

CHRISTCHURCH BALLET SOCIETY

Committee Newsletter



Message from the President

by *Lynda Roche*

On behalf of the Christchurch Ballet Society I would like to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year. It has been a whirlwind year and it's hard to believe it is almost over.

Thank you to my very hard working committee. We currently have a fantastic and dedicated team on the committee and they all give up a lot of their time to serve the Ballet Society.

2017 has seen the Society again hold the ever popular Evening of Dance plus the formalising of our grant process with 4 grants being awarded earlier in the year.

2018 is going to be a big year for the Society. We look forward to the South Island Ballet Awards in June/July and are working hard to ensure they are a success for everyone involved. The committee will be looking for volunteers to assist during the weekend of the awards and would welcome any offers of assistance. Please put the dates in your diary now - 30 June and 1 July at the Isaac TheAre Royal. We would love to have your support over the weekend.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and thank you for your support in 2017.

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UPDATES FROM CHRISTCHURCH DANCERS

IMKE KOEKEMOER,
WRITTEN BY DEIDRE KOEKEMOER

Here are a few of Imke's achievements for 2017.

- Imke started full time dancing this year at Canterbury Ballet where she also does part time school. You have to be selected and do an audition.
- Imke won all of her dances at the Follow your dreams dance comp in Aug 2016 and also the Junior champ title & qualified for Nationals in Melbourne Jan 2017. She competed there and got top 3 in all her dances in big classes and managed to win the Lyrical section against 27 other overseas dancers.
- While in Melbourne, Imke danced in the Maddie & Mackenzie Ziegler Australian tour where she was announced as the Melbourne state winner.
- She competed in various local & outside Christchurch - dance comps and achieved great results in all. (1sts, 2nds, 3rds and other placings.)
- Imke competed in the Dance NZ Made school competition where she had to do a self choreographed dance. She won the year 9 section and also qualified for the Nationals in Palmerston North. Unfortunately she could not go.
- Most recently, Imke danced in the Centre Stage talent comp 27/10/17 where she won and received a 3 hour recording prize and \$1000.



LANA PANFILOW, CHRISTCHURCH DANCER LIVING ABROAD

Hey Chch dance lovers!

I am currently in Germany, doing the last bits and pieces of moving preparation and goodbyes before using my one-way ticket back to the homeland! Amongst all the stress of moving continents, I have taken time to reflect on the past decade of adventure, performances and wealth of dance knowledge which I have accumulated throughout these crazy awesome years in Europe, and I have every intention of sharing all that I can with the future dance generation in Christchurch.

My career highlights were performing with Dutch musician /actor/writer Herman Van Veen, learning from him reminded me a lot of Sir Russel Kerr – his creativity, work ethic and humble way of producing incredible pieces was inspiring. From there I went on to work with many different Fusion dance companies – De Kiss Moves and Massive Movement being the 2 companies where I feel like I grew the most as an artist, developing my choreography skills and pushing the boundaries of what dance meant for me. Touring Europe with these companies and teaching workshops in primary/high schools all over The Netherlands enabled me to discover my strengths in learning different languages too; a skill which I am pretty proud of! After 5 years in the Netherlands though, I felt like it was time for a change and after a round of auditions in Germany I ended up being cast as a lead dancer with Apassionata – Europes biggest horse show, touring for 8 months of the year and performing in stadiums with up to 14,000 people! The struggle of dancing physically tough choreographies on the sand, and staying out of the way of 50 horses was all worth it to feel like a superstar with those huge audiences 5x a week. Apassionata was also where I met Mel – who was working as a makeup artist, dresser and wig/headpiece maker. We quickly became partners and after 3 years touring Europe with her, we lived in Berlin together - which leads me on to my final career highlight; Stars in Concert – the longest running (20 years) and most successful show in German history. It was a career highlight for me because it is the job where I had the most fun. Every day, on stage and off stage was pure joy and it taught me so much about creating positive working environments; something which I endeavour to do in Christchurch too!

So Mel and I are excited to be arriving soon in Christchurch, with plans to open Flow Dance Academy in Term 1 2018 – Mel recently graduated from a yoga teacher course in Berlin so she is looking forward to putting all that fresh knowledge into practice (and English!) this summer. I am thankful for the support of the Chch Ballet Society Committee and members from afar and I am looking forward to reconnecting with you all soon.

Lots of love and German hugs, Lana (and Mel)



Barrina

By Georgina Barr

A new company has been created in Christchurch with the sole purpose of offering a customised pointe shoe fitting service to dancers in Canterbury and the South Island. Barrina Limited follows the teachings of the Juon Pointe Shoe Fitting System and the latest medical knowledge of dance to fit you with the best pointe shoes for your feet. Georgina Barr, Dance Podiatrist at SportsMed, will now also offer this service to those in need of pointe shoes. For more information and to make a booking at the launch of the business in January 2018 please email Georgina: georgina@barrina.co.nz



NEW

AGA IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE LAUNCH OF OUR NEW FULL TIME PRE PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME FOR CONTEMPORARY DANCERS STARTING FEBRUARY 2018



CONTEMPORARY DANCERS FULL TIME PROGRAMME

STARTING February 2018

Creativity takes courage, but behind every performer is a beginner who fell in love with expression, storytelling & being set free.



