

SYNCHRONICITY

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Complexions Contemporary Ballet

Guest company-in-residence at the 12th Annual Alabama Dance Festival

adc
NEWS

member
SPOTLIGHTS

special
FEATURE
{ 2008-2009 }
season
announcements

synchronicity fall 2008 
INSIDE

Alabama Dance Council News Page 3

- Message from the Board President Page 3
- Message from the Executive Director Page 4
- 2009 Alabama Dance Festival: Full Schedule Released Page 5

Member Spotlights Page 6

- Huntsville Ballet: Changement de pieds Page 6
- Alabama Dance Theatre presents 22nd Season of Dreams Page 8
- Dance Chair, David Keener, Joins ASFA Faculty Page 9
- ASFA Dance Alumni Teaches at Oprah Winfrey's Leadership Academy Page 9
- Drake School of Irish Dance Comes to Alabama Page 9
- Children's Dance Foundation Named "Best in Birmingham" Page 11
- Fabulous Summer at the Centre for Performing Arts Page 12
- Vulcan Performers and Rhythm N Motion Dance Now in Hoover Page 13
- Devyani Continues to Thrill Audiences Page 15
- Sanspointe Dancers Granted Individual Artist Award Page 16
- Dance Theatre of Huntsville Studies with Complexions Page 17

Special Feature:
2008-'09 Season Announcements Page 18

Alabama Dance Council Board of Directors and Staff
Page 27

adc NEWS

from the board president
DIANE LITSEY



Being part of a community can be a profound and meaningful experience. Being an active member of the Alabama Dance Council is truly a dynamic example how inspirational and productive a community can be!

The Alabama Dance Council is a gathering of people, experiences, artistry and ideas. It is a physical and virtual place for building relationships, making connections, and sharing support.

Your membership in Alabama's dance community is an investment in the artform you love and all its tangible and intrinsic benefits. Your participation in the Alabama Dance Festival in January is your opportunity to learn and celebrate together with kindred spirits from across our state. It is a thought-provoking, affirming and energizing happening, one which you cannot miss!

Join or renew your membership in the Alabama Dance Council to perpetuate our work for dance in Alabama. Register and attend the 2009 Alabama Dance Festival to fuel your passion for dance. Our dance community needs you – join, renew and register today!

Diane Litsey
Board President

from the executive director

ROSEMARY W. JOHNSON



I hope that everyone is having a successful Fall season and looking forward to the Holidays and an exciting New Year for dance. This has been a progressive year for change here at the Alabama Dance Council. Our Membership Program and the Alabama Dance Festival are now managed completely online through our partnership with Acteva.com, thereby eliminating mountains of paperwork and hours of staff time in database management! But more importantly, we hope that this change is providing easier access and more convenience for you and your interaction with the Alabama Dance Council.

If you haven't yet joined the ADC at www.acteva.com/go/adc, then what are you waiting for? Now is the time to get involved – get a member discount to attend the Alabama Dance Festival and let us promote your events and classes statewide through our online publications! Footworks is our weekly e-newsletter and Synchronicity is the bi-annual electronic dance magazine.

You don't want to miss the fabulous performances, classes, and workshops at this year's Alabama Dance Festival on January 16 – 18. Complexions Contemporary Ballet, our featured guest company-in-residence, will perform and teach master classes. Other special guest artists will be teaching a variety of classes and workshops at the pre-professional and professional levels. Class descriptions, locations, and faculty bios can be found in one convenient place at www.alabamadancecouncil.org/festival_2009/masterclasses.htm. From there you can also access the registration site, or simply go to www.acteva.com/go/alabamadancefestival.

Finally, a special thanks to all of you who participated in the online survey about the Alabama Dance Exchange, a new virtual dance community that we will be launching at the Alabama Dance Festival! We are working with the Center for Arts Management and Technology (CAMT) to finalize the website's features based on the information you provided. CAMT will be teaching two technology workshops at the Festival in the professional track, and they will provide an overview of the Alabama Dance Exchange prior to the Alabama Dance Showcase.

I look forward to seeing everyone in January!

Rosemary W. Johnson
Executive Director

adc NEWS



2009 Alabama Dance Festival: Full Schedule Released

The Alabama Dance Council is pleased to announce that complete 2009 Alabama Dance Festival information is now available online! Be sure to download the brochure by visiting our website at www.alabamadancecouncil.org. Online, you have access to complete information about Workshops, Master Classes, Guest Faculty, Performances, and much more.



This January, we welcome Complexions Contemporary Ballet as our guest company-in-residence. You will not want to miss it!

We are also pleased to announce that Festival registration is now available ONLINE! No more lengthy registration forms to decipher. To register for the Alabama Dance Festival, simply visit www.acteva.com/go/alabamadancefestival. We hope to see you in January!

member SPOTLIGHTS



Huntsville Ballet: Changement de pieds

Dancers take your places. And 5,6,7,8...

Ch-ch-ch-changes. After 40 years of Dance, Community Ballet has decided to make a few. New name, new directors, new direction. It's a lot to take in, but don't worry. The Nutcracker will still be a Huntsville staple.

(So keep that bag of walnuts.)

And plié

So, major change #1: new name. The name is now Huntsville Ballet. It makes sense to do this, as the company is Huntsville Ballet Company. Naming the school Huntsville Ballet School will eliminate confusion so folks will know that the company and school are related.



