



December 2011 Newsletter

Heat Up at MMPAC's Winter Benefit Performance

Get out of the cold and enjoy the warmth of MMPAC's Annual Benefit Performance, taking place on Saturday, January 21st at Frederick Community College's Jack B. Kussmaul Theater. The performance begins at 7:00 pm. Funds raised will help families dealing with childhood cancer. Students aged 6 to adult will be performing in a wide variety of dance styles including jazz, ballet, modern, hip hop, lyrical, musical theatre, and tap. MMPAC's student repertory company FX will premiere new works by faculty choreographers, including Kimberly Price's *Monkey Play*, Kitty Clark's *Funky Pineapple*, Nicole Ruark's *The Chain*, and a new contemporary piece by Amy Hatzis. Other MMPAC students will be performing works learned in their classes. You won't want to miss this fun and fabulous show! Tickets are \$8; \$5 for ages 3-10; and free for kids under 3. Wear yellow in support of Childhood Cancer Awareness.



Miss Nicole Nabs Fabulous Teaching Opportunity

MMPAC's Musical Theatre instructor extraordinaire, Nicole Ruark, has been asked to teach at the prestigious Broadway Theatre Project in Tampa, FL, in July. Nicole will be teaching jazz and tap technique to the pre-professional apprentices as well as the junior students. Specifically, she will be working with students on imbuing dance movement with meaning in order to convey plot and character. Nicole will also be setting a piece on the students for inclusion in BTP's end-of-season festival performance. MMPAC students have participated in BTP masterclasses held here at the studio and several have been accepted to be apprentices in the summer program in past years. More information about BTP is available at www.broadwaytheatreproject.com. Congratulations Nicole!



ASH Convention Reminder

MMPAC dancers (ages 10 and up) are invited to attend the Artists Simply Human Dance Workshop in New Brunswick, NJ, February 4 and 5. If you want to register through the studio, waivers and the \$195 fee are due by **December 17th**. See the front desk to pick up a waiver and to receive more information. If students decide to attend the convention after the December 17th deadline, families can still register for the convention on their own. Visit the website www.ashdance.com and click on the New Jersey location for specific registration information.

Happy Holidays!

Just a reminder... MMPAC will be **closed** from Thursday, December 22nd - Monday, January 2nd.

Classes resume on Tuesday, January 3rd. We wish all of our families the happiest of holidays!

MMPAC Gear is Here for the Holidays

Stop by either MMPAC studio to see samples and available sizes of all new merchandise. If you pre-ordered a jacket for Christmas you will be notified via email upon their arrival. We are anticipating the new shipment to be in by the



end of this week. Also, cross your fingers for new screen-printed hoodies and sweatpants to be in next week! New MMPAC gear makes great Christmas gifts and there's not much time left...so don't wait!

Looking for a stocking stuffer? There are also MMPAC Christmas ornaments for sale!

- * MMPAC team jackets
(Youth & Adult) - \$75
- * Light weight zip up jackets
(Adult) - \$65
- * Nylon wind jackets
(Youth & Adult) - \$45
- * Jazz pants
(Youth & Adult) - \$40
- * Long sleeve T's
(Youth & Adult) - \$25

Important Dates

December 22-January 2 - Holiday Break - NO CLASSES

January 16-21 - Student Evaluations Distributed

January 21 - Benefit Performance

January 24 - Conferences - NO CLASSES

Conferences available upon request; please contact the front desk if you're interested in scheduling an appointment with one of your instructors



Teacher Feature: Amy Wrobleski



MMPAC teacher Amy Wrobleski breathes ballet. From the time she was very young, Amy always wanted to be a dancer. "I don't ever remember not wanting to be a dancer," Amy said. At age three, she was signed up for pre-ballet classes. For six summers during her teenage years, dance waltzed Amy to Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York City where she would spend 5-8 weeks in intensive ballet programs. She has danced with the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Joffrey Ballet School, Ballet Met, and Cleveland Ballet. "It was so much fun getting to meet new people, explore a new part of the country, and most importantly, have a place where I could intensely study my craft for the summer," Amy said.

Her training continued through college, where she studied dance performance at Butler University and traveled with fellow Butler dancers to Tbilisi, Georgia (formerly part of the USSR) to perform in its opera house. She received her MFA from State University of New York at Purchase College.

Amy said her performing days are over, and her main focus now is on becoming the best teacher she can. She's been on MMPAC's staff since 2010. "It is fun to prepare to teach pre-dance to three year olds one day, and focus on teaching high school students the next!" Amy said about her experiences at MMPAC.

She's learned in her career that being a teacher is a balancing act. "I must have a watchful eye for placement and attention to detail, because without it, one's dancing truly suffers," Amy said. "Yet at the same time, I need to allow my students opportunities to enjoy the movement, and create moments in class where they feel they can express themselves through the music and movement."

For those students wishing to perform professionally, there is no substitute for hard work, discipline and focus, Amy said. "There are no shortcuts," is a phrase in which Amy truly believes. "If you want to dance professionally you have to get in the studio and attend class as much as possible, even on the days when you don't feel like it," she said. Amy suggests setting attainable and specific short-term goals, ones that can be accomplished in six months to a year, which is something she makes her advanced students do at the beginning of the year.

"I love being a dance teacher, and hopefully my passion and enthusiasm for ballet will be contagious and pour through to my students," Amy said.