

TOLEDO BALLET

CLASSICAL • CONTEMPORARY • CONDITIONING

Marie Bollinger Vogt, Founder, Artistic Director Emerita

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Fall 2014

74TH ANNUAL *Nutcracker*

SATURDAY, DEC. 13, 2 P.M. & 7 P.M. • SUNDAY, DEC. 14, 2 P.M.
STRANAHAN THEATER • 419-381-8851 • WWW.TOLEDOBALLET.ORG

Staged by Lisa Mayer

Faculty

McKenzie Beaverson
Steven Brown
Tess Caputo
Ariel Clouse
Kristin DelVerne
Domonique Glover
Meg Grzeszczak
Madeline Harts
Jeanie Hayward
Ann Heckler
Kathy Humphrey
Michael Lang
Samantha Lanning
Olivia Posladek Terrell
Cheryl Walter
Michael Warrick
Sara Wegrzyn

Staff

Lisa Mayer
Artistic Director
School Director

Mari Davies
Executive Director

Michael Lang
Director
Choreographer
Performance Outreach
Coordinator

Elizabeth White
Business Coordinator

Kelby Sodeman
Grants Coordinator

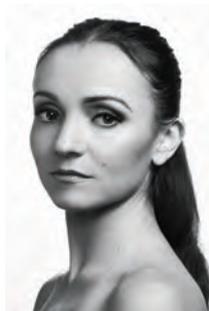
Cecile Avery
Administrative Assistant

Condessa Croninger
Administrative Assistant
Educational Outreach
Specialist

Anthony Piercefield
Administrative Assistant



Penteadó



Catoya

Welcome "Home" for our Holidays, *Renato and Catoya!*

We breathed another sigh of relief with the good news that our beloved Renato Penteadó and Mary Carmen Catoya from Miami City Ballet are returning to our fold to dazzle another throng of *Nutcracker* fans. Click here to read their bios. <http://miamicityballet.org/dancers>

We all hope that the stunning blizzards of yesteryear decide to wait until December 16 to dance and twirl around us. If you were compelled to stay away last year due to the angry winter blasts, be sure to get your tickets early so that you are guaranteed an opportunity to see our fabulous new *Nutcracker* Manor House set. And even if you braved the elements last year to see the set debut, we will have a few new surprises for you this year when that curtain opens up on the Manor House!

Who IS That Under the Bonnet?

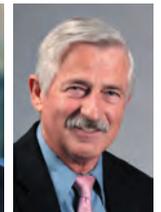
This year's *Nutcracker* production welcomes three local celebrities to the role of Mother Ginger. Radio personality Denny Schaffer of Cumulus Media's WWWL-FM Star 105 will ham up the role Saturday afternoon. ProMedica's President and CEO Randy Oostra will don the bonnet in the Saturday evening performance. Retired editor and vice president of The Blade Tom Walton reprises the role Sunday.



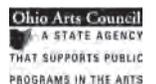
Schaffer



Oostra



Walton



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THE THRILL OF A LIFETIME: 74TH ANNUAL NUTCRACKER CLARAS

There is no greater anticipation in a young dancer's life than awaiting the announcement of who will earn the role of the iconic Clara in Nutcracker. Each year, Ms. Lisa auditions dozens of hopefuls, knowing all too well that her ultimate decision is a life changer for the two whom she ultimately selects. This year was no different, and those two lucky and deserving dancers are Nora Light and Elizabeth Stuart. "Nora brings a charming elegance to Clara as well as beautiful ballet technique. Elizabeth brings a sweet and playful innocence to Clara to complement her beautiful dancing," observes Ms. Lisa.



Full Name: Nora Light
School: Home school, Grade 8

What drew you to dance? When I was younger my mom would take me to see all of the ballets that come to town.

Why is dance important to you? It makes me happy. I could be having the worst day, but once I start dancing it's like all of my problems just disappear.

What do you like to do when you are not dancing? When I'm not dancing I really enjoy reading and listening to music.

What do you want to be when you grow up? I would really like to be a professional dancer but if I decide not to I would like to be a surgeon.

If dance were an animal, what kind would you be? A cat

What are three words that come to mind when you think of dance? Grace, beauty, and dedication

What is the most exciting thing about dancing the role of Clara? Being able to share the experience with my mom.



Full Name: Elizabeth Stuart
School: Home school, Grade 8

What drew you to dance? When I was three, my mother gave me a video of New York City Ballet's production of *Nutcracker* and I watched it over and over again! My collection grew to include *Swan Lake*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Giselle*. I never grew tired of watching these videos. It was just something I knew I wanted to do. By the time I was five I was dancing at Toledo Ballet.

