

June School News

FROM THE SCHOOL DIRECTOR – CARINNE BINDA

On Saturday, May 22nd, the Sacramento Ballet's Dance Education Training Program (DETP) held its annual demonstration at the beautiful Chappell Theater on the campus of Hiram Johnson High School. The first demonstration, held at noon, featured our Lower Division Students (Creative Movement through Level III) as well as our Contemporary and Tap class. Over 700 parents, relatives, and friends enjoyed seeing the progress their children made over the year. The audience was delighted with the charm of the youngest children and impressed with the skill and focus shown by all our students. Among the many highlights were our first ever Boy's Class, and a special appearance by our *Leaps and Bounds* outreach program with William Land Elementary School. All our young dancers performed with grace, discipline, and enthusiasm. School Principal, Lynlee Towne said, "I could not be more proud of this school and how each individual student has progressed, the students of the DETP have gained so much from this performance experience and I cannot wait to see where we are a year from now."

Later, the same afternoon, our Upper Level students presented a wonderful program that highlighted a wide range of classical styles from the traditional repertory. The hour and a half showcase of bravura solos, trios, pas-de-deux, and corps-de-ballet excerpts showed the depth and strength of our Upper Level Students. The second half of this program featured four Contemporary works choreographed by dancers of the Sacramento Ballet.

Dedicated to the positive and healthy development of students, Carinne Binda, Director of the School, said, "This was an invaluable experience for the students to dance in a real theater. The benefits of performing on a stage are paramount in the development of a dancer and our students surely took advantage of this opportunity to grow and blossom."

Many thanks to Lynlee Towne, School Principal and Marla Quinn, School Administrator, along with our dedicated faculty, and the many volunteers for the outstanding work they have done all year. You have all contributed greatly in making this year's demonstration such a success.

We look forward to seeing our students at our Summer Intensive Workshop, Young Dancer's Summer Workshop, and our Summer Session.

The School News this month has a special guest writer, 12 year old Sam Ainley Zoll, one of the Dance Education Training Program students. We hope you enjoy his thoughts on the Annual Student Demonstration as much as we did.

I love rehearsals. I love how you get many chances to perform a dance and if you mess up, it's ok. You get another chance. I love the hard work that goes into making the dance just right and the attention to detail for each movement. I love watching my classmates and how they've improved so much this year. I love trying on costumes to see which one will fit just right. I even love how the room gets hot with a lot of bodies and doesn't smell all that good by the time we're done. I love everything about rehearsing for a show.

The Sacramento Ballet Annual School showcase came together on May 22, 2010, after months of rehearsals and attention to details. My costume was ready. I was ready. I prepared for my last rehearsal—the dress rehearsal. The music started. It was strange how when I entered the stage I was shaking. I felt nervous, cold and alone with my dance. I saw all of the empty seats in Hiram Johnson's huge theater. I felt small, like a mouse on a huge stage. The air was empty. I danced my part and enjoyed it as always. Took my bow and ran off stage to silence.

Later that day, it was finally time for what my classmates and I had worked months for. No more chances to do it over if I messed it up. The air felt different. It had energy, like you could taste the excitement and anticipation of a good performance. The music began. I entered the stage and was struck by the all of the people that now filled those empty seats. I saw lots of eyes. I saw smiles. I felt....big. I felt like I filled up the whole floor with my pirouettes and tour jetes. I felt like I danced on wings to the music from Le Corsaire. I felt like I could do anything. I went to my knee and lifted my head and arms. I was done, I took a bow and the applause seemed to carry me as I ran off stage. I felt like the audience and I had just shared a moment - a very special moment that won't be repeated soon enough - but a moment I can hold onto inside of me.

Rehearsing is fun, Trying on costumes and hanging out with my friends backstage is great. But there's NOTHING like filling up the stage with dance while riding on the energy of an audience, Nothing.

Sam Ainley-Zoll

12 years old

Level III DETP Student

