



School of Dance

Vacani

(Clapham & Colliers Wood)

Newsletter – Spring 2012

Spring Term Dates:

Term starts on: Monday 9th January

Term ends on: Saturday 31st March

Half term will be: Monday 13th February - Saturday 18th February

Welcome and Happy New Year

On behalf of the Vacani team I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and extend a warm welcome to all the new pupils starting in the Spring Term.

I would be grateful if you could take a moment to read through our newsletter, particularly the important notes overleaf.

Important Reminder from our Broomwood Hall Manager - Clapham Branch

I would like to take this opportunity to thank John David, the hall manager at The Broomwood Church Hall and the Johmard Community Centre for all his help and support last year. John has a difficult job keeping ALL the hall 'users' happy whilst co-ordinating our busy timetables and maintaining the premises within a tight budget.

I am attaching some important 'housekeeping notes' (on the reverse side of your invoice). **PLEASE do take a moment to read these notes - the Hall Trustees insist we abide by these and failure to do so may result in Vacani not being able to use the hall in the future.**

Congratulations

Congratulations to Kirsty Campbell for winning 1st place in the Cecchetti Classical Ballet Awards 2011.

Kirsty dedicates many hours to her ballet each week and it is wonderful to see her rewarded for all her hard work; Miss Angelina, Mrs Loftie and Miss Michaela were side stage when Kirsty received her award from former Royal Ballet soloist Tracy Brown; we all felt extremely proud of her. Well done Kirsty.

Congratulations to Graciela Smith for gaining a place with London Children's Ballet Touring Company 2012

Graciela attends Vacani classes three days a week. She studies Modern Dance, Tap Dancing and Ballet and I have no doubt that Graciela would attend more classes if she had more time in her week! The Vacani team are thrilled to hear that Graciela has been accepted on the LCB tour. Well done Graciela.



Kirsty Campbell

Congratulations to Selena Thompson for gaining a place at Sylvia Young Theatre School

We are thrilled to hear that Selena has been accepted at the prestigious Sylvia Young Theatre School. The Sylvia Young Theatre School is a specialist performing arts school; Selena will attend full time and pursue an excellent vocational and academic education. We are equally delighted to hear that Selena intends to continue her ballet classes at Vacani. Well done Selena.

Mrs Gaie Loftie

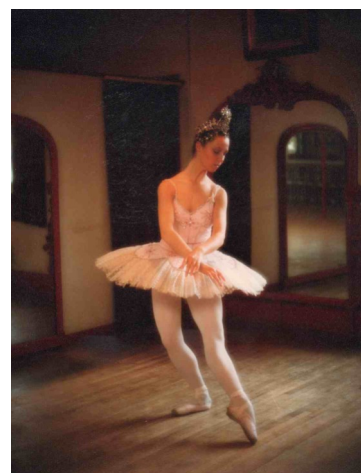
Miss Angelina is always so interested and impressed when she listens to Mrs Loftie's stories about her days at The Royal Ballet School, White Lodge, and dancing in ballet companies around the world; so she asked Mrs Loftie to write a short biography for pupils and parents to enjoy reading:

Gaie Loftie started dancing at the age of 3 in Tunbridge Wells with Madame Vacani and Irene Kinsey. At the age of eleven she joined the Royal Ballet School and then went on to Elmhurst Ballet School.

Her first professional job was in Tel Aviv with the Israel State Ballet Company where she danced all the big classical ballets. After two years she returned to London to dance with The English National Ballet.

In the late 1980's Gaie became a qualified Cecchetti teacher under the tuition of Mary Stassinopoulos at The Vacani School and she has been teaching ever since.

She also runs her own school in Kent where she lives with her husband Rupert and two children Katharine and William.



Mrs Loftie in Sleeping Beauty

Exams

We will be holding Cecchetti Syllabus Ballet Examinations for selected pupils in the **SUMMER** Term. We have applied to the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing for the following date:

Saturday 26th May 2012

If your child has been selected to take an exam, a letter confirming an examination date and time will be sent to you as soon as we receive confirmation from the ISTD. You will be notified at Half Term (Spring Term) if your child is taking an exam.

Exam candidates are required to attend all classes. Any child who misses more than two classes in the school term will have to postpone their exam until the next examination session, which will be scheduled for Autumn 2012.

- Primary children require a minimum of one year to work towards their exam.
- Standard 1 & 2 children who only attend one class a week generally require 3 to 4 terms to complete the syllabus.
- Standard 3 and children studying higher levels who only attend once a week generally require 4 terms (possibly longer) to master the syllabus sufficiently to pass their exams.

Snow

Let's hope that the weather next term is kind to us. If we DO have snow next term Miss Angelina and Mrs Loftie will do everything we can to make the journey from Kent and Surrey to teach classes at Vacani (Mrs Loftie invested in snow tyres for her car last year) but if the driving conditions are too dangerous it might be necessary to cancel classes.

Although we are not in a position to refund cancelled classes (due to our commitment to the hall rental, pianist and assistant costs) we **promise** to offer an additional free class either during the term, at the end of the term or at the beginning of the following term.

Miss Victoria and Miss Beth both live in London so as long as TFL is running a good service in the winter months there will not be problem.

VACANI (COLLIERS WOOD) - NEW TIMES on Saturdays

Miss Beth, Miss Becca and Miss Angelina would like to thank ALL the Colliers Wood parents for their support and help in promoting our classes at the **Johmard Community Centre on Saturdays**. Many of you have recommended friends and family and thanks to you we are now in a position to introduce a new class for older children.

Please note that classes will commence 15 minutes later from next term:

- 9.45am - 10.30am Babies Ballet (2 ½ - 3 ½ years)
- 10.30am - 11.15am Transition Ballet (4 years)
- 11.15am - 12.00pm Primary Ballet (5 years)

Cecchetti Choreography Competition - Cecil Sharp House - Sunday 11th March 2012

Miss Angelina invites Vacani pupils to apply for a place at the Cecchetti Choreography Competition on Sunday 11th March 2012.

The Cecchetti Children's Choreographic Competition is a very popular, long established event and young dancers studying the Cecchetti method are given the opportunity to develop their skills in the world of choreography.

The adjudicators will include dance artists and respected members of the teaching profession.

The Choreographic Competition has three sections, and each section is sub-divided into solos, duets and groups.

- Junior - aged 7 and under 11
- Middle - aged 11 and under 14
- Senior - aged 14 and under 18

For more information please contact Angelina by e-mail Angelina@vacani.com

Contacting Miss Angelina during the Christmas Holidays

Miss Angelina will be away from the office from 27th December to 11th January. She can be contacted on her mobile 07974 682123 however you will receive a faster response if you e-mail her on Angelina@vacani.com.

Miss Michaela will be teaching Miss Angelina's Standard 5 and Grade 6 class on Tuesday 10th January.

Miss Amy will be teaching classes for Miss Angelina on Wednesday 11th January.

**Many thanks
and HAPPY NEW YEAR
from Miss Angelina and the Vacani Team**