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Festival Ballet Providence 2005-2006 Season

Festival Ballet

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As I begin my 8th season with Festival Ballet Providence, I can hardly believe the time that has passed. But when I look back to my first months in 1998, and refocus to the present, I can't help but recognize the incredible growth the company has undergone.

The beginning of a new season is always filled with excitement, expectation, and, I must add, a certain amount of nervousness. It reminds me of a birth, a birth about to happen in stages. So much must be taken into consideration – the dancer's development and growth; what will challenge and excite our audience; our budget and working within its constraints, while producing a season of beauty, drama and great dancing; and finally my own aesthetics and the image I want the company to have, one that is sophisticated, elegant, highly charged, bold, expressive, dynamic, and innovative.

As the world grows smaller and we all become more and more of one big family, it becomes evident that ballet transcends all nationalities, language barriers and races. Ballet is truly a universal language. It makes me proud that Festival Ballet Providence's growing reputation attracts talented artists from around the US and the world, and that the superb staff of our Center for Dance Education is developing an increasing number of young Rhode Island dancers.

The depth and artistic strength of our dancers and collaborators has inspired and encouraged me to set this challenging and exciting season. This is a season of pure inspiration, with seven different productions, six world premierses, four magnificent story ballets and more than eight riveting contemporary works. From the ground-breaking choreography of the legendary George Balanchine; the bold, dynamic inventions of Viktor Plotnikov, Gianni Di Marco and Larraine Chapman; the technically intricate and dramatically sensual choreography of Yves de Bouteiller; and the fresh new choreographic voices of my company dancers, you’ll experience the elegance and athleticism of dance and the “in-the-moment” thrill of live theater. This season will deliver the excitement and professionalism you expect in Providence.

I believe that dance conveys what no other language can express. For this reason I want this season to be more than ballet, more than theatre, more than spectacle. I want this season to be a love affair; a public love affair between you and us, where the lovers stay with each other even after the curtain comes down.

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ALEXANDER AKOLOU
Having attended both the Academy of Dance, Voronej and the Vaganova Academy of Russian Ballet, St. Petersburg, Alexander received diplomas in Dance and Music in 2003. In that same year he became a member of the National Ballet Theatre of St. Petersburg. His repertoire includes the peasant pas de deux in Giselle, Romeo in Romeo and Juliet, and Von Rothbart and pas de trois in Swan Lake. Mr. Akoulov has performed the lead role in a 35 city USA tour in April 2005 while performing with the State Academic Ballet of St. Petersburg. This is Mr. Akoulov's first season with Festival Ballet Providence.

EMILY BROMBERG
Emily joined Festival Ballet as an apprentice in January of 2003 and has since danced roles such as Pas de Trois in the Sleeping Beauty, Cupid in Con Amore and is most noted for her performance of the Widow's Son in Viktor Plotnikov's world premiere The Widow's Broom. She received her early training at the Academy of Ballet Arts, Boston Ballet Center for Dance Education, and was a scholarship student at the Kirov Academy of Ballet and at Indiana University Ballet Program. As a Level 7 advanced student in Boston, she performed in numerous Boston Ballet productions including The Nutcracker, Giselle, and The Sleeping Beauty. Ms. Bromberg is currently in her senior year at the University of Massachusetts Psychology major and is engaged to her high school sweetheart. This is Emily's fourth season with Festival Ballet Providence.

DANIELA DEBROT
Daniela studied at the Keyra Ermecheo Ballet School in her native Caracas, and was a scholarship student for one year at the National Ballet School of Havana, Cuba. Upon graduation she was offered a scholarship with the Ballet Metropolitano de Caracas and Ballet Contemporano de Caracas, where she very quickly started dancing soloist and principal roles. Ms. Debrot represented Venezuela at the New York International Ballet Competition in 2000 and also competed at the Cuba V International Ballet Competition in 1999. She has performed a comprehensive repertoire ranging from classical to contemporary works, and has toured throughout South America, Asia, the US and Europe. In Providence, she has performed many roles including Mercedes in Viktor Plotnikov's Carmen. This is Daniela's fourth season as a dancer with Festival Ballet Providence.

