



CDT MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Welcome to CDT's Term 4 Member's Newsletter!

In this term's issue we have all the info you need about upcoming CDT events and classes as well as interesting bits and pieces about the dance community in Canberra generally.

Feel like something new? Why not try a difference class? Or check out the **What's on in Canberra?** section below for great upcoming shows.

Want to be more involved in dance? Check out the latest adventures of the various performance groups associated with CDT and the opportunities that are coming up.

So dance fans, enjoy Term 4!

Your Editor, Elanor.

IMPORTANT DATES

Term 4 Starts: Monday 12 October

Term 4 Ends: Sunday 20 December

Suggestions for a new name for the newsletter wanted!

Email to info@canberradancetheatre.org by the end of Term 4. Options to be voted on in the Term 1, 2010 Newsletter.

Classes And Workshops

High quality dance performances have always been part of CDT and there are plenty of opportunities coming up for all CDT members to have a go.

The Performance Class

Meets on Mondays at 7.30pm. Offering a chance to explore your own creativity, this class focuses on creating short performance pieces.

In Term 4 the class is being taught by dancer and choreographer Liz Lea. Liz specializes in the fields of contemporary and classical Indian dance and is based between Sydney, London and Goa, touring and teaching internationally.

Currently an Associate Artist at QL2 in Canberra, Liz is working with the Performance class on a work titled SILENT SPEAK, informed by the vocabulary of Indian movement. The work offers an opportunity for the exploration of the performers characters through gesture and expression, sourcing movement from the performers and some Shakespearian text.

The work will premiere at the members Christmas Performance on Sunday Dec 13, 4pm.

Please come and join us – it is not too late to be in the performance led by Liz, a most inspirational dance artist.

FLORIADE PERFORMANCES

CDT undertook two performances on the Park Stage at Floriade in October to great success. The Gypsy performance group, the Hilal performance group and our Belly dance troupe - Quake, all took part. CDT was proud to bring colour, movement and plenty of attitude to Floriade. Thank you wonderful performers and choreographers.

South Asian Dance Master Class

with **Liz Lea**

*Contemporary South Asian Dance – Strength,
Power and Precision.*

Date: **Sunday November 8**

Time: 3pm-5pm

Place: CDT Studio

Cost: CDT Members – 1 class from your dance card
or \$20/\$16 concession. Non-members - \$25

This master class celebrates and illustrates the beauty of contemporary South Asian dance and explores a culturally diverse training and choreographic approach.

The workshop includes an introduction to the South Indian classical dance style Bharata Natyam and two Indian martial arts – Kalariappayattu and Chauu. It involves a warm up based around opening performance awareness by employing Kalariappayattu imagery and awareness techniques.

Then the basic lines and aesthetics of Bharata Natyam is followed by contemporary technique exercises aimed at strength and power, and sequences of company repertoire.

The class resonates with trans-cultural conversations and touches upon mind/body connections through work with martial arts. No prior knowledge of South Asian forms is necessary – just a love for dance and a desire to explore.

Want VERY CHEAP tickets for Bangarra Dance Theatre's 'Fire: A Retrospective'?

Ask the Admin person at CDT, BEFORE November 16, to make your booking for our CDT members group, on Saturday Nov 21, 8pm.

Price: \$20 (usual adult price \$50)

You must be a CDT member to take advantage of this offer. Membership is only \$5 - so what are you waiting for?!

TERM 4 Christmas Party

4pm, Sunday 13 December @ CDT Studio

**Great performances, food and drink, and a friendly bunch of people to talk and dance with.
Plus a visit from Santa!**

**Members free, non-Members \$5.
Please bring a plate of food to share.**

Don't forget the CDT Christmas Party on Sunday December 13 at 4pm at the CDT Studio. This is a chance for *all* classes to share what has been learned during the term. Talk to your teacher about what your class may be doing.

HANDY HINTS FOR DANCERS

- Arrive early for class so you can warm up in the way that is best for your body – do this before you ever do any stretching.
- Wear warm clothing before and after class to avoid the chills.
- Always bring a water bottle and sip it throughout the class.
- If the air conditioning is on, please keep the door and windows closed to keep the cool air in.
- Ensure you have your name recorded before class, with the Class Administrator.
- Make sure your member details are up to date so you can receive important information like this newsletter!
- Please pay attention to the Emergency information on display in the studio.
- Please report any accidents or injuries to your teacher.
- Please invite a friend to come and taste the CDT experience with you!

**Ethnic African Dance and Afro-Fusion
Workshop**
With
Lailah Masiga

Date: Sunday December 6

Time: 3-5pm

Place: CDT Studio

Cost: CDT Members – 1 class from your dance card or \$20/\$16 concession.

Non-members - \$25

Lailah is a renowned dancer, teacher and choreographer from Kenya. She has travelled widely and won various awards for her dance work. Her classes draw significantly from ethnic African dances across the African continent.

She has a broad knowledge in diverse ethnic African dances, contemporary dance, contact improvisation and instant composition. Her training and background includes: Cabaret with Safari Cats Group; Traditional Dances in Burkina Faso; Kenya National Theatre troupe and African Arts Ensemble; Contemporary/Contact with John Bateman; Thierry Niang (France); Germaine Acogny (Senegal); Salia Sanou (Burkina Faso); Opiyo Okach (Kenya) and Faustin Linyenkula (Congo).

