saint Louis Art Museum's biennial gala. The talented dancers of Alexandra Ballet will appear in holiday vignettes at this black tie event. For more information about corporate tables, sponsorships, or tickets, please call 314-655-5140.

### **Winter Repertory Program**

Sunday, February 4, 2:00 pm  
Missouri History Museum Theater  
Tickets: \$20  
314-469-6222 for more info

All three divisions of the Company participate in this annual program of stirring classical and contemporary performances benefiting AB's Dace Dindonis Scholarship Fund. Scholarships from this fund are awarded to qualified students in need of financial assistance in order to continue their training with Alexandra Ballet. This is a perfect way to enjoy an afternoon of great entertainment while helping a worthy cause!

**Today, more than ever before—**

**Life's better with ballet!**

# Rhapsody in Bloom

Barb Rigabar

Alexandra Ballet opened its 2006-2007 season with inspiring contemporary and classical pieces at the beautiful Missouri Botanical Garden on Saturday, September 30, 2006. "Glass in the Garden", a blown glass exhibition designed by Dale Chihuly, served as a stunning backdrop as members of the Company performed at the Cohen Amphitheatre in the historic gardens of Henry Shaw. Visitors to the Garden also enjoyed other local artists, dancers, and musical ensembles as part of the event sponsored by CLASSIC99 KFUE-FM.



Photo © 2006 Tynetta Chastain

*Pas de Quatre*

Alexandra Ballet performed a graceful and moving rendition of the famous *Pas de Quatre*, which was first performed in 1845 for Her Majesty Queen Victoria. This famous classical piece begins with the dancers in a pose from Alfred Edward Chalon's well-known lithograph of the ballet.

The youngest members of the Alexandra Ballet Company then followed in their debut of *Papillons* with music by Robert Schumann. In this piece, the dancers emerge as butterflies and weave beautifully together throughout the performance until finally returning to their chrysalis.

Other pieces performed at the Garden included the joyous and popular *Tarentella* from *Napoli*, *Fairy Doll*, and the rousing character dance, *Moldavian Suite*. Some of these pieces, and more, can be seen at 2:00 pm on Sunday, February 4, 2007, at the Missouri History Museum as part of AB's Winter Repertory Program benefiting the Company's scholarship fund. In addition, Alexandra Ballet will be performing the complete *Napoli* as part of its Main Stage production at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on March 17&18, 2007.

Alexandra Ballet would like to thank CLASSIC99 KFUE-FM and the Missouri Botanical Garden for their generous support and a beautiful venue in which to open our season! 🎭

## Where Are They Now?

Here's what we've heard from some alumni recently:

**Anna Jennings** and **Emily Stephenitch** have recently accepted positions with Nashville Ballet 2. Emily received her degree in Arts Administration from Butler University in May of 2006, and Anna spent two years at SUNY Purchase as a Dance Performance major.

**Meredith Ruben** visited with Miss A recently and reports that she graduated from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and is now a Kindergarten teacher in St. Charles, Missouri.

**Vivienne Topping** is currently a pilates instructor, and has very generously created an annual grant to Alexandra Ballet. Many alumni will remember her beautiful portrayal of Cinderella at the Kiel Opera House in 1979. We thank Viv for her continued support through the years.

The Nutcracker Sugar Plum Parties at Saint Louis Galleria have become an annual alumni party of sorts. This year's holiday reunion included these former AB dancers: **Suzi Bonnot**, **Mary Claire Demaree**, **Mimi Hoffman**, **Patricia Ligon**, **Andrea Lucas**, **Pamela (Parisi) Gunter**, **Sarah Stockman**, and **Consuelo Williams**. Happy Holidays to all AB alumni! 🎭

**We love hearing from you! Contact us at alexandraballet@msn.com, or by mail at 68E Four Seasons Center, Chesterfield, MO, 63017, to let us know where you are now.**

*In Memoriam*

*Todd Bolender*

*Dancer - Teacher - Choreographer - Director*  
*Kansas City Ballet*

*February 17, 1914 - October 12, 2006*


# Be An Angel!

Lisa Howe

We need many angels working behind the scenes to continue our mission to educate, elevate, and enrich St. Louis through the art of dance. You can be an Alexandra Ballet Angel by making a substantial contribution to the Company in the way of durable goods or services.

We are in need of the following:

- Plastic Storage Bins
- New Coffee Pot
- Artificial Christmas tree 12' or taller
- Metal Folding Chairs
- Camcorder Tapes (Hi 8/Digital 8)
- Printer Ink Cartridges (HP 94 and 97)

If you are able to donate any of the items on this list, please contact our office at 314-469-6222, or via email at alexandra@alexandraballet.com. We will direct you to the proper individual, and provide a receipt for your tax-deductible donation. Every little bit helps, so please . . . be an angel! 