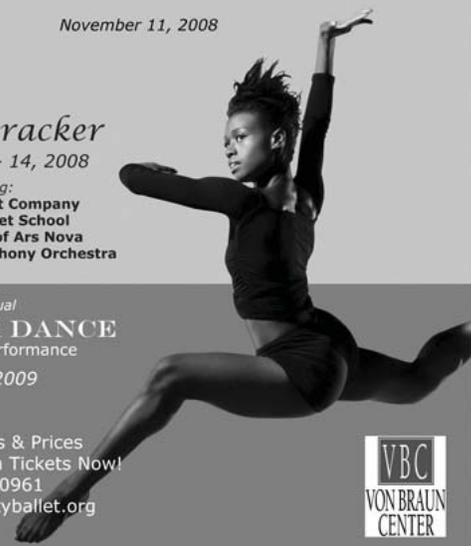
Phillip Otto, Artistic Director of the Huntsville Ballet Company)

Chassé, Pas de bourrée

Now to change #2: new directors. Phillip Otto will be the artistic director of Huntsville Ballet Company and wife Rachel Butler-Otto will take over the position of ballet mistress and school director. They both come here from New Haven Ballet and bring a wealth of experience. Phillip Otto was trained at many schools including the School of American Ballet, American Ballet Theatre School, and the Joffrey School. He then went on to dance as a principal or soloist with Milwaukee Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, and Pacific Northwest Ballet (where he later would join as a faculty member and director after retiring). He's taught master's classes throughout the U.S. and Scotland and has worked with such names as George Balanchine, Andre Eglevsky, Violette Verdy, Alexandra Danilova, and Lynn Taylor-Corbett. Rachel Butler-Otto was a principal and soloist with Pacific Northwest Ballet and Pennsylvania Ballet, and trained there as well. She's taught and danced internationally and, as a guest artist, has been highly sought after.

Pirouette

Change #3: new artistic direction. Phillip Otto said that he plans to model Huntsville Ballet on more professional companies (Pacific Northwest Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, New York City Ballet). The idea is to respect the past, but move forward, grow as Huntsville grows, change as the city changes. There is a five year strategic plan, but the gist is this: he wants Huntsville Ballet to be the premier ballet company in Huntsville. The school syllabus is based on one at the New York City Ballet. He believes that every student should have a solid foundation in dance, regardless of future career. He plans to bring in ballets by known choreographers, do contemporary pieces (Rachel Butler-Otto was involved with a ballet piece that combined Bach and African), and reach out to those who might not have taken ballet in the first place. For example, this year's spring show will be called "Discover Dance," and will feature Huntsville City Schools' children from the educational outreach in an interactive educational performance. The second half will be Huntsville Ballet dancers, but the audience will have learned much from the first half and be better able to appreciate it.



Celebrating 42 Seasons
Community Ballet Association
 Presents
AILEY II
 November 11, 2008

The Nutcracker
 December 12 - 14, 2008

Featuring:
 Huntsville Ballet Company
 Huntsville Ballet School
 The Boys Choir of Ars Nova
 The Huntsville Symphony Orchestra

and
 1st Annual
DISCOVER DANCE
 Community Performance
 April 4, 2009

For Best Seats & Prices
 Order Your Season Tickets Now!
 256-539-0961
www.communityballet.org

VBC
 VON BRAUN
 CENTER

A Non-profit Organization and Arts Council Member

Pas jeté

This year's production of *The Nutcracker* will feature entirely new choreography. As usual, it will be held at the Von Braun Center and will feature music by the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra.

Bow and exit stage.

(This article has been reprinted with permission from ValleyPlanet.com)

Alabama Dance Theatre presents 22nd Season of Dreams

The Alabama Dance Theatre opened its spectacular 22nd Season of Dreams with two successful free performances of “Stars on the Riverfront” in late July and will continue its tradition of excellence in the 2008-2009 Season. Alabama Dance Theatre continues to achieve regional recognition and has established a reputation as a strong training ground for pre-professional dancers.



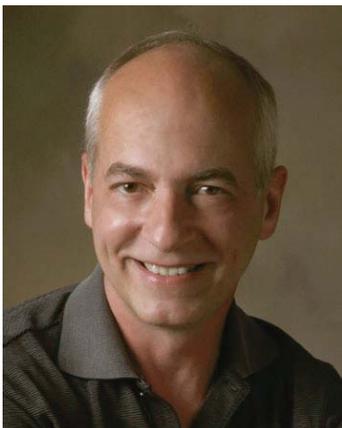
Casey Vaughan joins 2008-2009 Senior Company members Sarah Fuller, Sarah Hitchner, Teldra McCord, Ashley McQueen, Savanna Moore, Brooke Searcy, Claire Slawson, Anne Caroline Thompson, and Gloria Walker. Junior Company members are Caroline Cooper, Jessica Davis, Stephanie Fox, Amy Hargroves, Mickey Lonsdale, Jasmine McClung, McKenzie Middlebrooks, Sophia Priolo, Elisha Rabin, Montana Sadler, Alyson Stroh, Kathryn Taylor, and Catherine Gayle Thrash. Apprentices for the 2008-2009 Season are Kyia Abner, Kaitlin Bundy, Sarah Bush, Celia Carnes, Baylee Clark, Hope Gilmore, Makenzie Kilpatrick, Kaitlin Morasco, Katye Strichik, and Allyson Trimble.

To herald Montgomery’s holiday season, ADT will present “Mistletoe,” featuring a full-length “Cinderella” choreographed by ADT’s resident choreographer Sara Sanford. Performances will be November 21-23, 2008 at the new Montgomery Performing Arts Centre. “A Celebration of the Season,” the annual spring concert, will feature “Swan Lake” Act II and contemporary works including a live collaboration with Beth Nielsen Chapman. The performances will be held on March 6-8, 2009.

The Alabama Dance Theatre is proud to announce that they will be hosting the Southeastern Regional Ballet Association (SERBA) Festival in Montgomery along with Southeast Alabama Dance Company of Dothan May 6-10, 2009. ADT maintains top ranking as an Honor Company in SERBA.

In addition to public performances, ADT offers three special school performances of “Mistletoe” and “A Celebration of the Season” for over 3,000 area students. ADT’s outreach program includes performances at the Junior League Holiday Market, Blue-Gray Colonels Ball, and demonstrations and readings at area schools and libraries. Tickets range in price from \$15- \$30 for “Mistletoe” and “A Celebration of the Season” and can be purchased three weeks prior to each performance date. Visit www.alabamadancetheatre.com for information on tickets.

Kitty Seale is Artistic Director and Foye Dubose is Ballet Master of the Alabama Dance Theatre and its ballet school, located at the Armory Learning Arts Center. Call 334-241-2590 for information on classes or visit the website at www.alabamadancetheatre.com.



