



Family YMCA at Tarrytown

E- MEMBER NEWS

YMCA NEWSLETTER
March 2009

Y DANCE

Each week, new students of all ages flock to the YMCA to experience the magic of dance. YDance co-directors Jane Alexandre and Julie Johnson have many exciting events planned for the new year. YDance continues its collaboration with the Chintown YMCA with after school and community dance residencies at Millennium High School and at the Teen Center/Houston Street. And, of course, YDance continues to co-host the 3rd Friday Dance Jams, focusing on a new dance style every month!

This season, Evolve Dance, YDance's resident dance troupe, welcomes guest choreographers Ofelia Loret de Mola and Nicholas Leichter. Ofelia Loret de Mola is the Artistic Director of the New York City-based dance company danscores, which performs both internationally and in major U.S. city venues such as New York's The Joyce Theater and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Nicholas Leichter, a former member of Ralph Lemon Company and faculty mem-

ber of the Tisch School of the Arts and the American Dance Festival, is currently the Artistic Director of Nicholas Leichter Dance.

These artists will work with Evolve's Teen Apprentice Ensemble throughout this season, teaching master classes, conducting workshops, and creating a dance piece for the ensemble that will premiere at the Evolve Dance Festival (and Y Dance Festival) coming up this month, March 27 – 29 at the Tarrytown Music Hall (for tickets, go to tickets.tarrytownmusicall.org) This close connection between the rehearsal studio and the professional stage will be invaluable for dance students; they will be able to learn from and work with artists who have already been through the training process and are now making their own marks on the dance world.

There is still time to join one of the many dance classes at the YMCA. Check out the YMCA web site for a full schedule and information. Everyone is welcome;

as Jane Alexandre explains, "I am passionately devoted to providing meaningful, serious dance education and performance opportunities for everyone. The performance part is especially important, because it is how we use dance to communicate the human story to others. Adult dancers have the richness of life experience to offer in performance."



Y THEATRE

YMCA's upcoming winter production at Washington Irving School will be William Shakespeare's most politically charged drama, JULIUS CAESAR! This action packed play is chillingly modern in its meditation on democracy vs. tyranny, and director Peter Royston will be emphasizing the play's contemporary aspects. "We're setting the play in modern times," says Royston, "and I'm adapting the script to combine modern English news reporting with the Elizabethan lines. The kids study Julius Caesar and Roman history already in school. Hopefully, this production will help to bring that history to life for these kids." As Dr. Greene, principal at Washington Irving says, "In my many years of working

with elementary school students, I have not experienced a theater program with the breadth or depth of the Y program. It is thrilling to know that WI students have such a wonderful opportunity." Join us March 18 at

8:30 am and 7 pm, and March 19 at 9:15 am. Tickets for the evening show are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and seniors. That same week, the adult troupe of Y Theatre presents a staged reading of H. G. Wells' WAR OF THE WORLDS on Sunday March 22 at 5 pm at Christ Church, Tarrytown (43 South Broadway). Featuring Jan Atkinson, Tom Berdik, Judy Burke, Susan Copley, Jim Leeper, Howard Lipson, Kim Gaudin de Gonzalez, Jan Maltby, Katharine Swibold, Hank Walter, Phyllis Wheelan, and Trish Weyenberg, and directed by Peter Royston, this is a show not to be missed. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children and seniors, and all proceeds benefit our YMCA Shakespeare in the Parks summer camp. Sometimes you have to forget about politics and the economy, and just have fun! And that's what we did last November, with a rollicking, magical musical! YTheatre Director Peter Royston directed the 4th, 5th and 6th graders from Washington Irving School in a theatrical version of Disney's ALADDIN right after Election Day, inaugurating the brand new, state-of-the-art Sleepy Hollow High School auditorium! Working with producer Barbara Turk and musical director Steve Tubin, Royston led a huge cast though

the "Whole New World" of this magical Arabian Night. "Everyone knows the now-classic songs from the animated movie," says Royston, "like 'Arabian Nights,' 'Friend Like Me,' and 'A Whole New World.' And everyone loves the extraordinary animation of the film.

But what I think people forget is how theatrical the story is. After all, the show's original creators, Alan Menken and Howard Ashman, had their start in musical theatre! That's what we strove to bring across to the kids: that ALADDIN really is about the magical art of storytelling, whether it's Scheherazade telling the original Tales of the Arabian Nights, or Aladdin weaving a fantastic tale to get out of a jam!"

YTheatre also started a new venture this fall at Briarcliff Manor Elementary School: an after school theatre program for the Kindergarten through 5th Grade students, culminating in a performance of the musical SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK. