

September 2004

Hi there!

This is the last newsletter for 2004 and in this issue you can read all about the New Zealand Community Trust Season of Coppelia, which will be touring in November and December.

You will also find a colouring competition for Young Friends, with great prizes to be won! Send your entry to your local branch and don't forget to include your name and address.

Have a giggle

Q. Where do dancers put their rubbish?

A. In a skip!

Q. What is a ballerina's favourite food?

A. Chocolate Barres!

Coppelia word find

C	A	A	K	G	S	F	M	P	S	V	K	E	L	T
M	E	Y	I	C	G	A	R	W	B	B	K	L	G	O
U	H	L	C	L	G	V	A	A	D	L	O	G	N	Y
S	Z	L	E	I	E	N	O	Z	N	D	Y	K	I	W
I	I	W	C	B	H	P	Z	L	L	Z	A	V	C	O
C	Z	C	B	I	R	J	P	A	E	I	H	K	N	R
B	A	L	L	E	T	A	C	O	P	U	V	A	A	K
L	E	D	I	O	S	I	T	M	C	C	A	S	D	S
C	A	S	X	D	N	Q	Y	I	G	O	H	N	W	H
G	Q	F	Z	A	V	L	S	C	O	E	W	S	R	O
U	E	W	H	L	O	G	W	Z	V	N	Z	F	N	P
D	R	C	O	P	P	E	L	I	U	S	R	J	Q	P
Q	E	B	V	K	H	K	H	U	W	H	Y	K	X	C
M	S	R	E	G	A	L	L	I	V	C	L	O	A	S
J	Q	Q	V	J	M	M	H	K	N	F	P	D	S	X

BALLET
COPPELIA
DR COPPELIUS
GOLD
MECHANICAL DOLL
OLYMPIA
TOY WORKSHOP

CELEBRATION
DANCING
FRANZ
MAGIC
MUSIC
SWANHILDA
VILLAGERS

DANCER PROFILE

Mikhael Plain



Our featured dancer in this issue is Mikhael Plain just recently cast as Franz in Coppelia.

Before joining the Royal New Zealand Ballet Mikhael danced with the San Francisco Ballet and the Miami Maximum Dance Company.

In his spare time Mikhael likes to chill out by playing board

About Coppelia

Coppelia was first performed in Paris in 1870, with the music written by Leo Delibes. Before that time most ballets performed on stage had a romantic theme, like Giselle.

Coppelia was the first ballet to borrow from popular entertainment, like pantomime. It was unusual because it had a comedy theme and included some folk dances.

The first dancer to dance the role of Swanhilda was sixteen year old Guiseppina Bozzachini. She had only performed it eighteen times when the theatre was closed because war broke out between France and Germany. Paris was under siege and many people became ill including Guiseppina who died on her seventeenth birthday.

A letter from Mikhael

Hi Young Friends,

I am very excited to tell you a little about myself. I was born and raised in California in the United States. Since I am from a big family with 5 children, we had to find an activity that we could all do together. My older brother and I started ballet classes when I was 8. I loved it right away! After a lot of training, I began dancing as a professional in San Francisco ten years later. All the hard work was worth it. It is so much fun to perform on stage in front of an audience.

Earlier this year, I decided to move to New Zealand. I only arrived here in June, but so far I love it! Everyone has been so friendly. It's been quite nice meeting new people and making new friends. It was also very exciting to see many of the cities for the first time on our recent tour with Madame Butterfly. What a beautiful country you live in (even though it was quite chilly this winter)!

I look forward to another fun season with Coppelia. You will love it! I hope to see you all there.

Good-bye for now,

Mikhael

The story of Coppelia

In a town far away a new bell had been hung in the town hall and the mayor offered a bag of gold to every boy and girl who got married on the day the bell first rang.

Swanhilda and Franz were certainly going to take up the mayor's offer.

In a funny little house in the town square lived Dr Coppelius. He was a strange old man with a bad temper. The townspeople all talked about a pretty girl who sat reading on his balcony. Although all the boys, including Franz tried to talk to her, she just kept on reading.

One day Dr Coppelius dropped the big key to his door. Swanhilda picked it up, and she and her friends decided to go into his house to meet the pretty girl. When they got upstairs, they found that the house was full of all sorts of mechanical toys. The girls turned keys, and flicked switches and all the toys came to life. They opened a big basket, and found the pretty girl - she was not real at all but just a clockwork doll.

Suddenly the girls heard someone coming in the window. They ran away thinking it was the doctor, but it was only Franz looking for the girl. Swanhilda stayed in the house and hid behind a curtain.

Dr Coppelius came back and found Franz who he thought was a robber. He decided to try a magic spell to take the life force from Franz and make his doll come alive. He gave Franz a drink which made him go to sleep, then went to get the doll, who he called Coppelia.

To his surprise she began to dance - at first she was rather stiff, but then she wouldn't stop dancing. Franz woke up and realised that the girl in the doll's clothes was Swanhilda and that she had played a trick on poor old Dr Coppelius.

Franz and Swanhilda felt so sorry for Dr Coppelius that they gave him the bag of gold they got when they were married.