

Miller Marley

SCHOOL OF DANCE & VOICE



SUMMER 2013

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday June 3

Summer Quarter Begins
TUITION DUE

Thursday July 4

Independence Day
NO CLASSES
(Please make-up this class)

PARENT WATCH WEEK

Watch Week #1

Mon. July 29 - Thurs. Aug. 1
Preschool 1, Preschool 2,
Kindergarten, Combo 1, Combo 2

Watch Week #2

Sun. Aug. 4 - Fri. Aug. 9
All other classes including
Musical Theater & Tumbling

Sunday August 11

Last day of Summer Quarter

**Monday August 12 -
Sunday August 18**

Beginning of School Break
NO CLASSES

END-OF-SUMMER INTENSIVE

Week #1

Mon. Aug. 19 - Thurs. Aug. 22

Week #2

Mon. Aug. 26 - Thurs. Aug. 29

MINI-BALLET INTENSIVE

Mon. Aug. 19 - Thurs. Aug. 22

**Friday August 30 -
Sunday September 8**

End of Summer Break
NO CLASSES

Monday, September 9

Fall Quarter Begins
TUITION DUE

SUMMER INTENSIVE

All-Star Alumni Faculty | Aug. 19-22 & Aug. 26-29



SUZIE GORMAN



RYAN WORSING



KYLE MULLINS



SHANNON DURIG



ROY LIGHTNER



KRISTIN SUDEIKIS



MEGAN SHOARE KIMBALL



APRIL HAMNER

The Intensive is back with a star-studded alumni faculty and 72 class offerings complete with all the essential tips, tools and techniques that every aspiring performer needs to succeed.

Every student from intermediate (levels 4, 5, 6) to advanced (levels 7, 8 & pre-professional) can choose from a variety of classes that include dance, musical theatre, auditioning and more.

The Intensive will culminate with a Student and Parent Symposium on Thursday, August 29th at 8:30pm during which the faculty will share their perspectives on what it's like to be a performer.

The Intensive is open to the public. Faculty bios, costs and a complete class schedule are available on the studio website at millermarley.com

MINI-BALLET INTENSIVE

With Megan Shoare Kimball | Aug. 19-22



Summer Intensive faculty member, Megan Shoare Kimball, is an accomplished ballet dancer and instructor. Megan is one of the studio's favorite guest instructors and this summer she will be conducting a four-day Mini-Ballet Intensive from Aug. 19-22, open to our students in ballet levels 1, 2 and 3. Three classes will be offered and students are grouped as follows: Ballet 1 (2nd-6th), Ballet 2 (3rd-7th) and Ballet 3 (4th-8th).

For those students wanting individualized

instruction, Megan will be available for private lessons Aug. 19-29.

Enrollment information for the Mini-Ballet Intensive is available in the studio office. To schedule private lessons, please contact Megan directly at 913-579-1071.

Megan's kind and sensitive nature makes her a perfect fit for our young ballerinas. Megan resides in Boston where she is on the faculty of the Boston Ballet School.

For Jazz privates please contact Erin Robertson at 913-486-9191

Celebrating 50 Years



Kristin Sudiekis
International Choreographer for Stage and Screen

She [Shirley] looked me right in the eye and said, "You're gonna make it." My stomach dropped...chills...everything...because I already knew that all I wanted to do was dance.

Susie Gorman
Original Broadway Cast of Movin' Out

On my first day of dancing school, Brian pulled me out of class and called Shirley into the room. He told me to point my toe for her. And Shirley said, "She's our little dancer. She's gonna make it."

Grateful To Be Here

We're all familiar with those people who receive a life-time achievement award and recite a long-winded acceptance speech while choking back tears.

Well, not Shirley! In twenty-five words or less, Shirley hit the proverbial nail right on the head when she spoke to the audience at the end of the show.

"This is unbelievable. Most people don't get this many people together until they die. So, I mean...I'm just so grateful to be here with you."

And, Shirley, from all of us who were lucky enough to spend this magical evening with you, that goes double for us.

Once-In-A-Life-Time

It was actually a couple of years ago that Brian McGinness started making mental notes about Miller Marley's 50th Anniversary. In his words, "This will be a once-in-a-life-time event." And, off the top of his head he threw out ideas like...something that would honor Shirley...alumni would attend...a dinner... And, letting his imagination run wild he envisioned dancers jumping out of a cake.

