



Miller-Marley

School of Dance & Voice

newsletter



October / November 2007

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Important Dates

Saturday, September 8

Fall Session Classes begin
 Tuition is Due in Full

Monday, October 15 - Friday, November 30

Recital Costume Fees Due

Wednesday, October 31

Halloween - No Classes will be held.
 (Students may make-up this date.)

Friday & Saturday, November 2 & 3

The Disney Show - K.C. Benefit Performance
 Blue Valley North High School
 Friday - 7:30 p.m. & Saturday - 2:00 p.m.

Monday, November 19 -

Saturday, November 24

Thanksgiving Break - No Classes will be held.

Saturday, December 1

Winter Session Classes begin
 Tuition is Due in Full.

Saturday & Sunday, December 15 & 16

Clara's Dream Performance
 Blue Valley North High School
 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. shows each day

Friday, December 21 - Thursday, January 3

Winter Break - No Classes will be held.

Friday, January 4

Winter Session Classes resume

Watch Week Schedule

Watch Week #1

Saturday, Nov. 3 - Friday Nov. 9

Ann McCroskey, Beth Johnston,
 Laura Skidmore

Watch Week #2

Saturday, Nov. 10 - Friday, Nov. 16

Hilary Brown, Matthew Donnell,
 April Hamner

Watch Week #3

Saturday, November 17 and

Monday, Nov. 26 - Friday, Nov. 30

Sharon Ingebritson, Shirley Marley
 Brian McGinness
 Susie Gorman (Sub for Joan Walsh)

A Recital for the Younger Set

Dance Recital 2008 is Coming!!!

Step aside, big kids.
 It's our turn now.
 Little kids rock!



Photo courtesy of Julie Ireland

This spring we will be doing a recital just for our younger students who are enrolled in the Preschool through Level One classes.

Young children change so quickly that we wanted our parents to have the chance to see their children perform this spring, instead of waiting another year for the next Showcase.

Dance Recital 2008 will be presented at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, May 17 and 18 and will be held at a local high school. (TBA) Mark your calendars now for this memorable occasion.

Five year old Allison Masilionis had a blast performing her *Hound Dog* dance in last year's *Showcase 2007*. She'll be back in the spring with a whole new routine and can't wait to get on the stage again. She hopes that all her little friends at Miller-Marley will join her in making *Dance Recital 2008* a must see event.

Staff Notes

Though ballet instructor, **Matthew Donnell**, spends most evenings at the Miller-Marley putting the dancers through their paces, he has a day job, too. Matthew is a full-time member of the Kansas City Ballet and recently had the honor of being selected as a soloist for the company's fall production, *Company B*, presented at the Lyric Theatre, October 11-14. He is currently choreographing *Clara's Dream* for the Miller-Marley Youth Ballet Company. Rumor has it that Matthew was spotted in Ms. Jill's Monday night adult tap class doing double-triple time-steps!

Long time Miller-Marley instructor and Minitainer Director, **Joan Walsh**, has taken a medical leave of absence and hopes to return around the beginning of January. Joan said, "I know that I will miss working with the kids terribly since this will be my first time not teaching in 42 years."

Shirley Marley is recovering nicely from a broken foot that required surgery. Though, we hope she can resist the temptation, if anybody could tap dance with her foot in a cast, it would be Shirley. Looks like Shirley will be tapping with her fingers for a while. Shirley extends her thanks to everyone for their cards and gifts.

In addition to her teaching duties, **Jill Hochman** is wearing a new hat. She recently became Miller-Marley's first Marketing Director and will be reporting on her progress in upcoming issues of the newsletter.