CAROLYN DELLINGER
A native of Massachusetts, Carolyn received her early training at the Academy of Ballet Arts and Chautauqua Summer Dance. She is a 2002 BFA recipient from the Ballet program at the University of Utah, where she was named one of the department's most talented students. For four years Ms. Dellinger was a member of Utah Ballet where she danced numerous soloist and principal roles, and was awarded the lead in the premiere of Viktor Plotnikov's world premiere The Widow's Broom. Carolyn has performed many soloist roles at FBP including the Fairy Godmother in Cinderella, Hermia in A Midsummer Night's Dream, Lieutenant in Con Amore and Lilac Fairy in The Sleeping Beauty. This is Carolyn's fourth season with Festival Ballet Providence.

ROGER FONNEGRA
Mr. Fonnegra received his primary dance education from the Caracas Ballet School of Teresa Carreno and as a full scholarship student at the School of American Ballet. He returned to his native Venezuela where he joined the Ballet National de Caracas in 1998 as a member of the corps de ballet. In 2002 Roger did modeling work for Ballog's Dancewear, and continued his studies as a scholarship student at St. Petersburg Universities. In 2003 joined Columbia Classical Ballet as a soloist. Mr. Fonnegra has appeared as guest artist with the Ballet Camara of Caracas and Specialist in the Ballet of Colombia. He was featured in the article in Pointe Magazine, October/November 2004 issue of Pointe Magazine. In spring of 2005 he performed as a Guest Artist with the Pennsylvania Ballet in John Cranko's Romeo & Juliet. This is Roger's first season with Festival Ballet Providence.

MARISSA LEIGH GOMER
Marissa received her training as a scholarship student from the Boston Ballet Center for Dance Education, Providence Performing Arts Center and the London Studio Centre. In addition to performing a wide-ranging repertoire including Ashton's Foyerade and Bournonville, she has performed with the Images of Dance 2000 and 2002 UK tour. Ms. Gomer has performed professionally with Ballet Theatre of Boston, Festival Ballet Providence, in Providence, Ms. Marissa's most memorable performances include Spanish in The Nutcracker, the Fairy of the Golden Widow in Viktor Plotnikov's world premiere The Widow's Broom. Marissa is looking forward to her fourth season with Festival Ballet Providence, as well as continuing her education in the University of Massachusetts Honors Program and teaching as a Sorel Certified Pilates instructor. Ms. Gomer has also joined Festival Ballet Providence's Marketing and Public Relations team as Marketing Assistant.

LETTICIA GUERRERO
After stepping in with less than 24 hours notice for the premiere of Mr. Djuric's At Dawn in April, 2003, Ms. Guerrero was offered a contract for the company's 26th season. A native of Venezuela, Leticia received her early training at the Keyra Ermecheo Ballet School in Caracas. She has performed with numerous companies including Ballet Nuevo Mundo de Caracas, Metropolitan Ballet of Caracas, Minnesota Dance Theatre, Michigan Ballet, Charleston Ballet Theatre, Jose Mateo's Ballet Theatre and Cadence Dance Project. Leticia is known for her passionate dancing in roles such as Zobeide in Gianni Dimarco's world premiere Schelhetszade, Carmen in the premiere of Viktor Plotnikov's production, as well as the Widow in Plotnikov's 2004 premiere of The Widow's Broom. Leticia's FBP repertoire also includes Sugar Plum Fairy; Dew Drop Fairy and Mouse Queen in The Nutcracker, Firebird and Princess Florina/White Cat in The Sleeping Beauty. Leticia participated in the Venezuela Del Mundo Gala and was awarded for her successful career representing Venezuela internationally with high standards. She was nationally recognized for her "projection, dignity and beauty." Leticia was also awarded a Citizen Citation from Mayor David Cicilline for her "exceptional and wholehearted devotion for the art of dance." Ms. Guerrero teaches at Winchester Ballet Arts Center, Ballet Theatre of Boston, and Sally Gould Dance Center. She is married and has a beautiful four year-old daughter. This is Ms. Guerrero's third year dancing with FBP.

