



November Newsletter

Mankato Ballet Company

Volume 2, Issue 3

November 1, 2009

Nutcracker Traditions

Everyone is headed into the busy holiday season. Thanksgiving is right around the corner followed quickly by Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanza. These are times to spend with families and establish exciting family traditions.

Each year we are told by numerous attendees that the Mankato Ballet Nutcracker has become part of their family tradition. We are honored to hear that each and every time. We hope that you will all consider making the Nutcracker part of your family tradition as well. Our dancers spend an enormous

number of hours rehearsing to make this a professional and beautiful production that everyone can enjoy. It is perfect for the young and the young at heart.

Nutcracker Production

Saturday December 19

Matinee 2:00pm

Evening 7:00pm

Sunday December 20

Matinee 1:00pm

All concerts are held at West High Auditorium.

Reserved seating is offered this year, so purchase your tickets ahead of time to select seats!!!

Tickets available online:

www.twinriversarts.org

Adults: \$16*

Children: \$8 (12 and under)*

*\$1 ticketing surcharge applies

Silent Auction

A group of Gustavus College students are participating in a class project. Their goal is to create a fundraiser for Mankato Ballet Company and raise between \$500-\$1000.

They have chosen to host a silent auction. There is an entrance fee to the event and once inside you can enjoy an afternoon of silent auction bidding and arts entertainment. Our own dancers will be performing at the event.

This is a really fun event and a way to help support our studio. All profits from this event go directly to MBC and help the Gustavus students complete a successful project.

I Heart the Arts Gala

Sunday, November 15th 2-5pm
Gustavus Adolphus College in "The Dive" (in Alumni Hall)

Performances by MBC, Gustavus students and other area groups.

Cost: \$5 per person

Silent auction items available for bidding.

Special points of interest:

- MBC Logo Wear will be available for pick up in the office mid November.
- Nutcracker tickets available online at: www.twinriversarts.org
- Nutcracker rehearsal schedules are always available online at: www.mankatoballet.com



Inside this issue:

Electronic Posters (eposters)

MBC found great success with our eposters in the past. We tried this last year and found that if all of our students emailed it out to their address books and those people forwarded them on to

others, that we reached an incredible number of individuals. Due to that success we will be sending out eposters every 2 weeks between now and the performance. Please help us by forwarding this on to

anyone you know who may be interested in attending and then ask them to send it on to others. The success of our Nutcracker is incredibly important to the success of our school. Your help is VERY appreciated.

Z99 Tree Lighting	2
Nutcracker Schedule	2
Rent a DVD	2
Thanksgiving Break	2
Demi Pointe Shoes	3
Winter Weather	4
Dancer of the Month	4



Z99 Holiday Tree Lighting

Do you ever wish there was something to do the day after Thanksgiving other than shopping? Well, we have the perfect idea for you. Z99 Radio hosts an annual Tree Lighting event at 1807 Lee Blvd. in North Mankato. This year the Mankato Ballet Company dancers will be participating and performing short pieces of the Nutcracker at the event. There



will be booths from local businesses giving away and selling fun holiday items. There will be games and events for children to participate in, and of course the tree lighting which will take place later in the evening. The event begins at 4pm and our dancers will perform around 5pm. Come to the event for some fun exciting things to do and to support our dancers as they perform.

Nutcracker Schedule

Attention All Nutcracker Dancers and Parents!!!

We have had to move the Friday December 18th performance to 12 noon so that the 2nd graders could maintain their normal bus schedule. In light of this we ask that you **arrive at the theater at 11:00am that day.** Thank you for understanding.

Rent a Nutcracker DVD

Many people aren't familiar with the story of the Nutcracker or the story that MBC depicts. If you or your dancer would like to learn more about our story, you can check out a Nutcracker DVD of our 2008 performance from the office.

Please return them in a timely fashion so someone else may check them out.

"Mom, I want to be Clara!"

- Overheard at the 2008 Nutcracker production.

Accounting Questions?

