



WESTSIDE BALLET OF SANTA MONICA
A CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED PREPROFESSIONAL DANCE COMPANY
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Dear Valued Member of the Westside Community,

March 2024

We are reaching out on behalf of the non-profit performance company, Westside Ballet of Santa Monica, to announce our annual Spring Performances: **MASTERS OF MOVEMENT**. Founded in 1967 by Yvonne Mounsey and Rosemary Valaire, Westside School of Ballet stands as Los Angeles' premier public ballet institution. Its sister entity, Westside Ballet of Santa Monica, is a nonprofit arts organization renowned for its professional quality productions, presenting stellar performances biannually since 1973 — *now marking its 50th anniversary!*

Westside Ballet represents a community and an audience of all ages, ethnic and racial backgrounds, gender and sexual orientations, and socio-economic status. Through our collective efforts, we can inspire the next generation of artists. Through your donation, you enhance your business to a wide new audience and give them the opportunity to experience all that you have to offer the community. Through our raffle and auction fundraising efforts, we are able to raise money for scholarships for families who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford dance training.

The **Masters of Movement Gala** on Saturday May 18 will honor Balanchine legend Patricia Neary, to include works by master choreographers and performances by alumni luminaries: Lucia Connolly (Joffrey Ballet), Joy Womack (formerly Bolshoi & Kremlin Ballet), Broadway's Lyrica Woodruff, and alumnus Adrian Blake Mitchell, along with his partner and special guest artist Andrea Laššáková (both formerly of Mikhailovsky Ballet). The Gala Special Event begins at 5pm with cocktails, 6:30 performance, and then an 8pm dinner with special award for Ms. Neary.

The **Masters of Movement Spring Showcase** will be Friday, May 17 at 7pm and then again on Saturday, May 18 at 1pm. These pre-professional performances pay tribute to Westside Ballet's founders, Yvonne Mounsey and Rosemary Valaire, featuring Mounsey's signature ballets and highlighting Valaire's commitment to classical works — to include excerpts from Balanchine's "Concerto Barocco," a new contemporary ballet piece, and a new jazz ensemble.

We graciously appreciate your support and look forward to working together in artistically enhancing our part of the world which contributes greatly towards these young dancers' lives.

Thank you for supporting the arts in your backyard!

Warmly Yours,

The Westside Ballet Volunteer Guild & Fundraising Committee:
Angel Myhre, Soirée Raffle & Auction Chair and Board Member &
Jewels Solheim-Roe, Dir. for Community Outreach
Niki Vale & Katia Sirotenko, Guild Parent Volunteers & Raffle Co-Chairs