Dance Chair, David Keener, Joins ASFA Faculty

David Keener, an accomplished teacher, choreographer, dancer and dance administrator recently accepted the position as chairman of our Dance department. For the past 14 years, David was Director of Dance at the Virginia School of the Arts in Lynchburg, Virginia. His former positions include the Canyon Concert Ballet in Colorado, the Alba Dance International summer dance intensive in Italy, the School of Ballet West, Ballets de San Juan, Interlochen Arts Academy and the Maryland Ballet.

ASFA Dance Alumni Teaches at Oprah Winfrey's Leadership Academy for Girls in Africa

Kimberly Cook, 1987 Dance graduate, spent ten days teaching this year at Oprah Winfrey's Leadership Academy for Girls near Johannesburg, South Africa. Ms. Cook currently teaches dance and fitness at The Potter's House in Dallas, Texas which melds dance and exercise to gospel music. While in Africa, Cook taught Pilates, ballet and line dancing to 149 seventh and eighth graders. She was amazed at the confidence, pride and determination of the students. Ms. Cook hopes to return in the near future to teach another workshop at the amazing academy.



Drake School of Irish Dance Comes to Alabama

The Drake School of Irish Dance was founded in 1990 by Karl Drake (TCRG). The school has expanded and now has locations in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida and Mexico. The Drake School of Irish Dance is one of the top Irish Dancing Schools in the Southern Region.

continued on next page

Drake students participate in local, regional, national and international competitions. Irish step-dancing is learned through classroom instruction, practice at home and through various workshops held throughout the year. Students are encouraged but are not required to compete. Competition develops character through respect, practice, responsibility and self esteem. The Drake School of Irish Dance believes in sharing what they have learned with others. Drake dancers enjoy many opportunities to perform at: schools, churches, weddings, hospitals, nursing homes festivals and grand openings. Our dancers have been on numerous television appearances, featured in local newspapers and highlighted in Irish Dancing magazines. Several of the Drake students also have participated in dancing troupes across the nation. One of our dancers is currently in the Lord of the Dance Troupe which is currently touring.

**Drake
School of
Irish Dance**

**The Drake School is a
certified school of Irish Dance
allowing students the choice
to compete or dance for
their enjoyment**

The first lesson is free

**Irish Dance taught by
Amanda Tucker
under the direction of
Dancemaster
Karl Drake, TCRG**

Classes held Thursday evenings
at Bella Prima Dance Studio in
Hoover.

Class is from 6:00—8:00 pm
Tuition is \$50.00 per month

**contact us for more information at:
drakealabama@charter.net
205-401-4672
or visit our website at drakedance.com**

Our Birmingham location has produced three world qualifiers in the last four years. The Drake teachers believe that safety must be incorporated into the learning of Irish Dance. There are stretches and warm-ups during every period of instruction to prevent injuries. The difficulty and complexity of the movements are paired up with dancer's ability. Each year the school has a choreographer that comes from Ireland with the latest dance moves and they are learned through a workshop. Community service projects are also encouraged because it develops self-worth and moral responsibility.

We offer congratulations to all of the Drake dancers that participated at the North American Irish Dance Championships. The two dancers that represented Birmingham were Elisabeth Archer and Chelsea VonBartheld. The best dancers from all across the North America are joined with other dancers from around the world in this competition. Chelsea VonBartheld recalled and was ranked in her age group. We are very proud of these girl's accomplishments.

Children's Dance Foundation Named "Best in Birmingham"

Certain restaurants, attractions, events and arts venues were named the best in Birmingham, and Children's Dance Foundation was one of them! During a four-month-long campaign, more than 4,000 Birmingham residents nominated their favorite spots in the city, and those places with the most nominations were compiled in an 89-page, pocket-sized "IN Birmingham" guide. The books, \$9.99, are available at Books-A-Million, Alabama Booksmith, The Convention Bureau and Birmingham Chamber.

Children's Dance Foundation (CDF) began its 10th season touring the academically-linked, professional modern dance performance "Math in Motion" on September 19th with a performance at Rocky Ridge Elementary School.



CDF's School Touring Program is an exciting partial-day residency that includes the professional modern dance performance Math in Motion and a packet of resources and activities for teachers. The performance investigates math concepts using music, movement and a curious collection of everyday objects. It's not completely dance...it's not completely math. It's something wonderful and wacky you get when you mix the two together! Math in Motion juxtaposes two unusual partners, math and dance, finding a means of expression for one through the other. Students and teachers usually agree that they've never seen or experienced anything like it!

Performed by four professional dancers and designed for elementary and middle school students and teachers, the performance, interspersed with narration and audience participation, poses questions about math and links dance to the curriculum by investigating math concepts, exploring the meaning of math and showing that math can be tangible and understood. One participant shared in a post-performance survey... "Math is a journey to a land of questions!" A teacher shared... "The students were excited and captivated by what was going on. Putting math and dance together is a great way to spark students learning and get them excited about math. Math is more than just textbooks!"

Along with the performance, teachers will receive resources from the 132-page book, "Math Dance, by Karl Schaffer, Erik Stern and Scott Kim of the "Mr. Schaffer & Mr. Stern Dance Ensemble." Schaffer, the Math in Motion choreographer, teaches mathematics at DeAnza College in California. Stern teaches dance at Weber State University in Utah and Kim designs educational games from his California home.

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On their website, www.mathdance.org, Schaffer explains the concept of linking dance to mathematics. “Our math dance grew from two seeds. As choreographers, much of our work springs from play with ideas from the world of mathematics. As teachers, we have found that mathematical ideas become more exciting, tangible and memorable when you act them out with your whole body...” The website presents some of the Math Dance authors’ favorite activities for the classroom. “You will find that these activities treat math and dance as a single creative activity, not has two separate disciplines,” says Schaffer.

More than 25,000 elementary and middle school students and educators at more than 100 schools throughout the state have hosted Math in Motion. Math in Motion has been part of the Alabama State Council on the Art’s Rural Touring Program, touring throughout the State, since 1998.