In February 2012, the studio announced that Miller Marley would celebrate its 50th Anniversary commencing that fall and continuing through August 2013. The date for the alumni dinner honoring Shirley was set for May 11, 2013. The word was out. There was no turning back.

In its fifty-year history, Miller Marley has put on more productions than we can count. But this one had to be different - the ultimate family reunion where Shirley would be reunited with the people she lovingly refers to as her "kids."

The biggest challenge was going to be contacting thousands of alumni about the event. And, who better than Ann McCroskey to be in charge - because we're not exaggerating when we say that Ann knows everybody. Ann posted on Facebook, sent e-mails and made hundreds of phone calls. She even met up with a number of alumni and promoted the event on her vacation to New York City, which prompted some people to wonder, "Does Ann ever stop working?"

During the months leading up to the event, the entire staff was pulling out all the stops to create the perfect evening for Shirley. And, it was truly a work of love. The eight Miller Marley performance companies and Ann McCroskey's adult alumni Flash Mob rehearsed behind closed doors, keeping a close watch should Shirley decide to pop in.

The office staff was keeping track of ticket requests that were pouring in faster than they could count them. Miller Marley videographer, Richard McCroskey, was preparing a video featuring a slide show presentation and taped interviews with alumni that would be interspersed throughout the show.

Brian and the crew from Harvest Productions were designing the technical aspects of the large-scale production, that including the performance companies and alumni performances would consist of twenty-three acts.

On With The Show

Highlights of the evening, hosted by emcee, Jay Coombes (local actor and Miller Marley voice instructor) were the performances delivered by an illustrious cast of Miller Marley alumni, many of whom have appeared on Broadway. Alumni who couldn't attend the event were featured in the video segments. Hayley Podschun sent her congratulations to Shirley from backstage at the second North American tour of *Wicked*, where she is playing Glinda.

Anyone who has ever studied with Shirley knows that receiving a compliment from her is like winning the lottery. And, these life-altering moments from their childhoods are indelibly etched in the minds of her former students who spoke at the event.

Shannon Durig
Star of Hairspray on Broadway

She [Shirley] believed in me at step-touch. She told me, "You've got a good bounce." And, I thought, oh my God. I'm going back to you! Shirley saw something in that step-touch and proceeded to take me under her wing.

Puttin' On The Ritz



A black limousine pulls up in front of the Ritz Charles of Overland Park. Shirley Marley, eyes sparkling, emerges from the limo to a rousing ovation from her adoring fans that flank the red carpet.

Cameras are poised and people remark, "Her legs are amazing...She looks just the same as she did 50 years ago."

The doors to the ballroom open and Shirley is surrounded by 578 expectant faces - Miller Marley families past and present, friends and former students, all gathered together to honor the woman, who in the words of many, "made us who we are today."

Alumna, Celia Thompson, created an elaborate cake with an edible replica of Shirley's tap shoes on top.



Shirley with Angel Reda
(currently playing Go-To-Hell Kitty in Chicago on Broadway)

Of her former teacher, Angel said, "I'd like to have her [Shirley] bottled up so I could carry her around with me."



This summer Miller Marley students are entertaining audiences all over the city in professional and community theatre productions. We take great pride in the accomplishments of our students and recognize them in the list that follows.

Please note: We try very hard to include as many students as possible and sincerely apologize if anyone has been left out.

Starlight Theatre

Congratulations to the five Miller Marley alumni appearing at Starlight!

MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT May 31-June 5

Janine DiVita (Lady of the Lake) Broadway credits: *Mystery of Edwin Drood, Anything Goes, Grease, Young Frankenstein*. Brian Sears (Patsy the Horse/Ensemble) Broadway credits: *The Book of Mormon, Lend Me a Tenor, Finian's Rainbow, Grease, All Shook Up*

FLASHDANCE July 9-14

Haley Hannah (Ensemble) Broadway credits: *Bring It On - The Musical*

DISNEY'S THE LITTLE MERMAID July 23-28

Lisa Karlin (Ensemble) Broadway credits: *The Addams Family, Ragtime*

MISS SAIGON Sept. 9-13

Meggie Cansler (Ellen) Broadway credits: *Finian's Rainbow, The Apple Tree, Wicked*

FOOTLOOSE Aug. 5-11 Mitch McCroskey, Grayson Yockey

The Coterie Theatre

VICTORIA MARTIN: MATH TEAM QUEEN July 19-26

Daria LeGrand (Victoria Martin)

Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre

RAGTIME May 30-June 16

Megan Walstrom (Little Girl)

Shawnee Mission Theatre in the Park

Miller Marley's eight performance companies will provide the preshow entertainment for all four shows at the park this summer.

