



Coast City Ballet ~ Pacific Dance Center To the Pointe

Volume II, Issue IV

A Peek Behind The Curtain

What is Coast City Ballet? A dance company, a non-profit organization, an active member in the community. We are busy all year long with ongoing projects, fund-raising, outreach programs, and performances. Nevertheless, the holiday season is the most arduous – and the most rewarding time of year for CCB.

We work on a strict budget, but we try to add a little more to our production each year. We began in 2004, performing the Second Act only. In 2005, we staged our first full-length production; this year marks our third full-length show.

We have only purchased basic tutus and embellished them. The rest of the costumes are original designs by Ms. Aly (who devotes a great deal of time and attention to detail). Each year, our scenery is enhanced. Scenery tends to be a costly component

in any production. We purchased much of the First Act party scene props. For the snow scene, we use gobos (light effects), and for the Second Act, we made our thrones and smaller props. Elegant scenery and props are important. But we aim to create scenes as interesting as possible by maintaining reasonable production costs. Our objective is to keep the audience's focus on the dancers.

The final week leading up to the performance is chaotic: all costumes must be ready (complete, tried-on, and pressed); all headpieces (which tend to get lost) must be accounted for; photos have to be chosen and sized; the program must be ready for print; scenery, props, etc. must be delivered/loaded at the theater two days early; permits must be signed; insurance binders immaculate; final newspaper ads submitted; volunteers must receive their assignments; snacks and drinks for the concession stand must be setup; and so much more.

The day prior to opening night, we hold a full dress rehearsal at the



theater. That is when last-minute details are worked out: costume issues are resolved; lighting design is finalized; stage cues and scenery setup are practiced in real-time with the theater crew; sound checks and audio levels are set; volunteers prepare the lobby, concessions, boutique, flowers, etc; and of course, the dancers need to rehearse.

After a lengthy, laborious day-before-the-show, we all go home and try to get some rest before the curtain is raised the next day. But most of us think about the next day...and before you know it, it's tomorrow. We all get prepared for that thrilling moment when the music plays, the curtain goes up, and the magic begins! It's better than chocolate cake!

*Wendy De Candia,
Officer, Coast City Ballet*



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Student's Corner

I have been dancing since I was eight years old. Pacific Dance Center/Coast City Ballet is like my second family.

The teachers are very nice, sweet, funny, and supportive. I have made very many friends too. At home I am always dancing and practicing



anything I need to practice.

I am very excited to be doing three roles this year in the Nutcracker. If I didn't have my friend Jessica McKitrick I wouldn't be here today. Dance has made me become happy when I'm sad.

Thank you Ms. Aly, Ms. Clara, Mr. Charles, and Miss Danielle for everything you have taught me. I love all of you guys, good luck!

*Cassidy McHugh,
CCB Jr. Apprentice*

A parent's "Pointe"

Another year, another Nutcracker! I remember Cassidy's first year when she pushed the Snow Princess chariot on the stage...her red lips blasting out of her face after hours of reapplication backstage. And now she's the Lead Snow Princess!

With this growth in dance has come a growth in grace and poise that naturally evolves with dance. Even greater than this are the relationships she has fostered with all the other dancers in the classes, and now, in Junior Apprentice. I see how excited she is to get ready to go to dance, every day, and sometimes for hours a day, and I know it is because she not only loves to dance—and she **loves** to dance—but she loves her dance sisters and mentors as well. Cassidy has a second home in Pacific Dance Center, complete with lessons, learning, and love.

*Allison Taylor
Cassidy's mom*

2008 Events and Performances

Jan 26 & 27	Starbound
Feb 15-17	Showstoppers
March 16 - 18	Headliners
March 8	Fundraiser Dinner
June 14	Annual School Performance
Jul 14/Sept. 16	Young Choreographers Workshop - Mondays and Tuesdays
Sept. 13	Nutcracker Auditions 10:00 am age 9/12 ~ 11:00 age teen/adults
Sept. 21	Young Choreographers Showcase
Dec. 1	The Nutcracker

Dates and/or venues subject to change

For more information please contact us at: admin@coastcityballet.com
or visit our website: www.coastcityballet.com

"Experience the Magic of Dance"

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