



# En Pointe

## NUTCRACKER 2009

Ballet Hawaii continues a rich tradition

Makena Miller has been a Party Girl, a Flower and a Snowflake. She's danced Russian and Marzipan and Marie. And she only needs to hear a few strains of Tchaikovsky's famous score to get her toes tripping. Like many Ballet Hawaii dancers, Makena has grown up with the *Nutcracker* and can track the years by the different roles she has danced.

"I look forward to it every year," says the 18-year-old Punahou senior. "It's such a big part of my life. I just have to hear the music and it brings back such wonderful memories."

Ballet Hawaii has been staging the *Nutcracker* for 24 years, during which time it has become a rich holiday tradition for dancers and audience members alike.

"I love that our young dancers go from role to role as they develop their technique," says artistic director Pamela Taylor-Tongg. "They have great memories of all the roles they've danced. And it's wonderful to hear them reminisce about the different dance artists they've performed with."

At Ballet Hawaii, we're proud to bring some of the nation's top dancers to the Islands, and this year's *Nutcracker* is no exception. Megan Fairchild and Andrew Veyette return in the roles of Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier. Both are principal dancers with the New York City Ballet, one of the foremost dance companies in the world.



Left: Megan Fairchild and Andrew Veyette star as the Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier.



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"I have danced in the *Nutcracker* for 11 years, and it has always been my dream to dance Marie," says Ballet Hawaii student Natalie Schull, pictured above right. This year, her dream comes true. Makena Miller, above left, has also danced many of the *Nutcracker* roles. Here, she rehearses Little Bo Peep in our Dole studios. She dances the part in Ballet Hawaii's Maui shows; on Oahu, you can see her as a Snowflake.

Megan's brother, Robert Fairchild, also joins the cast this year as the Soldier Doll and Russian Trepak. Robert was recently promoted to principal at NYCB and you may recognize him from the company's production of *Romeo and Juliet*, which aired on PBS recently.

These professionals bring an unquestioned flair to the production, but they also serve as wonderful role models for our students.

"They teach us more than they know," Makena says. "We get to watch their technique, their poise, and that charisma that they just exude on stage. I've met so many professional dancers; they're like friends and we look forward to seeing them every year."

Ballet Hawaii took the *Nutcracker* to Maui earlier this month for two shows with the Maui Academy of Performing Arts at the Maui Arts and Cultural Center, and now we're getting ready for the curtain to rise at the Blaisdell Concert Hall.

"That's when you see the dancers fulfilling all those grueling hours of rehearsal and all those years of training," says Taylor-Tongg. "That's just a really wonderful moment."

We look forward to seeing you there.



Megan Fairchild

# Who you'll see in the *Nutcracker*

New York City Ballet principal **Megan Fairchild** (Sugar Plum Fairy)  
New York City Ballet principal **Andrew Veyette** (Cavalier)  
New York City Ballet principal **Robert Fairchild** (Soldier Doll and Russian Trepak)  
Ballet West principal and Hawaii-born **Romi Beppu** (Snow Queen and Arabian)  
American Ballet Theatre's **Katherine Williams** (Columbine Doll and Little Bo Peep)  
Carolina Ballet's **Timour Bourtasenkov** (Arabian and Snow King)  
Pennsylvania Ballet's **Amy Aldridge** (Dew Drop)  
Tony nominee **John Selya** (Herr Drosselmeyer)  
Ulalena's **Derek Sakakura** (Harlequin, Spanish and Russian Trepak)  
Cincinnati Ballet's **Benjamin Dorado** (Mouse King and Chinese)  
Hawaii producer **Derek Daniels** (Mother Ginger)

# TICKETS

## Join us

Tickets are on sale at the Blaisdell Box Office and all Ticketmaster locations ([www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or 1-800-745-3000). They range from \$35 to \$75.

Show times are

**Friday, December 18 at 8:00 pm**  
**Saturday, December 19 at 7:30 pm**  
**and Sunday December 20 at 2 pm.**

## *Opening night celebration*

Enjoy your own *Nutcracker* party scene by attending the Opening Night Celebration on December 18. The VIP package is \$150 and includes a pre-show dinner at the Blaisdell Concert Hall, reserved parking, VIP seating and a post-performance reception.

