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NEW SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY AT BALLET LUBBOCK

Christmas comes early every year at Ballet Lubbock as rehearsals for The Nutcracker commence each August. But this year, that "holiday spirit" has been reinforced by a generous new gift, which will benefit aspiring dancers for seasons to come.

Ballet Lubbock is pleased to announce a new scholarship opportunity, **Le Danseur Premiere Scholarship, supported by an anonymous to donor with the goal of encouraging boys and young men to pursue classical dance.** Details and criteria for this scholarship - which is the first of its kind at the Ballet - can be found on the attached PDF.

This scholarship was **inspired by Company member Michael Burfield.** Michael has returned to Ballet Lubbock this fall stronger than ever, having attended the Joffrey Ballet's Summer Intensive (NYC) on a full artistic merit scholarship. Michael also teaches a weekly Boys Ballet Class, for young men who aspire to dance in the Company as well...and with this new scholarship, Michael's students can potentially benefit from the gift that he inspired.

Contact Executive Director Laura Berry for more information about this scholarship, Company member Michael Burfield, other young men studying dance at Ballet Lubbock, and to schedule interviews.

~MORE~



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Ballet Lubbock is pleased to announce a new scholarship to be known as *Le Danseur Premiere Scholarship*. The scholarship was created in honor of the performance of Michael Burfield as *Oberon* in the Ballet's 2007 production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

The anonymous donor was so touched by Michael's excellent performance that he realized the calling he felt as young man to pursue the arts might have been more fully realized with greater support and encouragement. To that end, the scholarship has been created specifically for boys and young men who wish to study ballet at the Ballet Lubbock School. The scholarship seeks to reward exceptional talent, to offer encouragement to those who aspire to greatness in the art of dance, and to provide financial support for those who might not otherwise have the means to attend the School.

To qualify for *Le Danseur Premiere Scholarship*, recipients must demonstrate two or more of the following criteria:

- Preference will be given to boys or young men who enroll in ballet classes at the Ballet Lubbock School.
- Artistic merit.
- A commitment and desire to continue the study of classical dance.
- A desire to pursue goals as a professional dancer.
- Financial need.

On an annual basis, Ballet Lubbock's Artistic Director will observe which candidate(s) best fit these donor-specified criteria. The Artistic Director will then present recommendations to the donor, and Ballet Lubbock will notify the recipient(s) accordingly.

Additional priorities and criteria specific to *Le Danseur Premiere Scholarship*:

- The scholarship is awarded on a year-to-year basis. In other words, it is not an indefinite or annually-renewed award but is rather considered and awarded on an annual basis.
- The scholarship funds may be split to benefit more than one student in any given year based on the recommendation of the Artistic Director for new or continuing students.
- If no boys or young men enroll in the Ballet Lubbock School by or before October 1 of each school year, then the funds may be distributed to girls or young women who demonstrate financial need and artistic merit. In such cases, the recipient(s) and funds will be distributed at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee of the Ballet's Board of Directors.
- If some or all of the scholarship funds are not awarded during a specific year, then the funds shall be deposited in an interest-bearing account for use in future years.

Following award acceptance, recipients of *Le Danseur Premiere Scholarship* agree to the guidelines below:

- Scholarship funds shall not be applied to performance fees, private lessons, master classes or any expense outside of ballet tuition or summer workshop expenses.
- Acceptance of *Le Danseur Premiere Scholarship* indicates acceptance of both the guidelines set forth in this document and the policies of the Ballet Lubbock School.