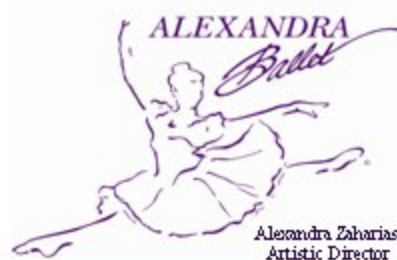


Alexandra Ballet

*Educating, Elevating, and Enriching
the Community through the Magic of Dance!*

68E Four Seasons Center, Chesterfield, MO 63017 ♦ 314.469.6222



“SwanSong” Documentary Filming at Alexandra Ballet

SAINT LOUIS, MO, May 19, 2011 -- The documentary film "SwanSong"- conceived and produced by the British documentary filmmaker Ceri Dingle of WORLDwrite Films of London - follows the path of ballet dancer, and native of St. Louis, Ian Archer-Watters (born Ian Archer) as he prepares for his final performance concluding his career as a comedy male ballerina. Ian returns to his hometown on June 1st to film the dancers of Alexandra Ballet in class and rehearsal in the same studio where he grew up and became a young man. This is a tremendous honor for Ian to include his beloved first ballet school in the documentary and to interview Miss Alexandra Zaharias, his first ballet teacher. WORLDwrite Films is commemorating the creation of "SwanSong" to Ian's mother's memory, Dr. Carol R. Archer, who unexpectedly passed away of ovarian cancer in June 2010.

Ian was a student at the Alexandra School of Ballet in St. Louis, Missouri, then to San Francisco Ballet School after which he joined the Fort Worth Ballet under the legendary Paul Mejia. Ian retired from performing in 1997. In 2004, while taking ballet classes for exercise at Steps On Broadway from former New York City Ballet dancer, Paul Boos, Ian was introduced to the all-male comedy ballet company, Les Ballets Grandiva, a rival company of Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo. In February 2005, Ian joined Grandiva for three successful seasons that included three tours of Japan where the company presented over 60 performances in 40 cities over a three month period annually as well as tours to Seoul, Korea, Venice, Italy, the island of St. Barthelemy in the French West Indies, and locally in New York City. The highlight of Ian's dancing career was news that the internationally renowned "Dance" magazine would run a featured article on his return to dancing he would be on the cover of their November 2005 issue.



In 2008, Ian decided to pursue a less hectic pace of performing and staged the solo set to Camille Saint-Saens' "The Swan". While this solo is traditionally known as "The Dying Swan", Ian made unique changes including dressing in a black costume (customarily done in white). Following a performance of "The Swan" in London as the commissioned entertainment for The Institute of Ideas, filmmaker and producer Ceri Dingle emerged from the audience to propose making a film about Ian's career. This fascinating documentary, "SwanSong", explores the long and winding road of Ian's career which started with a dream after seeing a picture of four male dancers in a calendar to his final solo performance of "The Swan" for an invited audience in London.

About Alexandra Ballet

Alexandra Ballet, a non-profit organization and widely recognized for over 25 years as the premiere pre-professional ballet company in St. Louis, is committed to educating, elevating and enriching the community through the magic of dance. Under the artistic direction of St. Louis legend Alexandra Zaharias, the company repertoire ranges from exquisite full-length ballets, powerful contemporary ballets and modern dance, showcasing original works as well as the classics. Alumni from the Company have gone on to perform with major professional dance companies all over the world.

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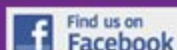
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