

Metro Dancers

present

Graduation Ball



Artistic Director, Nancy Yeamans

Portland Metro Arts Online

Available Friday, May 14, - Saturday, July 31, 2021



A Message from the Artistic Director

This production of *Graduation Ball* is unlike any ever seen before. Ages ago, I was in a production of *Grad Ball* and loved the beautiful couples waltzing together and the spectacular partnering. But that was then, and this is now. This time, we closely followed all Covid precautions through it all. However, as creative people, we took the original storyline as inspiration and made needed changes, without sacrificing the original exuberant sensibility.

In March 2020 we were a scant three weeks away from our full-length *Alice in Wonderland* taking the stage. And then, all our lives were changed. Performances were cancelled and our entire building was shuttered. For the first time in 40+ years, there was no Metro Dancers full-length ballet that season.

Despite hopes for a quick resolution to the pandemic, it is still very much with us a full year later. Happily, we were able to resume limited classes, under strict CDC guidelines, and adjusted and re-invented the way we do nearly everything. The biggest change has been switching to producing virtual performances. Once we made it through a virtual *Dance Mosaic* last Fall, a decision had to be made about what to do for our story ballet this Spring.

Credit to Miss Virgie for suggesting *Grad Ball* to me, which requires a limited cast that can be rehearsed in small groups. It also afforded an opportunity for all our current Metro Dancers company to shine, create new characters and master new choreography. Thanks to Miss Diane for pulling a rabbit out of the hat with the wonderful all-new costumes. Also, my special thanks to the Mills family for donating their design and construction of the lovely chandeliers that grace the stage. They also have added a touch of elegance to our daily classes.

Please enjoy our unique production of *Graduation Ball*. We like it so much, we are planning to keep it this way, as a reminder of how it brought us joy in the midst of a pandemic. We hope it brings you joy as well. But next time, maybe, we can safely do without the masks.

All my love,
Miss Nancy

Help Guide Our Future

We are looking for a few good people! As a nonprofit organization, we rely on input from our families for direction and support. Join us in forging the direction of this wonderful organization in our fantastic building. Let us know if you are interested in joining the Board. There are great things ahead and we want you to be a part of it.

PMA Board of Directors

Vieng Bounnam, Tamara Larison, Kari Rothi, Jennifer Springsteen, Stefani Strodbeck, Greg Thompson, Diane Wallinger



Back row L to R: Anya Grobey, Cailin Dunbar, Natalie Schneider, Noah Cunningham, Paige Axness, Ruby Swiericzuk, Joy Rothi
 Front row L to R: Amira Quaranto-Aziz, Claire Axness, Sophie Reilly

Metro Dancers

We are very fortunate to have Metro Dancers in residence at Portland Metro Arts! Metro Dancers is a company of incredibly gifted and talented performers under the artistic direction of Nancy Yeaman. Together they present a full season of productions, including repertory concerts, showcases, and a major full-length ballet each spring.

Metro Dancers' Legacy

The company was formed in 1978 as an avenue for advanced dancers to perform traditional ballets as well as modern, jazz, character, and contemporary pieces. The combination of rising pre-professionals performing alongside former professional dancers gives the company a unique and exuberant style and polish. Metro Dancers' performances offer the opportunity to see choreography from seasoned local artists as well as students who are just beginning to produce dances.

Metro Dancers alumni have gone on to perform professionally with Alvin Ailey, Ballet 5:8, Ballet West, Boston Ballet, Colorado Ballet, Dance for Change, Grand Rapids Ballet, Julliard, Los Angeles Ballet, Oakland Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theatre, Pittsburgh Dance Alloy, Sacramento Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, and numerous other companies. Many others have become choreographers, artistic directors, and dance educators, continuing the legacy of Metro Dancers.



Are You Serious About Dance?

Portland Metro Arts School has intermediate, advanced and pre-professional training in ballet, pointe, modern, hip hop and tap. Upper-level classes are held in beautifully equipped studios. The teaching staff are creative and gifted instructors who have danced with leading professional companies. In addition to quality instruction, serious dancers are given an opportunity to perform through Metro Dancers' Dance Mosaic, full-length ballets, and Choreographer's Showcase and other performances.

Join us for:

Summer Dance Intensive

July 5-23, 2021

Portland Metro Arts offers a three-week intensive workshop for intermediate and advanced dancers. Our intensive blends ballet technique, pointe, variations, character, jazz, modern, choreography, and other special courses and events to form a rounded and complete summer dance experience. Each week features dynamic guest instructors who bring their own energy and talent to the students.



