

Akhmedova Ballet Academy

Newsletter – February 2016

ABA PTP students win big at Youth America Grand Prix in Pittsburgh, PA and are invited to compete at the finals in New York City in April.

Inside this issue:

- *Performances*
- *Community Involvement*
- *Awards*
- *Auditions 2016*
- *Photos*
- *Testimonials*
- *A Peek Inside ABA*
- *Links*

The Akhmedova Ballet Academy is dedicated to providing the finest quality ballet training utilizing the Vaganova Method with personal and artistic mentoring to prepare young talented dancers to become strong and fully developed artists for the 21st century ready to take their places in major dance companies around the world.

Performances



ABA's last performance "**NUTCRACKER DREAMS**" was a great success. Reserve the date for our spring performance on May 21, 2016 at Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center in Silver Spring, MD. It's the perfect event for a family allowing your children to see the "Arts" in action, or a dance school field trip. The level of performance and commitment from our professional training program students is phenomenal.

Community Involvement



ABA PTP students performed the “Nutcracker Dreams” on December 12th and all YAGP competition pieces on January 30th at the Schweinhaut Senior Center. Both shows were well received and attended by 200 residents. These performances were free admission.

Awards

YAGP Competiton 2016



[Akhmedova Ballet Academy](#) (ABA) professional training program students competed at [Youth America Grand Prix](#) (YAGP) in Pittsburgh, PA on February 6 and won big again. Jessica Kinnaman won 3rd place in the Contemporary Senior Category and Top 12 in the Classical Category. ABA’s ensemble piece “Bernini’s Angels”, choreographed by ABA Ashley Canterna-Hardy, won 2nd place. Ari Depireux received Top 12 in the Senior Classical Category. Over 500 dancers participated at this competition. YAGP is one of the most prestigious ballet competitions in the United States. “Bernini’s Angels” and Jessica’s solo pieces were invited to compete in the finals in New York City in April.



Congratulation to Jessica Kinnaman who became an ambassador for Suffolk Pointe Shoes.

Auditions

*Official auditions for ABA's 2016/2017 Professional Training Program and both Summer Intensives are ongoing. Please contact us if you would like to schedule a private audition. **Only a limited number of slots are available.***

Interested students can audition in person or send in an audition video. To register for an audition please go to our website <http://akhmedovaballet.org/> to download the registration form. For additional information, please email Mme. Akhmedova at mme@akhmedovaballet.org, look for our advertisement in the Dec./Jan. edition of **Pointe** magazine or go to <https://www.facebook.com/AkhmedovaBallet>.

Photos



Kalinka – Ryan and Ari



Thanksgiving Parade 2015



YAGP 2016



Bald Ballerina Fundraiser 2016



Schweinhaut Senior Center 2016



Backstage at YAGP 2016

Our Sponsors:







In addition to our corporate sponsors, ABA is supported in part by funding from the Montgomery County government and the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County.

Testimonial

The Akhmedova Ballet Academy’s (ABA) Professional Training Program (PTP) is outstanding! In his first year at ABA, our son has grown as a ballet dancer and artist and gained a wealth of knowledge. Madame Akhmedova is an incredible and caring teacher. She creates a warm, supportive atmosphere that nurtures the young professional dancer. A lifetime of achievement as a professional ballet dancer and teacher give Madame Akhmedova the insight to bring out the best in her students and inspire them to achieve their full potential. Utilizing a “semi-private” training model with the classical Vaganova method, she helps her students grow in strength and technique quickly. She provides valuable feedback to each student to understand their weaknesses and strengths and apply them. Not only does she have exceptional technique, she has a kind heart and cares deeply about the success of each student, professionally and personally. The fact that she does this year after year, season after season, is so amazing! We are grateful to have found Madame Akhmedova and to be a part of the ABA family.

Jennifer Vyskocil – PTP parent

A Peek inside ABA

ABA PTP students are celebrating in Pittsburgh.



ABA is glad to welcome Ryan Vyskocil into the Junior PTP.



Mme. Akhmedova - Founder and Artistic Director of ABA

Mme. Akhmedova graduated with honors from the Bolshoi Ballet Academy in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and the Ukrainian Academy of Dance in Kiev, with Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Ballet Performance, Pedagogy and Choreography, she quickly moved into the world of European classical dance performance.

In a professional career of more than 20 years, she was a principal dancer with the Bolshoi Ballet in Tashkent, the Munich State Opera Ballet, and the Vienna State Opera Ballet, dancing every major role in the classical and contemporary repertoire. She has worked with the world's greatest choreographers such as Jiri Kylian, John Neumeier, Rudolph Nureyev, Hans van Manen, and Peter Wright. She has toured extensively across Europe and performed as guest artist in major companies worldwide.

Her students have won such prestigious competitions as the Youth America Grand Prix, Prix de Lausanne, and Tanzolymp. They have gone on to successful careers in such companies as American Ballet Theater, New York City Ballet, Houston Ballet, Boston Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Vienna State Opera Ballet, Dresden Ballet, Staatsballett Munich, Staatsballett Berlin and Stuttgart Ballett. She has also judged influential international ballet competitions and taught master classes in Italy, Portugal, New York City, Austria and Japan.

In her professional teaching career, Mme. Akhmedova prepares students and choreographs for them for competitions and advises them on their careers, helping them pursue their dreams of dancing with professional companies. After retiring as a professional ballet dancer, she started a professional training program in Vancouver, Canada. In 2001 she was invited to the Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington, DC where she taught as a senior teacher for 7 years. Then for 2 years, she was the ballet master for City Dance Ensemble and the City Dance Conservatory Ballet Program at the Strathmore Center for the Arts.

She is the Founder and Artistic Director of her own school, the Akhmedova Ballet Academy, in Silver Spring, MD. Her vision for ABA is to provide the finest quality ballet training utilizing the Vaganova Method. 100% of ABA graduates are with professional companies.



Akhmedova Ballet Foundation, Inc. is a 501c(3) charitable tax-exempt non-profit organization

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