

Miller-Marley

newsletter



School of Dance & Voice

April / May 2008

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Headline Photos: Taylor Hersh (L) and A.J. Pflumm (R) courtesy of Kevin Smith.

Important Dates

Saturday & Sunday, April 19 & 20

Miller-Marley Youth Ballet Spring Ballet Performance
Cinderella plus Five Original Ballets
Olathe East High School
Saturday - 6:00 p.m. & Sunday - 3:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday, May 17 & 18

Dance Recital 2008
The Lewis and Shirley White Theatre
Jewish Community Center
Saturday - 6:00 p.m. & Sunday - 3:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Friday, May 23

Last day of Spring Session Classes

Saturday, May 24 - Sunday, June 1

Summer Break - No Classes will be held.

Monday, June 2

Summer Session Classes begin - TUITION DUE

Sunday, August 9

Last day of Summer Session Classes

Watch Week Schedule

Please note: There will be no Parent Watch for those classes in the Recital.

Watch Week #1

Saturday, May 3 - Friday, May 9

Shirley Marley, Joan Walsh

Watch Week #2

Saturday, May 10 - Friday, May 16

Hilary Brown, Jill Hochman,
Beth Johnston, Brian McGinness

Watch Week #3

Saturday, May 17 - Friday, May 23

Matthew Donnell, April Hamner,
Ann McCroskey, Laura Skidmore

Summer Schedules

Summer Schedules have been issued and the studio is currently taking registration for summer classes. Please enroll now to guarantee a place for your child.

A Recital for Little Stars

Featuring our Students in
Preschool through Level One
1st through third grade

Miller-Marley Presents...



Performances

Saturday, May 17 at 6:00 pm

Sunday, May 18, at 3:00 pm
and at 6:00 pm



Lewis and Shirley White Theatre
Jewish Community Center
5801 West 115th Street
Overland Park, KS

Miller-Marley Remembers Madge Fenton

On Monday, March 10, Madge Fenton, Shirley Marley's mother, passed away peacefully. Shirley Marley would like to thank all the wonderful Miller-Marley families and friends for their love and support. In memory of Madge, the studio has established The Madge Fenton Memorial Scholarship Fund for Miller-Marley Dance Students. Shirley Marley is very grateful for the many contributions the studio has received. Those wishing to make a donation to the fund may send their contributions to The Madge Fenton Memorial Scholarship Fund, in care of the studio. The upcoming *Dance Recital 2008* and spring ballet performance will be dedicated in loving memory of Madge. We're sure that she will have a front-row seat in Heaven for both performances.

Miller-Marley gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following individuals and will continue to print the names of future contributors.