Production Staff

Artistic Director:	Nancy Yeamans
Asst. to the AD:	Nayomi Cunningham, Emilie Hovde
Choreography:	Nancy Yeamans after David Lichine, Drummer solo by Noah Cunningham Flirtation Muzurka by Virgie Daigle, Russell Capps
Music Editing	Virgie Daigle
Video Camera & Editing:	Greg Thompson
Costume Design/Implementation:	Diane Wallinger, Elizabeth Schneider
Wardrobe Assistants:	Nayomi Cunningham, Amanda Foster, Donna Grobey, Jeanette Miller
Chandelier Design/Construction:	Lisa Mills, Len Mills, Alex Delorme, 3-D Printing donated by Taran Mills
Set Design:	Russell Guinn
Poster & Program Design:	Elizabeth Allen

Graduation Ball 2021

The Story of Graduation Ball

During the 1840's, the Headmistress of a fashionable Viennese girls finishing school, has invited the cadets of the city's military academy to attend a ball, celebrating the graduation of the senior class. The senior and junior girls, long anticipating this event, are greatly excited by the pending arrival of the cadets. Flirtations, exuberant dances, and a secret romance ensue.

The History of Graduation Ball

Graduation Ball was a collaboration between David Lichine and Antal Doráti. This one act ballet was choreographed by Lichine to music composed by Johann Strauss II and arranged by Dorati. The scenario devised by Lichine featured scenery and costumes designed by Alexandre Benois. It was first presented by the *Original Ballet Russe* at the Theatre Royal, Sydney, Australia, on March 1, 1940,

It was reported that the premiere performance of *Graduation Ball* received twenty-five curtain calls. It was an immediate success. During the Sydney engagement and on the subsequent Australian tour, it was performed more than sixty times. It was first presented in the United States by the *Original Ballet Russe* in New York City. *Graduation Ball* became a signature work of the *Original Ballet Russe* and was performed countless times. Over the years it has been danced by many professional and regional companies around the world,

Cast of Characters

Headmistress: Virgie Daigle

General: Russell Capps

Drummer: Noah Cunningham

Pigtail Girl: Cailin Dunbar

Shy Couple: Caleb Cunningham, Natalie Schneider

Rivals: Anya Grobey, Joy Rothi

Good Girls: Paige Axness, Ruby Swiericzuk

Cadets: Nayomi Cunningham, Carter Currie,
Alex Delorme, Scott Trumbo

Junior Girls: Claire Axness, Amira Quaranto-Aziz, Sophie Reilly

Grammar

School Girls: Unity Foster, Maia Miller, Luz del Cielo Neely,
Lilya Shipley, Ravenna Shipley, Zaria Williams

Messenger: Joshua Larison



Synopsis

The Invitation

The curtain opens to reveal a formal ballroom. Soon, groups of Grammar School, Junior and Senior Girls enter and begin excitedly preparing for the ball. The Headmistress comes to make sure that all is in order. A messenger delivers a box of chocolates, sent by the General, which the Grammar School girls raid once the Headmistress departs. The Drummer announces the arrival of the General, leading a cadre of cadets.

Breaking the Ice

At first the cadets and the girls are timid, standing apart. The Pigtail Girl decides to break the ice and walks directly to speak to the cadets. When her efforts fail, she does a rather bold dance in which she encourages a cadet to join her. Such familiarity is promptly disrupted by the General. Once order is returned, the Headmistress and General encourage a more formal mode of dance and leave to check on the dining room.

The Grand Waltz

After a mishandled attempt by a Junior cadet to ask a girl to dance with him, a senior cadet steps in and gets the evening going with a Grand March to select dance partners for the Waltz. The young people soon begin to dance joyfully with each other.

A Shy Couple

Following the Grand Waltz, a shy couple's nervous attempts at conversation gradually turn into the safety of a dance. By the end of the dance their connection has eased, and they step aside to converse.

The Rivals

Two girls become Rivals over the attentions of one of the cadets. In their attempt to out-do one another with the brilliance of their dance talents, they become so self-absorbed that neither notices that the cadet has gone.

The Good Girls and the Note

Not to be outdone, two teacher's pets show off their dance skills in an effort to impress everyone. A messenger brings in a note for one of the girls. Seeing the reaction of the girl, the Headmistress snatches the note from the girl's hand and reads it. With shock at the intimate nature of the note she shares it with the General. The General immediately confronts the cadet who sent it, as the Headmistress takes charge of the girl. Both are marched out of the room followed by the irate adults.

The Gossips and Hear No, See No, Speak No Evil

The other Good Girl cannot wait to share the content of the note with the other girls and cadets. A frenzy of tattle tales swirl around the room until interrupted by the junior girls. The junior girls admonish their classmates that such behavior is inappropriate. Amidst the calm created by the junior girls the Headmistress and General return with the miscreants. And then the Headmistress sends her students and the cadets off stage, to have dinner.

A Secret Romance?

While the students are gone, the Headmistress and the General rekindle their past warm relationship by dancing a lively a mazurka, which reveals their attraction. Following their dance, the young people enter and are delighted to find the normally staid couple joyfully kicking up their heels. Everyone dances a high-spirited galop, bringing the evening to a grand finale.

