



SoMar Dance Works

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October 2008 Newsletter

Blindsided by a Blizzard

Last season SoMar Dance Works was desperate for your attention. We worked for months preparing for our concert ***A Desperate Cry for ATTENTION!*** Rehearsals began in September, ten brand new dances were choreographed, costumes and props were acquired, postcards were sent, tickets were printed and the theatre was booked. We got a nice preview article about the concert in the Erie Times-News. Everything was ready to go...until the blizzard came. You remember the one don't you? On March 8th, twenty-four inches of heavy wet snow fell on the city of Erie. Even if you could unbury your car, there was nowhere to go since the streets were un-drivable and businesses shut down. Yeah, that was when our concert was scheduled. We cannot express how emotionally painful it was to cancel the Saturday show, but we had no choice. We did manage to perform our concert the following day. Our audience was understandably small, but apparently very determined. To say we were disappointed and discouraged by the experience would be an understatement, but life does go on. Perhaps it was just Mother Nature desperately crying for our attention.

Rave Review

We received a wonderful letter from the Director of the Erie Art Museum, John Vanco, after our last concert ***A Desperate Cry from Attention!*** In his letter he wrote:

"Everything from the announcement and the photograph in the newspaper to the interludes between the acts, was done with such consummate professionalism, creative ingenuity, and wonderful humor. I am so impressed and proud that such a company exists in our community. You deserve to be seen far and wide... The show was so enjoyable on so many levels. The quality of the dancing was impressive, but the choreography and the overall sense of artistic conception were truly over the top...those who attended were among the luckiest audiences in Erie this year."

When Nature Calls, SoMar Answers

With so much talk these days about the environment, green living, global warming, and protecting our wildlife it is only natural that SoMar Dance Works' upcoming concert be entitled ***Nature Calls***. We don't claim to have the answers to our earth's problems, but we do believe we've got an entertaining (and possibly provocative) concert.

Among the works we're preparing are the Erie debut of ***Boomerang***, and ***Kalahari Sentinel*** and the world premier of the ***Sasquatch Soft-shoe*** and ***The Litterbug Jitterbug***. Please note that fifty percent of this concert is derived from recycled material and there was no animal testing involved in our choreographic process. And best of all, watching our concert will produce absolutely no greenhouse gasses. So carpool with all your friends (or better yet, walk) and together we can answer the call of nature.

The concert will be at Central High School Auditorium, located at 3325 Cherry Street, Erie, PA.

November 8th @ 8 p.m. & November 9th @ 2 p.m.

For Information call 824-2176

Tickets are available at the door

\$15.00 Adults

\$12.50 Seniors/Students

\$5.00 Children under ten



Help Support SoMar

Nothing is free. Costumes cost money, printing and postage cost money, theatres cost money, and it takes money to hire talented people. Such is the nature of business. Fortunately we have just received a Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts grant from the Arts Council of Erie. For that we are ever so grateful. One stipulation of the grant is that we **must find matching funds**. So it's only natural to ask for your help. We know the economy isn't booming right now, but we're a small organization with a small budget, and we need your help. We simply can't do this alone.

Naturally, you will have our 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.



Goodbye/Hello

With the end of the last SoMar season we said goodbye to four of our dancers, Sarah Auge, Noelle Lelakus, Alyssa Marquez, and Dara Swisher. They will be missed and we wish them the best as they follow their own paths.

As they say, every ending is a beginning. Such is the nature of things. We said goodbye to four, but we say hello to five: Erin Alarcon, Danielle Feller, Amanda Fisher, Claire Hinde and Christopher Taddikin.

We, of course are pleased to still have Nora Beckenstein and Jennifer Mihi on our roster, too. Along with Solveig and Mark, we are now nine strong. Go SoMar!

Looking Ahead

SoMar dancers will be performing at these following events

October 16th

Arts Council of Erie Awards Ceremony,

October 26-27

Mercyhurst Dancer's **Ballet to Broadway** at the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center (most of the SoMar dancers will be performing, with choreography by Mark Santillano)

November 17th

Erie Day School

December 21-23

Lake Erie Ballet's **The Nutcracker** (with Mark Santillano as Drosselmeyer)

January 31st

Erie Festival of Dance at the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center

TBA

Edison Elementary School

Looking Back

Since our last newsletter SoMar has been keeping busy. Back in March we produced and presented our second full-length concert **A Desperate Cry for Attention!** and despite the weather, we consider the concert a success (see Blindsided by a Blizzard on the other side). In April, the company performed with Lake Erie Ballet in their annual Dance Diversity concert. In June SoMar Dance Works performed and conducted workshops for the Aesthetic Education Institute of Mercyhurst College in collaboration with the Lincoln Center Institute, the educational arm of New York's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. The event was very well received and it has garnered opportunities for future performances.

In August Solveig and Mark participated in the Sweden Arts Festival held in Sweden, Maine. This was the couple's fifth appearance at the quaint festival where several of their duets were created and first performed. Later that month, thanks to an architectural grant from Scottsdale Community College Mark conducted a series of master classes in Scottsdale, Arizona. While there he created a brand new piece for Instinct Dancecorps entitled **Kalahari Sentinel**. The following week Solveig and Mark switched places. She taught the classes and created a new piece **Elipsination**.

September found Solveig performing her solo **Coming Home** at long-time collaborator Anna Meyer's flute recital at the Mercyhurst Walker Recital Hall.



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