MARK A. HAROOTIAN
A native of Worcester, Massachusetts, Mark received his early training from the Performing Arts School of Worcester dancing with the Worcester Youth Ballet and Burncoat Senior High's dance department. There he excelled in learning many styles of dance, with emphasis on Jazz, Lyrical, and Jazz. He then was accepted into the University of Utah's ballet department on scholarship and as a member of Utah Ballet where he graduated with a BFA in classical and choreographed in many of the department's seasonal shows as well as dancing many leading roles with Utah Ballet. In addition Mark has performed extensively at the Royal Alexandra Theatre in Calgary, Canada and many other venues. After graduating from the University of Utah ballet program with a BFA, emphasis in performing and teaching, Aside from memorable roles including The Captain in Carmen, The Sailor in Con Amore and Doug Spivey in The Widow's Broom, Mark has also shown his choreographic talents with works breaking the Limits and Ain't Misbehavin', both performed as part of Up CLOSE on HOPE. He will choreograph a work to premiere for the 2005-2006 Up CLOSE on HOPE series. This is Mark's second season with Festival Ballet Providence.

ELIZABETH JESSEE
Elizabeth's ballet training began in her hometown of Calgary, Alberta, Canada; she received her formal training from Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet School. Intensive 'summer programs at the National Ballet School of Canada and the Banff Center for the Arts augmented her training. Upon graduating from the Professional Program at Royal Winnipeg Ballet School in 1999, she made her debut with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet in 2000, in Gailla Yordanov's stagings of Swan Lake and The Nutcracker. Elizabeth performed roles in Rooms & Juliet on RWB's 2001 Asian Tour; dancing for diplomats, dignitaries and ballet fans in South East Asia and China. During her years at Festival Ballet Providence in The Sleeping Beauty, Firebird, Doug Spivey Jr. in The Widow's Broom and Spanish in The Nutcracker and a memorable Little Red Riding Hood in The Sleeping Beauty. When not rehearsing or at the gym, Elizabeth can most likely be found enjoying a coffee and a good book at one of the many coffee shops on the East Side.
**COMPANY DANCERS**

**KARLA KOVATCH**
Karla received her training in Torrington, CT with the Nutmeg Ballet from 1988-1992. While there she won numerous awards at the national and international level. Upon graduation Karla joined Boston Ballet where she danced for eleven seasons. Ms. Kovatch has danced many principle, soloist, and corps de ballet roles in a wide range of the company's classical and contemporary repertoire. Some of these roles include the Siren in Balanchine's Prodigol Son, the Lilac Fairy in Sleeping Beauty, Myrtha in Giselle, Big Swans in Swan Lake, Forsythe's In the Middle, the Second Theme in Balanchine's Four Temperaments, Lady Capulet in Romeo and Juliet. Karla's strength and experience has created memorable roles at Festival Ballet including Micaela in Carmen, Sugar Plum Fairy in The Nutcracker, Princess Aurora in Sleeping Beauty, Pindriel in The Widow's Broom, and the Captain in Con Amore. This is Karla's third season with Festival Ballet Providence.

**PIOTR N. OSTALTSOV**
Piotr began studying dance at the age of ten at the Vaganova Academy in Russia. Upon graduation he joined American Ballet Theatre's 2006 Scholarship Program and was a soloist, touring the world performing in numerous ballets. Piotr is known for his roles in Petipa ballets, including Hilarion in Giselle, Rothbart in Swan Lake, Don Quixote in Don Quixote and also for his role as Tybalt in Romeo and Juliet. Prior to joining Festival Ballet Providence, he performed with the Hartford Ballet and Rhode Island Festival Ballet. His roles at Festival Ballet Providence have included Hilarion in Giselle, Drosselmeyer in The Nutcracker, Bottom in A Midsummer Night's Dream, and most recently as Escamillo in Carmen and in Salle's historical choreographer works. As a choreographer he has created works for Festival Ballet Providence's Up CLOSE on HOPE series including Tryst and Isolde, On The Turning Away, Costa Divo, and Antonio and Wolfgang: The Little Tragedy. This is Piotr's fourth season with Festival Ballet Providence. He will create another choreographic work to premiere in this season's Up CLOSE on HOPE series. Piotr is married to company member Karla Kovatch.

**GLEB LYAMENKOFF**
A native of Orsha, Belarus, Gleb received his formative training at the Dance Academy of Belarus. Prior to joining Festival Ballet, he studied and danced in Russia and France. His noteworthy classical repertoire includes the roles of Don Jose and Basilio in Don Quixote, created the roles of Don Jose and Broom for Providence. Gleb's strengths and joining Festival Ballet Providence for his second season. Gleb is Gleb's fifth season with Festival Ballet Providence. He was recently married to company dancer, Heather O'Halloran.