CDF is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1975 by Jennie Robertson, Virginia Samford Donovan and Mary Conyers Cooper. CDF’s mission is to provide quality dance education to students of all ages and abilities, fostering many essential skills, creativity and confidence. CDF has its own curriculum for teaching young children, “Movement to Music;” provides weekly dance education classes to more than 2,000 typical, at-risk and special needs children at 30 sites throughout Birmingham; contracts training programs for educators; has student and staff performances for the community; has a long-standing commitment to offer studio space for artists who need a space to work and call ‘home;’ and a studio program that offers creative movement, ballet, jazz, modern, special needs, parent/child, just for boys and adult classes. To learn more about CDF, call 205-870-0073 or visit www.childrensdancefoundation.org.

Fabulous Summer at the Centre for Performing Arts

The staff and students at the Centre for Performing Arts in Prattville had an exciting and eventful summer. The competition dance teams traveled to Panama City Beach in June for Platinum National Dance Competition. They returned home with three national titles in addition to numerous gold and platinum awards. Brittany Hillman won an overall award for Senior Intermediate Solo, Brookelyn Stephens and Brittany Hillman won an overall award for Senior Intermediate Duet/Trio, and “Pirates of Dance” won in the Junior Intermediate Line Production category. The teams were so excited to win these titles and have their photos featured in the Platinum Dance brochure for 2009.

The excitement continued in July, as Valery Lantrotov of the Russian National Ballet conducted Master Ballet classes. Dancers from throughout the tri-county area took advantage of the opportunity to receive superior ballet instruction which they may not have otherwise been afforded. Lantrotov also autographed copies of the book “A Child’s Introduction to Ballet”, which he co-authored.

Master Contemporary classes were held in August under the direction of Maygen Nicholson. Maygen was a finalist this past season on “So You Think You Can Dance” and currently resides in Los Angeles. The Contemporary classes were extremely popular with the older girls at the studio as they were fascinated with a famous television personality.

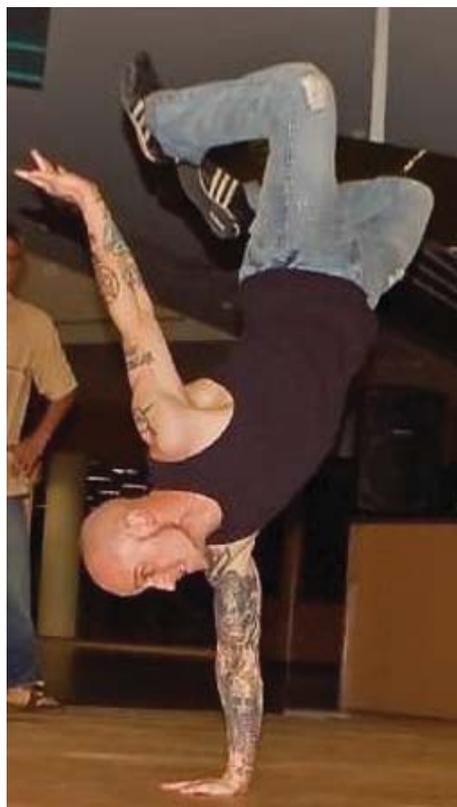
The younger Centre girls agreed that their favorite summer activity was the three-day “Hannah Montana Boot Camp”. They were treated to diva hair-dos and makeup each night before learning dances to their favorite Hannah tunes. They designed their own diva t-shirts to wear on the final night where they danced and sang to entertainment provided by a local DJ.



The Centre for Performing Arts Dance Team members attended Summer Intensive Classes in July and August under the direction of Angie Sellers and Brent Oplotnik. Angie is the Creative Director for Silvertree Productions which produces shows for all of the Six Flags Theme Parks across the country and abroad. Brent is a Master Choreographer/Teacher for Dance Olympus. They are preparing the teams for the upcoming competition season which promises to be even more rewarding than the previous year.

Pictured here are Brookelyn Stephens and Brittany Hillman performing during their duet to “Life Goes On” at Platinum National Dance Competition.

Vulcan Performers and Rhythm N Motion Dance now in Hoover



The Vulcan Performers continue to bring a little NY and LA style into the Magic City. Originally founded in a basement during the spring of 2007, the group has now produced six professional shows, been featured over 12 times by the local television media, and has performed in many community events. The group consists of local dance talent in ballet, ballroom, Latin, hip hop, Bboy Breakdancing, Pop/Lock, tap, contemporary, and more. TJ and Wendy Zito are the artistic directors and also own/operate the group’s new studio in Hoover, Rhythm N Motion Dance.

After outgrowing their former studio, TJ and Wendy expanded to John Hawkins Parkway Hoover, just three minutes from the Galleria. The new studio features Birmingham’s widest variety of adult dance classes and unique specialty classes for kids. For the adult programs, the studio offers evening classes in contemporary ballet, hip hop,

continued on next page

Alabama's only strip aerobics program (received national press for the "clean" version of these classes), ballroom, Latin, west coast swing, hustle, and the popular "Speed Dating N Dance."

The Speed Date N Dance series is a concept to allow singles a way to meet other singles and learn popular styles of ballroom dance. The kid's program features hip hop classes with pop culture TV and movie styling.

The professional dance company teaches all of the classes at Rhythm N Motion. Besides teaching and performing in their shows, the group promoted and performed for Rave Motion pictures at Step up 2, Mamma Mia, and High School Musical 3. The group produced three shows this year: "Anti Valentines," "Vulcan Performers Go Hollywood-VP Dancing with the local Celebrities," and "Vulcan Performers Go 90s." The Anti Valentines show was everything that rejects the traditional love story. All the pieces dealt with breaking up, heartbreak, and pain. It was also the debut of their new, 800 square foot birch/smooth finished, floating, and portable dance floor.

The Hollywood show featured local celebrities dancing with the Vulcan Performers in a competitive Pro Am format. The show featured celebrities such as Tony Kurre from Sports Jox radio, Miss Alabama Dream Jay Shotts, professional wrestling champion Jesse Emerson, and a winning tango performed by the Rick and Bubba interns. It was a sell-out crowd at the Birmingham Library and benefited Magic Moments. The 90s show was a benefit for Susan G Komen charity foundation in August and featured 14 new numbers and the Speed Dating N Dance series after the show. TJ and Wendy also represented the group in 2008 by performing their professional ballroom routines at Magic Moments charity shows, NBC Health/Wellness expo, and other charity events. They will represent the group with the Dance Marathon event in September.

