

March 2013

All American Ballet School students win prestigious merit scholarships & acceptances; two alumni earn top professional rankings

Ventura, CA. In February, nine students from All American Ballet School (AAB) received a total of 32 acceptances to the summer intensive programs of prestigious ballet companies across the country. Three students won coveted merit scholarships to the School of American Ballet (SAB), New York City, the official school of New York City Ballet, and Joffrey Ballet, Chicago. Each is a student of AAB's Artistic Director and founder, Clarissa Boeriu.

Also in February, two of Mrs. Boeriu's alumni were promoted to the top ranking of principal dancer in her respective professional company. They are Haley Henderson Smith, principal dancer with Ballet West in Salt Lake City, Utah and Heather Wallace Solisz, principal dancer with Eugene Ballet Company, in Eugene, Oregon.

Camille Wallace, AAB's Executive Director said, "We are very proud of these current and former students. It a true honor that a school our size continues to produce so many dancers who receive recognition in the highly competitive world of professional ballet."

Each January and February, the schools associated with major ballet companies conduct nation-wide audition tours for their summer intensive programs. Their southern California auditions are held the in Los Angeles and Orange County and are judged by the directors and top teachers from the companies.

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In all, nine AAB students did auditions for summer intensives of their choice. All nine received acceptances from each of the schools for which they auditioned.

Katrina Agate, 15, of Moorpark, received an acceptance from the Rock School of Dance in Philadelphia.

Lindsay Cortes, 11, of Oxnard, won the prized honor of a full merit scholarship from the School of American Ballet (SAB), New York, the official school of New York City Ballet, with an additional full scholarship to SAB's later Los Angeles program. Lindsay was also accepted to American Ballet Theatre (ABT), New York. She will attend both SAB, New York and Los Angeles.

Olivia Fleming, 14, of Ojai, was accepted to Boston School of Ballet; The Rock School of Dance in Philadelphia; ABT, Texas and the ballet intensives of Joffrey Ballet School in Florence, Italy; New York; Georgia and San Francisco, as well as the jazz programs of Joffrey Ballet School's New York, Georgia, Miami, Los Angeles and Dallas locations. She will be attending Joffrey New York.

Katrin Frantz, 14, of Ventura, was accepted to The Rock School of Dance in Philadelphia and Joffrey Ballet School's New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Georgia and Florence, Italy programs.

Christy Guglielmo, 12, of Camarillo, was accepted to the ABT programs in New York and Irvine, CA, the School of American Ballet (SAB) in New York and Joffrey Chicago. She will be attending SAB, New York.

Genae Matthews, 15, of Ventura, received acceptances from American Ballet Theatre (ABT), New York; Boston School of Ballet, Boston and the Rock School of Dance in Philadelphia. She will be attending ABT, New York.

Camille Osborne, 11, of Ventura, was accepted to Joffrey Ballet, Chicago and was awarded a merit scholarship.

Charlotte Weymer, 9, of Camarillo, the youngest of AAB's students to audition at the youngest age for which acceptances are granted, won a merit scholarship from School of American Ballet (SAB), Los Angeles, where she will attend.

Coral Young, 15, of Ventura, was accepted to Joffrey Ballet Company's Los Angeles program.

"Each of these students has trained many hours per week for years at AAB," said Camille Wallace. "These summer programs are great opportunities for students to intensify their training to 5-6 hours per day, experience a variety of teaching styles from the country's best teachers, meet top ballet students from around the world and be introduced to the world of professional ballet."

AAB alumnus Heather Wallace Solisz was named a principal dancer of Eugene Ballet Company in February, the same month in which she performed the difficult roles of Odette and Odile in *Swan Lake*. Heather has been with Eugene Ballet Company for eight years, rising from a member of the corps to soloist to her current top ranking of principal dancer.

Haley Henderson Smith was also promoted to a principal dancer of Ballet West in Salt Lake City in February. Next month she will be featured in the lead rolls in all three of Balanchine's *Jewels: Emeralds, Rubies and Diamonds* in premier performances for Utah. Haley was formerly a soloist with Ballet West and prior to that, a company member of the Royal Danish Ballet in Copenhagen. Both dancers were trained by Mrs. Boeriu here in Ventura.

Clarissa Boeriu was born and educated in Romania. She received her BA in Dance from the National School of Arts, Choreography Department and her Master Degree in Philosophy/Pedagogy from the Babes-Bolyai University, both in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Mrs. Boeriu went on to become a principal

dancer with the National Opera House of Cluj-Napoca before she moved to the U.S. in 1989. Before founding All American Ballet in 2002, Mrs. Boeriu was a guest faculty member of Ballet San Jose, Artistic Director of Channel Islands Ballet and co-founder of Ventura Ballet Company.

Background

All American Ballet School & Company, the area's only fully non-profit ballet school and company, was founded in 2002 by Clarissa Boeriu. AAB School offers classical instruction in a progressive program of pre-ballet level through pre-professional for ages three and above, as well as contemporary, jazz and modern ballet. AAB Company presents professionally-staged and -choreographed productions annually in Ventura, including *The Nutcracker Ballet* in December, featuring student dancers alongside professional guest artists. AAB School & Company is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation, located at 1932 Eastman Avenue in Ventura. Call (805) 650-6316 or go to www.aaballet.org for information about class enrollment and sponsorship opportunities.