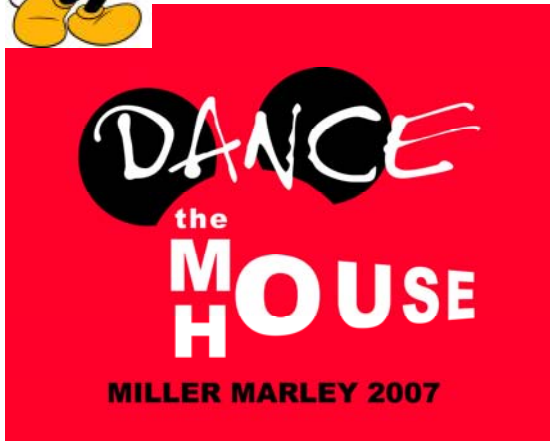
Did anyone notice that **Laura Skidmore**, Artistic Director of the MMYB, is wearing an engagement ring?

Headline Photos, Taylor Hersh (L) and AJ Pflumm (R) courtesy of Kevin Smith

Dance the Mouse House logo and graphics by Richard McCroskey.



It's All About Disney



Miller-Marley Students to Perform at Disney World

Put on your Mickey Mouse ears and listen up because it's all about Disney. Over the Thanksgiving holiday, a select group of Miller-Marley students will be performing on the Galaxy Theatre stage in the Magic Kingdom at Disney World. The 54-member troupe, under the direction of Ann McCroskey, will present a Broadway style song and dance revue titled "Dance the Mouse House." Rehearsals began this summer for the high energy show with production numbers that include: *Welcome to the 60's*, *Movin' Out*, *Reach for the Stars*, *Newsies*, *Ladies Choice* and *Hand Jive*. Everyone is invited to attend the Disney World Performance Preview that will be held at Blue Valley North High School on Friday, November 2 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, November 3 at 2:00 p.m. The program will begin with presentations from the Entertainers, Minitainers, Tini-Tainers and the Show Biz Kids. Following intermission, the Disney kids will delight the audience with nonstop entertainment. Tickets are \$5.00 and are currently available in the studio office. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Disney troupe to offset costume and production expenses. Patrons can also look forward to a huge Bake Sale. Many thanks to the entire Disney crew for a fantastic job.

The Disney Kids

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Caroline Adams | Jeanette LaFreniere |
| Alyssa Barbour | Stephanie LeBlanc |
| Katie Barrett | Bentley Leonard |
| Sarah Bezek | Shannon Lowe |
| Ashley Coffin | Nicole McCroskey |
| Jordan Cole | Lindsey Mehlin |
| Lyndsey Cole | Mallory Newhouse |
| Madison Cole | Katie Norry |
| Jordan Delaney | Hannah Odgers |
| Sara Doherty | Mikaela O'Neill |
| Krisa Farrington | A.J. Pflumn |
| Anne Fernandez | Nathan Rommel |
| Samantha Fernandez | Brittany Rouse |
| Brianne Fitzpatrick | Kate Rumsey |
| Lizzy Fleet | Cora Schimke |
| Gabbie Fried | Casey Sieckman |
| Rachel Full | Jessica Siplon |
| Allie Hamilton | Nicole Smith |
| Abby Harrison | Haley Stewart |
| Nathan Helming | Whitney Thurman |
| Rachel Hoffman | Faith Tyrell |
| Emily Holland | Carynn Valdez |
| Carlie Hollmann | Krista Valdez |
| Eric Huffman | Katherine Viviano |
| Ashtyn Hutchings | Morgan Weiler |
| Laura Kaufman | Jenna Wetzel |
| Haley Knudsen | Molly Wetzel |

Hannah Montana, Baby!



Photo courtesy of Bonnie McMullen

Lately, Hannah Montana has become a household word. Disney's hit TV series, *Hannah Montana*, starring Miley Cyrus, has spawned thousands of Hannah Montana wannabe's.

This summer, Miller-Marley students, Sarah McMullen and Allison Owen, had the chance to impersonate their favorite teen-idol in a singing contest hosted by "Radio Disney" at Independence Center on August 18. Out of the 45 contestants, Allison Owen was a winner in the Hannah look alike contest.