The group has settled on doing four charity dance shows per year, one at each quarter. Each show features 12 to 20 original dance acts and features all local, adult dance talent in various group, solo, and duet numbers. The upcoming December 13 charity show at the Highland Conference Center in Birmingham's Southside will be the group's first Holiday themed show. It will feature the dance show, a free lesson, and a social dance to follow. The group's shows are quickly becoming an underground hit with the local arts, young professional, and couples dancing crowds. They encourage the local dance community to support their mission to provide additional professional dance opportunities to Birmingham performers.

Devyani Continues to Thrill Audiences

Those lovely ladies of Devyani have been especially busy the past several months performing, teaching, and traveling the globe to bring the best of American Tribal Style belly dance right here to the Magic City!

Devyani is particularly excited to announce the return of Raquy and the Cavemen, a Middle Eastern drumming experience out of Brooklyn, NY, to Birmingham on Saturday, November 21, thanks in part to the tremendous outpouring from fans at last year's show. Devyani will perform several numbers alongside the group at Matthew's Bar and Grill, 2208 Morris Ave at 8:30PM. Tickets may be purchased at www.devyani.net for \$15.



Perhaps you've always wondered what it would be like to travel to India, North Africa, or the Middle East? Then come down to Silver Coin Indian Grill, located at 3321 Lorna Road in Hoover, where each Wednesday you have the opportunity to experience Indian culture at its best through food, music, and dance. Devyani troupe members, clothed in their most brilliant and elaborate costumes, dance at Silver Coin each Wednesday with show times at 7PM and 8:30PM. Enjoy the fabulous all-you-can-eat buffet or savor specialty items from the menu. You just may feel like you've been whisked away to India for an evening!

In June, Devyani journeyed to the west coast and the City by the Bay, San Francisco. The women performed in the first annual Devotion show with their sister dance troupe, Fat Chance Belly Dance. In all, seven shows were offered at the Climate Theater. The Devotion show was a renewing experience and served to bring audience members and performers alike back to their own real, personal convictions for participating in the arts. In fact, the response was so overwhelming that plans are already in the works for the second annual Devotion show to take place in 2009 and is slated to visit numerous U.S. cities!

The women of Devyani have had the state of Georgia under their radar this summer. In July, they taught a workshop chocked full of ATS moves and then delivered a riveting performance at Southern Fried Tribal, held at the Red Light Café in Atlanta. The next stop was Athens in August, where workshop participants at Southern Fusion Fest were treated to an intensive ATS class taught by Devyani director, Megha Gavin. The Devyani women were the featured act at the "Meet and Greet Hafla," held the same night at The Ritz. In February 2009, these lovely women will once again be a featured act and a highlighted workshop at TribalCon in Atlanta.

For everyone interested in learning the dance form described by many as a “life changing experience,” dates have been set for future workshops and new class sessions at the Devyani Dance Studio in Irondale. Whether your intent is to dance professionally, experience a great cardiovascular workout, or feel the camaraderie among the dancers, Devyani Dance Studio is the place to be this fall. For more information, contact the studio at 956-3384 or visit the website, www.devyani.net.

To celebrate the end of another unbelievably successful year, a Holiday Hafla has been scheduled for December 13 at 7PM at Devyani Dance Studio. Join this dynamic community as they dance, drum, and make merry! And remember, there will be a workshop offered earlier the same day; so you can learn the moves and then practice them the same night.

Sanspointe Dancers Granted Individual Artist Award



In September 2007, Shellie Chambers and Michelle Hamff of Sanspointe Dance Company were inaugural recipients of one of the Cultural Alliance of Greater Birmingham’s Grants to Individual Artists Awards. The grant award allowed both artists to attend the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange Crafting Dances Institute in Washington, D.C. and the American Dance Festival Professional’s Workshop in Durham, North Carolina this summer. Upon their return, they have jointly choreographed a new work building on their workshop experiences and

melding their individual choreographic styles. Sanspointe Dance Company presented their new work in a free performance for the community on Saturday, September 20, 2008 at the Children’s Dance Foundation’s Studio Theatre.

In 2003 Hamff founded Sanspointe Dance Company which exists to create new works, perform quality art with integrity, collaborate artistically and connect to the community, and she serves as the company’s artistic director. Chambers serves as President of Sanspointe, and both artists choreograph and dance with the company. Chambers also serves as artistic director of the Upper School at Children’s Dance Foundation.

The Cultural Alliance of Greater Birmingham serves arts and cultural organizations and working artists in a twelve-county region. The Cultural Alliance believes having a strong base of artists living and working in our community enriches the lives of all citizens and fuels a dynamic economy. Grants to Individual Artists (GIA) support committed, accomplished artists by financially supporting the advancement of their careers as professional artists. These project-based awards focus on professional development, career promotion, creation or presentation of new work and equipment/supplies. For more information about Sanspointe, visit www.sanspointe.org.

Dance Theatre of Huntsville Studies with Complexions

Dance Theatre of Huntsville traveled to New York City for the 3rd year to work with Desmond Richardson and Dwight Rhoden of Complexions Contemporary Ballet Company. Its 3rd annual summer intensive began August 4th and lasted until August 22nd. Students from all over the globe traveled to work with two of the finest choreographers and performers of our time.

Their intensive catered to dancers 13-18. They also offered a choreography workshop for professionals over 18. Dwight stressed to everyone in class that it is important to understand that working where you are right now will get you to where you want to be as long as you continue to work. Monique Ryan, director of Dance Theatre of Huntsville, along with students, enjoyed classes as well as the sights and sounds of the city. "I enjoy working with Complexions, because it definitely renews my sense of creativity and energy". We will definitely attend the Alabama Dance Festival next year!

The Dance Theatre of Huntsville season will begin with "Seasons of Love" on November 15th. The season will end with the "dancical" version of "An American In Paris", May 15-16 2009.

special FEATURE

{2008-2009 season announcements}

The Alabama Ballet www.alabamaballet.org

October 30 and November 1-2
Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde

This Alabama Ballet original sprung from the dynamic team of choreographer Roger Van Fleteren and composer and organist Thomas Helms. Based on the book, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson, the story explores the duality of good and evil in human nature. Once again the creators of Alabama Ballet's wildly successful production of *Dracula* present an exciting evening of horror and intrigue.



