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OUR POINTÉ!

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American Ballet Theatre's Marcelo Gomes to Star in BBT's Romeo and Juliet



Boca Ballet Theatre proudly announces that Marcelo Gomes and Sarah Smith, both dancers with American Ballet Theatre, will perform the lead roles in BBT's spring production:

Romeo and Juliet.

A principal dancer with ABT, Mr. Gomes is one of today's hottest talents. He recently appeared on the cover of *Dance Magazine* and has performed lead roles in ABT's *Cinderella*, *Coppélia*, *Don Quixote*, *Giselle*, *The Merry Widow*, *My Funny Valentine*, *The Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Romeo and Juliet* and many more. Originally from Brazil, Mr. Gomes studied dance at The Harid Conservatory in Boca Raton, and at the schools of the Paris Opera Ballet, Houston Ballet, Boston Ballet, and Cuballet.

A native of Boca Raton, Ms. Smith returns to BBT after captivating audiences as Sugar Plum Fairy in this year's BBT production of *The Nutcracker*. Ms. Smith began her serious dance training with Boca Ballet Theatre and landed her first role as a Page in the company's production of *The Nutcracker*.

A few years later, she became the youngest corps de ballet member in BBT's premier production of *Giselle*. While at Boca Ballet Theatre, Sarah danced in classical ballets such as *Romeo and Juliet* and *Swan Lake*, as well as contemporary ballets *Just Swingin'*, *Piano Man* and *Boca Baroque*. Ms. Smith attended The Harid Conservatory and received a scholarship to dance at the Prestigious Joffrey Ballet School. She then enrolled in the University of Indiana Dance Department and immediately became a principal artist. Ms. Smith premiered with ABT on February 6, 2004.

Romeo and Juliet is the classic love story by William Shakespeare translated into a passionate musical score by Prokofiev. Co-Artistic Director Dan Guin choreographs this epic ballet full of drama, war, pride, prejudice, and love. Performances will be held Friday, March 30th at 7 pm, Saturday, March 31st at 8 pm, and Sunday, April 1st at 2 pm. All performances will be held at FAU's University Theatre.



Join the Winning Team!

Boca Ballet Theatre's 2006-2007 season is off to a marvelous start! Enrollment increased dramatically this year and we are delighted to see so many new faces among the familiar ones.

Our focus for 2006-2007 continues to be

where it has always been: on our students. Through our unique mentorship program, our students are able to learn from and dance with some of the best professional dancers from around the world. We are proud of

(continued on page 4)

Inside this issue:

<i>Vegso Family Foundation Sponsors First Step Program</i>	Page 2
<i>Nutcracker</i> Après	Page 2
<i>A Princely Affair</i>	Page 3
<i>Nutcracker</i> Performed for local schools	Page 3
Join the Winning Team (continued)	Page 4
Upcoming Events	Page 4

Call now for tickets to "Romeo & Juliet" Box Office 561-995-0709

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Vegso Family Foundation Sponsors *1st Step* Program

Boca Ballet Theatre's outreach program, *1st Step*, has been selected for full sponsorship by the Vegso Foundation. The program, which provides children from the Boca Raton Housing Authority with dance training, is one of BBT's proudest endeavors and it is a tremendous honor to have the support of the Vegso Foundation.

Through *1st Step*, BBT reaches out to children in our community who need to be nurtured and mentored. The program is designed to help the under-served youth of Palm Beach County take their first step in dance education and BBT makes every effort to remove all barriers, financial and cultural, that may hinder a participant's ability to take part and enjoy dance. Transportation, clothing and instruction are all provided at no cost to the child.

Anne and Peter Vegso founded the Vegso Foundation in 1997. Since then, the couple has taken on numerous projects, particularly those benefiting women and children. Some of these projects include funding of a new shelter for battered women and children, run by Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA), and significant contributions to the Junior League of Boca Raton's Community Resource Center (now named the Vegso Community Resource Center).

Peter Vegso is the owner of Health Communi-

cations, Inc., publisher of the successful *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series of books. Anne Vegso has been a member of the Junior League of Boca Raton since 1991 and was recognized last year by the Junior League as Volunteer of the Year. Anne has been named Honorary Chair for *Horses and the Handicap* for 2007.

"I enjoy being a part of the community and making it better for everybody," said Anne. "*1st Step* provides the opportunity many children would otherwise miss to pursue their dance passion."

Boca Ballet Theatre thanks Anne and Peter for taking *1st Step* under their wing.



Trisha Ramudo, Rome Saladino, Anne Vegso, Royce Deale and children from *1st Step* Program 2006-2007.

Boca Raton Marriott's *Absinthe* Restaurant Hosts Boca Ballet Theatre's *Nutcracker* Après



Anna & Vanessa Boltz, Barbara Burklin, Chris Heathcott

Approximately 100 guests joined Boca Ballet Theatre on November 25th at *Absinthe* restaurant for an après following the Saturday evening performance of *The Nutcracker*. The festivities were enhanced by a stunning view of the lit Christmas

tree and a wonderful array of food provided compliments of *Absinthe* Manager Scott DiDonato.

"The evening was a joyous celebration of our sold-out performances of *The Nutcracker*," said BBT's Co-Artistic Director Dan Guin. "We gratefully acknowledge our sponsors, JM Family Enterprises, Inc., and Southeast Toyota, LLC, along with Marleen and Harold Forkas, for making this year's production of *The Nutcracker* a spectacular success."

