

News

# MILLER-MARLEY

School of Dance & Voice

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2011



Miller-Marley is ringing in the New Year and gearing up for our 49th season.

We live to see the smiling faces of our beautiful students who light up our lives each day.

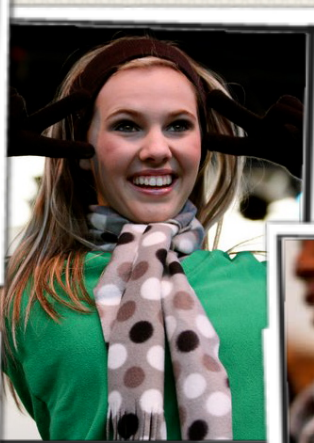
Here's to dancing through 2011 together!



## HAPPY NEW YEAR

(Front Row L to R) Tristan Rios, Michelle Maddock, Genevieve Austin

Highlighting 2010 was Miller-Marley's performance at the legendary Plaza Lighting Ceremony held on Thanksgiving evening at the Country Club Plaza. The 52-member Miller-Marley ensemble wowed the crowd of over 200,000 with their holiday showcase, making it a magical evening for all!



(clockwise) JD DeNeff, Cora Schimke, Anna Hastings, Mikaela O'Neill  
(headline photo top right) Nicole McCroskey

Photographs from the Plaza Lighting Ceremony courtesy of Richard McCroskey

## COMPETITION TEAM DOES IT AGAIN... AND AGAIN!

With two competitions under their belt and top honors to boot, the Miller-Marley Competition Team is really on a roll. Their season began the weekend of November 6-7, when the team attended the New York City Dance Alliance competition held at the KC Marriott Downtown. Then, they kicked off the New Year the weekend of January 8-9 with the Tremaine competition held at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center. When asked how the team fared during these events, Director, Beth Johnston, stated, "We won so many awards I can't even remember them all." Miller-Marley's catapult to the top-of-the-heap didn't happen due to just plain luck or the lack of worthy competitors. They've worked hard perfecting their craft and are competing against high-ranking teams with proven track records.

Next up on the team's competition agenda are Nuvo (Feb. 4-6) and JUMP (March 11-13) both of which will be held in Kansas City. Congratulations to the following Miller-Marley team members who recently won scholarship awards to attend future conventions or classes based on their exemplary performance in the dance workshop sessions: Kate Bowling, Noelle Bradley, Ryan Dervin, Alexis Jalbert, Alli McConnell, Megan McConnell, Grayson McGuire, Hannah Odgers, Mikaela O'Neill, Nathan Rommel, Macie Rouse and Haley Stewart.



(photo above) The Miller-Marley Senior Competition Team poses with their favorite B-Boy and Tremaine faculty member, Tony Bellissimo, at the Tremaine competition and convention the weekend of January 8th. Bellissimo was one of the top 20 finalists on Season 5: *SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE*. Most recently, he was featured in a February episode of the TV series, *GLEE*, in the show's tribute to Michael Jackson. During Tremaine's workshop session, "Mr. B" invited Senior Competition Team member, Hannah Odgers, to dance with him onstage...OMG!!!!

(photo right) Senior Competition Team member, Grayson McGuire, is all smiles after winning the high score for his solo, *Left Behind*, (choreographed by Roy Lightner, MM alum) at the Tremaine competition. (Jan. 8) He won the high score in the same category at the NYCDA competition in November. And, at both events he was awarded the highest monetary scholarships. Despite continued success everywhere he goes, Grayson has remained grounded - except when executing leaps, jumps and aerial cartwheels. KU may have Josh Selby, but we have Grayson McGuire on our team!

