



Mid
Maryland
Performing
Arts
Center

NOVEMBER 2011 *Newsletter*

Costume Confirmation Sheets

Costume confirmation sheets have been mailed to you if you did not pick them up at the front desk this past week. These sheets contain your child's classes, corresponding costumes, the sizes that we have collectively assigned and the prices. It is imperative that you review this sheet, make any size changes that you feel are important, sign it, and return it to either front desk *no later than December 3*. Please also note that if you have not yet paid for your costumes, please sign the form in the appropriate place to authorize the use of the credit card we have on file. You may also mail in a check. Costumes that are not paid for will not be ordered. Thank you for your prompt response in advance.

Artists Simply Human

MMPAC dancers (ages 10 and up) are invited to attend the Artists Simply Human Dance Workshop in New Brunswick, NJ, February 4 and 5. Please visit the website www.ashdance.com and click on the New Jersey location for specific registration information. Students can turn in registration forms and the \$195 fee to the studio through December 17, and MMPAC will send the convention registrations together. If you are registering through the studio please make checks payable to MMPAC. Parents are responsible for room reservations. If students decide to attend after the December 17 deadline, families can still register for the convention on their own.



BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL



Billy Elliot the Musical

MMPAC has reserved 30 tickets (center orchestra) for this fantastic show at the Kennedy Center's Opera House on January 8, 2012, at 7:30 pm. The per ticket cost is \$85. A 50% deposit is due by November 30. The remaining amount is due by December 17. Heart and humor make *Billy Elliot the Musical* "the best show you'll ever see" (*New York Post*) and earned it the 2009 Tony Award for Best Musical. Experience this joyous celebration of one boy's journey to make his dreams come true. Get your tickets NOW! (Recommended for ages 12 and up. Performances contain strong language.). First come, first served!

Toys for Tots

One of our studio families is participating in the Toys for Tots Drive through Linganore High School. There is a box in the Frederick studio lobby for *new, unwrapped* toys that will be distributed to needy children in our community during the holidays. Please consider supporting this worthy cause. Any families at the New Market studio who would like to participate are asked to give the toy to the front desk at New Market and it will be transported to the Frederick studio. Please have all toys in by December 10th.

MMPAC Gear is Here!

Just in time for the holidays, MMPAC gear is here! All merchandise is embroidered with colorful MMPAC logos. Available now:

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

Quantities are limited. If your size is not available MMPAC will be placing a pre-Christmas order on December 2 for merchandise to arrive in time for Christmas. Don't wait! Screen printed hoodies and sweatpants are on their way!



Thanksgiving Break

MMPAC will be closed Nov. 22 to 26 for Thanksgiving Break. Classes resume the following Monday, November 28.

Children's Holiday Weekend

MMPAC is hosting a holiday performing arts event on December 10th from 1:30-3 at the Evangelical Lutheran Church on Church Street in downtown Frederick. This event is designed for ages 3-11. Young people must sign up through the City of Frederick's Office of Special Events. Participants will meet holiday dance characters like the world famous MMPAC Penguin Posse, various ballerinas from the Nutcracker and even some of MMPAC's very own Rockettes. Join the MMPAC family for this fun event where students will learn a holiday dance number and then perform alongside MMPAC's FX Company. For more details and to register please visit <http://www.celebratefrederick.com/>.

M&MMPAC Awards

Congratulations to Rachel Swain, Mackenzie Peterson, Haley Stone, and Maddie Spisso for being awarded the M&MMPAC award for November. They will have their place on the MMPAC Wall of Fame. They were recognized by their teachers for demonstrating a strong love of dance and dedication to their dance studies. We are very proud of them!

Important Dates

November 22-26 - *Thanksgiving Break*

December 10 - *Children's Holiday Weekend*

December 17 - *Deadline for Artists Simply Human registrations*

December 22-January 2 - *Holiday Break*

Alumni Corner: Mariel Procter

Graduating from college with a degree in dance can land you in places other than the stage. Mariel Procter, 22, a May 2011 James Madison University graduate and 2007 MMPAC graduate, found herself on the threshold of the real world with a dance degree, but unsure of what her next step would be. Mariel started looking at summer internships in the dance field that she found online and that her professors and student peers recommended. She ended up landing a fall Production Management internship at Washington, DC's Dance Place. Her responsibilities



include dealing with the dance companies that come to perform at Dance Place each weekend. "I am the basic contact point between the production team at Dance Place and the companies," Mariel said. "I schedule and attend three meetings with each group as well as send out reminder e-mails for all deadlines that they need to meet." After taking extensive notes during the meetings, Mariel types up the production schedule for the company. In addition to those requirements, she is required to do facility maintenance, work a shift managing the studio, and usher performances.

Before Dance Place, Mariel's experience in production management was limited. "I was the stage manager and lighting designer for the dance program at JMU which dealt more with the technical side of production," Mariel said. "I originally applied for and got the Technical Theater Internship at Dance Place, but was asked to switch to Production Management." She started the internship in August and though her internship is only scheduled to run until December 16, there is a possibility that she could be hired or have her internship extended. Her future depends on several factors, she said, including whether or not there are openings on staff or if housing is available.

Mariel has taken a lot of knowledge away from the intern experience. "My favorite part of the experience is getting to meet all these people that are part of dance in the real world," Mariel said. "There are 10 interns that I now have a strong connection with. We are all the same age and in the same point in our lives, but we have taken different paths to get here. It's great to hear everyone's stories and learn about different experiences." And getting the dish on DC's professional dance scene is just as exciting. "I get to meet the directors of the companies and learn about how they operate," she said. "I like getting to know the inside scoop on the companies, their performances, and the way that they work." With her foot now securely in the dance world's doorway, Mariel is hopeful this internship will only lead to bigger and better things. "I feel like this internship is my chance to learn as much as I can about dance in DC, and it will really help me to get an understanding of what opportunities are out there for me," she said.