CHILDREN OF EDEN June 7-9 & June 13-15

Sofia Belhourri (Yonah), Dana Arnott (Bird Dancer) - Ensemble: Justin Armer, Tyler Armer, Corinne Bakker, Sam DeVeney, Debbie Huffman, Amanda Miller, Paris Naster, Tanner Neath, Rachel Phillips - Children's Ensemble: Lindsey Hart, Grace Heinrichs, Emma Rose Lord, Amber Dawn Nugent, Lauren Sanford, Devyn Trondson

9 TO 5 June 21-23 & June 27-29

Madeline Browne (Dancer) - Office Men & Women: Abby Cramer, Alicia Grieco, Chris Halford

PETER PAN July 5-7 & July 11-13

Anna Hastings (Liza), Haley Knudsen (Tiger Lily) - Lost Kids: Brendan Hulla, Alec Walberg, Willa Walberg, Wyatt Walberg - Indians: Stephanie Ainsworth, Elizabeth Cox, Nicole McCroskey, Lauren Mylin, Caleb Nugent, Maddie Robert

DAMN YANKEES July 19-21 & July 25-27

Choreographed by Miller Marley instructor, Ann McCroskey

Baseball Players: Brandon Luthi, Keegan Rice, Andrew Thompson - Dancers: Avery Gray, Andrea Strickler - Children's Ensemble: Grace LaSala, Reilly Donnelly

HAIRSPRAY Aug. 2-4 & Aug. 8-10

Hairspray is a joint production with the Jewish Community Center where it will be presented July 13-28.

Jessica Alcorn (Tracey Turnblad), Jay Coombes (Edna Turnblad)

Council Members: Dakota Hoar, Shannon Lowe, Nathan Rommel, Katherine Viviano

Leawood Stage Company

SOUND OF MUSIC July 11-14 & July 18

Lily Giovagnoli (Brigitta), Michele Giovagnoli (Baroness Elberfeld)

Ensemble: Stephanie Ainsworth, Lauren Browning, Sam DeVeney, Joe Giovagnoli, Haley Knudsen, Rachel Phillips

Raytown Arts Council Presented at Raytown High School

SOUND OF MUSIC July 19-21 Katie Hulla (Louisa)

Alumni in the news

Jessica Alcorn & Jay Coombes
to Star in *Hairspray*



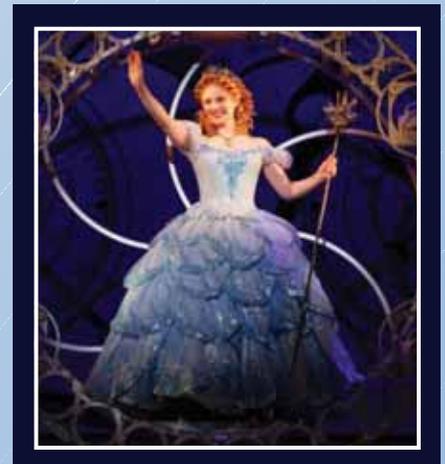
Jay Coombes



Jessica Alcorn

Jay Coombes, local actor, singer, director and Miller Marley voice instructor, will star with Miller Marley alum, Jessica Alcorn, in *Hairspray* this summer. The show is co-produced by the Jewish Community Center and Theatre in the Park. Jessica will play Tracey Turnblad and Jay will be Edna Turnblad in the production. (see list at left for show dates)

Hayley Podschun Stars
in *Wicked*



In April, the company of the second North American Broadway tour of *Wicked*, welcomed Miller Marley alum, Hayley Podschun, to the cast as Glinda.

Wicked chronicles the unlikely relationship between frenemies, "Good Witch" Glinda and her nemesis, Elphaba, aka "The Wicked Witch of the West." In a recent interview with Broadway.com Hayley commented on the evolution of her character. "I love playing Glinda because of her journey from a young flouncy girl to a mature leader. It's rare to play a role that's given a full arc." This is a perfect role for Podschun who describes herself as a girly girl who loves dresses, glitter and pink.

