

# MILLER MARLEY

School of Dance & Voice

NEWS | SUMMER 2011



Photo by Shery McAvoy

## SUMMER INTENSIVE

All-Star Alumni Faculty | Aug. 22-25 & Aug. 29-Sept. 1



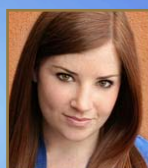
SUZIE GORMAN



KRISTIN SUDEIKIS



ROY LIGHTNER



SHANNON DURIG



APRIL HAMNER

The Intensive is back with a star-studded alumni faculty and 71 class offerings complete with all the essential tips, tools and techniques that every aspiring performer needs to succeed. Every student from beginner to pre-professional; second grade through college can choose from a variety of classes that include dance, voice, auditioning and more. Schedules and enrollment information are available in the studio office.

## SAY HELLO TO STUDIO #6

With our current enrollment at 625 and an estimated 800 students in the fall, Miller Marley is bulging at the seams. Enter - Studio #6. Our new studio will be constructed in two empty retail spaces on the west wing of the shopping center. When complete, Studio #6 will be our largest studio and will be an area the size of Studio #4 and #5 together. Studio Director, Brian McGinness, had this to say about the expansion: "This has been a dream of mine for many years and would not have been possible were it not for the continued support of our dedicated families. On behalf of the entire Miller Marley Staff. Thank you for making our dreams come true."

## Miller Marley's Got Talent Showcase 2011



Photo by Sheryl McAvoy

**WE R WHO WE R** - Beth Johnston, Instructor  
Take a look at beauty in motion.



Photo by Sheryl McAvoy

**POWER** - Tara Wells, Instructor  
Hannah Odgers in her death-defying stunt as a human jump rope

## IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, August 12  
Last day of Summer Quarter classes  
Monday, August 22 - Thursday, August 25  
Summer Intensive - Week One  
Monday, August 29 - Thursday, September 1  
Summer Intensive - Week Two  
Thursday, September 8  
Fall Quarter Classes Begin - Tuition Due

## PARENT WATCH WEEK

### Watch Week #1

Monday, August 1 - Thursday, August 4  
Preschool and Combo Classes:  
Jill Hochman, Beth Johnston  
and Ann McCroskey

Jazz and Ballet Classes:  
Hilary Brown and Annie Paglusch  
*Please check room assignments  
the day of your watch.*

### Watch Week #2

Monday, August 8 - Friday, August 12

All older classes will have watch in  
their regular classrooms.





# KIDS ON STAGE

## Grant Karpin Lands First Major Role in Starlight's *King and I*



Photo by Bob Compton

Grant Karpin (left) as Louis with Brian Mathis as Captain Orton in Starlight Theatre's production of *The King and I*

Some kids spend the summer at the pool. But, Miller Marley student, 12 year-old Grant Karpin, is spending the summer at Kansas City's Starlight Theatre and there's no place he'd rather be. Grant played the role of Louis, Anna's son, in the theatre's production of *The King and I* (June 6-12) and will appear in *Cinderella* (July 25-31) as a member of the children's ensemble.

No stranger to the Starlight stage, Grant was an orphan boy in the 2009 production of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. However, *The King and I* marked Grant's first major role and in a professional theatre, no less.

Working with pros like Lou Diamond Phillips (the King of Siam) and Rachel Bay Jones (Anna) could have been quite unnerving. Grant said, "It wasn't really nerve wracking because the interaction with Rachel, Lou and all the cast made me feel like I wasn't performing, but instead, really in the scene."

Starlight is the nation's second largest theatre of its kind and has a seating capacity of approximately 8,000 people. "It was really incredible and such a thrill performing in front of so many people every night," said Grant.

Before each show, Lou Diamond Phillips would say to Grant, "Knock 'em dead, buddy." And that's exactly what Grant did, English accent and all.

This fall Grant will be a seventh grader at Community School #1 in Mission, KS.