Why is dance important to you? I love to dance and I do it every day so it is part of my life. It teaches me how to be disciplined and committed to something that is physically and mentally challenging.

What do you like to do when you are not dancing? I like to read and be with my friends.

What do you want to be when you grow up? I enjoy performing. I like dancing, singing, and acting. If I could have a career doing something with one of those three things or possibly all of them I would be very happy.

What famous dancer would you like to meet and why? I would like to meet Veronika Part because she is a principal dancer at American Ballet Theatre and has accomplished so much in her career. I think I could really learn something from her.

If dance were an animal, what kind would it be? A gazelle because they are so light on their feet, like ballerinas!

What are three words that come to mind when you think of dance? Elegant, breathtaking, strenuous

What is the most exciting thing about dancing the role of Clara? Absolutely everything! I love it all!

TURNING THE CORNER

TB IS MOVING!

After nearly thirty five years at Franklin Park Mall, Toledo Ballet is venturing farther west on Monroe Street at to a new venue which is designed and built to accommodate our growing needs. "Generations of dancers enjoy warm memories of their years studying ballet at the mall, with its convenient proximity to food as well as shopping in between classes," reflects executive director Mari Davies, "and we have maintained a wonderful relationship with mall management throughout all of its transformations. Now we must be forward looking and make sure we can provide a facility that will serve today's clients who desire a wider range of classes." With nearly double the square footage and an additional dance studio as well as a separate work-out studio, the new facility will ensure that those desires are met. For example, while a dancer is taking a class, his or her parent could be in a work-out class.

The new venue, located at Monroe Street Square Shopping Center at Nantucket, is space formerly rented by Hobby Lobby, who has downsized their store, leaving the easternmost part of that structure unoccupied and aching for a custom build out. Along came Bill Bostleman, a former TB dad who is with Devonshire Reit, a private real estate investment trust that recently acquired this shopping center. Bostleman negotiated a deal for the build out that we couldn't refuse. Former TB board member Joe Vetter of Vetter Design Group is overseeing the design of the interior.

