

Wellington Friends Newsletter

Interim Newsletter - July 2004

A. G. M.

Reminder of the 2004 Annual General Meeting

6:30 pm, Wednesday 7 July 2004 at RNZB Green Room, Westpac St. James Theatre. Meet in Foyer by lift.

Become involved, contribute, help out with the friends
We need willing **NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS** for planning and organising.

▶▶▶ **WANTED:** ◀◀◀ **Adult extras** (non-dancing) for walk on parts in *Madame Butterfly* as follows :-
The Okasan - Mature build aged 50's 5'3" - 5'4"
The Aunt - Medium build aged 40's 5'3" - 5'4"
Geisha Lady-ex dancer or senior adv. student 5'3" - 5'4"

▶▶▶ **Extremely rare opportunity** ◀◀◀

Contact Heidi at the RNZB – Ph 381 9012

or email: heidi@nzballer.org.nz

Madame Butterfly Lunch, Company Class & Forum

When: Saturday 24th July 12:00 noon

Where: Westpac St James, 2nd floor

Cost: \$5.00 per person

See booking form. Close date Wednesday 14 July

Madame Butterfly Full Technical Dress Rehearsal

When: Thursday 22nd July 7:00 pm

Where: Westpac St James, 1st floor

Cost: \$20.00 per person

See booking form. Close date Wednesday 14 July

Masterclasses Junior & Senior Students

When: Junior - 17 July, Senior - 24th July

Where: Westpac St James, 1st floor

Cost: \$20.00 per student

See booking form included
Close date Junior - 9 July Senior - 16 July

A letter from the Chairman

This newsletter brings us to the end of another very busy year for the Wellington Branch of the Friends. We held our last AGM immediately after *Romeo & Juliet* and the highly successful 50th Anniversary celebrations. Since then we have run Masterclasses and Forums during the first weekend of each season. 150 members and friends enjoyed the Tech rehearsal for *Peter Pan* (and no doubt just as many will enjoy "*Madame Butterfly*" next month), have conducted classes and teaching sessions for younger dancers and supported the National Fundraising Raffle. And those who joined us to Toast the Tremendous Trimmers enjoyed an afternoon they will not forget in a long, long time.

Now with the Company returned from their successful UK tour we are getting ready for another busy season. From all reports *Madame Butterfly* will prove as successful as *Carmen* and *Romeo & Juliet* and will certainly present challenges for our talented dancers.

During the past year it has been my privilege to represent our Branch at a number of Company and related functions and events and I have been made aware of just how highly the support of the Friends is regarded. I want to thank everyone who has participated in our various activities during the year and also every member here in Wellington for your ongoing support. When we remember that in one form or another the Friends of the Ballet have existed as long as the Company we have a tradition and heritage to be proud of.

In my report to the AGM I will be expanding on some of these themes but I must thank the members of the Committee who have all worked so hard to make this past year the success it was. Without detracting from everyone's achievements I want to especially acknowledge the tremendous contribution of Bev Robinson who not only organised, supervised and ran each Masterclass and Forum (even down to ensuring there is sufficient food by baking and preparing sandwiches each time) but this year also took on the thankless task of coordinating the Raffle!

Our long time Treasurer Jan Carr has stood down this year in order to enjoy her retirement. Handling the accounts for an organization such as ours is not the easiest of tasks, especially during membership renewal time, but Jan has handled this with smooth efficiency; and has kept all her colleagues firmly in

line. The success of her management is seen in the significant contributions we have been able to make to the Company each year. Jan we thank you but look forward to seeing you at events and performances for many years to come.

The Committee started the year with 10 members but for various reasons we are now down to 6. This has placed a heavy burden on individuals, all of whom have contributed well beyond what could be reasonably expected of busy people. There is an old saying that many hands make light work and I want to make an appeal now to **every member** of the Wellington Branch to consider **making yourself available to serve** on the Committee. There is a lot we could be doing if we had more people. More importantly new faces can mean new and innovative ideas which I know will bring fresh life and impetus to the Branch and our organization.

Thank you all for your support - I look forward to seeing you at the AGM and all the events to follow.

Graham

Madame Butterfly Forum

In the Forum for Madame Butterfly, we are going to get to hear about some of the artistic ideas and concepts behind the staging of the ballet. Steven Woodgate will be talking to us about how it all comes together.



Photo: Greg Barrett

Below is a short biography of Steven's career.

Staging: Steven Woodgate

- Melbourne-born Steven Woodgate is a former senior artist with The Australian Ballet. He appeared with that company for 18 years, dancing throughout Asia, Europe and the United States and performing in such theatres as the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, Covent Garden Opera House, London, and the Bolshoi and Kirov theatres in Russia.
- He danced with Stanton Welch in Australia. He created the role of Goro in Welch's Madame Butterfly, Florinda in Cinderella, and featured roles in Divergence, Red Earth, and X. He is now Welch's right-hand-man at Houston Ballet: he was appointed its Ballet Master in 2004.
- He recently set Madame Butterfly on Singapore Dance Theatre.
- In 1988 he was presented the Victorian Green Room Award for best male dancer for Bim in Bejart's Gaité Parisienne. In 1989 he represented Australia in the International Ballet Competition in Moscow where he was awarded the Moscow Music Magazine Award.
- Recipient of the Churchill Fellowship in 2000.

2004 Events

Date	Time	Event
Wed 7 July	6:30	Branch
Fri 9 - 11 July	7:30	Spirit of the Dance Opera House
Sat 10 July	3:00	The Bar At Buena Vista, Michael Fowler Centre
Sat 17 July	10:00	Master Class (Juniors)
22 July	7:30	Full Technical Dress Rehearsal
23 July - 4 September	7:30	Madame Butterfly
Sat 24 July	10:30	Master Class (Seniors)
Sat 24 July	12:00	Lunch/Company Class/ Forum (see form)
Sat 31 July	9 - 4	National AGM
Sun 01 July	9:30 - 12	National AGM
Wed 4 Aug	6:30	Branch Committee meeting
Fri 6 August Sat 7 August Sun 8 Aug	8:00 8:00 4:00	Chakra: an exploration through dance Soundings Theatre, Te Papa. Book at Ticketek
Wed 1 Sept	6:30	Branch Committee meeting
September		Dance Your Socks Off festival
Wed 1 Sept		Courtney Central Dance Fest
Wed 1 Sept - Sat 4 Sept		The Fall Guy Book at Bats
Sat 4 Sept	7:30	Feet With Heat Dance Extravaganza Westpac Stadium
Monday 6 September		Let the Children Sing Capital E (Children 4-12)
Fri 10 September	7:00 - 12:00	The Dancers Ball Michael Fowler Centre
Sat 11 September	7:00 - 12:00	Roller Disco Kilbirnie Recreation Centre
Sat 11 September		Contemporary South African Dance Workshop Wgtn Performing Arts Centre (very physical)
Wed 15 Sept to Sat 25 Sept		Leaving The Underworld Bats theatre
Fri 17 September	6:00	NZ School of Dance Studio Performance