Photo by Kevin Smith

## THE CHILDREN'S CHORUS

(top row l to r)  
Devyn Trondson, Erin Lowe, Sydney Osterlund, Amanda Dulny, Maddie Robert, Kylee Wallentine, Mia Vaught, Kylie Ledford

(third row l to r)  
Elizabeth Phillips, Megan Walstrom, Michelle Maddock, Elizabeth Kuffour, Maya Stratman

(second row l to r)  
Tristan Rios, Savanna Worthington, Lauren Sanford, Katie Hulla, Genevieve Austin

(first row l to r)  
Caitlin Gardner, Grace LaSala, Anna Hastings

## Miller Marley Students in *Joseph* at The New Theatre

Miller Marley's stellar reputation for turning out talent is a major factor when local professional theaters are in need of child actors. In March, Brian McGinness was selected by Joe Fox, V.P. of Production for The New Theatre, to cast the Children's Chorus for the theatre's summer musical, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Mr. Fox was looking for 24 girls from 8 to 12 years old who could sing and dance and were no taller than 4 feet 8 inches.

Brian, assisted by colleague Jill Hochman, sought out young ladies in the student body who could meet the criteria. Of this process Brian stated, "We not only looked at girls in the performing companies, but also did a thorough search in our dance classes. Jill and I were amazed to discover how many really talented singers we had."

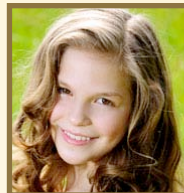
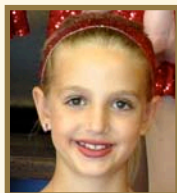
The Children's Chorus is double cast with two groups of 12 girls. Each group will perform for four out of the eight weeks. Now that the show is underway, the first group of girls are having the time of their lives. Eleven year-old Savanna Worthington had this to say about the experience, "The cast and crew have been so open and understanding. They treat us like professionals and have such a great sense of humor, too." Maria Worthington, Savanna's mother, echoed the sentiments of all the parents. "I've been so impressed with the kindness and professionalism at *The New Theatre*. They do such a great job with the young ones."

Two alumni also in the production are Miller Marley instructor, Erin Robertson, who is one of Joseph's wives and David Thompson, who plays Dan.

### The Children's Chorus:

Cast One (June 23-July 24): Genevieve Austin, Amanda Dulny, Caitlin Gardner, Grace LaSala, Sydney Osterlund, Elizabeth Phillips, Tristan Rios, Madison Robert, Maya Stratman, Savanna Worthington, Devyn Trondson, Kylie Ledford.

Cast Two (July 26-August 28): Lily Giovagnoli, Anna Hastings, Katie Hulla, Elizabeth Kuffour, Michelle Maddock, Kylee Wallentine, Megan Wlastrom, Lauren Sanford, Emma VanLieshout, Mia Vaught, Catherine Frerker, Erin Lowe.



Members of the Children's Chorus not pictured in photo above:  
(L to R) Catherine Frerker, Lily Giovagnoli, Emma VanLieshout



This summer Miller Marley students are entertaining audiences all over the city. Over 30 children and teens were cast in professional theatres and over 50 in community theatre productions. We take great pride in the accomplishments of our students and many of them are recognized in the list that follows.

### Starlight Theatre

**THE KING AND I** June 6-12 Grant Karpin (Louis)

**CINDERELLA** July 25-31

Children's Ensemble: Nick Grant, Grant Karpin, Megan Secrest, Caroline Shaw, Grace Vedock

**XANADU** Aug. 15-21 Teen Ensemble: Alex Peterson, Grayson Yockey

### The New Theatre Dinner Theatre

**JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT** June 23-Aug. 28

Children's Chorus: (June 23-July 24) Genevieve Austin, Amanda Dulny, Caitlin Gardner, Grace LaSala, Kylie Ledford, Sydney Osterlund, Elizabeth Phillips, Tristan Rios, Madison Robert, Maya Stratman, Devyn Trondson, Savanna Worthington (July 26-Aug. 28) Catherine Frerker, Lily Giovagnoli, Anna Hastings, Katie Hulla, Elizabeth Kuffour, Erin Lowe, Michelle Maddock, Lauren Sanford, Emma VanLieshout, Mia Vaught, Kylee Wallentine, Megan Walstrom  
Adults: Erin Robertson, MillerMarley Instructor (Wife), David Thompson, alumnus (Dan)