Based on her singing and acting ability, Sarah McMullen was named as the Grand Prize winner. Sarah is one of 11 regional winners who are competing for the national finals. If selected, Sarah will win a trip to the Disney Studios where she will sit-in on a taping of the TV show.

When asked if she was able to get tickets for the upcoming concert at the KC Sprint Center, Sarah replied, "Yes. I'm a member of the Hannah Montana Fan Club!"

Speaking of Orlando, Florida...Ann McCroskey's niece, Amy Moore, has appeared at Sea World Orlando. She currently plays Cat Woman at Universal Studios and is a story teller in the Norway show at the Epcot Center. Another niece, Dana Arnott, has the lead in Sea World's *Sesame Street Halloween Spooktacular*. Both girls are Miller-Marley alumni.

(L to R) Allison Owen and Sarah McMullen are shown posing together at the "Radio Disney" Hannah Montana contest. For her performance, Sarah donned a blonde wig as does TV character, Miley Stewart, when she transforms into teen pop sensation, Hannah Montana. About this Sarah said, "In the contest, at the end of my song I totally surprise everyone and throw off the wig."

On Stage

The Diary of Anne Frank Olathe Community Theatre Oct. 6 - 20
Jessica Ims (*Ann Frank*)

Grease Leawood Middle School Oct. 18 - 19

Sarah McMullen (*Pinky Flamingo*), **Lauren Biggs**, **Haley Knudsen**,
Krista Spindler (*Pink Ladies*) **Rachel Arends** (*Fairy Godmother*), **Emily Walton** (*featured dancer*), **Dani Belzer**, **Allison Owen** (*Ensemble*)

Children of Eden Jewish Community Center Oct. 22 - Nov. 11

Choreographed by Ann McCroskey

Dakota Hoar (*Young Cain*), **Dancers / Storytellers:** **Sarah Bezek**,
Stephanie Cain, **Lauren Collins**, **Katie Hunter**, **Ashtyn Hutchings**,
Laura Kaufman, **Mayme Marshall**, **AJ Pflumm**

Fiddler on the Roof Olathe South High School Nov. 15 - 17

Anna Hastings (*Bielke*),

The Happy Elf The Coterie Theatre Nov. 13 - Dec. 30

Daria LeGrand (*Eubie*)

Grease Shawnee Mission South H.S. Nov. 15 - 17

Samantha Fernandez, **Nyssa Newcomer** (*Ensemble*)

A Christmas Carol K.C. Repertory Theatre Nov. 17 - Dec. 24

Dakota Hoar (*Scrooge's Boy*), **Pinkerton Hoar** (*Tiny Tim U.S.*),
Caroline Adams / **Katie Hall** (*Belinda Cratchit*), **Jessica Ims** (*Fan*)

Daria is a Hit with Harry



Photo courtesy of Linda LeGrand

Harry Connick, Jr. hugs Daria LeGrand, who plays Molly, in his new jazz musical, "The Happy Elf," premiering at the Coterie Theatre in November.

Daria LeGrand, pictured above, is all smiles after receiving a dose of happiness from a cheerful elf in the Coterie Theatre's upcoming production of a musical called "The Happy Elf." Based on a children's book with music and lyrics by none other than jazz master, Harry Connick, Jr., the show tells the story of Eubie, the elf, whose aim it is to bring Christmas joy to the dismal little town of Bluesville. Daria plays a scrappy girl in Bluesville who gets into the holiday spirit with a little help from Eubie. Connick created the score for the show based on his original song, "The Happy Elf," from his 2003 Christmas album. Daria said that she's not used to singing jazz, but is definitely up to the challenge.

Daria had the opportunity to meet Connick when he came to K.C. this summer to meet the cast. Afterwards, Harry was so taken with Daria that he invited her to accompany him to Crown Center's "Hello Kitty" store to pick out presents for his three daughters. "The Happy Elf" runs from November 13 - December 30 at the Coterie Theatre in Crown Center. Please see the schedule in the studio office for the dates that Daria will be performing in the show.



