



## SoMar Dance Works

Solveig and Mark Santillano, Directors  
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Photo by Mark Fainstein

## October 2009 Newsletter

### SoMar Celebrates Ten Years

Time fly's when you're having fun and the past ten years seems like a blur. It was near the turn of the century when SoMar Dance Works made its debut performance at the opening convocation of the Missouri Fine Arts Academy. As with any new venture the future was unclear, but one thing was certain: the inevitability of change. What began with two dancers evolved into a company of nine. What began with guest appearances on other companies' concerts evolved into writing grants and self-producing our own full-length concerts. And so it continues with our new concert **SoMar So Far**.

Join us next month as we celebrate our tenth anniversary with a concert of some of our favorite dances from the past and a few brand new pieces. Included on the concert will be: *Zoom Tube* (featuring flutist Anna Meyer), *Dance by Numbers: Pi*, *A Desperate Cry*, *Lord of the Lawn*, and one of SoMar's signature works *Twine*. Also on the concert will be excerpts from *Dis-Ease: A Coming Out* (see "The Maine Event" article to the right) featuring the music of singer/songwriter David Sturtevant.

The concert will be at Harding Elementary School Auditorium, located at 280 Lincoln Avenue, Erie, PA 16505

**November 14th @ 8 p.m. & November 15th @ 2 p.m.**  
**For Information call 824-2176**

Tickets are available at the door

\$17.00 Adults  
\$14.00 Seniors/Students  
\$5.00 Children under ten

### The Maine Event

After participating in the summer arts festival in Sweden, Maine for several years, Solveig and Mark were invited to present a duet concert at the Red Brick Church in Lovell, Maine. The church has been converted into a performing space and is full of New England charm. The concert took place on August 6<sup>th</sup> and consisted of two acts. Act one was a collection of solo's and duets from the company repertoire. Act two was the world premier of *Dis-Ease: A Coming Out* featuring the music of singer/songwriter David Sturtevant. The collection of thirteen songs deals with Sturtevant's personal struggles as an individual living with bi-polar disorder. Despite the seriousness of the topic, the songs and dances are a good balance of silly and sad. Sturtevant joined the Santillanos in Maine and performed his music live. The evening was dedicated to Mark's sister, Lynn Tutko, who recently lost her battle with depression. Excerpts of *Dis-Ease* will be included in the November concert, *SoMar So Far*. You can see the piece in it's entirety next March at Luther Memorial Church.

### Review: SoMar dazzled

(excerpted from a review in the Bridgton News)

...As I settled into my seat to watch the performance I found myself riddled with doubt as to whether the two sweating bodies stretched before me, and the stark stage could actually manifest themselves into anything a bit more appealing. The first performance was titled "Sex, Solitude, and a Happy Ending," music was by Leon Redbone, and choreography was by Solveig and Mark Santillano. I must say I was blown away by the intimacy, humor, rhythm, and poise that consumed the room.

After intermission, Mark and Solveig choreographed and performed to the music and lyrics of David Sturtevant. David played multiple instruments and used lyrics to tell an intimate story about his journey through life while struggling with mental illness... Midway through the set, with the intensity and beauty of such an incredible performance the trio had managed to bring tears to many, and by the last performance they were greeted with not one, but two standing ovations.

I must say it was an event to remember, or shall I say, one I will never forget. So "provocative", and "mad," yes they were, and they were elegant, brilliant, thrilling, and real also... Your self-expression and talents have shed light on matters of the heart. Thank you for a wonderful show!

- Juliitta Dennison, Bridgton



## Stimulate the Economy by Supporting SoMar

Those who say "the best things in life are free" are overlooking one significant "thing"...ART! Yes the setting sun is breathtaking, and a hug from your child is priceless, but a life without art, in it's many forms, is unfathomable. Can you imagine living in a world with no music, no dance, no poetry, no literature, no paintings, no sculptures? A world where architecture, and clothing were only functional, but not decorative? Who would want to live in a world like that? Art enriches our lives in so many ways, but, alas, it isn't free. The fact is many arts organizations can't survive solely on ticket sales alone and must rely on grants and donations to pay their bills. Theatres cost money, as do costumes, printing and postage, and it takes money to hire talented people. We at SoMar do our best to present high quality dance concerts on a limited budget, but we need your help. Donate to SoMar so we can pump that money back into the economy and get this big fiscal ball rolling. It's a win win situation. The American economy is saved and we get to do our concert, and you get a community where the arts can survive and enrich your lives.

Along with our eternal gratitude you will get recognition in our program, and (for donations of \$100 or more) two tickets to our concert. Every little bit helps. No contribution is too small (or too large). Thank you for your generosity.



### Goodbye/Hello

Once again it's time to say goodbye to one of our dancers. Nora Beckenstein joins the list of SoMar alums after two years with the company. We wish her well as she pursues her career. The "yang" that balances the "yin" in this equation is the addition of Nicole Lyons to our roster. Pictured above (from left to right) in the front row: Nicole Lyons, Erin Alarcon, Jennifer Mihi. Back row: Danielle Feller, Claire Hinde, Amanda Fisher, Christopher Taddiken, Solveig Santillano, Mark Santillano

## Looking Back

Since our last newsletter we've been busy, busy, busy. Last year's concert, Nature Calls went off without a hitch. Mother nature spared us from another blizzard, although the concert did coincide with the first snow of the season.

Solveig and Mark also were invited to perform at the annual Arts Erie: Fall into the Arts awards ceremony. They created a new dance, *Nothing to Sphere, but Sphere itself*, to introduce the organization's new logo (see below).

In February, SoMar performed at the Erie Festival of Dance (produced by the Erie Dance Consortium). The company premiered *Tailspin Tango*, a new piece for all nine dancers. This was the fifth appearance SoMar has made at the semi-annual event.

In connection to the dance festival, the Cummings Art Gallery showed an exhibition of dance photography and sculpture. Several photos on display featured SoMar dancers. A few of the photos were taken by co-director Mark Santillano, and the rest were by Mark Fainstein of Mark Fainstein Photography ([www.fainsteinphoto.com](http://www.fainsteinphoto.com)).

Solveig and Mark were also invited to perform lecture/demonstrations and workshops at a number of elementary schools in the Erie School District this past spring. They had the opportunity to share their artistic vision and their love of dance and, hopefully, spark the imaginations of hundreds of young minds.

The summer found Solveig and Mark in the studio preparing for their concert in Maine (see The Maine Event on front). The past year was full and fulfilling. Thanks for the continued support.

## Looking Ahead

SoMar dancers will be performing at these following events:

October 23-24	Dafmark Dance Theatre: <i>Dafmark, Divas, and Arias</i>
November 8-9	Mercyhurst College Dance Department: <i>35-years a celebration</i>
November 14-15	<b>SoMar So Far</b>
November 25-28	Gothenburg, Sweden
December 19-20	Lake Erie Ballet: <i>The Nutcracker</i>
February 12-13	Lake Erie Ballet: <i>Matter's of the Heart</i>
February 19	American College Dance Festival
March	Luther Memorial Concert Series
April 9-10	Dafmark Dance Theatre: <i>Faces of Monody</i>



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