### The Coterie Theatre

**THE WIZ** June 28-Aug. 8 Christopher Barksdale, Miller Marley Instructor (Lion)

### The Kansas City Music Hall

**CHILDREN OF EDEN** July 15-24 Ensemble: Amanda Burns, Sarah Bergeson

### Leawood Stage Company

**BYE BYE BIRDIE** July 14-17 & 21-23

Teen Ensemble: Sam DeVeney, Haley Knudsen, Rachel Phillips, Edanne Summers  
Children's Ensemble: Kylie Brown, Connor Clary Adult Ensemble: Corinne Bakker, Debbie Huffman, Marshall Rimann

### Shawnee Mission Theatre in the Park

**THE SOUND OF MUSIC** June 10-12 & 16-19

Anna Arends (Postulant), Mattie Bell (Louisa), Millie Bell (Gretl), Avery Gray (Brigitta), Brenden Hulla (Kurt), Caleb Nugent (Ensemble)

**LES MISEERABLES** June 24-26 & July 1-3

Choreographed by Miller Marley Instructor, Ann McCroskey  
Lindsey Hart (Gavroche), Anna Hastings (Young Cosette), Brett Hildebrand (Grantoire), Charlie Meredith (Jean Valjean), Micayla Miller (Madame Thenardier), Alex Peterson (Marius)  
Ensemble: Dakota Hoar, Lily Kaufmann, Lauren Mylin, Nick Pelaccio, Emily Welter, Grayson Yockey

**AIDA** July 8-10 & July 14-17

Ensemble: Madison Cole, Nelson Costello, Elizabeth Cox, Nathan Rommel

**SEUSSICAL** July 22-24 & July 28-31

Jessica Alcorn (Mayzie), Justin Armer (Wickersham), Amber Dawn Nugent (Cindy Lou)  
Children's Ensemble: Maria Leno, Mallorie McBride, Caleb Nugent, Evan Nugent, Gabby Wadley, Madeline Wadley Adult Ensemble: Joe and Michele Giovagnoli

### The Alcott Arts Center

**HEIDI** June 3-5 & 10-12 Francesca Mauro (Heidi)

### re.Act Theatre Camp

**DISNEY'S HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL** July 13 & 14

Choreographed by Miller Marley Instructor, Ann McCroskey  
Double Cast Roles: Lauren Mylin & Avery Gray (Sharpay), Mitch McCroskey & Samuel Long (Chad), Amanda Miller & Morgan Sterrett (Taylor) Other: Camille Abdel (Susan), Erica Christie (Ms. Darbos), Sam DeVeney (Thespian), Grant Karpin (Ripper) Cheerleaders: Libby Brennaman, Claire Eggleston, Emily Fiola, Katie Henderson

# Alumni

In TWO Tony Winning Shows



Brian Sears



Hayley Podschun

When the 2011 Tony Awards were announced, Miller Marley alumni, Brian Sears and Hayley Podschun, were jumping for joy. Brian is in the cast of *The Book of Mormon* - "Best Musical" and the big winner of the night with nine Tonys. Hayley is in the cast of *Anything Goes*, winner of "Best Revival of a Musical."

Brian Sears is part of the Mormon ensemble. According to Ann McCroskey, (Miller Marley instructor) who recently saw the show, "Brian is listed as 'ensemble' but he is actually featured a great deal. He sings, he even taps, he has lines and he's hysterical. What a standout!"

