

**LA DANSERIE:
NEWS ON THE MOVE
Winter 2011**



www.ladanserie.org



Meagen Mendoza, Nicole Mathis, Mary Wilson, Emily Rumack (l. to r.)
in rehearsal for Carte Blanche, La Danserie's upcoming show.
photo: Eric Pizarro-Grant

Hi La Danserie friends,

Happy New Year to all! Please read on for latest news and updates!

PERFORMANCES

We are very excited to announce **two upcoming performances** at the Plaza Del Sol Performance Hall, CSUN. On Friday, February 11th at 10:00 am we are performing a special **student matinee** and on Friday, February 11th at 8:00 pm we present a **full show** for the general public. The student matinee will be a one hour program with brief narration included to provide some historical and artistic context. The matinee is partially subsidized by the LA City Department of Cultural Affairs and the LA County Arts Commission. Admission for public schools is free, while private schools are charged the very minimal price of \$7 a ticket. The performance is almost completely filled but there are a few seats still available. Any **teachers, parents or students who are interested in having their school attend this event please contact us at ladanserieinfo@gmail.com** .

The evening performance features **premiers** by Artistic Director **Patrick Frantz**, Resident Choreographer **Judy Pizarro-Grant**, and company members **Nicole Mathis** and **Mary Wilson** (making her choreographic debut with La Danserie). We are also delighted to welcome back guest choreographers **Rei Aoo** and **Robert Salas**. The exciting and diverse program will also include guest appearances by the **Kenneth Walker Project** and by pre-professional students from **Idyllwild Arts Academy** and the **Maple Youth Ballet**. Tickets for the evening performance are available through the CSUN Plaza del Sol box office, 818-677-2488 and Ticketmaster.



Emily Rumack (foreground) and l. to r. Candice Sanchez, Nicole Mathis, Tatiana A'Virmond in rehearsal for *Carte Blanche*.

photo: Eric Pizarro-Grant



above and below: LAUSD students at culminating performance of our teaching residency, April 2010.
photos: Eric Pizarro-Grant

SCHOOL OUTREACH

In 2011 La Danserie launched its eighth year of programming for Los Angeles Public Schools. This year we are based in Valley Regional Elementary School #12, a brand-new K-5 school located in the San Fernando Valley with a specific mission to focus on the arts. Over a twelve week period we are working with a first and a second grade class, teaching basic technique and dance concepts and preparing a culminating demonstration program. For the past two and a half years LAUSD has not been able to allocate any funds to outside providers such as ourselves, and it is thanks to a grant from the Department of Cultural Affairs that we are able to carry out this program.





Meagen Mendoza and Ballroom partner Pasha Balykin, center, show us the way at our December 2010 Dance Party Fundraiser.

photo: Patricia Davis

GRANTS/FUNDRAISING UPDATE

This year we are grateful to have funding from the second half of our two-year grants from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and from the Los Angeles City Department of Cultural Affairs. Applications to both institutions for the next two year cycle have been submitted and are pending.

On the home front, we were absolutely delighted with the success of our second annual Dance Party Fundraiser. This time around Ballroom teacher-extraordinaire Meagen Mendoza brought along her new Ballroom partner, the debonair Pasha Balykin, to show us some smooth moves. There was plenty of chatting and catching up with old friends, plenty of dancing (of course) and everyone had a truly wonderful time, while contributing to a great cause. Thanks once again to all who came and also to those who couldn't make it but were kind enough to contribute nonetheless.

In order to continue to carry out our performance and school programs though, fundraising has to be an ongoing event. So let us take this opportunity to ask any of you who haven't yet contributed to consider doing so, if it's within your means. You can easily **make your tax deductible contribution online at www.danserie.org** or email us at ladanserieinfo@email.com for more information, and thank you so much!

ADVOCACY

Work continues by non-profit arts organizations, including La Danserie, throughout Los Angeles to create and maintain a secure and primary position for the arts in Los Angeles communities and schools. La Danserie continues to serve on the steering committee of the Los Angeles Arts Consortium, whose mission, members and activities can be viewed at laartsconsortium.org. La Danserie is also looking forward to participating in upcoming Learning Communities developed and organized by LAUSD. These small groups will bring together LAUSD arts teachers and specialists with professional community artists in each arts discipline to discuss and develop models for effective integrated arts curricula.



Artistic Director Patrick Frantz lends a helping hand to Tatiana A'Virmond with Nicole Mathis looking on.

Photo: Eric Pisarro-Grant



Meagen Mendoza, choreographer Judy Pisarro-Grant and Mary Wilson (l. to r.) having way too much fun in rehearsal.

Photo: Eric Pisarro-Grant

That's all for now, but please keep in touch – email us, say hello on Facebook, visit our website and share your thoughts with us, we'd love to hear from you.