**EIVAR MARTINEZ**
Eiviar attended the Ballet artifact in Russia for the Arts in Torrington, CT. Andrew danced with the Canadian National Ballet for his second season. This is Eiviar's fourth season with Festival Ballet Providence. He was recently married to company dancer, Heather O'Halloran.

**RYAN NYE**
Ryan received his professional training from the Bossov Ballet Theatre and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School, Professional Division. A recipient of the Arnold Spoor Scholarship and the Renne Highway Scholarship at RWBS, Mr. Nye is also a award-winning choreographer. He has appeared in numerous productions including The Nutcracker, Don Quixote, Coppelia and Swan Lake.

**HEATHER O'HALLORAN**
Heather, a native of Providence, received her dance training at the Festival Ballet Center for Dance Education under Michael Duiric and was a member of the Festival Ballet Providence Junior Company for two years. In 2001 Heather placed in the top 10 in the Senior Classical Ballet Division of the national finals of the Youth America Grand Prix, receiving a scholarship to study at Washington Ballet's 2001 summer intensive program. Heather has performed a variety of roles including Micaela in Carmen, Snow Queen and Arabian in The Nutcracker, Pas de Trois in The Sleeping Beauty, and the widow's son in The Widow's Broom. In her third year, she joined Festival Ballet Providence. She was recently married to company dancer Eiviar Martinez.

**TY PARMENTER**
A former student of Mr. Djuric's from age 8 to 11, Ty is originally from Cape Neddick, Maine, and attended the Canada's National Ballet School as a resident student from 1998 to 2003. During his time in Toronto, he performed a broad spectrum of works by such choreographers as Lar Lubovitch, John Neumeier, Jiri Kylian, Glenn Gilmour and Christopher Bournes. He was a principal dancer in Don Quixote in the summer of 2003, and was a full scholarship student in Boston Ballet’s 2004 summer program. Ty has performed many roles in the FBP in ballets such as Carmen, Don Quixote, Pas de Deux and Puss’n’Boots in The Sleeping Beauty, and the Nutcracker Prince in The Nutcracker. Last season, Ty's performance of the Eunuch in Dimarcó's world premiere of Scheherazade was especially memorable. This is Ty's third year as a company member.

**JENNIFER RICCI**
Jennifer, of Johnston, RI, is a graduate of Rhode Island College. She received her dance training under Winthrop Corey and Christine Hennessy and became a Company member as a 15 year old. Jennifer has danced in a variety of roles including Carmen and the Widow's Broom. Gleb also teaches historical and character dance classes at the FBP Center for Dance Education. This is Heather's fifth year with Festival Ballet Providence. She was recently married to company dancer, Heather O'Halloran.

**ANDREW SKEELS**
Andrew is from Arlington, MA. He trained on scholarship at Boston Ballet and Nutmeg Conservatory for the Arts in Torrington, CT. Andrew danced with the Cincinnati Ballet and Ballet Internationale-Indianapolis before joining Festival Ballet Providence last season. In June, he represented The United States at the 8th New York International Ballet Competition at Lincoln Center and was a featured performer at the awards gala. Andrew is happy to be back with Festival Ballet Providence for his second season.

**DAVIDE VITTORINO**
A native of Italy, Davide received his training as a scholarship student from the Accademia del Ballet at the Fondazione Teatro Nuovo (Turin), and the Royal Ballet School of Flanders. Professionally he has danced with the Ballet of Teatro Nuovo (Turin), the Zurich Ballet (Switzerland), the Pilszther Kaiserslautern (Germany) and the Saarländisches Staatstheater Saarbrücken (Germany). In Italy he was awarded the Grand Prize at the Youth America Grand Prix and placed 3rd and 3rd in international competitions in Italy. Tours have included Luxembourg, Austria, Turkey, Cuba, Peru and Brazil. He has performed in a wide range of works by both classical and contemporary European and American choreographers. His versatility was notably in the premiere of Djuric's in the Festival Ballet Providence's Up CLOSE on HOPE series including Tryst and Isolde, On The Turning Away, Costa Divo, and Antonio and Wolfgang: The Little Tragedy. This is Piotr's fourth season with Festival Ballet Providence. He will create another choreographic work to premiere in this season's Up CLOSE on HOPE series. Piotr is married to company member Karla Kovatch.
COMPANY APPRENTICES