## A Big "Thank You!" to the following angels:

- Kenyon and Cyndy Smith, who loaned their beautiful 12' Christmas tree for our production of *The Nutcracker* at Marquette High School.
- Paul Maasen, who generously donated new flooring material for performances.
- The Karutz Family, who welcomed Ecaterina Cupcinova, Moscow Ballet's guest choreographer, into their home.
- Cynthia Maasen, who donated holiday props for our production of *The Nutcracker* at Marquette High School.
- Geoff Rigabar, who built a storyteller's platform for the Sugar Plum Parties at Saint Louis Galleria.
- The many Alexandra School of Ballet families who donated decorations for *The Nutcracker* Christmas tree.
- Juliet Chayat, who kindly offered to take over our Company bookkeeping responsibilities.
- Erica Freeman, who graciously volunteered to be our new Board Liaison for the Friends of the Alexandra Ballet.

Alexandra Ballet thanks all of you for your generous donations of time, talents, and treasures! 

## Here We Grow Again

Alexandra Ballet and Chesterfield Arts Produce Expanded *Nutcracker*  
Donnagail Carr

Building on the success of its popular *Sugar Plum Parties*, Alexandra Ballet introduces a newly expanded performance of Tchaikovsky's beloved ballet, *The Nutcracker*. This production, presented in partnership with Chesterfield Arts, gives the St. Louis area audience a family-friendly theater performance with beautiful costumes, enchanting scenery and more of the delightful characters that usher in the holiday season.




"It's more complete than the *Sugar Plum Parties*, with an expanded party scene, angels and longer dances from some of the most popular characters," promises Alexandra Zaharias, artistic director of Alexandra Ballet. "We'll still have the narrator

and the children will have an opportunity to get their pictures taken with 'Sugar Plum Fairy' and the other characters, but this performance will last just under an hour."



Fans of *The Nutcracker* have long clamored for an expanded production from Alexandra Ballet and the partnership with Chesterfield Arts provides a welcome opportunity to bring them a ballet perfectly sized for children of all ages.

*The Nutcracker* will be performed at Marquette High School on Friday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m. Due to popular demand, this performance has already sold out! Two performances are already being planned for next year. 

## AB Comes of Age

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On March 17 and 18, the season culminates with the highly anticipated Main Stage performance of *The Firebird*, set to Igor Stravinsky's stirring score. Premiered by Ballet Russes in 1910, *The Firebird* has not been presented in St. Louis for over 40 years, and is rarely seen in the U.S. Marek Cholewa, master teacher, Associate Professor of Dance at Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana, and graduate of the Rimsky-Korsakov State Conservatory in St. Petersburg, Russia, choreographed this one-act ballet based on the Russian folktale of Prince Ivan and the Firebird.




*Napoli*

CiCi Houston staged the third act of *Napoli*, a 19th century August Bournonville ballet set to the music of Helsted and Paulli. One of the 21st century's most respected American choreographers, Alan Hinline, choreographs *de l'innocence*. The *Moldavian Suite* completes this study of the evolution of ballet through the ages in this Main Stage presentation.



Alan Hinline

Rehearsing *de l'innocence*

With this season's exciting performance offerings, Alexandra Ballet, under the impeccable artistic direction of Alexandra Zaharias, demonstrates once more its unique ability to respect the past, explore the present, and look toward the future. 



ALEXANDRA BALLET INVITES YOU TO GET THE TRAINING YOU DESERVE AT ALEXANDRA SCHOOL OF BALLET,  
THE OFFICIAL SCHOOL OF ALEXANDRA BALLET,  
COMBINING ARTISTRY AND TECHNIQUE FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS,

EXPERIENCE THE VERY BEST IN CLASSES BY THE ARTISTIC STAFF OF ALEXANDRA BALLET:  
ALEXANDRA ZAHARIAS, NORMA GABRIEL, CiCi HOUSTON, MARK SONNENBERG, AND REBECCA MALINSKI

ENROLL TODAY BY CALLING 314-469-6222



68E Four Seasons Center  
Chesterfield, MO 63017

[www.alexandraballet.com](http://www.alexandraballet.com)

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## President's Corner

Miss A and the artistic staff have been working hard to prepare our dancers for another successful season. If you attended one of Alexandra Ballet's performances at Classic99's Rhapsody In Bloom at the Missouri Botanical Garden in September, you have already seen a preview of why this season promises to be a very special one for Alexandra Ballet.

The beautiful bracelet so generously donated by the Lichtenstein Foundation has been sold at auction by Christie's in New York City and will contribute greatly to reducing the debt of the Company and in helping to fulfill the artistic vision.

New to the Board of Directors for this season are Cecil Severado and Erica Freeman. They both bring a great deal of talent and energy to the board and we welcome them to the Alexandra Ballet family.

Your support and volunteer work is greatly appreciated and is needed as we prepare for the National Festival next April in Pittsburgh, PA. We're off to a great start of another exciting season. 

Thanks for your support!  
Greg Chastain



Greg Chastain, President  
Board of Directors

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