



## SoMar Dance Works

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## Hello and welcome to our first SoMar Newsletter!

There's a lot to share with you all – some from the past and some in the not-too-distant future. First and foremost, we are excited to announce our new up-coming concert slated for March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, entitled ***SoMar Dance Works: A Desperate Cry for Attention!*** Mark your calendars.

### We Did It

#### SoMar Dance Works in Concert,

our first self-produced, full-evening concert, became a reality, with the help of our supporters, Mercyhurst College Dance Department, the East Erie Turners Club, and the Arts Council of Erie.

Everything went off without a hitch and the response was truly incredible.

The concert was held in April at the East Erie Turners Club's stardust ballroom. We were thrilled to see so many of our friends in the audience, and a fair number of new faces, too. The concert was a mix of old and new works including seven world premiers.

In a Times/News article, John Chacona wrote "I don't think anything could have prepared me for the freshness, bursting imagination and sheer joy that was the April 12 recital by SoMar Dance Works...The Santillanos presented a dizzying array of movement that touched all the big topics: Sex, love and science. The range was extraordinary, and the execution often dazzling."



Mark and Solveig Santillano in *Free Fall*  
Photo by Rick Klein

## A Desperate Cry for Attention!

**Let's be honest.** We all crave attention now and then. That's perfectly normal, but what happens when the craving becomes urgent and you become, dare I say, desperate? Put on a show, of course! That's what we're doing.

Our latest full-evening concert is just around the corner, and it's shaping up to be another memorable collection of contemporary dance.

For the past few months, we've been in the studio creating several new works and reviving a few older favorites. As the title implies, ***A Desperate Cry for Attention*** deals with people trying to get noticed. In the concert we address a number of topics from outrageous advertising claims, to self-exploitation on the web, to soapbox orators, to the tragic epidemic of school shootings. We deal with it all in our usual "daring, provocative, and slightly mad" manner.

Joining our company of eight dancers will be two special guests. Flutist Anna Meyer will grace our stage again. You may remember her from last year playing Ian Clarke's incredible composition *Zoom Tube*. We also have the director of Erie Bayfront Dance, Nathaniel Johnson joining us for *Crouching Tutu, Hidden Drag Queen*.

The concert will be at Central High School Auditorium, located at 3325 Cherry Street, Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00. Tickets are available at the door

\$15.00 Adults  
\$12.50 Seniors/Students  
\$5.00 Children under ten

## A DESPERATE CRY FOR YOUR SUPPORT

**This is the part** of the newsletter where we, the artists, ask for your help. Although our company is small, and our needs are modest, producing a concert isn't free. Among our many expenses, we have a theatre to rent, costumes and props to purchase, programs to print, and hard working dancers to pay. Furthermore, in accordance to the terms of our PPA Grant, we must match 50% of those monies.

**PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, GIVE US MONEY! WE'RE DESPERATE** (sort of).

What's in it for you? Our eternal gratitude, recognition in our program, and (for donations of \$100 or more) two tickets to our concert. Not to mention peace of mind and a community where the arts can survive and enrich your lives. As cliché as it sounds, it's true, no contribution is too small (or too large). Thank you for your generosity.

## SoMar Year in Review

**2007** was a busy year for the company. In February we performed at the fourth bi-annual Erie Festival of Dance held at the beautiful Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center. SoMar has been participating in the event since 2001.

April, of course, was our big concert at the East Erie Turners Club. By all accounts, the project was a big success and we were so pleased with the way everything turned out.

After the success of SoMar Dance Works in Concert, we found ourselves involved in a number of projects. Three took place at Erie's Frontier Park. The first involved some impromptu dancing at the Labyrinth. The second was a performance for the official dedication ceremony for the new willow sculpture by artist Bonnie Gail. For this we created an original site-specific piece entitled *Dancing in the Temple of Syrinx* to live music performed by flutist Anna Meyer.

In June, we returned to Frontier Park for a performance at their arboretum. Although it rained heavily until just before the "curtain," the show went on as scheduled.

July found Solveig and Mark in California teaching a master class in partnering techniques to the San Diego Civic Dance Company. We had worked with the dancers the previous year creating an original piece for their performing ensemble.

The summer was also the time to apply for another grant from the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts. I'm so pleased to report that we were awarded some funds for our upcoming concert.

Along those same lines, SoMar Dance Works is now an official member of the Arts Council of Erie,

In December, Mark rejoined his old friends in Pilobolus Dance Theatre for a show in Abu Dhabi. While there, he collaborated on two dances performed at the palace for the President of the United Arab Emirates.

The year ended with SoMar being included in a nice year-in-review article in the Erie Times/News.

All in all, it was a year to remember.



¡Eso Es! returns to the stage in March, with music by the Gipsy Kings. Pictured are the Mercyhurst Dancers  
Photo by Rick Klein

## Dancer Update

**Change is inevitable,** and our company roster is not immune. Two of our company members, Kara Jones and Amber Martin, graduated from Mercyhurst College last May and left our fair city (and consequentially, SoMar). Kara joined up with the Rockettes for their Christmas Spectacular, and Amber is now dancing with Philadanco II. We wish them the best of luck with everything. They are missed.

On the bright side, we have two beautiful dancers to fill the void. We welcome Nora Beckenstein and Jennifer Mihu to our group. It's already been a pleasure working with them.

Let us not forget our other dancers: Sarah (Reisenweber) Auge, Noelle Lelakus, Alyssa Marquez, and Dara Swisher. These four are due to graduate this coming May. We're enjoying their talents while we can.

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