

# Behind the Scenes

Wellington Branch Newsletter

January 2011

## President's pointe



### Dear Friends

Welcome back and Happy New Year to all.

This year looks to be an exciting one for Wellington Friends. We welcome back Matz Skoog as Interim Artistic Director until September when our new Artistic Director, Ethan Stiefel and his partner Gillian Murphy, arrive in September.

The year starts with TOWER *Tutus on Tour* and we look forward to seeing you all at our Friends special price evening performance at the Opera House.

Attached is our 2011 diary, with a very exciting list of events for all Friends. The committee look forward to meeting you again. New members, please introduce yourselves to us, so that we can get to know you.

Ingrid Witkowski, President

## Wellington Branch history A-Z

### E – Events (continued) - 1996

#### Pre-performance Talks

1996 saw the start of the Pre-performance Talks with Friends, which took place at the St James Theatre, one hour prior to the performance.

#### *A Thousand and One Nights*

A full rehearsal of *A Thousand and One Nights* was attended by Friends and the choreographer, Gray Veredon.

#### *Swan Lake* seminar

80 Friends attended the seminar for the *Swan Lake* season, in June. Russell Kerr gave a talk, and dancers demonstrated some of the steps. Kristian Fredrikson presented his wonderful designs and his costumes were available for people to view. It was at this time that Kristian Fredrikson gave Wellington Branch committee approval to publish the *Swan Lake* cards featuring his fabulous designs.

#### *Coppelia*

A seminar about the *Coppelia* season was led by Matz Skoog, with dancers performing and Raymond Boyce, the designer, showing a preview of the costumes.

#### *Swan Lake* Celebration at the Russian Embassy

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June, with no wind in the air and a star studded sky, the Russian Ambassador, Sergei Belyaeva and his wife, Tatiana, welcomed Friends to the Russian Embassy, in Karori, to celebrate the *Swan Lake* season. It was an evening of Russian dance, Russian folk songs by Joanna Hislop and music by the Artemis String Quartet. Andrei Roudenko, second secretary to the Embassy, also told many tales about ballet.

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**Our website is [wn-friends.org](http://wn-friends.org)  
or ... [balletfriends.org](http://balletfriends.org)**



Ambassador Belyaeva's wife, Tatiana, welcomes Wellington Friends to the Russian Embassy.  
Photo: Ingrid Witkowski



Another example of some of the fantastic costumes.  
Photo: Ingrid Witkowski

A delightful array of delicacies were provided by the Embassy kitchen.



Just some of the Russian delicacies provided by our hosts.  
Photo: Ingrid Witkowski

### **New Artistic Director, Matz Skoog, welcomed in March 1996**



Matz Skoog

Wellington Friends welcomed to Wellington, the new Artistic Director, Matz Skoog, with a luncheon at The Skyline Restaurant, at the top of the Wellington Cable Car. Matz arrived in New Zealand with his wife, Amanda Skoog (now General Manager of the RNZB) and their young son.

## Dine and Dancers at Parliament

This event was hosted by Liz Tennet MP in the Banqueting Hall at Parliament. It was a gracious event, with 96 people in attendance.

### PROGRAMME

## DINE & DANCERS AT PARLIAMENT

#### ❖ Pre-dinner drinks ❖

Selection of Hunters' wines

#### ❖ Soup ❖

Consomme

#### ❖ Main Course ❖

Escalope of Chicken or Canon of Lamb

### TALES FROM THE ROYAL NZ BALLET

Jon Trimmer

#### ❖ Dessert ❖

Tropical fruit in a brandy basket

#### ❖ Coffee & Tea ❖

### PARADE OF BALLET COSTUMES

Modelled by Students of the NZ School of Dance

Pianist: Colin Taylor

#### Acknowledgments

Liz Tennet M P

Alison Underhill, RNZB Wardrobe Department

NZ School of Dance

Colin Taylor, Pianist RNZB

Jon Trimmer, the MC, delighted the crowd, over dinner, with some of the hilarious happenings throughout his career. As one person was heard to say later, he should write a book - it would be a best seller! We borrowed over 44 costumes from the RNZB wardrobe, which were paraded by students of the New Zealand School of Dance. The costumes included two from *Napoli*, *Moko*, *La Sylphide*, *Servant of Two Masters* and *Coppelia*; three from *Salute*, *Cinderella*, *Petrouchka*, *Hamlet*, *Witch Boy* and *Ragtime*; four from *Konigsmark*; five from *The Nutcracker* and six from *Wolfgang Amadeus*.



Photos by Ingrid Witkowski

## Cousins-Cousins

On the 25<sup>th</sup> October, the exhibition *Cousins-Cousins* was opened by Sir Jon Trimmer, Leigh Brewer and Sir Jon's sister, Coral. A beautiful variety of pottery went on sale.

## The Firebird/Drifting Angels

To end the year, we finished with a seminar, in the Telecom Centre, on *The Firebird* by Krzysztof Pastor, who was awarded the Gold Medal at the 1995 Helsinki International Ballet Competition. Eric Languet, a dancer with the RNZB, spoke about his production of *Drifting Angels*.

I hope you have enjoyed Part 5 of our A - Z Wellington Branch history - Ingrid Witkowski.

## Coming Events

There is a separate sheet with the whole years diary on it but the events that are coming up soon are:

### Film Evening: (Saturday 19 February)

*Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*

Time Cinema, 191 Sutherland Rd, Lyall Bay

7:30pm and a light supper!

See the enclosed flier for further details!

### TOWER Tutus on Tour

If you have not purchased your tickets, then you need to act soon. The 2011 season of *Tower Tutus on Tour* will be performed at the Opera House on the 24, 26 (Friends' night) and 27 of February.

Featuring Pinocchio & Verdi Variations

## Advertisements

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## Committee members 2010/2011

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