

# The Harvard Ballet Company Fall 2011 Newsletter



Members of the Harvard Ballet Company in Coppelia

During our Spring 2011 season, the members of the Harvard Ballet Company were involved in many diverse dance endeavors in addition to the HBC show, *Contours*. Starting in February, Harvard Ballet Company Dancers performed Nina Stoller-Lindsey '10's *Embrace/Break* and Ricky Kuperman '11's *Reset* at *Sakata Africa!* *Sakata Africa!* was a benefit for the Sora Elementary school of Tanzania which was produced by HBC director Hazel Lever'13 as part of the Harvard College Alliance for Africa.

At the end of the semester HBC dancers performed at the university wide arts festival ARTS first. Harvard Ballet Company dancers performed in a variety of different pieces, including a collaborative choreographic piece, *Gamble Away*, in which HBC'ers, Liz Walker, '11, Kevin Shee, '11, Merritt Moore,'11, Natalie Cameron, '11, and Whitney Fitts, '12 both choreographed and danced.

Our show, *Contours*, featured a wide range of dance. In addition to restaging Saint-Leon's 1870 ballet, *Coppelia*, our dancers worked with Boyko Dossov to create a contemporary ballet piece as well as with alum Larissa Koch '08-'09 and other talented Harvard choreographers in a variety of styles. . The Harvard Art Review wrote, "[w]ith its league of unduly talented [dancers], HBC illustrated its diversity and versatility, performing both classics and premieres. HBC has something for everyone."

## HBC Accomplishments

Elizabeth C. Walker '11 and Kevin Shee '11 are the 2011 winners of the Suzanne Farrell Dance Prize which recognizes outstanding artistry in dance! This marks the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that the award has gone to a member of the Harvard Ballet Company. After graduation Elizabeth plans to return to the Los Angeles Ballet Company, where she danced professionally prior to Harvard, while Kevin will do research at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. We congratulate both of them on their successes!

Ricky Kuperman '11 was awarded the Henry Russell Shaw Summer Fellowship as well as an Artist Development Fellowship to support his participation in the Emerging Choreographers Program at Springboard Dance in Montreal. After



Kevin Shee and Elizabeth Walker in *Contours*

graduation Ricky will continue to pursue his artistic talents and is already involved in several different projects including creating a full-length dance theater piece for Sightline theater company in New York City.

Congratulations to our graduating seniors! We will miss you all!  
**Ricky Kuperman, Zoe Morrison, Samantha Peretore, Kevin Shee, Emily Robinson, and Elizabeth C. Walker!**

### Looking Forward: Fall 2011

Our fall show *Out of Body*, promised to be exciting. We have already signed on 2 professional choreographers—Viktor Plotnikov and Darcy Naganuma.. A native of the Ukraine, Plotnikov's choreography has been performed in Europe as well as by such companies as the Boston Ballet and the Cincinnati Ballet. Naganuma is the Artistic Director and founder of Naganuma Dance—a cutting edge dance company based in New York City. We are really excited to have the opportunity to work with these outstanding choreographers. Additionally, we will be showcasing the works of some of the talented Harvard student choreographers during our fall show.

*Out of Body* will take place **November 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>** at the **New College Theater**. We hope to see you there!

In addition to our fall show, HBC has been invited to perform as part of Harvard 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The performance takes place on **Friday October 14<sup>th</sup> at Tercentenary Theatre** at a time to be determined. We are delighted to have this opportunity to take part in Harvard's history!



### Welcome Jill Johnson!

We are thrilled to welcome Jill Johnson who is the new director of the Harvard Dance Department. Ms. Johnson danced as a soloist in the National Ballet of Canada and spent 10 years as a principal dancer in the Frankfurt Ballet under the direction of William Forsythe. Since then she has staged Forsythe's works for major ballet companies throughout the world and has taught at Juilliard, Joffrey, Princeton, Barnard and numerous other schools before to coming to Harvard. The Harvard Ballet Company is looking forward to working with her.