Cindy Joo Makes Movie Debut

Former Miller-Marley student, Cindy Joo, who moved to NYC last spring to pursue her career, just finished shooting her first movie. The film, titled *Phoebe in Wonderland*, stars Elle Fanning as the precocious Phoebe. Cindy plays a friend of Phoebe's named Sara. In the photo, Cindy (on right) poses with new pal, Eille.

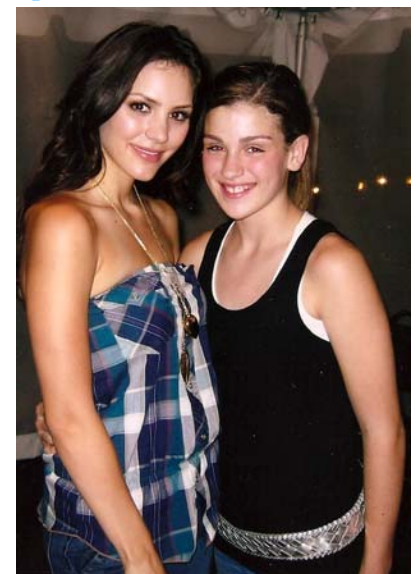
Spring Break in New York



Join Miller-Marley in an exciting trip to New York, City during the Spring Break holiday: Saturday, March 15 through Thursday, March 20. Chaperones, Shirley Marley and Brian McGinness, will treat students, their friends and families to an array of attractions that include classes at the world-renowned Broadway Dance Center, seats for *Grease*, *Mary Poppins* and *Hairspray*, a party with Miller-Marley's star-studded alumni and much more. Don't miss the chance to meet Brian Sears, from the cast of *Grease* and Haley Podschun and Shannon Durig, from the cast of *Hairspray*. Guests will stay at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, located in Times Square, the heart of the theater district. Travel arrangements are being coordinated by Christy Biggs Travel Consultant. Reservations are limited. Call the studio today to find out how to get on board for Broadway.

Mayme Marshall Opens for "Idol" Star

In August, Mayme Marshall appeared at Six Flags St. Louis as the opening act for pop singer, Katherine McPhee, the runner-up in the fifth season of TV's *American Idol*. Since *Idol*, McPhee has catapulted to super stardom with singles ranking her at the top of the music charts. Mayme won the chance to open for McPhee in a singing contest sponsored by a local TV station in St. Louis and now holds the title of Junior Stars Champion. The talented 13 year old said, "I am passionate about singing." Mayme sang *Broken Wing* and *Trouble is a Woman*. With pipes like hers, Look out Simon. Here comes Mayme Marshall!



Mayme Marshall with *American Idol* star, Katherine McPhee at Six Flags St. Louis

Photo courtesy of Cheryl Marshall

Clara's Dream - Celebrating Holiday Tradition

December 2007 will mark the third year for what has become a holiday tradition at Miller-Marley: The Miller-Marley Youth Ballet's production of *Clara's Dream*. This lovely and magical adaptation of the *Nutcracker* ballet is the perfect prelude to the holiday season. Written and choreographed by Matthew Donnell, with additional choreography and staging by Laura Skidmore, Artistic Director of the MMYB, this year's ballet will definitely raise the bar for what promises to be another magnificent production.

According to Company Coordinator, Brian McGinness, "I am proud to announce that this year we have nearly doubled the size of the cast to 84 and will be doing four shows instead of two. In addition, we have expanded the choreography to include two new characters, Mother Ginger and The Cavalier, who will be featured in "The Kingdom of the Sweets."

Clara's Dream will be presented at Blue Valley North High School on Saturday and Sunday, December 15 and 16. There will be a matinee at 2 p.m. and an evening performance at 7 p.m. each day. Act One will feature our performing companies. The ballet will be performed in Act Two, following intermission. General seating is \$7 and tickets will be available beginning November 15 in the studio office. Reserved VIP seating will be available for a donation to the MMYB of \$40 per ticket. A Holiday Bake Sale will be held in the theater lobby with proceeds to benefit the MMYB Costume Closet.

