



Arabesque

From the desk of



Jete

and

Wellington Branch 2006/5

Young Friends 3rd birthday celebrations and the Trinity Workshop

Jete, Arabesque and all the people who attended this event agreed it was fantastic and everyone had a great time. Arabesque and I have some photos and stories from some of you about your experience!

First Time

It was my first time with the Young Friends of the Royal New Zealand Ballet. I was scared at first but when I got in it was fun. It was really cool being taught by a member of the Royal New Zealand Ballet. We were taught a contemporary dance, it was fun.

It was the third birthday of the Young Friends. There was a nice morning tea and a story about Jon Trimmer.

By Hope Robyns Mackay, age 8



Young Friends about to cut the birthday cake!

Trinity Workshop

On the 24th of June, 13 Young Friends arrived at the St James Theatre for the *Trinity* Workshop, Young Friends third birthday and the launch of Kevin Boon's book *Jon Trimmer*. First up was the workshop, taken by company dancer Craig Lord. He explained to us that *Banderillero*, one of the ballets in *Trinity*, was choreographed using only about 16 counts of movement. The choreographer, Javier De Frutos, taught the dancers a short phrase of movement and then asked them to go away and do things with it, for example doing it backwards, or on the other side. Craig said that we weren't going to do classical ballet, we were going to do contemporary.

After doing a warm up a couple of times, Craig taught us a short dance similar to *Banderillero*. When we knew it, he asked us to work in groups and do it on the left side. He said that no way was wrong.

When we all knew the dance on the right and the left, we got into pairs with one person standing behind the other. We did the dance, with the front person going left and the back person going right. The last thing we did was put our pairs into two long trains, going left, right, left etc. We performed the dance for our parents.

The *Trinity* workshop was a lot of fun, and passed really quickly. Afterwards, we went to the greenroom for the Young Friends third birthday and the launch of the book *Jon Trimmer*.

by Rachael Wiltshire, age 12



Craig teaching class the moves to Banderillero

Rainbow dance day

Today is the 24th of June 2006. I got a letter saying I am a member of the Young Friends of the Ballet! I was so excited! I couldn't wait for the workshop. This morning I put on my ballet gear, and Nana came over to pick me up and take me to the St James Theatre where the ballet school is.

On the way we saw seven rainbows, so I knew it would be a good day!

When we got there we went into the Jon Trimmer Dance Studio where Craig Lord showed us how the dancers had started to practice for Trinity. It was so fun. My partner's name was Rachael. The adults came in at the end to see what we had learnt.

Afterwards, we went to the launch of a book about Jon Trimmer. We got autographs from Craig, the dance teacher who took our workshop, and from Jon Trimmer, and two other dancers who were there, and one was called Kate, too. Jon and the author read parts of the book to us.

We had a birthday cake and a present each because it was the third birthday of the Young Friends of the Ballet. I had so much fun meeting Jon Trimmer and taking the dance class. I thank everyone there, and it was so good I will go every time.

Katy Marris, age 9



Parents and Gardians were allowed in to see what the Young friends had learned.

Cool Moves

On Saturday 24th of June, some young friends of the Royal New Zealand Ballet did a workshop with Craig Lord. We did it on TRINITY and learnt some really cool moves. Once we had learnt them we showed them to our parents. After we had done the dancing we had a special morning tea to celebrate the Young Friends 3rd Birthday. We got to meet Sir Jon Trimmer and hear from a book about him. We also had a special birthday cake and got a present.

It was a day I will never forget!

by Francesca Griffin, age 9

Contemporary Dance Day

Hi, my name is Fua Inoue. I am from Japan, and I am staying in Wellington for one year.

I joined the Trinity Workshop to learn Contemporary Ballet.

Craig Lord from the Royal New Zealand Ballet took our class. He taught us a short dance which was choreographed to Madonna's music, Fantastic!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Firstly Craig separated us into two groups. The groups always started from the right side with their movement, and the other group started from the left side. When we lined up alternately and performed it became a beautiful dance. At the end of our class the parents were allowed to come and watch us perform.

Because I have only learnt classical ballet in Japan it was so much fun to learn contemporary ballet.

When the class was over we went to the ballet company Green Room a very large area when dancers and people meet. It was here that we met Sir Jon Trimmer, who read with Kevin Boon his own story called Jon Trimmer. We ate birthday cake because it was the 3rd birthday of the Young friends and we also received a birthday gift each.

We also met Kate Veneables and Rowan Cann. With Craig Lord they also gave me lovely autographs, which I will treasure for a long time.

In Japan we don't have the chance to meet ballet company dancers like in New Zealand, its all really very exciting.

Fua Inoue, age 15



Sir Jon Trimmer with Young Friends Hope Robyns Mackay and Hannah Clayton

Full on fantastic morning

It was my first time to attend a Workshop, and I was very pleased I did, you can learn so much and have fun doing it. I am looking forward to the Giselle Workshop and forum in October.

At 10.00 on Saturday morning the Young Friends all meet at the St James Theatre. Our first opportunity given was a class with the very professional company dancer Craig Lord. He was brilliant and we were taught a contemporary based sequence of steps from Trinity the up coming production of the RNZB. This was great because it meant everybody could join in and take part at whatever age you happened to be (range from 7-15 yrs old) with the older kids helping the younger ones. Even though we danced to Madonna (which is not even close to the proper music - but was great fun) everybody enjoyed themselves and got an idea of what it would be like to be taught a dance from a choreographer, and how he would ask you to experiment and mix with a pattern of steps e.g. back to front. Then the parent came into the studio and we presented what we had learned.

Craig then gave us each an autograph and we excitedly went down the RNZ Ballet Green Room where the book launch and birthday celebrations were being held. This was great as we all got to meet Sir Jon Trimmer and Kevin Boon - the author of the *Jon Trimmer* biography. We were able to purchase some of the first books being sold and even got them autographed! After, Kevin Boon then read the biography to us while Sir Jon Trimmer read his own quotes - which was funny. To top it off we

also got signatures from Kate Venables and Rowan Cann who dance with the company. After a lot of eating and a full on fantastic morning we gathered our things consisting now of our very own birthday celebrations gift, and the knowledge of what we had been taught that day freshly in our minds.

Thanks so much
Young Friends!!

by Eliza van
Drimmelen, aged 15



Friends sponsored dancer Rowan Cann autographing Jon Trimmer books

Congratulations to our *Young Friend*, **Allegra Canton**, who was featured in the *DomPost*, taking part in a children's singing competition at Porirua's North City Shopping Centre!!!!

Our Very Best wishes to all our Young Friends who are having birthdays ...



Month of August

David Chapman

Sarah Collins

Alka Nana-Ahirao

Georgia Taggart

Fua Inoue

Month of September

Sophie Arbuckle

Emma Brown

Kirsty Clarke

Amber Fowk

Tracey Guieb

Sasha Lazarevic

Samantha Mae Moredo

Congratulations

to Ticket winners

to attend a performance of Trinity:

Valerie Chan

Eliza van Drimmelen