If you have accounting questions you may send them directly to our accountant Joan Untiedt. When she sends your statement each month it comes from her work email address so you can hit reply to that email and ask her about any questions you have on your statement.

untiedt@hickorytech.net

Thanksgiving Holiday

MBC will be closed for classes on Wednesday November 25th through Sunday November 29th. Classes resume again on Monday November



30th. You may do make-up classes for the days we have off if you wish. Have a safe and happy holiday with your families and loved ones!!

Demi Pointe Shoes

The level 3A dancers took a trip up to Saint Paul to be fitted for their first pair of demi pointe shoes. It was a very exciting day for all involved. Grand Jete did a wonderful job of overseeing the fittings. Some of our dancers with tiny feet had to have their shoes ordered, but Grand Jete had them in no time. All the dancers got to take their first class on demi pointe on Saturday October 10th.

Demi pointe shoes are similar to a pointe shoe but don't have the usual support necessary to go all the way up on your toes. Dancers use these demi pointe shoes to allow their feet to adjust to the feeling of a pointe shoe and to gain additional strength in their ankles and feet.

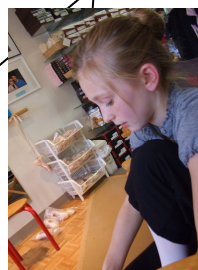


Our level 3A dancers should be ready to get their pointe shoes in January as long as they keep working hard.

Congratulations Ladies!!



"They Feel Weird!"



Nutcracker After Party

Don't forget to pre-pay for the Nutcracker After Party. Knowing how many people are attending allows us to order enough pizza for everyone!

The party is at Godfather's on Madison Ave.

Cost is \$5 per person and includes pop and pizza

Mankato Ballet Company

155 Chestnut Street
P.O. Box 114
Mankato, MN 56002
Phone: 507-625-7716
E-mail: info@mankatoballet.com

www.mankatoballet.com



Winter Weather Information

Just a reminder that MBC will close for classes if District 77 has closed their schools at any point during the day. If District 77 has not canceled but you are concerned about the drive in, please leave a message at the studio so that we know you and your dancer are safe, but won't be attending. You may then bring your dancer in for a Make-Up class sometime later in the next few weeks.

Something that some of our new families may not know is that Miss Eryn commutes from the Twin Cities. Occasionally, the weather may be alright in Mankato, but not drivable in the Cities. Should this happen Miss Eryn will try to arrange for a substitute teacher. On the rare occasion that no substitute can be arranged, you will be called individually to be notified of the class cancellation.

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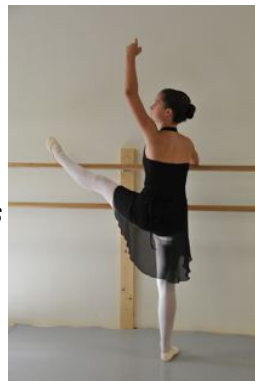
Dancer of the Month - Megan Westermayer

Megan Westermayer is a 13 year old eighth grader. She moved up from 3B to 4A this fall and is enjoying the challenges of taking 4 classes a week. On top of those 4 classes Megan also has 2-3 rehearsals for the Nutcracker each week. Megan's 10 years of dancing and dedication to her art-form have paid off. She has been many different roles in several different ballets. Some of her favorites were dancing the Baby Doll in *La Boutique*, the Ballerina Doll in *The Nutcracker*, and this year the mischievous Rat Queen in *The Nutcracker*.

Megan got her pointe shoes when she turned 11 years old, and has this to say about that day: "I remember being so excited to finally receive my own pair. When I got them, I remember being so happy, and thinking how pretty they were." When asked why she started taking ballet Megan had this fun little story to tell... "When I was four, my family was going to the Nutcracker. I didn't want to go be-

cause I thought it was going to be really boring. But when I got there and watched the performance I was so awed by the ballerinas in their tutus and pointe shoes, that I knew at that moment that I had to be one of them. And here I am today. That's the story about how I started ballet."

You and your dancers can enjoy watching Megan dance in this year's Nutcracker production. Megan will be playing, Fritz, the Rat Queen, a Candied Violet, and the Lead Chinese Ginger Candy.



Megan Westermayer—4A
Photo By Mark Zallek