Delicious fare will be served by the likes of Le Bistro in Niu Valley, Nico's Pier 38, Chai's Island Bistro, The Willows, Beijing Chinese Seafood Restaurant, Town, Romano's Macaroni Grill, Ruth's Chris Steak House, Giovanni Pastrami, Starbucks Coffee, Tea at 1024, JMD Beverages and Cake Works.

Tickets are limited, so order early by calling **521-8600**.



## *Shop the Nutcracker*

Keep that *Nutcracker* feeling going all year long by shopping at the Ballet Boutique, which will be open at the Blaisdell Concert Hall during all three *Nutcracker* performances. You can find *Nutcracker* ornaments and memorabilia and all the important accessories for the Sugar Plum in your life, including tiaras, wands and fairy purses.

We also have New York City Ballet dolls by Tonner. These 16-inch dolls are collector's items and we have them at last year's prices! The designs are based on and inspired by the original costumes of New York City Ballet's production of George Balanchine's *Nutcracker*. Marie, Sugar Plum Fairy and Snowflake dolls are available.

## Our angels

Every year, hundreds of young students have the opportunity to enjoy ballet — for free — thanks to the support of some very generous corporations and foundations.

The Angel Program is one of Ballet Hawaii's educational outreach efforts and is for the benefit of children at underserved schools and various social agencies. This year, we expanded the program to include deserving military families.

Earlier this year, grants from the **Alexander & Baldwin Foundation** and the **McInerney Foundation** allowed 225 youngsters to see *Peter Pan*. This month, even more students will have the opportunity to attend the *Nutcracker* thanks to continuing support from both foundations plus an anonymous \$10,000 gift that Ballet Hawaii recently received.

## *Mahalo*

Ballet Hawaii extends its warmest mahalo to our sponsors. It is their support that enriches Hawaii's arts scene and enables us to bring in top talent from major performing companies so Hawaii can enjoy the best.

Season sponsors:

Starwood Hotels & Resorts Waikiki



**Continental Airlines**

Nutcracker sponsors:

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HAWAII

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ension  
ervices  
orporation

Additional funding is provided by the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

## Ballet Hawaii is on top with Macy's Community Day

For the third consecutive year, Ballet Hawaii's students and families sold the greatest number of tickets to Macy's Community Day. The \$10 tickets gave purchasers a 20 percent discount at Macy's during June's community day, plus a \$10 purchase credit.

Through this event, Ballet Hawaii raised more than \$20,000 to support the restoration and purchase of costumes.

The top six sellers were **Kayla Kunasaki, Rayce Sato, Nicole Kirihara, Noelle Tarumoto, Kenya Glenn, Elisabeth Kurashige and Hailey Lovelace.**

Mahalo nui loa to all who participated in this event.

# SHUKRAN!

The exotic tastes and pleasures of Morocco — and two rather large camels — came to Honolulu in October. It was all

in the name of Ballet Hawaii's annual fundraiser, which was held at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel on October 10.

The two camels were not real, but at 250 pounds apiece and bedecked with fezzes, they transformed the hotel lawn. Our travelers indulged in the services of henna artists, while enjoying performances by Willow Chang, Alonzo King's *The Moroccan Project* and our own Ballet Hawaii dancers. The evening was whiled away, sipping

on Moroccan delicacies prepared by Royal Hawaiian executive chef Hans Stierli, who lived and worked in Africa for years.

Barbara Liber Giles led the event's organizing team. She was ably assisted by Marion Philpotts-Miller and Susan Schull, who took on the arduous task of traveling to Marrakech to seek out the treasures for our souk bazaar.

Shukran, or thank you, to all those who joined in the adventure.