Among the attendees were several of the show's performers including guest artists Sarah Smith (Sugar Plum Fairy), Darren McIntyre (her Cavalier), and Jeremy Lemme (Russian Dancer). Also present were BBT Board Members Mary Doyle-Kimball (President), John Kever (Vice President), Vanessa Boltz (Secretary), Stephan Burklin, Robert DeVries, Jeri Loeffler, Seth Marmor, and Michael T. Welch.

Boca Ballet Theatre/BankUnited's 'A Princely Affair' Hailed As a Royal Treat



Joseph A. Cardenas, Market President for BankUnited's Palm Beach and Treasure Coast region, with BBT students Sara Grant & Ashley Hammond.

Boca Ballet Theatre's 15th annual luncheon fundraiser, *A Princely Affair*, drew a crowd of 400 to the Great Hall of the Boca Raton Resort & Club. The elegant festivities began with a Mimosa Hour -Champagne Reception replete with dozens of dazzling silent-auction and raffle baskets.

BankUnited hosted this signature event, which raised \$50,000 to support Boca Ballet Theatre, the region's highly acclaimed non-profit, youth, civic ballet

company and school of dance. Honorary Chair Dr. Cristina Keusch and her guests enjoyed champagne table seating during the luncheon and performance which featured guest artist, Sarah Smith, of American Ballet Theatre, in from New York. She performed the role of Sugar Plum Fairy, from Boca Ballet Theatre's *The Nutcracker*.

Boca Ballet Theatre Guild President Jeri Loeffler and BBT Board President Mary Doyle-Kimball toasted event Chair Patricia Ramudo, Co-chairs Elizabeth Dudley and Kim Wiles, and Co-Artistic Directors, Dan Guin and Jane Tyree. Joseph Cardenas, Boca Ballet Theatre Board member and BankUnited's Market President for Palm Beach & Treasure Coast, thanked "Princely" patrons for their support.

A highlight of the afternoon was the drawing of the grand prize raffle ticket. Judy and Giuliano Lorenzani of Boca Raton Travel & Cruises, once again collaborated with Celebrity Cruise Lines to donate a sensational 7-day Caribbean vacation, which was won by Lee Korony of Boca Raton.

Boca Ballet Theatre students performed *The Nutcracker's* Waltz of the Flowers, the Act 1 *Pas de Deux* featuring Nicole Muratov as Clara and Sanjay Saverimuttu as the Prince, as well as the *Spanish* and *Chinese* variations from Act 2. The excerpts were a prelude to this year's *The Nutcracker*, performed

November 24, -26 at FAU's University's Theater.

Tonya Hammond chaired the Silent Auction & Raffle Committee which presented a myriad of eye-catching and creatively-named raffle baskets designed by Linda Ludwig, one of the founders of BBT. BBT Faculty and Guild member, Cindy Surman, paced the event to excellence as the luncheon mistress of ceremonies.

Among the guests were BBT Board members Stephan Burklin, Seth Marmor, Vanessa Boltz, John Keever, Michael T. Welch and BBT alumnae Samantha Parker, Ariel Smith, Alison Smith, Kirsten O'Brien, Andrea Ramudo and Patricia Ramudo. Also present were Marleen and Harold Forkas, Florence "Flossy" Keesely, Debbie Abrams, Ann Vegso, Diane Bok, Helen Babione, Marie Iandole, Terry Welch and dance dignitaries: Barbara Sandonato, Victoria Schnieder and Jeremy Blanton.



BBT's Cynthia Hatfield with Judy & Giuliano Lorenzani of Boca Raton Travel & Cruises.

Local Schools Enjoy *The Nutcracker* Courtesy of Lon D. & Lucille Barton Family Foundation and Target



More than 500 children from four Palm Beach County elementary schools were treated to a free performance of *The Nutcracker* on Monday, November 27th. The performance was underwritten by the Lon D. and Lucille Barton Family Foundation and sponsored in part by Target. Several volunteers from Target greeted the children as they arrived and ushered them to their seats.



T H E A T R E

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The official newsletter of Boca Ballet Theatre
December 2006
Cynthia Terpstra, Editor
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Stephanie Murphy

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, March 30, 2007, 7:00 pm
Romeo & Juliet at FAU

Saturday, March 31, 2007, 8:00 pm
Romeo & Juliet at FAU

Sunday, April 1, 2007, 2:00 pm
Romeo & Juliet at FAU

Sunday, May 27, 2007
MIZNER PARK CONCERT
(Mizner Park Amphitheater)

May 2007
Spring Event TBA

June 25—August 5, 2007
Summer Intensive Workshop at BBT

August 3-5, 2007
Summer Repertory Concert at FAU

Support BBT Before the tax year ends!

Join the Winning Team!
(continued from page 1)

this tradition and know how exciting and important it is for our students to be able to dance with fresh professional talent, year after year.

We deeply appreciate the generosity of so many volunteers, patrons and underwriters. As a non-profit entity we are dependent on our benefactors and feel fortunate to have had the support of so many wonderful organizations and individuals over the years.

If you have not done so already, please take advantage of the tax benefits associated with charitable giving and support Boca Ballet Theatre before 2006 ends. Keep the dream alive.