

SPRINGFIELD BALLET COMPANY

& Training Academy

Julie Ratz, Artistic Director

Gina DeCroix, Ballet Mistress

Sally Hamilton, Business Manager

The Springfield Ballet Company is a not-for-profit civic ballet company dedicated to preserving the art of dance in central Illinois. The Company has three major performances each season, as well as numerous educational and outreach programs throughout the year.

The Company consists of dancers from throughout the area who train and rehearse 20 to 30 hours per week. Dancers must maintain a 3.0 GPA and commit to 6.5 hours of dance classes per week, in addition to SBC rehearsals.

The SBC Training Academy is the only dance school in the Springfield area formally affiliated with a civic ballet company. The Academy offers a unique educational experience to young dancers. With small classes and expert instruction from SBC staff and guest artists, trainees receive rare insight into the life of professional and aspiring dancers. The Academy offers three trimesters of classes throughout the season, as well as an intensive training workshop in August. Classes and rehearsals are held at the Hoogland Center for the Arts in historic downtown Springfield.

The Company and Training Academy accept dancers only after an audition. Company positions are open to advanced dancers 13 years and older. Trainee positions are open to intermediate dancers age 10 and up. Placement into the Training Academy does not guarantee participation in SBC performances or future Company membership. Each opportunity is subject to separate open auditions.



Photo: Donna Lounsberry

The Training Academy is offered in three trimesters:

- ~ May, June & July
- ~ September, October & November
- ~ January, February & March

A maximum of 30 Trainee positions are available. Acceptance of a Trainee position demands a full year commitment. Additional auditions may be held throughout the year as needed.

Training Academy fees are \$150 per trimester, payable upon the first lesson of each trimester.

Training Academy Classes:
Sundays, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Schedule** for Company Classes and Rehearsals:

Saturdays, 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sundays, 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Additional rehearsals as needed. Company schedules will be passed out monthly.

AUDITIONS

Sunday, May 2, 2010

12 - 1:30 p.m.

Hoogland Center for the Arts

Theatre II

Audition Attire / Trainee Uniform:

Women: black leotard, pink tights, pink pointe/ballet shoes, hair in a secure bun

Men: black pants/tights, white t-shirt, black or white ballet shoes

Dancers may audition for Company positions, Trainee positions or both.

There is a \$20 audition fee for all SBC Company, Trainee and performance-related auditions.



Photo: John Muchow

SBC Staff



Julie Ratz, Artistic Director

Julie is an instructor at Dance Arts Studio, and an adjunct professor in dance at Millikin University. She has performed with the SBC, ISU Dance Theatre, Twin Cities Ballet Company, Scottish American Ballet in Edinburgh, Scotland, and Harvard University Summer Dance. She studied dance in Chicago at Lou Conte and Joseph Holmes dance studios, and the Ruth Page Foundation. She has received the Springfield Area Arts Council choreography award, and is a member of the Illinois Arts Council "Partners in Excellence" panel. Julie has performed in Muni's Chicago (Mona) and Peter Pan (Tiger Lily), and HCFA's Pirates of Penzance (Policeman), and Guys & Dolls (Hot Box Girl). She choreographed ADHD's Rocky Horror Show, STC's Camelot and Scrooge, Muni's How to Succeed.... Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, Annie Warbucks, and Miss Saigon, as well as OTM's Urinetown: The Musical, and was co-choreographer for their production of CATS. She also recently co-directed and choreographed OTM's production of Parade at the HCFTA.



Gina DeCroix, Ballet Mistress

Gina is an instructor/choreographer at Dance Arts Studio, Inc. She holds an M.A. in Communication from the University at Illinois at Springfield and a B.A. in Dance Performance from ISU. Gina has performed in and choreographed for countless SBC productions and has performed with the Scottish American Ballet in the Edinburgh Arts Festival Fringe. She has choreographed Sacred Heart-Griffin's (SHG) productions of Beauty & the Beast, Suessical: The Musical, State Fair, Back to the 80s and GODSPELL, and is the choreographer for SHG's Encore! and Premiere. Gina is actively involved in community theatre, having performed in CATS, Urinetown: The Musical, Shakespeare Shorts and Sylvia for Over the Moon Productions (OTM); and in A Chorus Line, Miss Saigon and The Producers for Muni.



Sally Hamilton, Business Manager

Sally joined the Springfield Ballet Company as Business Manager in August of 2007. Prior to joining SBC, Sally worked for 25 years at Memorial Medical Center in the Human Resources Department coordinating recruitment, employee relations and event planning. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business from Western Illinois University. Sally has been an active volunteer in the community for SBC, Springfield Theatre Center, Springfield Municipal Opera and Sacred Heart - Griffin High School.

2010-2011 Season

Summer Senior Tour:
June 14-18, 2010

Summer Intensive Workshops:
August 2-13, 2010

Illinois State Fair Performance:
August 2010

Boys & Girls Clubs Ballet Outreach:
Ongoing through Fall and Spring

Rockballet:
September 11 & 12, 2010

Auditions for *The Nutcracker*:
September 19, 2010

Festival of Trees Performance:
November 2010

***The Nutcracker*:**
December 11 & 12, 2010

First Night Springfield Performance:
December 31, 2010

Girl Scout Workshop:
Spring 2011

***Dance in Illinois*:**
Spring 2011

***Cinderella*:**
April 16 & 17, 2011



and
Training Academy

2010-2011 Season



Photo: Patrick Russell



Photo: Donna Lounsberry

Springfield Ballet Company
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