December 12-21
The Nutcracker

With its seventh annual performance of George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*[™], Alabama Ballet remains one of only six companies in the world currently licensed to present this holiday classic. All performed to Balanchine's brilliant specifications; dazzling choreography, opulent costumes, and extravagant sets make this production unlike any other. The addition of a community cast of children from the area make this performance truly magical. Join us December 12-21 at the Samford Wright Center for this joyous spectacle. In addition to the Birmingham performances, Alabama Ballet will also tour to Anniston, AL. Balanchine's *Nutcracker*[™] is more than a performance; it is a holiday tradition you and your family do not want to miss!

December 19
The Nutty Nutcracker

Back by popular demand - Alabama Ballet's hilarious *Nutty Nutcracker*! The zany and hilarious spoof of the classic tale of *The Nutcracker* is back for one performance only on Friday, December 19! The *Nutty* family is always a surprise, so make plans to come and see what new tricks and laughs Alabama Ballet has in store.

continued on next page

February 20-22***Cinderella***

This fairy-tale ballet will captivate families and all who love classical ballet. Choreographed and staged by Wes Chapman and Roger Van Fleteren, the ballet follows the longing of Cinderella, her magical encounter with the captivating Prince, and the ominous clock chiming midnight. The dancing of Alabama Ballet's 42 professional dancers is beautifully complemented by Sergei Prokofiev's dazzling musical score. The production also includes a community cast of 26 dancers between the ages of 6 and 14. With the comical antics of the ugly stepsisters, this classical ballet is vibrant and bursting with wit. The magnificent sets and costumes, originals from San Francisco Ballet's production of Cinderella, bring magic to this beloved ballet.

April 3-5***Nine Sinatra Songs***

Things are bound to get hot when Alabama Ballet presents the Alabama premiere of Twyla Tharp's Nine Sinatra Songs. Brimming with memorable tunes sung by 'ol Blue Eyes himself, this spectacular piece will have audiences tapping their toes and humming along. This swanky showpiece features elegant costumes by famed designer Oscar de la Renta. But the excitement doesn't stop there. Nine Sinatra Songs headlines an exciting line-up that also includes a world premiere by Alabama Ballet's award-winning resident choreographer Roger Van Fleteren. This is one evening of ballets with something for everyone and is the perfect way to close an enchanting season!

Alabama Dance Theatre

www.alabamadancetheatre.com

November 21-23, 2008***Mistletoe***

"Mistletoe" features a full-length "Cinderella" choreographed by ADT's resident choreographer Sara Sanford. Performances will be November 21-23, 2008 at the new Montgomery Performing Arts Centre.

March 6-8, 2009***A Celebration of the Season***

"A Celebration of the Season," the annual spring concert, will feature "Swan Lake" Act II and contemporary works including a live collaboration with Beth Nielsen Chapman.

May 6-10, 2009***SERBA***

The Alabama Dance Theatre is proud to announce that they will be hosting the Southeastern Regional Ballet Association (SERBA) Festival in Montgomery along with Southeast Alabama Dance Company of Dothan. ADT maintains top ranking as an Honor Company in SERBA.

continued on next page

Children's Dance Foundation

www.childrensdancefoundation.org

February 14, 2009

4th-Annual Takes Two to Tango

This Valentine's Day, think outside the box of chocolates. Mesmerize your partner with a close embrace of staccato steps that is the mysterious and passionate Tango! Join us on Saturday, February 14th, 2009 at 7 pm to enjoy a dance lesson with dessert, wine and door prizes. \$50/couple, Reservations required. Please make your reservation by sending your payment by mail to Children's Dance Foundation, or drop by in person.



Huntsville Ballet

www.huntsvilleballet.org

November 11, 2008

Ailey II

Ailey II is universally renowned for merging the spirit and energy of the country's best young dance talent with the passion and creative vision of today's most outstanding emerging choreographers. Alvin Ailey personally appointed former Ailey member, Sylvia Waters, as Artistic Director in 1974. Under her direction, Ailey II has become one of the most popular dance companies in the country, combining a rigorous touring schedule with extensive community outreach programs.



December 12-14, 2008

The Nutcracker

Huntsville Ballet Company highlights the Holiday Season with their 40th annual production of The Nutcracker featuring all new choreography by Huntsville Ballet's new Artistic Director Phillip Otto, Huntsville Ballet Company, Huntsville Ballet School, Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, and the Boys Choir

of Ars Nova. Be sure not to miss this magical holiday classic that has become a Huntsville tradition for over four decades. The Nutcracker brings to the stage charming characters, enchanting (NEW) choreography, and colorful sets and costumes that are sure to delight children and adults alike.

April 4, 2009

Discover Dance

The 1st Annual Discover Dance Community Performance features the Huntsville Ballet Company, Huntsville Ballet School, and students from Huntsville's Ballet Educational and Outreach program as well as other community dance and music organizations. Discover Dance is based on the vision that "Dance is a Bridge that unifies us all." This new exciting educational production showcases local artists from the Huntsville community as well as guest artists from around the country.

continued on next page

Fužión Dance Artists, Sarasota, FL **www.fuziondance.com**

November 15, 2008

Efest Green Living Music and Arts Festival

“a celebration of our shared potential for green and healthy living”

Sarasota Polo Club, Lakewood Ranch, FL

1:00PM

January 9 - 11, 2009

***Voices of Fužión - Fužión Dance Artists
3rd Season Concert***

Historic Asolo Theater, Sarasota, FL

8:00PM - Friday & Saturday

2:00PM - Sunday

January 26, 2009

***Darfur Project in collaboration with
Francis Schwartz (tentative)***

Sarasota/University of South Florida -
Sarasota, FL

4:00PM

Jan. 16 - 18, 2009

Alabama Dance Festival, Birmingham, AL

April 15 - 18, 2009

South Carolina Dance Festival, Columbus, SC

April 30 - May 3, 2009

Contempo Festival

Sarasota Players Theater, Sarasota, FL

8:00PM

June 26 - 27, 2009

Hello Dali Project – collaboration with composer, A. Paul

Dali Museum, St. Petersburg, FL

7:30PM



Merrimack Hall Performing Arts Center

www.merrimackhall.com

January 19, 2009

Complexions Contemporary Ballet Company

Tony-nominated Desmond Richardson, one of today's greatest contemporary dancers, and Dwight Rhoden, one of dance's most sought after choreographers (both of Alvin Ailey fame) combined to form Complexions, recipient of the coveted New York Times "Critics Choice" Award in 1995. From "pointe" to "pop," they explore the full range of human emotions with cutting-edge choreography, original music, and music we know and love. Complexions presents a concert theme of racial harmony, ending the evening with a spectacular dance piece in tribute to Marvin Gaye.