**Save the date: Ballet Hawaii will transport you to another exotic destination on Saturday, September 25, 2010.**



*John Parkinson, Judy Muncaster, Barbara Giles, Susan Schull, Marion Philpotts-Miller.*



*Lorenzo Acosta, Amerjit Gag Heim, Larry Heim, Raven Matsushita*



*Kathy Louie and George Hopkins*



Photos by Lance Rae



*Siana Austin Hunt and Jackie Guild*



*Carol and Phil McNamee*

## Masters of dance *Mikhail Baryshnikov and Ana Laguna*



The anticipation was palpable as the curtain rose for Mikhail Baryshnikov and Ana Laguna in September. Ballet Hawaii was proud to partner with the Baryshnikov Arts Center to present this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see two legends perform. Not surprisingly, both shows at the Hawaii Theatre were sell-outs. Thank you all for your amazing support of this event.

*Three Solos and a Duet* was a mature mix of light wit and deep emotion — and it more than lived up to all the anticipation.

Speaking to the New York Times about his continuing career at age 61, Baryshnikov said, he “might as well have fun.” He did that while on Oahu, too, where he was clearly impressed by a body surfing competition at Point Panic.

Baryshnikov and Laguna are pictured here with Ballet Hawaii staff following the opening night show.

## On Board

We'd like to introduce our newest board member, Kara Uchimura, who stepped into the position of treasurer in May.

"Kara brings an amazing eye for finance that really helps keep us on track and focused on our mission," says executive director John Parkinson.

Kara has always enjoyed ballet — albeit from the audience side, she says.

"I did take one semester myself when I was in high school ... just enough to know that I didn't have any hidden talents," she says with a laugh.



**Name** Kara Uchimura

**Can also be found at** Alexander & Baldwin, where she is an internal audit manager.

**Education** Iolani; University of Hawaii at Manoa, MBA; Claremont McKenna College, BA in Economics-International Relations.

**I think Ballet Hawaii plays an important role in Hawaii because ...** I'm a mom, so while I enjoy everything that Ballet Hawaii brings to the community, I am especially aware of how it enriches the lives of our children. They have the opportunity to see great performances and even interact with professional dancers. I love the way Ballet Hawaii reaches out into the community by taking shows to Maui and by introducing children to ballet through the Angel Program.

**My favorite ballet experience ever was ...** definitely the *Nutcracker*. I'll never get tired of watching it. I'm trying to make it a Christmas tradition for myself and my daughter every year. I especially love watching it with the orchestra accompanying the dancers.

**When I'm not working, I love to ...** travel! I spent three years living in Japan after college and had the opportunity to travel throughout Asia. I'm also on a mission to ascend tall buildings. It started with the Empire State building and the Sears Tower. I've also been to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government building, which is the highest building in Tokyo.

## Jim Hutchison Scholarship

*Hawaii arts legend helps support budding new career*

Earlier this year, Ballet Hawaii lost a treasure when Jim Hutchison passed away. Jim was a bulwark in the Hawaii arts community, and he was particularly special to us. He was the original artistic director of the Honolulu City Ballet, which later became Ballet Hawaii. In later years, Jim was a happy face around the studios, where he taught tap; he also served on our board of directors and directed and choreographed many of our fundraising galas.

Jim is missed, but we are pleased to say that his spirit lives on in the Jim Hutchison Scholarship, which was recently awarded to student Kyle McCraw. The fund was started with donations from Jim's many friends and will cover Kyle's classes at Ballet Hawaii.

"Jim was Mr. Broadway; so we looked for someone with that same spirit," says development director Judy Muncaster. "Kyle is not just a dancer, he's a fantastic singer, so we feel he's a perfect fit."

Until a year or so ago, you would have been more likely to find Kyle in the swimming pool rather than a ballet studio. A more-than accomplished swimmer, he twice competed in the Alabama state championships. Then, almost by chance, Kyle joined the school chorus when he was in the 8th grade.

"I was extremely shy, but my chorus teacher just had me sing to see how I sounded for a solo and I ended up getting it," he says.

After that, there was no looking back. Since Kyle's family moved to Hawaii, he's kept landing lead roles, from Tony in Paliku Theatre's *West Side Story* to Troy in Army Community Theatre's *High School Musical*.