She has held workshops in various institutions across the world including Venezuela, France, Germany, India, Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique as well as here in Canberra with CDT, Quantum Leap Youth Dance Company and Ausdance ACT.

Lailah has just returned from a 3 month teaching engagement within Dance Montage, at Dance Forum - Nairobi's initiative for dance development in Kenya. Dance Forum-Nairobi is an initiative of Lailah and three other Kenyan dance creators.

The workshop will look at understanding, translating and the interpreting traditional African rhythm and movement in relation to space, relationships, direction and time. The 2 hour session will consist of a warm-up, stretching, floor work, dance phrases and ethnic African movements with a cool down at the end. Please wear loose fitting clothes and socks.

CONTACT IMPROVISATION JAM!

Sharing weight, momentum, falling, lifting... if it looks like too much fun rolling around on the floor with other dancers, then yep it's probably a Contact Impro Jam!

The Contact Impro Jam is happening every Saturday now from 5.30 to 7.30pm.

So far we have had some awesome dances! It has worked out that if more Newbies turn up then one of the more experienced Jammers has often led a warm up or a short class. Other weeks we are just doing our own warm ups and getting straight into the jam.

Cost is \$5 each to cover use of the space.

Jammers also need to be current members of CDT which costs \$5 per year.

If you would like to know more about the Jam you can get in touch with:

a. Thor thor.d@grapevine.com.au or

b. Holly holly@dancenorthside.com.au

Dance shoes are not necessary.

TAKING SHAPE – A MOVING SCULPTURE

Pedestrians and shoppers stopped and looked curiously at CDT's dance 'flash mob' in the city during Dance Week in May. Dancers appeared seemingly out of nowhere and created a moving sculpture.

The Canberra Times covered the event:

"Flash dance: seamless mystery mob materializes"

"One by one, people who had been sitting on benches or chatting with friends drifted together, climbed around one another and then disappeared as seamlessly as they had arrived. They unexpectedly gained an extra few dancers as three children joined in the fun.

Passer-by Tim Farrell of Barton said he'd never seen anything like it. 'They're all figuring out their own pathways to get to the same place' he said. 'It's different.'

Choreographic director Jane Ingall said the performance was inspired by flash mobs, where strangers converge in public places at an appointed time, perform an unusual action then disperse. 'I loved the idea of that and the way it surprises people' she said."

On the day the dance was improvised, based on a framework of movement instructions developed by Jane and which dancers received online.

It was performed twice on Saturday 9th May in two different locations – near the chess pit in Garema Place and at the fountain in City Walk. The adventurous dancers were: Anne Embry, Claudia Cresswell, Colin Towns, Diana Sandeman, Elanor Matton-Johnson, Gerry Jacobson, Gillian Hunt, Heather Boyer, Jane Ingall, Julie Rickwood, June Staunton, Kati Gorgenyi, Patricia Alexander, Philip Piggin, Rae Jacobson, Robyn SIRR and Thor Diesendorf.



WITHIN

FLORIADE PERFORMANCE by the TERM 3 PERFORMANCE CLASS, led by LAILAH MASIGA

With a successful application to Floriade 2009, the Term 3 Performance Class, led by Dance Artist Lailah Masiga, created a work titled WITHIN for performance at the Garden of the 5 Senses at Floriade this year.

Working together with Jim Sharrock, local percussionist, the dancers collaborated with Lailah, creating a work that travelled through this beautiful garden of glorious colour. The dance incorporated material created by the dancers and shaped by Lailah, and a fabulous section of traditional African steps put together by Lailah.

This year the weather during Floriade was abysmal, and sadly we had to cancel 3 out of our 4 performance days. However come our final day, October 4, the weather held sufficiently for us to brave the damp, cloudy and cool conditions.

Our team of dancers performed WITHIN 3 times, with a focus, commitment and dynamic equivalent to that of professionals.

We were all very proud of them, and hope to see more performances from the group.

Big thanks and congratulations to Lailah and Jim, and to the CDT dancers Diana, Jeanette, Jessica, Linette, Paul, Sonia, Tammy and Tania.

And a big thanks to Floriade and their wonderful team who supported our application and looked after us during our all too brief a visit!

Mirramu Dance Company Presents:

River

The Street Theatre
21 & 22 November 2009

To the sounds of David Pereira on cello, Christine Simpson's haunting sculpture fuses with contemporary dance as we witness the dying of the Darling River in this achingly beautiful work evoking the spirits of our waterways.

What's on in Canberra?

Tea & Symphony Dancextravaganza – Canberra Symphony Orchestra featuring members of the Australian Ballet
Canberra Theatre 14 November 2009.

Fire: A retrospective – Bangarra Dance Theatre
Canberra Theatre 20-21 November 2009.

Canberra Festival Ballet School Gala Performance 2009
The Playhouse 20-21 November 2009.

Angelina's Star Performance – English National Ballet
Canberra Theatre 3-5 December 2009.

The Musical of Musicals (The Musical!)
The Courtyard Studio 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
December 2009.