



Press Release Author was Aimee Stubbeman. Karen Kuklinski was asked to review and revise press release to give it a marketing edge.

Contact: Tatyana Makarova, Artistic Director -513-351-4444 - email: : nextgen@fuse.net

----- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -----

August 6, 2003, 2003 - Cincinnati, Ohio

WEST SIDE STORY FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

The Sharks and The Jets Meet at Xavier University

Join the Next Generation Dance Company in celebrating their fifth birthday, by attending a unique contemporary performance of *West Side Story*. The production pairs the unusual combination of young ballet dance talent with the classic edgy story of love and friendship in the streets of New York. There will be four performances beginning September 11-14, 2003. All performances will take place at Xavier University's beautiful new Gallagher Student Center Theatre.

"The sets and costumes actually reflect the world, now, in 2003 while the Latin rhythms, beat and music of the original 1950's *West Side Story* production evoke memories and bring the timeless love story into focus through the art of dance," according to Next Generation Dance Company's Artistic Director, Tatyana Makarova.

Kelley King designed the innovative choreography. Kelley, a teacher and choreographer with over 20 years combined experience in both teaching and performing, has studied with nationally known teachers such as Nilo Toledo, Frank Hatchett, and Roni Mahler and has traveled and performed in a variety of shows and touring companies such as *CATS*, *A Chorus Line*, *Funny Girl*, *West Side Story*, and *Carousel*.

Show times and ticket information are as follows:

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|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Price Information: | Adult Tickets | \$20.00 |
| | Children (2 to 12 Years) | \$15.00 |

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|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Performance times: | Friday | September 12, 2003 | 8:00 p.m. |
| | Saturday | September 13, 2003 | 8:00 p.m. |
| | Sunday | September 14, 2003 | 2:00 p.m. |

For ticket information call the Xavier box office at (513) 745-3939. XU box office accepts cash, check, MasterCard, Visa and Discover

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Background:

Next Generation Dance Company was founded in 1999 by professional ballet teacher Tatyana Makarova and Cincinnati arts supporter Sandy Underwood. The company was created with two key objectives:

- To provide aspiring ballet dancers, ages 12-17, with in depth pre-professional performance experiences that enhance their skills and allow them to explore professional dance careers first-hand.
- To provide children and families with high quality, age specific dance programming that will develop their interest in dance and the performing arts.

Providing Pre-Professional Experiences For Aspiring Dancers

From 1963 to 1974, Tatyana Makarova danced under some of the Soviet Union's finest ballet teachers at the Vaganova Ballet School in St. Petersburg and the Ballet School of Norilisk. She danced in productions of Cinderella, Swan Lake, the Nutcracker and The Snow Queen among others. Later, she taught prize-winning students in Gomel, Belorussia. She arrived in the United States in 1989 and has served as a dance consultant and teacher, and is currently a co-owner, director and teacher of Cincinnati Dance Academy.

As a youth dancer and teacher in the Soviet Union, Ms. Makarova has extensive experience with an arts education system that allows aspiring young dancers to not only perform as amateurs, but also explore professional dance careers. Ballet students in Russia have the opportunity to work directly with professional dancers and directors and perform extensively in a pre-professional environment. Accordingly, students of high skill and interest are able to make the transition from students into a career in dance.

As a ballet teacher in the Greater Cincinnati area, Ms. Makarova discovered that American dance students do not have this same high level of opportunity. Most young dancers in our community perform in student and children's productions and recitals, but they rarely have the chance to actually work with professional dancers and directors in a pre-professional environment. Accordingly, few of our area's ballet students, even those that have great talent and skill, are able to pursue a career in dance.

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Requests for interviews or more information about Next Generation Dance Company should be directed to Tatyana Makarova, Artistic Director - 513-351-4444; email: nextgen@fuse.net