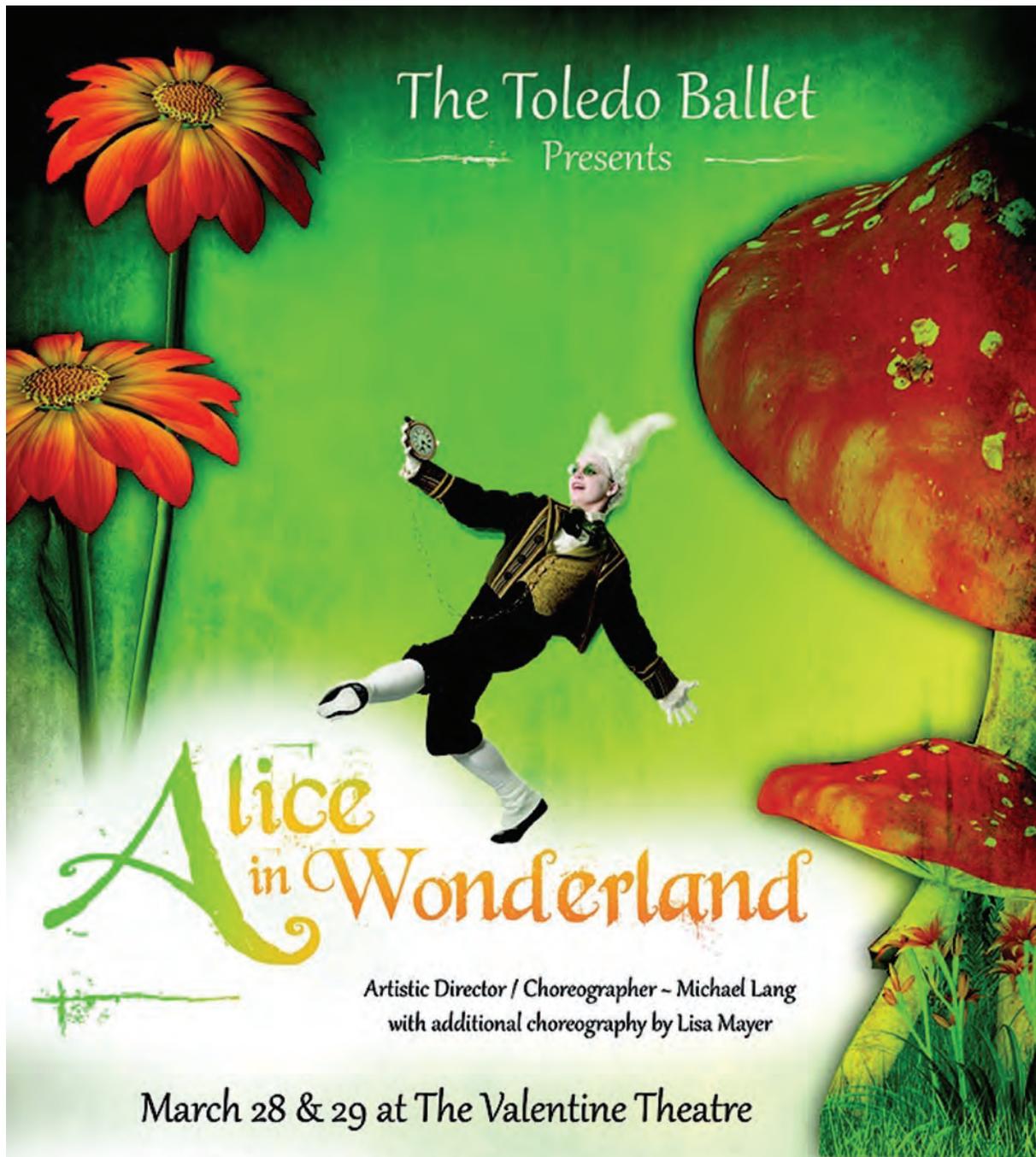
Former Toledo Ballet board president Rob Koenig explains the steps incurred in the decision to move. "The Board of Trustees spent more than a year investigating, analyzing, and deciding on potential alternative locations for the Toledo Ballet. A Task Force of Trustees and Parents worked to identify a new location which would meet our needs for: (1) additional studio space (4 larger studios); (2) safer parking; (3) contiguous storage space for our costumes/sets; and (4) lease terms as generous as those we enjoy at the Franklin Park Mall. The Toledo Ballet moved to the Franklin Park Mall when it was built in the early 1970s so deciding to change was not quick or easy. Our search revealed that the Franklin Park Mall had always charged the Ballet extremely low rent for the space we used because most "retail" tenants would not be interested in leasing it based upon location. After reviewing many potential lease spaces, Devonshire REIT identified space recently vacated by the Hobby Lobby on Monroe Street. Because of the size and location (very deep space on the end of the strip mall) ordinary "retail" tenants were not likely to lease the space. As a result, Devonshire has offer to nearly match our existing lease terms and provide a substantial amount to pay for the build out of the new ballet studios. The initial design (layout) posted in the studio lobby has undergone three more revisions with the most substantive changes being the relocation of the reception/waiting areas to the front door area, and the administrative offices moved to the location contiguous to the waiting areas. Budget constraints will mean that we cannot finish all the planned rooms immediately but through fund raising efforts these spaces can be added later. Our main focus, of course, has been the size and quality of the dance studios which will each be larger than those at our current space. The board believes that the new TBA space will satisfy all of our identified needs and provide facilities for the Toledo Ballet to continue to grow and thrive long into the future." The goal is to move into the new space in February 2015. And thanks to 2-Scale for our spiffy banner on the façade of our new home!



NAME THAT SPACE!

The new facility will feature 4 dance studios, a work-out studio, dressing rooms with shower facility, and a quiet study area as well as a roomy lobby. Each one of these rooms is presenting a naming opportunity. The largest studio, approximately 1,819 square feet, will be named in honor of TB's Founder and Artistic Director Emerita, Marie Vogt. This studio will be the primary rehearsal studio for major productions and presentations.

We invite you to be part of this significant milestone in TB's history by becoming a naming sponsor of the Marie Bollinger Vogt Studio. For a donation of \$500 or more, your name will be engraved on a plaque that will be mounted at the entrance of this specific studio. If Madame Vogt played a role in your life, we are sure you will enthusiastically partake of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to say, "Merci, Madame!"



Save the Date!

Alice in Wonderland Director / Choreographer Michael Lang has been spending a lot of time way down in the "rabbit hole" lately adapting Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* into a full length ballet. When asked about the creative process of bringing Carroll's classic to life, Lang said, "I've been mainly creating original works for the last seven years. It has been an interesting yet challenging process to go down a path that so many others have already traveled. You start to ask yourself, what can we artistically contribute that has not already been done? Ironically, I have found staying closer to Carroll's original idea to be the most unique. I am

discovering that a lot of people seem to be more familiar with the Disney movies than with the book itself. I want everyone in our audience to feel as if he or she has literally opened up Carroll's book and watched it danced from chapter by chapter."

This fanciful journey through *Wonderland* will be brought to life on March 28 & 29, 2015 at The Valentine Theatre. Alice will be portrayed and danced by company dancers McKenzie Beaverson and Semira Warrick. Each will get one performance which should give audiences a great excuse to experience this whimsical world more than once!