Lisa Austin & Family

J. Kent Barnhart

Elizabeth Brooks & Family

Barbara Brown

Eleanor Burke

The Clair Family

Val Davidson & Family

Krisa Farrington

Rachel Full & Family

Kathleen Gaume & Family

Brett & Dena Hildebrand

Debbie Huffman & Family

William "Rip" Kesler

Robert Larocca

Linda LeGrand & Family

The Lowe Family

Mary Ellen Lubow

Ann McCroskey & Family

Brian McGinness

Ron McKeown

Marsha Moeller & Family

Pam Morgan & Family

Monte Mullins & Family

Margaret Munson

Beverly Parkhurst

William Perry

Karen Reda & Family

Christine Rouse & Family

Jessica Siplon & Family

Larry & Frances Smith

Ames Stetzler & Family

Rachel Thomas & Family

Kent & Paula Thompson

Noreen Thompson

The Underdown Family

Joyce Urba

Megan Viviano & Family

Linda Worsing & Family

Students on Stage

To Kill a Mockingbird

Kansas City Repertory Theatre Jan. 18 - Feb. 17

Daria LeGrand

Thoroughly Modern Millie

Blue Valley North High School Feb. 7 - 9

Aubrey Ireland, Stephanie Cain, Amy Himmelberg, Rachel Reese

Guys and Dolls Shawnee Mission East H.S. Feb. 7 - 9

Emily Welter

Flower Drum Song Olathe East H.S. Feb. 7 - 9

Katie Hunter, C.J. Bradley, Jessica Alcorn, Annie Brown, Alex Johnson

Godspell Blue Valley Northwest H.S. Feb. 14 - 16

Madeline Anderson, Marty Craft, Brett Hildebrand,

Rachel Hoffmann, Hailey Lapin, Molliann McCulley,

Deepa Prasad

Footloose Blue Valley H.S. Feb. 14 - 16

Directed by: **Brian McGinness**

Choreographed by: **Ann McCroskey**

Brianne Fitzpatrick, Casey Sieckman, Hannah Scott, Austin Stang, Whitney Thurman

Once Upon a Mattress

Shawnee Mission South H.S. Feb. 21 - 23

Nyssa Newcomer, Samantha Fernandez

The Wizard of Oz Harmony Middle School Feb. 28 & 29

Deidre Sachi, Ashley Coffin, Kelsey Glowik,

Lindsey Mehlh, Megan McConnell, Nathan Rommel

Beauty and the Beast

Shawnee Mission West H.S. Apr. 10 - 12

Eric Huffman, Katie Barrett, Anna Gomez, David Gomez

Choreographed by: **Ann McCroskey**

The Music Man Indian Hills Middle School May 8 - 10

Grayson McGuire Choreographed by: **April Hamner**

Annie Get Your Gun Blue Valley Youth Players

Blue Valley West H.S. May 1 - 3

Lexie Hofer, Kayla Clair, Kyra Clair, Gabbie Fried, Gabrielle Hesper, Brett Hildebrand

Daria LeGrand played the role of Scout in The Kansas City Repertory production of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. She will be on tour with the show at The Arizona Theatre Company through April 12. **Haley Knudsen** played Annie in the CYT production of *Annie* at the Rose Theatre, in March.

The following students have the lead role in their spring school musicals: **Eric Huffman**, the Beast, *Beauty and the Beast*, Shawnee Mission West High School; and **Grayson McGuire**, Harold Hill, *The Music Man*, Indian Hills Middle School. **Lexie Hofer** will play Annie Oakley in *Annie Get Your Gun*, presented by the Blue Valley Youth Players, in May.

Dakota Hoar was recently cast as Oliver, and **Alex Peterson**, as The Artful Dodger, in the Jewish Community Center production of *Oliver*, that will open at The Lewis and Shirley White Theatre in July. Miller-Marley instructor, **Ann McCroskey**, will be the choreographer for the show. Look for a complete list of Miller-Marley students in *Oliver* in the next edition of the newsletter.

Brian & Shirley are Doing a Show!



Coming This Summer to Theatre in the Park

July 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26 and 27

Come and Meet Those Dancing Feet

This summer, Brian McGinness and Shirley Marley are teaming up to do the grand-daddy of all musicals, *42nd Street*, at Shawnee Mission Theatre in the Park. The duo did the show at the park in 1998 and now, once again, Brian is setting up his director's chair and Shirley is putting on her tap shoes for the 2008 production. Jill Hochman will act as the Assistant Choreographer.

Miller-Marley student, Stephanie Cain, will play the leading role of ingénue, Peggy Sawyer. She will be following in the footsteps of tap icon, Ruby Keeler, who originated the role in the 1933 film version of the show. *42nd Street* is the classic Cinderella story of a chorus girl who becomes the star of the show when the leading lady suffers a broken leg.

With one production number after another, the 57-member cast has its work cut out for them. But, Director, Brian McGinness, has assembled a first-rate cast and crew that is definitely up for the challenge. Most notably, Constance Ramos, an original cast member of ABC's *Extreme Make-Over: Home Edition* and current host of HGTV's *Color Corrections*, will be designing the sets for the production. Constance is an alumnus, former instructor and a long-time friend of Miller-Marley.

