

SALT CREEK BALLET

Sergey Kozadaye & Zhanna Dubrovskaya, Artistic Directors
Christina Salerno, Executive Director

July 2015

Salt Creek Ballet enjoyed a very successful 2014-2015 season, in large part due to the support of generous donors, dedicated volunteers, and enthusiastic audiences just like you!

30th Anniversary Highlights



Our “Nutcracker Dream” Came True! Our new production of *The Nutcracker*, featuring gorgeous sets & costumes designed by Simon Pastukh & Galina Solovyeva, was unveiled in November 2014 to sold out performances! Individuals from over 97 communities attended performances in Hinsdale, with additional communities represented for University Park and Skokie performances. **94% of survey responders rated the performances “Outstanding” or “Very Good.”** Heightening the experience was the much anticipated return of the 42-piece Chicago West Chamber Orchestra for three special performances in Hinsdale. **The orchestra will also be a vital part of our 2015 Hinsdale performances!**

Community Engagement is Growing by Leaps and Bounds!

“I truly wanted to reach out and applaud with a gigantic roar from our family to Salt Creek Ballet for the powerful impact your influence has been with our preschool son.”

- Parent of Community Engagement Participant

Throughout the 2014-2015 season, nearly 3,000 students benefited from SCB’s community engagement programming through lecture-demonstrations, full scale productions, and special programs including *Literature through Dance*, a multi-session artist-in-residency program now moving into its eighth year and servicing five public schools. SCB also actively partnered with the DuPage Children’s Museum, Skokie and Lincolnwood public libraries, Morton Arboretum, and Barnes & Noble Bookstore in Oak Brook to provide lecture demonstrations and mini-performances of SCB repertoire. SCB developed new programming this year for the Girl Scouts of Chicago and Northwest Indiana, offering opportunities for Girl Scouts to earn their “Dancer Badge” and attend Post-Performance Onstage Tour events. SCB provided more opportunities for community engagement by participating in Miller School’s “Community Service Day.” In April, the company presented an “In Studio Open Rehearsal” as part of *Chicago Dance Month*, offering a great opportunity for our community to see the choreographic process unfold.



Outreach Coordinator Dr. Kelly Stokes with pre-school students at South School in Westmont.

Five-year Strategic Plan Salt Creek Ballet is developing a Five-year Strategic Plan to ensure we continue to delight you as an audience member, supporter, or dancer as we plan for our future. Given our exciting new *Nutcracker* set and our expanding ties to the community, it is important for us as an organization to plan for the future, whatever that may entail. Through several meetings, workshops and conversations with constituents, we have already begun actively shaping SCB’s vision into targeted tactics that will help us ensure we reach our future goals. We look forward to sharing the plan with you when it is complete.

SCB Dancers Meet with “Royalty” SCB families traveled by private bus coach on June 19th to view The Royal Ballet’s Chicago performance of *Don Quixote* at the Auditorium Theater, preceded by an auditorium tour and a conversation with principal dancers Marianela Nuñez & Edward Watson. The following Sunday, former Soloist of The Royal Ballet—and colleague of SCB Executive Director from her career with The Royal Ballet—David Pickering, spent an afternoon with top-level SCB students instructing them on the work and movement of Sir Fredrick Ashton.

SCB Welcomes Elite Faculty to it’s Summer Intensive Program

Our guest teachers for the 2015 Summer Intensive program were Rosanna Ruffo, Instructor of Dance, Butler University and Former Soloist, National Ballet of Panama; Marek Cholewa, Professor of Dance, Butler University and former Soloist, Houston Ballet; Ilya Kozadayev, Former Houston Ballet Soloist and current Assistant Professor of Dance at the University of Oklahoma; and Luba Gulyaeva, Former Kirov Ballet Soloist and current Ballet Mistress of New Jersey Ballet.



SCB Company members Stefanee Montesantos and Brenna Schaefer interact with audience members at the Morton Arboretum.

SCB in the Media SCB dancers Nicole Gibson, Yaman Kelemet and Natalie Sprovieri taught FOX Chicago News anchors a few dance steps on National Dance Day, July 25th, 2014! Additionally, *My Suburban Life* featured SCB in several articles throughout the 2014-15 year that explored topics including the importance of stretching, boys in dance, and ballet training opportunities for adults.



Sophie Palo and Rheana Montesantos In *MOZHeart*.

SCB Guest Artists SCB was proud to welcome former Joffrey Ballet Ballerina, Yumelia Garcia, for Hinsdale performances of *The Nutcracker* and Milena Garcia, former dancer with Cincinnati Ballet, for the 2014 North Shore Center for the Performing Arts performances; SCB welcomed back Ilya Kozadayev of Houston Ballet to partner the two Ms. Garcias, and Maria Mosina and Alexei Tyukov of Colorado Ballet performed in University Park. SCB also introduced Texas Ballet Theater Ballerina Leticia Oliveira to SCB audiences as Aurora and Joffrey Ballet dancer, Yoshihisa Arai, as the Bluebird in *Sleeping Beauty: Aurora’s Wedding*. Chicago’s newest contemporary company, LEVELdance also appeared at our spring performances. The world premieres of *MOZHeart* by Eddy Ocampo and *Capriccio Espagnol* by Ilya Kozadayev, both well-sought after choreographers with works on major professional companies, completed our spring production at the McAninch Arts Center.

