

*Friends
of
the
Albany
Berkshire
Ballet*

September 7, 2008

Dear Parents and Supporters of The Nutcracker Ballet Dancers,

CONGRATULATIONS on your dancer's selection as a performer with the Albany Berkshire Ballet, a professional nonprofit company which has performed The Nutcracker in the Capital District for 30 years!



As many of you know, it is very difficult to sustain a nonprofit ballet company, particularly in the face of State and city budget cuts; production costs associated with The Nutcracker have grown and, as the company tours the Northeast, the cost of fuel is certainly a concern!

In spite of these pressures, Madeline Cantarella Culpo has not only "held the line" on ticket prices (for adults and seniors), she has slashed student ticket prices so that families throughout the Capital District will have the opportunity to experience the magic of this special performance.

You can help! *The Friends of the Albany Berkshire Ballet (FABB) is a nonprofit organization comprised entirely of volunteers, with the sole purpose of raising funds for the ABB. Please consider support FABB in one of more of the following:*

*Janine Horan
President*

*Amy Lantry-Jue,
Vice President*

*Deborah Kizer,
Secretary*

*Jean Mosher,
Treasurer*

*Reba Architzel
Claire Dalton
ABB Board Members*

25 Monroe Street
Suite 210
Albany NY 12210

518/426-0671

Become an ACTIVE Member of FABB: *FABB membership, at all levels, includes a charitable donation to the ABB; a listing of your name in the program; and the opportunity to purchase tickets to The Nutcracker one full week before the tickets go on sale to the general public. **PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME TO SUPPORT THE ABB – WE DESPERATELY NEED NEW IDEAS AND SUPPORT!** **Benefit: A minimum of \$40 as a donation to the ABB***

Photographs: *The ABB owns the costumes and neither flash photographs or videos will be permitted during the performances. FABB is again working with Dick Danielsen with a plan to have pictures taken on Sunday, November 9th. **Benefit: \$5 of each photo package is a donation to the ABB***

The Nutcracker Program: *Parents, friends and businesses may show their support by placing messages/advertisements in the Albany programs. The cost for messages will be \$5; advertisements will cost \$25 for a quarter page; \$50 for a half page; and \$100 for a full page. Please consider placing your business advertisement in the program! **Benefit: Entire cost is a donation to the ABB***

Thank you for your enthusiastic support. Please feel free to talk to any of us and/or leave a message if you have questions.

***Attachments: FABB Membership Form
Nutcracker Photo Order Form***

FRIENDS OF THE ALBANY BERKSHIRE BALLET

2008-09 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Albany Berkshire Ballet (ABB) is a professional, nonprofit dance company, under the continuous artistic direction of Madeline Cantarella Culpo. In addition to its annual performances of *The Nutcracker*, the ABB – with your support – has been able to perform in the spring. In 2008, the spring performances included “Aurora’s Wedding” from Act 3 of the Sleeping Beauty Ballet, with the traditional choreography of Maurius Petipa, Madeline Cantarella Culpo’s contemporary work, Mushabiyya, and Laura Dean’s modern “Arrow of Time.

The ABB’s major sources of funding are government (City of Albany and Massachusetts Council on the Arts) and ticket sales. **For over a decade, the Albany Friends of the ABB (FABB) have provided significant, continuous funding to the ABB – raising and donating over \$35,000 in the past three years alone.** With help from individuals such as you, the ABB will be able to continue the magic of The Nutcracker and explore opportunities for more Albany-based performances in the spring/summer.

Please note that all funds raised by FABB are for the exclusive and sole benefit of the nonprofit company; there are no administrative or other expenses for FABB, which consists entirely of volunteers. Won’t you please help by joining FABB during our 2008-09 Membership Drive?

Level (Donation)	Member Benefits	Level (Donation)	Member Benefits	Level (Donation)
Friend (\$40)	Advance ticket sales	Featured Dancer (\$80)	All benefits of Corps plus 2 tickets to ABB performance (other than Nutcracker)	Soloist (\$250 and above) Member Benefits
Corps (\$60)	Advance ticket sales; 10% discount at Boutique and Rond de Jambe	Principal Dancer (\$100)	All benefits of Featured Dancer membership plus 1 full price ticket to Nutcracker	All benefits of Principal Dancer and 2 tickets to Nutcracker performance

2008-09 FABB Membership Registration

Enclosed is my NEW RENEWAL membership of \$_____ * for membership at the level indicated below:

Soloist (\$250+) Principal Dancer (\$100) Featured Dancer (\$80) Corps (\$60) Friend (\$40)

**Checks or money orders should be payable to FABB. Credit cards, unfortunately, cannot be accepted.*

Please PRINT the name, as you would want it to appear in our programs (e.g., Mary Smith; The Jones Family)

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____ (Home/Work/Cell) E-mail: _____

Address: _____