Then his neighbor, Ballet Hawaii student Mattie-Gray Clifton, convinced Kyle to join a partnering class. (At 6-foot 1-inch, Kyle makes a great partner.) Kyle met artistic director Pamela Taylor-Tongg and volunteered to help backstage with last year's *Nutcracker*.

"Joan Boada was the Cavalier, and I remember thinking to myself, 'I want to dance like him,'" Kyle says.

Kyle is in his senior year of high school, which he is completing through an on-line program. Until recently, he worked six hours a day, so he could pay for all his classes. Receiving the Jim Hutchison Scholarship is a much-needed financial support, but Kyle is perhaps more struck by the honor.

"It's humbling to know that people believe in me so much that they would be generous enough to invest in me," he says. "It makes me want to work at it more and more and hopefully, one day, return the favor."



Our warmest mahalo goes out to the following people, who kicked off the Jim Hutchison Scholarship Fund. If you would like to contribute, please contact development director Judy Muncaster at 521-8600.

Linda Kidani, John Hunt, Neva Rego, Jack and Cheryl Bates, Deanna Luster, Elizabeth and John McCreary, Sylvia Hormann-Alper, Lesley Young, Cecilia Fordham, Wayne and Vilot Harada, Gaye Glaser, Vivien and Hank Stackpole, Colin Fong, Heater Taylor, Matt and Kirsten Pennaz, Lori Komer, Dennis Ihara, Lina and Wayne Doo, Mariko Lyons, Larry Takumi.



*Jim Hutchison is pictured here with Ballet Hawaii board member Jodi Leong at the opening night of Giselle in 2008. Jim was a regular face on Broadway early in his career, appearing in big-name musicals like The Ziegfeld Follies and The Pajama Game. In his film career, he appeared opposite Barbra Streisand in Hello, Dolly! Jim has been with Ballet Hawaii since its early days, and his spirit lives on in the Jim Hutchison Scholarship, which was recently awarded to Kyle McCraw, pictured at left.*

Photo courtesy of The Star-Bulletin



# Wow!

## Peter Pan had us hooked!

We all went to Never-Never Land this summer — it was a most rewarding experience as students from across the country honed their dance talents and participated in a truly magical summer production of *Peter Pan*.

It began with the Summer Intensive Program. Forty-one students from around the islands, the mainland and Japan came together at the Dole studios for three weeks of *intense* training.

Our master teachers this year were Washington Ballet’s Septime Webre, Cincinnati Ballet’s Johanna Wilt and noted instructor Maria Vegh. They were joined by Cincinnati Ballet’s Janessa Touchet, Carolina Ballet’s Timour Bourtasenkov, Tau Dance Theatre’s Marie Takazawa, local producer Derek Daniels and pilates instructor Katie Melon.

Students joined classes in technique, pointe, jazz, body conditioning and injury prevention ... and then it was time for Never-Never Land. Wilt worked with the dancers,

setting the steps for the ballet with a wonderful precision. Then Webre, who choreographed the ballet, arrived and added his personal panache to the performance.

“He brought out so much in the dancers,” says artistic director Pamela Taylor-Tongg. “He took young students and principal dancers and really brought them all together.”

The result was a show that was, in the words of executive director John Parkinson, “by far one of the best productions we’ve ever done.”

When Peter Pan came flying in the nursery window (thanks to Flying by Foy), you just knew this ballet was going to soar. The entire cast was delightful, Peter Pan was phenomenal, Hook was rollicking, and the tick-tocking, hip-hopping crocodile rocked the house.

Some people who attended the first show enjoyed it so much they bought tickets for the following night, too. And audience members — young and old — left with a great sprinkling of fairy dust.

*Children — and the young at heart — had a magical time at the Tinkerbell and Pirate Party on Aug. 15. There were costumes, face painting with David Kasper, treasure boxes with prizes and storytelling with James McCarthy. Lunch came in pirate backpacks and Tinkerbell boxes and included exquisite themed cupcakes from Hokulani Bakery.*



Monica Lau Photography