Company Members Move Onward and Upward! **Natalie Sprovieri** will be attending Butler University next year as a Physical Therapy and Dance major. **Nicole Gibson** will be attending the University of Arizona and has been awarded two scholarships: one for academics and a talent (merit) scholarship for dance. Nicole was one of only 25 dancers selected for the dance program (out of approximately 450 who applied!). She will double major in dance and marketing. **Anya Lei Koza** will be attending Marquette University (Milwaukee, WI) where she plans to study biology on the Pre-Med track and hopes to perform with one of Marquette's many student-led dance clubs. This summer Anya attended American Ballet Theatre's New York Summer Intensive and River North Dance Chicago's College/Professional Intensive, among others.

Thank You to our Foundation and Corporate Supporters SCB received generous grants from the Illinois Arts Council Agency through federal funds provided by the National Endowment of the Arts, and the MacArthur Foundation for Arts and Culture through the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, as well as from The Grover Hermann Foundation. The Service Club of Chicago contributed specifically to the New *Nutcracker*. BNSF Foundation contributed to both general Program Support, as well as SCB’s Outreach Program; additionally, a grant from the Gower Foundation supported SCB’s *Literature through Dance* at their school. BMO Harris Bank contributed to our 2014-15 performance season and matched that contribution with another award specifically for the Hinsdale orchestra. Special thanks to Room&Board Oak Brook for a stupendous 30th Anniversary *Dance & Design* party, to Neiman Marcus Oak Brook for support of 2014-15 programming, and to *The Doings* for Media Sponsorship. The DuPage Foundation and the Illinois Arts Council Live Music Fund will support the 2015 Hinsdale live orchestra performances.

Legacy Society SCB is proud to announce that Board President Ken Nelson and his wife, Alison, have joined Board Member Kim Dyson and her husband, Marv, to make a planned bequest to SCB's Legacy Society. The thoughtfulness of these individuals today will help ensure SCB's continued success into the future!

National Dance Education Organization Outreach Coordinator, Dr. Kelly Stokes, and Christina Salerno presented *Barriers and Breakthroughs in Developing a Collaborative Community Arts Partnership* at the National Dance Education Organization (NDEO) conference in Chicago last November.

2015 Sigurdson Awardees 2014 awardees: Olivia Brooks *Worked the Hardest* and Michael Shay *Accomplished the Most*. The 2015 awardees will be announced at the summer workshop.

RDA Stars SCB is very proud of our scholarship winners for the Regional Dance America MidStates Festival: Stefanee Montesantos received a full scholarship to American Ballet Theatre's JKO school in 2016 and a week at Houston Ballet School; Rheana Montesantos was awarded a week at Houston Ballet School; Misha Barkidjija received a \$500 cash scholarship in honor of Patricia Sigurdson; and Mary Kelly was awarded a 2-week full scholarship to the National Choreographic Intensive in Florida! RDA also selected *MOZheart*, choreographed by Eddy Ocampo, and *Capriccio Espagnol* by Ilya Kozadayev to be performed at the Saturday evening gala performance—a great honor for both the choreographers and the SCB company.

SCB Dancers Reconnecting SCB Alumna **Jessie Philbrick** ('14), a sophomore at Butler University, will continue her dance training this summer at Alonzo King Lines Advanced level/Pre-professional program (San Francisco, CA). **Eva Tumanova** ('13), a pre-dental major at the University of Illinois at Chicago, works at Mathnasium as a math instructor. **Madeline Grimes** ('13) will be attending Notre Dame University, majoring in Business. **Sammie Schmidt** ('12) is undertaking a second year of a Houston based Fellowship teaching math to underserved youth. **Taylor Nash** ('12), a junior at Butler University, is training at the Hubbard Street Summer Dance Program and secured an Internship at Colorado Ballet this summer assisting in their Outreach department! **Maya Pingle** ('91) is a top ten finalist for the 2015 Next Pilates Anytime Instructor Competition. **Alyssa Condotti** ('11) graduated Indiana University Magna Cum Laude with a major in kinesiology and a certification in arts administration. **Marcie Mangan** ('08) is a Web Producer for FOX Chicago News. **Sara Riordan** ('10) is pursuing a physical therapy degree at St. Louis University and became engaged this summer! **Eleni Hayden née Failla** ('08) got married! Congratulations also to former SCB student, **Ashley Hoffman**, who is featured in Taylor Swift's smash hit music video "Shake It Off!" SCB also thanks the many alumna and current students who have worked for SCB in a professional or volunteer capacity over the past two years: **Judy Sipek** (substitute teaching), **Elizabeth Laurence née Miller** ('90) and **Sarah M. Cuddihee née Barkowski** ('04) (Guild Co-Chairs), **Jessie Philbrick** ('14, intern), **Daphne Stratta** ('12, intern), **Kate Cullen** ('10, social-media intern and copywriter), **Elizabeth McGleam** ('06, faculty member), **Sophie Palo** and **Marissa Rohan** (intern).

Staff and Faculty News We are excited to bring Kathy Ranft on board as a School Administrator-Registrar. Kathy previously worked with Salt Creek Ballet at Hinsdale Center for the Arts and also worked at the Community House. We also welcome pianist Yuliya Hedroyts' new baby daughter, Polina, into our SCB family.



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Help Salt Creek Ballet continue to inspire & educate budding dancers, inquisitive youngsters & enthusiastic audiences by making a tax-deductible donation to SCB today!



Joffrey Ballet's Yoshihisa Arai rehearsing the role of Bluebird for SCB's *Sleeping Beauty: Aurora's Wedding*.