Hayley Podschun, who covers for 8 different parts, joined the *Anything Goes* cast the week before the Tonys. "It was so exciting to be in the theatre when everyone was full of excitement," she said. With so many show-stopping tap numbers, it's not surprising that the show won a Tony for "Best Choreography." And, speaking of choreography, Hayley had this to say, "I am totally flashing back to all of Shirley's tap classes. Thanks to her I can pick up the tap steps super fast and am still blessed with crisp, clean sounds and strong arms." And, did we mention that Hayley thanked Miller Marley in her Playbill bio?

## Join Us On **facebook**

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)

A Facebook page devoted to our alumni can be found by searching Alumni of Miller Marley Dance Studio.



## FOCUS ON OUR SUMMER GUEST INSTRUCTORS

Miller Marley is thrilled to welcome three guest instructors who have joined our faculty for the summer. All three bring with them a wealth of experience and passion for their art. We interviewed Megan Shoare, Tara Glaus and Lisa Dillinger and here is what they had to say. Check out their impressive bios on our studio website.



### **MEGAN SHOARE** (Substitute for Laura Branson)

Ballet 1 (4th-6th) & (7th & Up) - Ballet 2 (6th & Up)  
Ballet 3 - Ballet 7

#### **Q Explain how corrections and feedback from the instructor are so vital to the student's self-esteem.**

I think it is extremely important for instructors to give constant individual feedback for a dancer's understanding as we ask them to connect the ideas in their brains to their bodies. I remember feeling disappointed if I did not receive any corrections from my teachers. When I was given individual attention I felt as though the teacher thought I had potential and was worth spending the time on. Every student deserves as much as I can give. I want my students to feel accomplished and realize their full potential with hope that this teaches them that they can do anything they put their minds to.



### **TARA GLAUS** (Substitute for Erin Robertson)

Modern Dance (levels 4-8)

#### **Q What is it about Modern Dance that makes it so appealing and how can it benefit the student?**

Modern dance movement gives individuals a chance to really explore and be free with their bodies. Students can easily identify with it because they can express themselves through movement that is descriptive, yet limitless. Modern teaches body awareness, confidence, open mindedness and gives dancers the opportunity to move without restrictions. Students can find gratification in letting go of tensions and fears while dancing and will come to understand expressive movement in an innovative and dynamic way while discovering the many kinetic surprises that can occur along the way.



### **LISA DILLINGER** (Substitute for Laura Branson & MMYB Interim Director)

Ballet 4 through 8 - Ballet Variations - Adult Ballet

#### **Q What lasting impression would you like to leave with our students?**

Proper technique and an understanding of the human mind and anatomy are vital to the learning process in dance. Knowledge and openness are the keys to success in life. We all learn best under inspiration but have to get out of our comfort zones and embrace change in order to achieve our full potential. Students are always amazed how fast they can improve once they are given the correct guidance and knowledge to do so.

Note: Lisa will be joining the Miller Marley staff this fall.



## Backstage Drama

Look Lucas . . .  
If I've told you once I've  
told you a thousand times.  
I love somebody and  
I WON'T SAY WHO!!!!!!

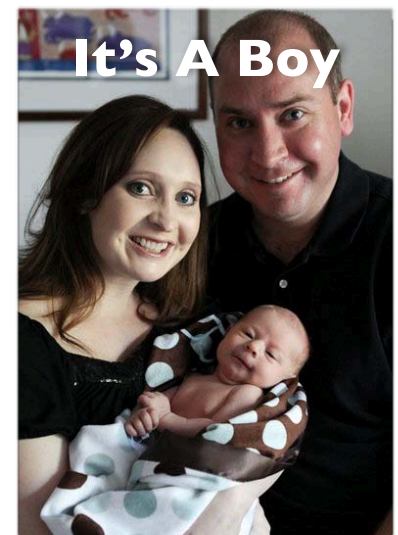


Lucas Peterson and Kendall Montgomery

I'll have  
my people  
call  
your people.



Noah Hastings



On May 28th Laura and Kyle Branson welcomed Kellen Michael Branson into the world. Congratulations to the proud parents!