Miller-Marley Students in *42nd Street*:

Peter Barrett, Allison Brimacombe, C.J. Bradley, Stephanie Cain, Madison Cole, Lauren Collins, Nelson Costello, Marty Craft, Brianne Fitzpatrick, Gabbie Fried, Nathan Helming, Brett Hildebrand, Jeremy Ims, Alexandra Johnston, Larissa Klinger, Hailey Lapin, Shannon Lowe, Tamra Mays, Grayson McGuire, Sarah Mikeliat, Angela Podoll, Patrick Pribyl, Hannah Scott, Nancy Vasto, Dominique Vestal and Emily Welter.

Mark your calendars for the weekend of July 18-20 and July 24-27 and shuffle off to Theatre in the Park for *42nd Street*.

Congratulations to the over 40 children and adults from Miller-Marley who will appear in productions at Theatre in the Park this summer!

For a complete listing of Theatre in the Park's 2008 season, please visit their website at www.theatreinthepark.org

We ♥ New York



Brian McGinness and group pose outside the Brooks Atkinson Theatre after attending a performance of *Grease*. (front row L to R) Katherine Viviano, Kyle Mullins, Franklin Carter and Heather Layher. (back row L to R) Lauren Biggs, Aubrey Ireland and Sarah McMullen. Kyle Mullins and Heather Layher are Miller-Marley alumni, currently living in New York, who joined the group to see Brian Sears in *Grease*.

Students Share Fond Memories of First Trip to NYC

Aubrey Ireland (age 17): "Visiting New York was truly amazing. I came home inspired to keep working toward my dreams."

Sarah McMullen (age 13): This trip has been one of the most amazing experiences of my life; especially getting to see Shannon in *Hairspray*. To see how she followed her dreams makes me want my dream of being on Broadway even more. New York is such a magical city I didn't want to leave.

Eight year-old Franklin Carter, the youngest member of the group, confided that he's still carrying around a bunch of souvenirs in his dance bag. When asked about his favorite part of the trip, he answered, "Everything!"

Miller-Marley Students Get a Taste of "The Big Apple"

There's an indefinable magical quality about New York; a feeling so exhilarating that you want to put it in your pocket and carry it around with you forever. Recently, 11 Miller-Marley students got a taste of "The Big Apple" when they traveled to New York City over spring break, during the week of March 17th. To these kids, who have spent the better part of their lives fantasizing about performing on Broadway, being in New York was like being in a fairy-tale; a fairy-tale with an edge, that is. Because, once you hit the streets of Manhattan, the things you see are a dead give away that you're not in Kansas any more.

Chaperoned by Brian McGinness, the group cruised the streets, attended classes at Broadway Dance Center and took in the shows: *Hairspray*, *Mary Poppins* and *Grease*. But, the best part was rubbing elbows with real live celebrities.

Backstage, at *Hairspray*, the kids posed for pictures with the show's leading lady, Shannon Durgin and MTV heartthrob, Ashley Parker Angel, who plays Link Larkin. After seeing *Mary Poppins*, the group was treated to a Q & A session with none other than the show's star, Ashley Brown, A.K.A. Mary Poppins. Over at *Grease*, the kids met Miller-Marley alum, Brian Sears, who is in the ensemble of the show and later, hooked up with another alum, Marty Thomas, who is an ensemble member in *Xanadu*.



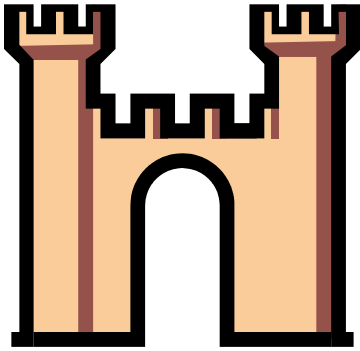
Sarah McMullen (right) with Shannon Durgin, *Hairspray*'s leading lady. While in NYC, Sarah and her family visited the set of "Good Morning America" where they met GMA host, Robin Roberts and "All My Children" actor and former "Dancing With The Stars" contestant, Cameron Mathison, who was a guest on the show that day.