Update from the dancers at AGA

AGA has had a wonderful 2017 with 4 of our students successfully auditioning and now graduating onto their next professional schools. We would like to celebrate and congratulate Lucy Vining and Claudia Debenham who have been offered Full Time places with Transit Dance in Melbourne as Contemporary majors and also Eve Condon and Kate Holmes who have both been offered Full Time places with The NZSD as classical majors in Wellington. We wish them all luck on their new journeys and look forward to following them and supporting them along the way.

We would also like to congratulate our part time students Tessa Holmes and Cedar Scott who auditioned and were both offered scholarships to the wonderful Alberta Ballet Schools Intensive in Canada next September. It's been a year of hard work and focus for all our students who have all achieved wonderful results in their RAD vocational exams and competitions around NZ, especially our lovely Sophie Siebuhr who won her Classical Ballet PACANZ nomination to compete in the NZ Young Performer of the Year in 2018 in Queenstown last month.

AGA has been thrilled to introduce our new Full Time Contemporary Dancers programme starting in Feb 2018 and also our new Developing Dancers programme, it's going to be wonderful to introduce new pathways and classes for students wishing to pursue a classical contemporary path.

A highlight for us all was hearing the incredible news that past AGA graduates Emma Rose Barrowclough, Henry Seldon and Eleanor Gleeson have all been offered their first professional Ballet Company contracts. Emma Rose will be starting with West Australian Ballet Company in January, Henry joined Hong Kong Ballet Company earlier this year after graduating from Alberta Ballet School and Eleanor is joining Melbourne City Ballet Company after 2 years with their Pre professional programme. We are so proud of them reaching their goals of becoming professional dancers in such a hard and competitive industry, their passion and hard work alongside their talent has got them there and we all know they so deserve it!!

We will be finishing our 2017 year with our AGA Annual graduation performance 'Elysian' which we will be performing at 'The Piano' in their beautiful theatre on Saturday 16th December at 7pm. Tickets will be available shortly and advertised on our website and Facebook page. It would be lovely to see some of you there to celebrate all our students hard work and success. All of us at AGA wish everyone a happy and safe Xmas And a fabulous New Year



Full Time Dance Opportunities



Full Time Classical Ballet Programme

CLASSICAL BALLET TECHNIQUE
 CLASSICAL BALLET REPERTOIRE
 CLASSICAL BALLET VARIATIONS
 POINTE WORK
 CORP DE BALLET WORK
 CONTEMPORARY TECHNIQUE
 IMPROVISATION
 CHOREOGRAPHY
 LYRICAL
 JAZZ
 DANCE HISTORY
 ANATOMY
 NUTRITION
 PILATES

NEW Dancers Development Programme Transitional Classical & Contemporary Programmes

Auditions & Enrolments available now for 2018

Email info@AGilberd.com

0211 763 653

www.AGilberd.com

CHRISTCHURCH



NEW PROGRAMME STARTING IN FEB 2018

Developing Dancers Programme

Our DDP programme is for classical ballet & contemporary students aged 11yrs and up who wish to attend 2 specialised coaching and mentoring sessions per week after school in addition to their normal training. The focus will be on refining classical technique, artistry, Porte de bra & pure alignment, strength & conditioning programmes and an open contemporary coaching class. One session will consist of a 2hr open classical technique class and the second session will offer a 1hr strengthening & conditioning programme & a 1hr open contemporary coaching class.

The sessions will be held weekly on a Weds & Friday 3.30-5.30 during the school term

All Students are welcome but please ask your schools permission first

To enrol for our DDP programme visit our website on www.AGilberd.com or email info@AGilberd.com



SUMMER SCHOOL 15-19 JANUARY 2018

Join us for our summer school in preparation for the year ahead.

With our experienced staff and international guest tutors, a great week of ballet training is assured.

Students 10 years and over or grade 4 and above are eligible to enrol.

For details, contact the Southern Ballet office.

Ph. 379-7219
email southernballet@xtra.co.nz
P.O.Box 7527, Christchurch 8240
www.southernballet.co.nz

Summer School 2018

If you want to keep on dancing all summer long and challenge yourself with new and different teachers and choreography Summer school might be for you.

If your interested in attending summer school with Southern Ballet contact the office using any of the details listed on the poster.

Happy Dancing

Upcoming Events at Southern Ballet

The Wizard of Oz

This is the final performance of the year for all of the dancers at Southern Ballet. This is a great opportunity to see some of the talented upcoming dancers of Christchurch while having a fun and entertaining night with family or friends.

If you are interested in purchasing tickets, head to the Ticketek website for information