ERICA CHIPP
A native of Nevada, Erica completed her formal dance training in June of 2004 as a full scholarship student at The Harid Conservatory. Previously she had studied with Sierra Ballet and the Nevada Festival Ballet. Erica also attended summer programs at Burklyn Ballet Theatre, The Harid Conservatory, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet and Boston Ballet. Erica performed in the world premieres of The Widow’s Broom as Doug Spaivy Jr. and Schéhérazade as one of the wives of the Sultan. This is Erica’s second season dancing with Festival Ballet Providence.

JAMES BROWN
James Brown, a native of Indiana, holds a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Purdue University in addition to dancing for six seasons with Festival Ballet Providence. James has performed with Granite State Ballet, Island Moving Company, Cadence Dance Project, Spindie City Ballet, Ballet Theatre of Boston and Anna Mayer and Dancers. As a Festival Ballet Providence has his roles included Nutcracker Prince in The Nutcracker, Jonathan in Dujouric’s Loose Ends and Sealed, and the Knight of the Square Tables as well as leading roles in Dujouric’s Loose Ends, Magnificat, and Quartet for the End of Time. James also has begun a promising career as a choreographer, and formed his own company, Modern Populous. His Sketches from Life, Mad Times and Red Ball were performed as part of the inaugural Up CLOSE ON HOPE season. Welcome back, James!

MARK FLEISHER
With a BS in Biology from Carleton College and a Masters of Marine Environmental Science from SUNY Stony Brook, Mark has found a circuitous route to the stage this season. From performing Ukrainian Operas to creating roles in Dujouric’s Loose Ends and Sealed, Fliesher let maturity run its course and joined the rank of Character Artist. At Festival Ballet Providence his roles have included Herr Drosselmeyer in The Nutcracker and Casalabotus in Sleeping Beauty. When his stage career became overshadowed by his protégé, Archie, in 2001, Mark took a bigger behind the scenes supporting role as Festival Ballet Providence’s Marketing and Public Relations Manager.

LAUREN JILL MENGER
Lauren received her primary dance education at Seiskaya Ballet Academy and Indiana University from which she graduated in 2005 with a major in Ballet Performance and an outside field in Business Foundations. Ms. Menger also attended summer programs with Joffrey Ballet, American Ballet Theatre and Miami City Ballet. Aside from a year as an apprentice with Washington Ballet in 2001-2002, she has a varied work experience including ballet instruction, personal trainer, dancerwear model, and intern for the New York International Ballet Competition. Ms. Menger is also a certified Pilates instructor. This is Lauren’s first season with Festival Ballet Providence.

COMPANY CHARACTER ARTISTS

COURTNEY E. FRAGA
Courtney graduated with honors in December 2003 with a Bachelor of Science in Ballet Performance from Indiana University. She attended the Ballet Met Dance Academy summer programs on full scholarship, and attended Boston Ballet’s summer program. Her teachers and coaches include Violette Verdy, Leslie Peck, Julie Kent and John Clifford. Ms. Fraga performed in the company’s final production of the 26th Season, The Sleeping Beauty before officially joining the company for the 2004-2005 season. Courtneys’ memorable roles include Aurora’s friend in The Sleeping Beauty and Spanish in The Nutcracker. She would like to thank her parents for their constant support and encouragement.

ELIZABETH REILLY
A native Rhode Islander, Elizabeth trained with Christine Hennessy and Winthrop Corey, and danced with Festival Ballet Providence for over 14 seasons. During her career she danced soloist and principal roles in ballets including Valse Fantasie, Italian Concerto, Napoli, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty and The Nutcracker. In 1995 Elizabeth represented Rhode Island in the 1995 Miss America Pageant. Upon her retirement in 1998, she has continued to appear onstage in character roles with Festival Ballet Providence. She is currently a literacy coach in the Providence school system.