A Sad Farewell

The ball sadly comes to a close. As the cadets march out the girls tearfully wave goodbye and are sent back to their rooms by the Headmistress. After the ballroom has emptied, four shadowy figures find their way into the ballroom. The shy couple have made plans to sneak back in to see each other again. However, the General and the Headmistress have also re-entered to see each other. But, both assignments are spoiled when the young couple and the adults bump into each other. Thereupon, the Cadet is led out by the General and the Girl is marched off stage. The curtain closes.

The Benefits of Giving

When you support Portland Metro Arts, you are impacting the future in many ways. First, you are helping people of all ages experience the arts and express themselves in creative ways. Beyond that, you build the framework that provides the tools for independent thought, self-reliance and an appreciation for creativity. And it makes you feel good too!



Everyday Angels

There are indeed angels among us. Our Everyday Angels are making a difference in the quality of life in our community and in the lives of countless individuals.

Join our flock of Everyday Angels by contributing ten dollars or more a month to insure that PMA's wonderful arts programs continue to thrive. All contributions are tax-deductible and can be made hassle-free through automatic fund transfers. To join, just contact our office.

Angel donations have come from collecting pop cans, signing-up sponsors, or making company-matched employee contributions. Be creative. Many hands make light work.



Did you know your purchases can make a difference? AmazonSmile donates to Portland Metro Arts when you do your holiday shopping at smile.amazon.com/ch/93-0852980. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to support PMA at smile.amazon.com.

Our Special Thanks

Dear Patrons

Metro Dancers and Portland Metro Arts Board would like to thank all those who have helped and supported us.

We are especially thankful for the generous grant from the **Regional Arts Council** that has helped us keep our doors open and programs running throughout the pandemic.

To all our other supporters, thank you.

\$1,000 and up

Kim Dunbar
IBM
Reeser Family Foundation
Greg Thompson

\$100 to \$1,000

Diane Bostic
Annie Claybaugh
Pat Fifer
Anne Kaffen
Melody Lang
Tamara Larison
Tiffany McCleary
Sallie McKibben
Elizabeth Schneider
Diane Stief
Barbara Tew
Ron Wilson

Up to \$100

Ron Antlitz
Mark Axness
Keely Bond
Pamela Levine
Mike Liljenwall
Julia Manning
Katy Philp
Sharon Smith
Rachael Waas Shull
Michelle Westwood

Artistic Support

Mark Axness
Virgie Daigle
David & Tamara Larison
Len & Lisa Mills
Elizabeth Schneider
Diane Wallinger



L to R: Zaria Williams,
Luz del Cielo Neely, Maia Miller,
Josh Larison, Unity Foster,
Ravenna Shipley, Lilya Shipley,

Photo by Len Mills

Portland Metro Arts

PMA provides the opportunity for everyone, particularly youth, to learn, perform and experience the arts; by providing meaningful access to quality arts education and performance programs.

In all projects and endeavors we actively pursue a philosophy of non-discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender, orientation or national origin. We honor the diversity of this city and the richness that it brings.

Over the years changes in the funding of arts programming have heightened awareness of issues within the greater metro area that parallel our own concerns. PMA continues to pursue a vision that addresses current and future performing/visual arts needs within our entire community.

The arts enrich our lives, by encouraging creativity and opening new perspectives in all aspects of life. PMA fosters appreciation and awareness of the benefits that arts bring to all. We are excited by the possibilities for creative enterprise that the future holds and invite you to visit our website www.PDXMetroArts.org to take advantage of our classes, concerts, and special events.

Summer Classes/Lessons

Adult Ballet, Cello, Flute, French Horn, Guitar, Piano, Ukulele, Violin, Viola, Voice

Summer Camps

CAMPS ARE FILLING UP—REGISTER NOW

This summer, let your child experience the arts by enrolling them in Portland Metro Arts' summer camps! Campers get the chance to learn, perform, and experience a huge variety of art forms. Our camps are exciting, educational, engaging, and above all FUN!

We have a variety of week-long, all-day camps for grade school children. Camps run from 9:00am to 4:00pm each day, with a supervised lunch.

Preschool	
August 16- 20	4 Arts Preschool Camp
School Grades 1-6	
June 21 - June 25	4 Arts Camp
	BASE Camp
June 28 - July 2	Masks, Myths & Legends Camp
July 12 - July 16	All About Art Camp
	BASE Camp
July 19- July 23	Music A la Carte Camps
July 26 - July 30	Way Off Broadway Camp
August 2 - Aug 6	Sleeping Beauty Dance Camp
Aug 9 -Aug 13	The Play's the Thing Camp
Aug 16 - Aug 20	4 Arts Camp
	BASE Camp
Middle School/High School	
June 28 - July 2	Brush Up Your Shakespeare Workshop
July 5 - July 23	Summer Dance Intensive Workshop



Cadets L to R: Noah Cunningham, Caleb Cunningham, Scott Trumbo, Carter Currie, Nayomi Cunningham,
Not pictured: Alex Delorme
Photo by Len Mills