### Thank You For Your Support

Although last year, we were very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Deborah Wingert who staged George Balanchine's *Walpurgisnacht Ballet* as well as renowned choreographers Boyko Dossev and Peter Pucci, who created original works for HBC, this was only possible because generous donors lent their support to these projects. While our performances are always sold out, ticket sales and grants from Harvard do not cover most of our expenses. Therefore, in order to continue HBC's innovative work as one of the most outstanding college ballet companies, we depend on donors like you. Collaborating with distinguished artists permits HBC to develop and share its talents with the community. Our dancers, who come from many different backgrounds and include those who danced with professional companies as well as those who danced recreationally, thank you for your generous support.

If you would like to continue the work of the Harvard Ballet Company, tax deductible donations are welcome by personal check **made out to Harvard University with Harvard Ballet Company in the memo line.** Additionally, please let us know if you or your employer would like to match gifts. Donations can be mailed to:

**Harvard Ballet Company**  
**Student Organization Center at Hilles (SOCH)**  
**Box # 12**  
**59 Shepard Street**  
**Cambridge, MA 02138**

Credit card donations are also welcome and may be made by visiting [https://secure.www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/HAA/onlinegiving/showGivingForm.jsp?form\\_id=906](https://secure.www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/HAA/onlinegiving/showGivingForm.jsp?form_id=906) Please be sure to enter "Harvard Ballet Company, Fund 330298" in the additional information section to ensure gifts are allocated correctly. If you donate on-line, please send an email to [wfitts@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:wfitts@fas.harvard.edu) so that we can make sure that you receive the appropriate credit with the ballet company.

#### **CURRENT DONATION LEVELS (as of January 2010)**

##### **ÉTOILE**-Benefactor of \$1000+

Invitation for 4 to HBC dress rehearsal, DVDs of all HBC shows during the donor year, invitation to a post performance reception, VIP seating ticket purchase, HBC newsletter subscription, and both website and program recognition.

##### **PRIMA BALLERINA**-Benefactors of \$500-\$999

DVDs of all HBC shows during the donor year, invitation to a post performance reception, VIP seating purchase, HBC newsletter subscription, and both website and program recognition.

##### **SOLOIST**-Benefactors of \$250-\$499

Invitation to a post performance reception, VIP seating purchase, HBC newsletter subscription, and both website and program recognition.

##### **SECOND SOLOIST**-Benefactors of \$100-249

Invitation to a post performance reception, HBC newsletter subscription, and both website and program recognition.

##### **CORPS DE BALLET**-Benefactors of \$50-99

HBC newsletter subscription, and both website and program recognition.

##### **DANCER**-Benefactors of \$25-49

HBC newsletter subscription, website recognition.

#### **SPONSOR A CHOREOGRAPHER!**

Become more involved with the complete experience of putting on a performance by sponsoring a professional choreographer to come and set a piece on HBC! You will have **exclusive access** to the rehearsal process in addition to all of the benefits received by our donors. **For more information contact Whitney Fitts at [wfitts@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:wfitts@fas.harvard.edu)**

#### **Thank You to our generous 2010-2011 Donors!**

##### **Etoile**

Renee Sobel and Michael Fitts  
Beverly and Murray Cohen \*  
David Cohen and Erica Schulman  
Anonymous

##### **Prima Ballerina**

John and Mary Russell  
Steven and Lidewey Skal

##### **Soloist**

Rebecca Alaly and Family  
Mark and Sheryl Bunker  
Pamela and David Kenney  
Craig and Patricia Walker

##### **Second Soloist**

Girard Comeau  
Francis and Philip Koch  
John Lever

##### **Corps de Ballet**

Nazli Erbay and Sami H. Erbay  
Thomas W. Ehmann and Donna Cavallero  
Ehmann in honor of Melanie Comeau

\*In kind donation

\*\*Donations listed are those which were made between September of 2010 and September of 2011