LAUREN JILL MENGER
Lauren received her primary dance education at Seiskaya Ballet Academy and Indiana University from which she graduated in 2005 with a major in Ballet Performance and an outside field in Business Foundations. Ms. Menger also attended summer programs with Joffrey Ballet, American Ballet Theatre and Miami City Ballet. Aside from a year as an apprentice with Washington Ballet in 2001-2002, she has a varied work experience including ballet instruction, personal trainer, dancerwear model, and intern for the New York International Ballet Competition. Ms. Menger is also a certified Pilates instructor. This is Lauren’s first season with Festival Ballet Providence.

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Festival Ballet was founded in 1978 by Christine Hennessy and Winthrop Corey, formerly principal dancers with the Canadian Royal Winnipeg Ballet and much admired in this country and abroad. Christine developed the young company, bringing in talented choreographers of international stature to set their works on the dancers, and at the same time, worked with the local community to advance dance education and appreciation.

Ms. Hennessy lead the company artistically until her death in 1997. The Board of Trustees launched an international search for her successor, and the talented Mihailo (Misha) Djuric was hired in the summer of 1998 to lead the organization into the new millennium. At the same time, the Board of Trustees purchased the Dance Center from the Hennessey family, making it an integral part of this non-profit performing arts organization.

A native of Yugoslavia who previously had served as artistic director of Ballet New England, Mr. Djuric’s career in Europe and the United States spans that of actor, dancer, choreographer, and costume designer. His vision for Festival Ballet Providence focuses on increasing the number and the variety of performances, developing a strong resident company, and increasing community collaboration and outreach throughout New England.

In September 2001 the newly renamed Festival Ballet Providence moved to its Providence home, at 825 Hope Street. A dream for over ten years, our new home has three state-of-the-art studios, and our Center for Dance Education offers over 80 hours of classes each week, providing comprehensive training for students ages three through adult. The Center’s association with the Company provides opportunities for talented dance students to appear with the professional company dancers in major productions. The Center for Dance Education also offers an eight-week summer program, including an intensive four-week Summer Dance program for serious young students. The school has become the foundation for the development of future dance professionals in Rhode Island.

Under Misha’s direction, the Company’s programming has grown to include a magnificent Nutcracker, important works of the classical period, premieres of innovative new works and intriguing ballets by emerging choreographers. With the generous support of corporate, foundation, and individual benefactors, Festival Ballet Providence remains passionate in fulfilling its mission, “To thrill and move our audience, dancers, choreographers, students, supporters and staff, with art and discipline. We dance to enrich and inspire lives.”
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MIHAIO "MISHA" DJURIC  
**Artistic Director,  
Faculty Chairman,  
Resident Choreographer**

Mr. Djuric is a former first soloist with the National Opera and Ballet Theatre in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. His training and experience encompass ballet, jazz, modern, folk dance and musical theater. During his ballet career he has worked with Ana Roje, Natalia Dusanka Komedic, Constantin Sergeyev, Svedita Afanasieva, Maryon Lane, Nevena Miric, Jovanka Bijegovic and Dusanices Komendic. As a choreographer, he has been recognized with numerous awards including gold and bronze medals at the Yugoslavian choreographers' competition. Besides Yugoslavia (and its former six republics) and the United States, his work has been performed in Russia, Switzerland, Malta, Romania, and Italy.

In 1991, Mr. Djuric was appointed Artistic Director at Ballet New England. Under his direction, Ballet New England's Company and School dramatically increased its programs and visibility, becoming the leader of New Hampshire's dance community. In 1993 and again in 1998, Mr. Djuric was awarded an Individual Artist Fellowship from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts (NHSCA). He was commissioned as a choreographer by the Council to create an original ballet for the 1997 Governor's Awards in the Arts Ceremony. In January 1998, he co-founded Ballet Theatre Workshop and the Children's Repertory Ballet in Portsmouth, NH. In 1999, as part of a collaboration with digital installation artist Harry Umen and the North Country Chamber Players, he received one of two Millennium Grants from the NHSCA to choreograph to Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time*.

In July, 1998, Mr. Djuric joined Festival Ballet Providence as Artistic Director, where he is responsible for managing the Company, Junior Company and the Festival Ballet Center for Dance Education. During his tenure, the organization has grown into one of the most exciting and accomplished cultural organizations in Rhode Island. Festival Ballet Providence was named the 2002 Outstanding Arts Organization by the Arts and Business Council of Rhode Island. This award is presented to an organization that demonstrates "unwavering commitment to excellence, significant impact on the community, and strong organizational development". In 2004, he received WaterFire's Aphrodite Award recognizing beauty and seduction, on behalf of Festival Ballet Providence, for "reaching new heights in bringing brilliant ballet to Rhode Island and in reaching out to introduce new audiences to dance." During his tenure, the organization's budget has more than quintupled in growth and gained renewed stature in the arts community.

