



Nov. 2009

## *The Nutcracker 2009*

Dancers and instructors are once again in the throws of preparing for the annual Christmas favourite 'The Nutcracker'. This year the dancers will be travelling to Dawson City for a performance at Diamond Tooth Gerties on December 6th. This is the first time NLSD has performed the ballet in Dawson, so we are all very excited.



*Snowflakes, from the 2008 performance*

Three Whitehorse public performances will take place at the Yukon Arts Centre on December 11th and 12th (shows on Friday and Saturday evening plus a Saturday afternoon matinee). There'll also be two school shows on December 10th and 11th. Please note that parents will not be able to sit in the audience during the school performances as these shows are already sold out.

Watch for tickets to the public performances to go on sale very soon. They sell quickly so avoid disappointment by getting yours early.

We are still looking for parent volunteers to help with the performances. If you're available, please sign up at the NLSD studio.

## *Lucky Tickets!*

It's time for our annual fundraising drive. Each year students receive a book of tickets to sell. The money is essential if we are to continue offering the level of service that we do. It goes towards things such as performances and the general operation of our school.

Since students already paid for the book when they registered for classes, they have a choice: sell the tickets to members of the public (in which case they can keep the money) or just put their own name on the tickets. Either way, the completed books must be turned back into the school no later than December 4th.

We encourage students to sell additional tickets at various locations around Whitehorse. Please see the sign-up sheets located at the studio for specific times and locations.

## *Class Attendance and the Flu*

In the past we have asked dancers who are suffering mild cold or flu symptoms to come and watch classes, even if they weren't feeling well enough to participate. With the concern about the H1N1 flu, however, we are taking a different tact.

If a dancer thinks he or she has the flu, they should stay at home so as not to spread it to others. That being said, rehearsals are difficult without all dancers present, so we encourage everyone to take precautions (frequent washing of hands, disinfecting desks, computer keyboards, etc.) so that you stay as healthy as possible.

### *Calendar at a Glance*

Nov. 11: Remembrance Day (school closed)

Dec. 18—Jan. 3: Christmas Break

Mar. 8—19: Spring Break

May 10-12: Year-end performances

## ***“Raven Steals the Sun” & the Dance and the Child International Conference***

NLSD performed at the 11th “Dance and the Child international” (daCi) conference in Kingston, Jamaica, August 2-8, 2009. More than 20 countries were represented. We were one of only three Canadian companies to perform.

We performed a contemporary ballet based on the well-known First Nation story of “How



Raven Brought Light to the World”. NLSD wanted a piece that would be unique to Yukon, reflect our northern culture, and enrich the lives of our dancers and those at the festival. Our production demonstrated that through the artistic vehicle of dance and movement in particular, we were able to express our northern culture, its feelings, thoughts, and beliefs to others, even when there was lack of a common spoken language, or shared belief system.

From the beautiful, soft flowing costumes; the inspiring music of Don Bishop to the larger than life performances of Rhoda Merkel as the “Chief”, Breanne Leschert as the “Raven” and Alina Lemaire in her role as the “Raven Child”, this piece was like no other in the festival. No other performance incorporated storytelling nor was as successful in reflecting their individual country’s culture. The dancers were elegant, extremely professional, commanding in their presence, and won the hearts of the audience.

Our company performed at the “Little Theatre” which is home to Jamaica’s National Dance Company and received a rather loud standing ovation with comments yelled out such as, “So very beautiful!!” Our dancers delighted the audience with their energy, spirit and sheer joy of movement. Our company was touted as one of the best in the festival and a “not to be missed” performance.

The group who attended include Samantha Ruddy, Alina Lemaire, Kylie Fernandes, Odessa Beatty, Ella Commons, Breanne Leschert, Galena Roots, Taryn Brickner, Grayson Vanderbyl, Greer Vanderbyl, Sophie Commons, Bailey Arnholz, Rhonda Merkel, Mary Ann Annable-Roots, Rebecca Reynolds and Deborah Lemaire.



### ***Picking Up***

Parents/guardians: please ensure that you pick up your children promptly after class. There have been instances lately when dancers have had to wait for long periods of time for a ride home. This is particularly important as we head into colder temperatures.

### ***Lost and Found***

Don’t forget to check our Lost and Found box regularly. At the end of each month unclaimed items are donated to charity.

### ***Look the Part***

A reminder to please come to class with hair pulled back away from the face and with the proper dance attire. This is considered an important part of dance training.