The show will be coming to the Kansas City Music Hall in October and will run from Oct. 9-27. And, Hayley's Miller Marley fan club will be in the audience cheering her on.

Most recently, Hayley appeared on Broadway in *Chaplin* as Charlie's first wife, Mildred Harris. Previous Broadway credits include *Anything Goes, Pal Joey, Sunday in the Park with George, Hairspray*, (including the movie) and *The Sound of Music*.

Miller Marley Triple Threat Performance Award

The finale of this year's Showcase 2013 took an unexpected turn for graduating seniors Ashley Coffin and Mikaila Morgan when Brian McGinness announced that they were the recipients of Miller Marley's "Triple Threat Performance Award." This is a new award that acknowledges students who have finished their senior year in all three performance companies: the Youth Ballet, Competition Team and Entertainers. The stars on the award indicate the number of years the student has dedicated to all three groups. Ashley Coffin received



Ashley Coffin

the Six-Star Award and Mikaila Morgan, the One-Star Award.

Both Ashley and Mikaila have demonstrated extraordinary determination and dedication during their years at Miller Marley. They are top students who do everything and do it well.
- Brian McGinness

Ashley Coffin is a graduate of Blue Valley Northwest High School where she was the captain of the Dazzler Dance Team. She has studied at the American Ballet Theatre Ballet Intensive, The Edge, and the University of Oklahoma Summer Wind Youth Ballet Intensive. Most recently she danced the title role in Miller Marley's *The Little Mermaid*. She plans to attend the University of Oklahoma as a ballet dance major. Mikaila Morgan is a graduate of Olathe Northwest High School and has been dancing at Miller Marley since age three. She plans to attend the University of Kansas as a dance major.



Mikaila Morgan

Ragtime Rocked Her World



When 12 year-old Miller Marley student, Megan Walstrom, was cast in the Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre's production of *Ragtime*, she had no idea how it felt to be a poor Russian immigrant in New York at the turn of the 20th century. All she knew was that she felt like "the luckiest person in world" to have been given this opportunity.

Ragtime, based on the novel by E.L. Doctorow, tells the story of three families: upperclass whites, Eastern Europeans and African Americans, whose lives become entwined in a gripping drama punctuated by the synchopated rhythm of the music that was sweeping the nation called *Ragtime*.

Megan played the character known as Little Girl, the daughter of Tateh, (a Yiddish name for father) a Jewish immigrant from Latvia. As Megan described it, "This has been a summer of 'firsts' for me. It was my first time to perform at the MET (Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre) and the first show in which I had to learn to speak with a Russian accent."

Well-known Kansas City actor, Robert Gibby Brand, played Tateh in the show. Of the great chemistry Megan shared with her onstage dad she said, "Being Robert Gibby Brand's daughter (in *Ragtime*) was a once-in-a-life-time experience. He taught me so much."

The MET, founded by Artistic Director Karen Paisley, is a not-for-profit professional theater located in Midtown Kansas City. Its small and intimate setting gives audience members an up close and personal view of the actors which Megan found a little disconcerting and yet "challenging and rewarding."

Ragtime, presented May 30 to June 6, received rave reviews and played to sold-out crowds every performance. Megan said, "It was an honor to work with so many amazing actors. We became very close and I will treasure the experience forever."

Photo: Megan Walstrom with Robert Gibby Brand

Here Comes Peter Cottontail III

Join Us On

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Become a friend of Miller Marley School of Dance and Voice. Receive up to the minute studio news. Browse the photo gallery and enjoy networking with friends. A link to our Facebook page can be found on our website at millermary.com. A page devoted to our alumni can be found by searching Alumni of Miller Marley Dance Studio.

Kansas City's spring weather this season left a lot to be desired, but inside the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts the weather was just perfect for the regional premiere of the Starlight Children's Theatre production of *Peter Cottontail III*. Five Miller Marley students appeared in the show that was presented from March 29th to Easter Sunday, March 31st: Emerson Pereira (Agnes) Brendan Hulla (Stuart), Journey Tupper (Marta) Lindsey Hart (ensemble) and Katie Hulla (ensemble).

(Pictured L to R) Katie Hulla, Brendan Hulla, Journey Tupper and Emerson Pereira. (Not pictured: Lindsey Hart)

