



SoMar Dance Works

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October 2016 Newsletter

WE'VE GOT SOME BIG NEWS:

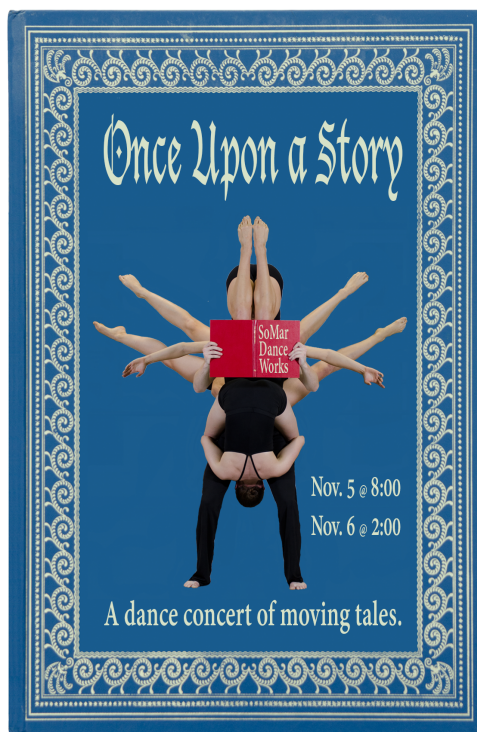
SoMar directors, Solveig and Mark Santillano are proud, honored, humbled, (and somewhat shocked) to announce we are the recipients of the Erie Arts and Culture **Established Artist Fellowship**. The word "grateful" hardly seems big enough to express how we feel. WOW, WOW, and more WOW is just about all we could say when we heard the news. To have our work acknowledged in this way is truly an honor. This recognition is not only uplifting, it is also validating. When you put your heart and soul into your work, and dedicate much of your time and energy to your art, it's nice to know you are connecting with others and they are taking notice.

Of course we would be remiss if we failed to recognize all the support we've had over the years. First on the list to thank are Tauna Hunter and the Mercyhurst Dance Department where

SoMar Dance Works is in residence. We've also had the pleasure of working with so many talented people (musicians, composers, artists, photographers, writers, lighting designers...). Unfortunately, there are too many to name here, but know we find inspiration in these collaborations and cherish our friendships.

We also thank those who have supported our work by attending concerts and/or contributing financially to our company. And speaking of money, we thank Erie Arts & Culture and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, for the numerous PPA grants we've been awarded over the years.

And lastly we owe a big thank you to the **INCREDIBLY TALENTED** dancers we've had the pleasure of working with ("SoMarians" past and present). For bringing our visions to life, you have our gratitude. Simply put: without dancers, there is no dance.



Once upon a time, there was a company of dancers who put on a concert... Actually, to be accurate they're preparing for a concert. A new concert called ***Once Upon a Story***.

Come join SoMar and we'll visit the Hatters Tea Party, and recall the ball with Cinderella. We'll see the little Prince from Asteroid B612 tame a lonely Fox, and be tempted with a tasty apple from an old witch (or two, or ten). These are some of the moving tales on the program. In addition to these familiar stories, we have a few other treats in store for you (including our first contemporary pointe piece). Full of SoMar's usual creativity, wit, and superb company of dancers, This concert is sure to please

November 5th at 8:00 pm

November 6th at 2:00 pm

Performances at the Dafmark theatre, **1033 State Street**, Erie, PA
General admission \$15.00 – tickets available at the door.

Come on out and see the show and you'll be the one who lives happily ever after.

How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a naughty world.
~ William Shakespeare

A **donation** to SoMar Dance Works will help brighten our community with high-quality, innovative, thought-provoking concert dance. Let your good deed shine bright in this naughty world.



National Water Dance: The Ripple Effect

We love a good collaboration, and last year's *National Water Dance Erie: The Ripple Effect* was SoMar's most ambitious community collaboration to date! Designed to raise awareness for local to global water concerns, the event was performed simultaneously across the nation at local waterways on April 16, 2016. Spearheaded by SoMar co-director, Solveig Santillano in collaboration with Dr. Amy Parente, the Erie event was joined by 18 Mercyhurst University departments/programs, 7 community partners, 11 guest artists/local dance companies, a team of technical help (including live-stream and archival videographers) and over 60 volunteers. "I was motivated to do more with less" Santillano explained, "as well as build community and problem solve about social concerns through the art-making and performance process." The audience gathered at Dobbin's Landing, followed the performance path along Erie's Bayfront and into Erie Maritime Museum, (transformed with living, interdisciplinary exhibits in unexpected spaces) continued past craft tables, exhibits of artwork and research displays. The event culminated with water-themed music, dance, film, and poetry contest winner's performances in the HIRT Auditorium, interwoven with a lecture on local environmental preservation presented by Dr. Amy Parente. This project was an example of the transformative power of art making. It connected areas within the community, changed perspectives, developed relationships, jump-started other initiatives, and left participants and audience alike with a feeling of hopefulness, positivity, in the field of possibilities. It was one of the most satisfying experiences I'd ever generated. - Solveig

Busy, busy, busy!

Since our last letter, here's what we've been doing:

- AZQ (JazzErie) & SoMar – October 2014
- Erie Festival of Dance – February 2015
- Beyond Words IV – February 2015
- AZQ (JazzErie) & SoMar – June 2015
- International Somatic Dance Conf. – July 2015
- Western Oregon University – October 2015
- Missouri State University – January 2016
- Beyond Words V – March 2016
- ACDA conference – March 2016
- National Water Dance – April 2016
- ArborEAT'em – August 2016

How many of these events did you see?

And this is coming up next:

- Erie Festival of Dance – Feb 4, 2017
- AZQ (JazzErie) & SoMar – TBA 2017



Front row: Solveig Santillano, Mark Santillano

Middle row: Megan Lay, Lucas De Marinis, Kerry Schroeder, Elizabeth Hite, Sarah Taylor

Back row: Dominic Fortunato, Haylie Kromer, Roni Plys, Mathew Huefner, Jo Alspaugh, Victoria Morris

Solveig & Mark Santillano are recipients of an Erie Arts & Culture Artist Fellowship made possible by community contributions to the annual Arts & Culture Campaign and the Erie Arts Endowment.

Thank you:



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