### IMPORTANT DATES

**Saturday, January 15th**  
Showcase 2011 Performance Fees Due

**Tuesday, March 1st**  
Spring Quarter Classes Begin  
Tuition Due

**Monday, March 14th -  
Saturday, March 19th**  
SPRING BREAK - No Classes

### WATCH WEEK SCHEDULE

#### Watch Week #1

**Mon. Jan. 31st - Sat. Feb. 5th**  
Jill Hochman, Annie Paglusch

#### Watch Week #2

**Mon. Feb. 7th - Sat. Feb. 12th**  
Beth Johnston, Shirley Marley

#### Watch Week #3

**Sun. Feb. 13th - Sat. Feb. 19th**  
Christopher Barksdale, Missy Belt,  
Laura Branson, Tara Wells

#### Watch Week #4

**Mon. Feb. 21st - Sat. Feb. 26th**  
Hilary Brown, Ann McCroskey,  
Brian McGinness



# KIDS ON STAGE

BLUE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOLS / MIDDLE SCHOOLS

## BV HS *BEAUTY AND THE BEAST* Feb. 17-19

Choreographed by Ann McCroskey (Miller-Marley instructor)  
**Sarah Bergeson** (*Mrs. Potts*), **Lauren Flack** (*Belle*), **Erin Moylan** (*Madame de la Grande Bouche*), **Alex Peterson** (*Lumiere*),  
**Krista Spindler** (*Ensemble*), **Grayson Yockey** (*Gaston*)

## BV NORTH HS *PHANTOM OF THE OPERA* Feb. 3-5

**Gabbie Fried** (*Princess / Madame Firmin*), **Haley Knudsen** (*Meg Giry*)  
 Ensemble: **Emily Degner**, **Erica Punch**, **Kenzie Rosenberg**,  
**Emily Walton** (*Dance Captain*)

## BV SOUTHWEST HS *HONK!* Feb. 17-19

**Lauren Henke** (*Henrietta*), **Lauren Mylin** (*Penny*)

## BV NORTHWEST HS *THE DROWSY CHAPERONE* Feb. 17-19

**Brett Hildebrand** (*Man in Chair*), **Rachel Hoffmann** (*Janet Van De Graaff*),  
**Stefan Sink** (*Robert Martin*), **Samuel Long** (*Gangster*)  
 Ensemble: **Sarah Budke**, **Morgan Sterrett**  
 Tap Dancers: **Emily Fiola**, **Bryana Glasco**, **Deidre Sechi**

## BV WEST HS *SEUSSICAL* Feb. 17-19

**Shelley Bushman** (*Cindy Lou Who*), **Taylor Hunt** (*Mayzie LaBird*),  
**Jenna Wetzel** (*Ensemble*)

## PRAIRIE STAR MS *ONCE UPON A MATTRESS* Feb. 3-4

**Stephanie Ainsworth** (*Winifred*) Knights & Ladies: **Emily Blackwell**,  
**Sam Deveney**, **Jack Jones**, **Cameron Smith**

## LEAWOOD MS *MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM* Feb. 17-18

**Avery Gray** (*Peaseblossom*), **Patricia Lu** (*Fairy/Dancer*)

## HARMONY MS *BYE BYE BIRDIE* Feb. 3-4

Choreographed by Sarah Peterson (Miller-Marley alumni)  
**Erica Christie** (*Rose Alvarez*), **Shari Gaynes** (*Gloria Rasputin*), **Katie Laxson**  
 (*Junior / Sad Girl / Dance Captain*), **Courtney Long** (*Sad Girl / Dance Captain*),  
**Alli McConnell** (*Junior*), **Paris Naster** (*Kim MacAfee*)

## OXFORD MS *SEUSSICAL*

**Mallorie McBride** (*Maysie LaBird*)

## OLATHE HIGH SCHOOLS / JUNIOR HIGHS

## OLATHE SOUTH HS *FOOTLOOSE* Feb. 3-5

Directed by David Hastings (Miller-Marley alumni)  
**Alicia Grieco** (*Ensemble*)

## OLATHE EAST HS *THE PAJAMA GAME* Feb. 3-5

**Madison Cole** (*US Gladys / Dancer*), **Sam Edwards** (*Maintenance Man*)

## INDIAN TRAIL MS *SEUSSICAL, JR.* Feb. 18-19

**Caleb Nugent** (*Mayor*), **Alyssa Hoedel** (*Two Fish*)

## SHAWNEE MISSION HIGH SCHOOLS

## SM SOUTH HS *AIDA* Feb. 16-19

**Amelia Jones** (*Featured Dancer*)

## SM EAST HS *BEAUTY AND THE BEAST* Feb. 3-5

**Emily Welter** (*Belle*), **Wolves / Villagers / Dancers: Megan Nass**, **Emma Meara**,  
**Madison Stottle** Villagers / Dancers: **Britney Hinote**, **Lily Kaufman**, **Hannah**  
**Yeoman** Dancers: **Britney Hinote**, **Alec & Justin Armer**

## SM WEST HS *ANNIE* Feb. 17-19

Choreographed by Ann McCroskey (Miller-Marley instructor)  
**Ethan Zwibeman** (*Ensemble*)

# ALUMNI NEWS



## JANINE DIVITA

Current Broadway Credits:  
*Young Frankenstein The Musical*  
 Role: Elizabeth

Previous Broadway Credits:  
*Grease* (2007) Role: Rizzo

Has performed in regional theaters throughout the country.