Please be our guests for *Clara's Dream*. Here's to sweet dreams and visions of sugar plums in the New Year that lies ahead!



Chandler Leonard

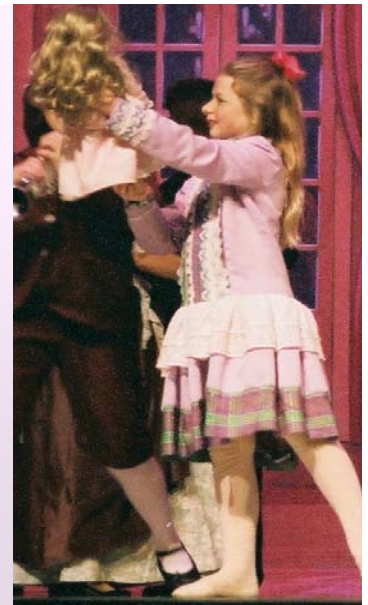
Principal Cast - Clara's Dream

Lindsey Mehlin / Hannah Odgers *Clara*
 Krisa Farrington / Carlie Hollmann *Snow Queen*
 Nathan Helming / CJ Bradley *Snow King*
 Carlie Hollmann / Laura Kaufman *Sugar Plum Fairy*
 AJ Pflumm / Nathan Helming *The Cavalier*
 Jessica Alcorn *Mother Ginger* Chris Halford *Drosselmeyer*
 Laura Kaufman / Mikaela O'Neill *Dew Drops*

The Miller-Marley Youth Ballet Company

Molly Barlett, Sarah Bezek, CJ Bradley, Noelle Bradley, Ashley Coffin, Sara Doherty, Krisa Farrington, Anne Fernandez, Lizzy Fleet, Rachel Full, Abby Harrison, Nathan Helming, Carlie Hollmann, Katie Hunter, Laura Kaufman, Lily Kaufmann, Jordan MacGillavry, Nicole McCroskey, Lindsey Mehlin, Hannah Odgers, Mikaela O'Neill, AJ Pflumm, Jamie Ras, Haley Stewart, Krista Valdez.

Thanks to the guest members of the cast who have so generously given their time and talents to this production.



Hannah Yeoman

Photos courtesy of Julie Ireland

Performance Company Shows

October Shows

Saturday, Oct. 13

**Crown Center
Pumpkin Patch**

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tini-Tainers, Minitainers,
Show-Biz Kids, Entertainers

Saturday, Oct. 27

American Royal

Noon to 2 p.m.

Tini-Tainers, Minitainers,
Show-Biz Kids, Entertainers

Saturday, Oct. 20

Stratford Commons

2 p.m. Tini-Tainers

November Shows

Friday & Saturday

Nov. 2 - 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 3 - 2 p.m.

Disney World Show

Blue Valley North

All Performance Companies

Saturday, Nov. 17

Viviano Variety Show

Rose Theatre

Disney Troupe

Special Guest Performers

*Contact Ann McCroskey for special discounted tickets to this event.

December Shows

Saturday, Dec. 8

**Children's Mercy
Hospital Benefit**

Minitainers

Saturday, Dec. 15

Sunday, Dec. 16

Clara's Dream

Blue Valley North

2 p.m. & 7 p.m. each day

All Performance Companies

Clara's Dream Group Discounts

Miller-Marley recently has become a Community Partner with the Girl Scouts. In support of this organization, we will be offering discounted rates for *Clara's Dream* to Girl Scout groups of 10 or more people.

Children (up to age 18) - \$4.00 per person

Adults - \$6.00 per person

Groups will receive reserved seating and a backstage tour before the performance. We urge anyone who has an affiliation with the Girl Scouts to take advantage of this opportunity. Please direct all inquiries and reservation requests to Jill Hochman.

Best wishes to you and your family
for the upcoming holiday season
from Shirley Marley and the entire staff
at Miller-Marley School of Dance & Voice