February 7, 2009

The Souls of our Feet

Performed by Austin-based Tapestry Dance Company, The Souls of Our Feet celebrates American tap dance by restaging the best of rhythm tap masterpieces from Fred Astaire & Eleanor Powell to The Nicholas Brothers. Complemented by authentic film clips such as Singin' in the Rain and The Littlest Rebel, the show also features the live swingin' music of The Eddy Hobizal Jazz Trio. This one-of-a-kind performance is a celebration of rhythm at its best!

Montgomery Ballet

www.montgomeryballet.org

November 6, 2008

The Sleeping Beauty

Alexander City, AL

November 30, 2008

The Nutcracker

Wetumpka, AL

December 4-5, 2008

The Nutcracker

Selma, AL

December 12-14 and 20-21, 2008

The Nutcracker

The Davis Theatre, Montgomery



February 6-7, 2009

Gloria and a Midsummer Night's Dream

The Davis Theatre, Montgomery

February 8, 2009

Snow White

The Davis Theatre, Montgomery

February 27, 2009

Repertoire Performance

Selma, AL

March 1, 2009

The Sleeping Beauty

Andalusia, AL

March 8, 2009

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Wetumpka, AL

The Prattville Ballet

December 6, 2008

Nutcracker Celebration

The Prattville Ballet, under the direction of C.J.Martin, owner of C.J.'s Dance Factory in Prattville will perform on Saturday, December 6th at 7:00 pm in Montgomery at Eastchase Mall's Nutcracker Celebration. Enjoy manmade snow and shop in the spirit of Christmas. This performance is free, enjoyable for the entire family, and different styles of dance will be presented.

December 12, 2008

Festival of Christmas

The Prattville Ballet, under the direction of C.J.Martin, owner of C.J.'s Dance Factory in Prattville will perform on Friday, December 12th at 6:00 pm at the Montgomery Zoo's Festival of Christmas Lights. Enjoy the performance, ride the train, and meet with Santa. This performance is free, enjoyable for the entire family, and different styles of dance will be presented.

continued on next page

Sanspointe Dance Company

www.sanspointe.com

November 22, 2008

A Time to Dance

Join Sanspointe Dance Company for “A Time to Dance,” a day of dancing together with the opportunity to audition for our upcoming show in the spring. Classes will include Pilates, modern technique, improvisation/choreography, and a viewing of a work in progress with a Q/A session afterwards. Saturday, November 22, 2008 10-2:30pm at the Children’s Dance Foundation’s Studio Theater; Space is limited.

May 28-31, 2009

A Day in the Life

Sanspointe Dance Company presents, “A Day in the Life...” Dances inspired by the things we do. The Children’s Dance Foundation’s Studio Theatre, Thursday-Saturday 7pm, Sunday 2pm.

Southeast Alabama Dance Company (SEADAC)

www.southeastalabamadancecompany.org

December 5-7, 2008

The Nutcracker

Southeast Alabama Dance Company presents its 29th annual performance of this holiday classic. In Tchaikovsky’s magical production snowflakes dance, flowers waltz, and dolls come to life. Feel the magic as the Nutcracker turns into a charming prince to make every little girl’s dream come true. Don’t miss Dothan’s greatest holiday tradition.



April 17-19, 2009

Cinderella and Beyond... the Best of Both Worlds

SEADAC will present our creation of this timeless “rags to riches” fairytale. Choreography by Ashlie Wells enhances the romantic and comedic aspects of this magical production. The second act of the show features a variety performance of jazz and contemporary choreography.

May 7-9, 2009

SERBA

Southeast Alabama Dance Company is privileged to co-host the 2009 Southeast Regional Ballet Association’s (SERBA) annual festival in Montgomery, Alabama. This event hosts the best dancers our region has to offer and exposes students to exciting training and performing opportunities!

continued on next page

June 2-6, 2009

Summer Spectacular Dance Expo and Rise Up! Praise Dance Camp

Southeast Alabama Dance Company will once again bring together dancers, teachers, and choreographers for an “explosion of dance”! Last year the response to both camps was overwhelming and next year promises to be even better. The annual summer dance workshop will feature the latest dance styles and ideas by master teachers and choreographers. Our separate praise dance camp will help dancers grow spiritually by honoring God with their lives and talents. Nurture your future in the arts and make plans to attend one of these exciting camps.

The Steven Grebel Center for Dance

www.grebeldance.com

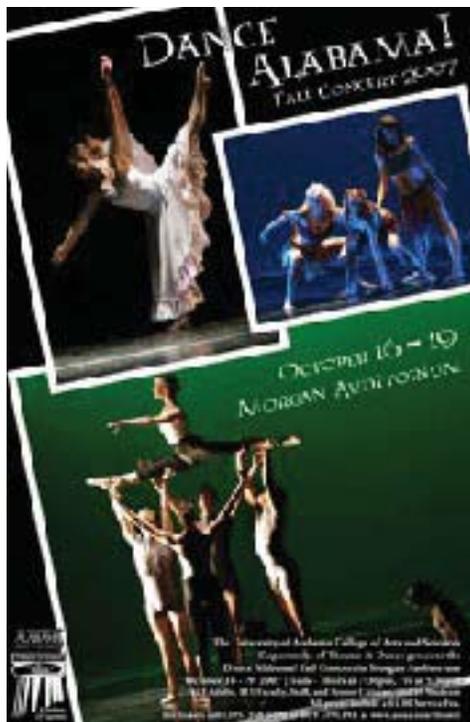
December 20-21

The Nutcracker Sweet

Grebel Dance and the Alabama Youth Ballet Company present The Nutcracker Sweet, a gumdrop size performance sure to delight everyone that features guest artists Jon Caspian, David Anderson and a special guest star, Mother Ginger. Performances are December 20 at 7:00 pm and December 21 at 2:30 pm at Pelham High School.