In the United States, Mr. Djuric has created over 32 original works and has introduced the art and joy of dance to thousands of school children with performances, lecture demonstrations, workshops, master classes, and school residency programs.

LISA LADEW  
**Managing Director**

Ms. LaDew is a senior executive with over 25 years experience in arts management and healthcare administration. An avid fan of dance, Ms. LaDew joined the Festival Ballet Providence Board of Trustees in 1998 and served as Vice President of Strategic Planning in 1999. Her commitment to the organization strengthened in the spring of 2001 when she was hired as the full-time Managing Director. Ms. LaDew is thrilled to have been an integral part of Festival Ballet Providence's move to their state-of-the-art studios and the realization of a major strategic initiative. Originally from Wisconsin, Ms. LaDew earned advanced clinical and management degrees at the University of Wisconsin and DePaul University before moving to Massachusetts.

MILICA BIJEVIC  
**Ballet Mistress**

Born in Belgrade, Ms. Bijelic started her dance education at the Lujo Davico Ballet School at age 10. From 1975 to 1978 she studied at The Academy of Choreography in Moscow, and joined The National Opera and Ballet Theatre of Belgrade upon graduation in 1978. She quickly became a soloist, and in 1985 she was promoted to principal ballerina in 1985. The majority of her dancing career has been devoted to the National Opera and Ballet Theatre in Belgrade where she appeared in a great number of principal roles over the period of more than two decades, including those in: *Swan Lake*, *Giselle*, *Don Quixote*, *Coppelia*, *Les Sylphides*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Nutcracker*, *Cinderella*, *Per Gynt*, & *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Jelisaveta*, *Concerto Barocco*, *Love Divine*, *Ohrids Legend*, *Tales of Hoffman*, *Peter Pan*, *Resurrection* and many others.

With the role of Marguerite Gotier in *The Lady of the Camellos* Ms. Bijelic celebrated her 20th anniversary at the National Opera and Ballet Theatre in Belgrade. Her awards include: the Prize of the National Opera and Ballet Theatre (1980) for the role of Swanilda in *Coppelia*; a Public Award of Merit (1981) for the role of Antonia in *Tales of Hoffman*; the Award of Distinction on the Tenth Yugoslavian Ballet Biennial (1983) in Ljubljana for the role of Solveig in *Per Gynt*; and a Public Award of Merit (1985) for Wendy in *Peter Pan*.

The National Opera and Ballet Theatre in Belgrade honored Ms. Bijelic with a life-achievement award in 1997 for artistic and professional excellence throughout her career. Milica retired in 2002 as first ballerina from the National Opera and Ballet, and soon after began the next chapter of her career in the United States. At Festival Ballet Providence she has staged *Giselle* and *The Sleeping Beauty*. This is Ms. Bijelic's fourth season as a member of Festival Ballet Providence's artistic staff.
Macaroni & Cheese

Makes 8 servings

2 cups small elbow macaroni
3 tablespoons Cabot Salted Butter
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1/4 teaspoon dry mustard
Pinch ground red pepper (cayenne)
1 dash Worcestershire sauce
2 cups whole milk, heated
4 cups grated Cabot Sharp Cheddar (about 16 ounces), divided
1/2 cup buttered bread crumbs

1. Cook and drain macaroni according to package directions.
2. Preheat oven to 350°F. Butter 2 1/2-quart baking dish or coat with nonstick cooking spray and set aside.
3. In large saucepan over medium heat, melt butter. Sprinkle flour into butter and whisk constantly until you have thick, smooth paste with nutty aroma, about 5 minutes.
4. Add mustard, red pepper and Worcestershire. Gradually whisk in milk and continue stirring until sauce thickens and returns to simmer.
5. Reduce heat to low. Add 3 cups of cheese and stir until melted. Add macaroni, stirring until well coated. Pour into prepared baking dish. Sprinkle remaining cheese evenly over top, followed by crumbs. Bake for 20 minutes, or until golden on top and bubbling throughout.
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