Miller-Marley Students and Staff on the NYC Trip

Brooke Benson, Lauren Biggs, Franklin Carter, Anne and Samantha Fernandez, Aubrey Ireland, Molly McClure, Sarah McMullen, Dominique Vestal, Katherine Viviano, Emily Walton, Nancy Durgin, April Hamner, Beth Johnston and Brian McGinness.

Miller-Marley instructors April Hamner (left) and Beth Johnston (right) with Ashley Parker Angel on the set of *Hairspray*. Singer and current teen idol, Ashley Parker Angel, is a hit recording artist who recently joined the cast of *Hairspray* as Link Larkin. Sorry, April. He has a girlfriend.





The Miller-Marley Youth Ballet Presents

CINDERELLA

And Five Age-Appropriate Original Ballets



Olathe East High School
14545 West 127 Terrace

Saturday, April 19 at 6:00 pm Sunday, April 20 at 3:00 pm

Tickets \$7.00 General Admission *Special Group Rates for Girl Scouts!*



All little girls who have ever dreamed of becoming a princess are invited to attend *Cinderella*, presented by the Miller-Marley Youth Ballet Company. With choreography by Laura Skidmore, Artistic Director of the MMYB, the adaptation of the classic fairy-tale contains both heartfelt and humorous moments that will keep even the little ones on the edge of their seats. Heavenly music by Sergei Prokofiev and beautiful costumes set the stage for a magical story about a girl who rises from rags to riches to marry a handsome prince. There is even an actual life-size golden carriage adorned with flowers and tiny lights to deliver Cinderella to the ball. The part of Cinderella will be played by Charlie Hollmann with Nathan Helming as Prince Charming. Act One will consist of five original ballets ranging in style from classical to contemporary, created by guest choreographers: Hilary Brown, Sharon Haas, April Hamner, Matthew Powell and Elayna Waxse. *Cinderella* will be presented in Act Two. A bake sale will be held in the lobby during intermission. Join the Miller-Marley Youth Ballet in a land where dreams really do come true and be our guests for *Cinderella*.

1,000 Down and She's Still Got It



Photo Broadwayworld.com

Shannon Durig poses for a photo at a party in NYC in honor of her 1,000th performance in the Broadway musical hit, *Hairspray*.

In a prior issue we reported that Miller-Marley's most famous alumnus was named the longest running Tracy Turnblad in the history of Broadway's *Hairspray*. On March 13th, Shannon Durig celebrated another tremendous career milestone - her 1,000th performance! To celebrate the occasion, *Hairspray* threw Shannon a lavish party at "Spotlight," New York's trendy event venue for the elite. Brian McGinness and Shannon's parents, Bob and Nancy Durig, who were on hand for the celebration, described the evening gala as "totally unbelievable."

Shannon's last performance will take place on April 13th. Is there life after *Hairspray*? Word has it that Shannon has just signed with Disney to be the voice of two characters in the animated TV series, *Handy Manny*.

Find out what the future holds for Shannon by visiting her new website at www.shannondurig.com.

Performance Company Shows

Look for all the Miller-Marley Performance Companies in *Dance Recital 2008* Saturday and Sunday, May 17 and 18!

THE ENTERTAINERS

Saturday, May 3 - Sheraton Hotel (College & Lamar)
Benefit for Operation Breakthrough

Friday, June 6 - Festa Italiana - Zona Rosa

THE MINITAINERS

Saturday, June 14 - Overland Park Days
Downtown Overland Park

Saturday, July 14th - Santa Convention Parade
Downtown Overland Park

THE SHOW-BIZ KIDS

Sunday, April 6 - Lakeview Village Retirement

Thursday, July 31 - Starlight Theatre Pre-Show

THE TINI-TAINERS

Saturday, March 29 - Lamar Court Assisted Living

Sunday, April 13 - The Grand Court