Instructor of the performing arts in NYC and the creator and director of "Dream and Reach."



## LISA KARLIN

Current Broadway Credits:  
*The Addams Family*  
 Role: Ancestor / Ensemble

Previous Broadway Credits:  
*Ragtime* (2009-2010) Swing



## KATE CULLEN ROBERTS

Current Broadway Credits:  
*Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*  
 (2010-2011) Role: Elizabeth / Erica

Has performed in regional theaters in NYC and east coast.

Television Credits: *Law and Order*

## ST. JAMES ACADEMY *WILLY WONKA* Feb. 25-27

Directed by Whitney Sneed (Miller-Marley alumni)

**Amanda Burns** (*Charlie*)

## CHRISTIAN YOUTH THEATER *The Wizard of Oz* Feb. 3-6

**Madison Robert** (*Dorothy Gale*), **Rachel Phillips** (*Almira Gulch / Wicked Witch of the West*), **Evan Phillips** (*Uncle Henry / Ozian*), **Munchkins: Lily Giovagnoli**,  
**Grace LaSala**, **Elizabeth Phillips**, **Edanne Summers** **Poppies: Grace LaSala**,  
**Madison Masilionis**, **Elizabeth Phillips**, **Edanne Summers** **Jitterbugs: Josie**  
**Jones**, **Lily Giovagnoli**



Photo courtesy of Jessica Peters

MEGAN SECREST

## Megan Secret - Making Her Mark in KC Professional Theater

Miller-Marley student, 10 year-old Megan Secret, is currently appearing as May Belle in the Coterie Theatre production of *Bridge to Terabithia*. The show will run from Jan. 8th to Feb. 27th.

No stranger to professional theater, recently Megan was featured in the children's ensemble of Kansas City Repertory Theatre's 30th Anniversary production of *A Christmas Carol*.

Previous credits include: Marta, in *The Sound of Music* at the New

Theatre Dinner Theatre (2009) and Ballerina, in the Kansas City Symphony holiday musical *How the Symphony Saved Christmas*. (2009)

Megan is an accomplished singer and studies tap, jazz and ballet at the studio where she is a member of the MiniTainers.

She is a fifth grader at Arbor Creek Elementary School in Olathe, Kansas.

## MMYB NOTES

Laura Branson, ballet instructor and Artistic Director of the MMYB, recently announced that she and her husband, Kyle, are expecting a "boy." The baby, which will be the couple's first child, is due the end of May. Laura will be taking the summer off to attend to mommy duties.

The ballet company is set to begin rehearsals for its spring ballet, *Sleeping Beauty*, to be presented on April 16th and 17th at the Lewis and Shirley White Theatre. Miller-Marley is pleased to announce that alumnus, Francie Huber, has been selected to create a modern piece for the production. Francie was a principal dancer with the renowned Paul Taylor Dance Company for 13 years. In 2000, she was awarded the prestigious Bessie (New York Dance and Performance Award) for outstanding achievement in her work with Mr. Taylor. She was featured in the Academy Award nominated documentary film, *Dancemaker*, and the Emmy Award winning *Speaking in Tongues*. Francie, who currently resides in Florida with her husband and two children, will join our staff for several weeks in February.

## Join Us On

Become a friend of Miller-Marley School of Dance and Voice. Receive up to the minute studio news and important information. Browse the photo gallery and enjoy networking with friends.

A link to our Facebook page can be found on our website at [www.millermarley.com](http://www.millermarley.com)

## Sarah McMullen Named Pop Artist of the Year



Miller-Marley student, Sarah McMullen, was named Pop Artist of the Year at the 2010 L.A. Music Awards. The red carpet event was held at the Paramount Theater in November.

In the photo, Sarah displays the award with her music producer and mentor, Jonathan George.

## We Have Drinking Fountains!!!



### YOU'RE NOT HALLUCINATING.

It's true. Could we have a drum roll please?

Miller-Marley finally has not one, but TWO drinking fountains! Check them out in Studio One and Studio Five.

We don't know how they got there or why but we're not asking any questions.

In the photo, Gabbie Fried hugs Miller-Marley's latest acquisition.