The University of Alabama Department of Theatre and Dance

www.as.ua.edu/theatre/dance



November 11 - 14, 2008

ARDT Fall Concert

Tuesday - Thursday at 7:30pm and Friday at 5:30pm

The pre-professional dance company of The University of Alabama comes to life with this Fall Concert choreographed by our remarkable and renowned dance faculty. From ballet to jazz, from modern to folk, from traditional to new world, the Alabama Repertory Dance Theatre enlivens Morgan Auditorium with a diverse array of the traditional and the avant-garde. Helmed by Artistic Director, and 2001 Carnegie Foundation Professor of the Year, Cornelius Carter, the Alabama Repertory Dance Theatre is the ultimate dance experience for both the aficionado and the amateur eyes!

Morgan Auditorium

Adults \$15.00, UA Faculty/Staff and Senior Citizens \$13.00, Students \$10.00

Season tickets are now available.

continued on next page

February 17 - 20, 2009***ARDT Spring Concert***

The pre-professional dance company of The University of Alabama comes to life with the Fall Concert choreographed by our remarkable and renowned dance faculty. From ballet to jazz, from modern to folk, from traditional to new world, the Alabama Repertory Dance Theatre enlivens Morgan Auditorium with a diverse array of the traditional and the avant-garde. Helmed by Artistic Director, and 2001 Carnegie Foundation Professor of the Year Cornelius Carter, the Alabama Repertory Dance Theatre is the ultimate dance experience for both the aficionado and the amateur!

Morgan Auditorium

Adults \$15.00, UA Faculty/Staff and Senior Citizens \$13.00, Students \$10.00

March 31 - April 3, 2009***Dance Alabama Spring Concert***

The new-year brings a celebration of dance to Morgan Auditorium with the Dance Alabama! Fall and Spring Concerts. Continuing to astound audiences with its eclectic blend of dance styles and musical art forms, this concert captures the true essence of the dancer's spirit in its rhythmic landscape. Choreographed by students, mentored by our renowned dance faculty, Dance Alabama! is a pleasure beyond words for the heart, soul, eyes, and ears of all who attend.

Morgan Auditorium

Adults \$15.00, UA Faculty/Staff and Senior Citizens \$13.00, Students \$10.00



ALABAMA DANCE COUNCIL

Diane Litsey, President
Executive Director,
Children's Dance Foundation
Diane@childrensdancefoundation.org

Therese Laeger, Vice-President
Artistic Associate,
AROVA Contemporary Ballet
therese@arova.org

Faith Lenhart, Co-Secretary
Vestavia Hills High School
lenhartfc@vestaviiahills.k12.al.us

Tracey Alvey
Artistic Director, Alabama Ballet
traceyalvey@alabamaballet.org

Lindy Ashwander
Executive Director, Princess Theatre
Lindy@princessstheatre.org

Edith Barnes
Birmingham Children's Theatre
edie@bct123.org

Lavondia Bryant Square
Executive And Artistic Director,
Nathifa Dance Company
Nathifadanceco@aol.com

Cornelius Carter
University of Alabama, Department of
Theatre & Dance/Artistic Director, Alabama
Repertory Dance Theatre
ccarter@theatre.as.ua.edu

Winthrop Corey
Artistic Director, Mobile Ballet
winthrope@comcast.net

Cindy Davino
Independent Choreographer & Teacher
dcdavino@bellsouth.net

Kim Deale
University of Montevallo/Orchestr Dance
dealek@montevallo.edu

Rafael Delgado
Independent Choreographer & Teacher
rdelgado@balletcenter.net

Foye DuBose
Ballet Master
Alabama Dance Theatre
foyed420@aol.com

Mary Halverstadt
Immediate Past-President
Independent Choreographer and Teacher
halverstadt@knology.net

Ruth Henry
Birmingham-Southern College
Rhenry@bsc.edu

Tracy Solomon, Treasurer
Executive/Artistic Director,
Southeast Alabama Dance Company
TTSJAZZ@aol.com

Jenna McKerrow
Co-Secretary and Dancer Representative
Alabama Ballet
jcmckerrow@juno.com

Debra Jenkins
Executive Director
Merrimack Hall Performing Arts Center
djenkins@merrimackhall.com

Laura Knox
Independent Choreographer & Teacher

Elie Lazar
Artistic Director
Montgomery Ballet
elie1@aol.com

CJ Martin
Artistic Director, Prattville Ballet
Ballerinasrule@msn.com

Deborah Mauldin
President, American Dance Guild
prettyone249@aol.com

Ruth Henry
Birmingham-Southern College
Rhenry@bsc.edu

Kitty Seale
Artistic Director, Alabama Dance Theatre

Roger Van Fleteren
Associate Artistic Director, Alabama
Ballet

Kim Toney
Executive Director, Auburn Ballet
kim.toney@yahoo.com

Teri Weksler
Artistic Director, Southern Danceworks
teriweksler@bellsouth.net

Asha Xulu
Managing Director, Umdabu Dance
Company
xulu@bellsouth.net

alabama dance council
STAFF

Rosemary Johnson, Executive Director
rosemary@alabamadancecouncil.org

Wesley Taylor, Program Development Director
wesley@alabamadancecouncil.org

Geoff Langdon, Chief Creative Guy
Advantage Marketing Communications
TGeoff123@aol.com

Chris Haralson, Webmaster
CTH Media
chris@cthmedia.com

Ted Perry, Production & Design
tedperry80@gmail.com

Alabama Dance Council
PO Box 2126 • Birmingham, AL 35201
Phone (205) 602- 3599 • Fax (205) 979-5214
info@alabamadancecouncil.org • www.alabamadancecouncil.org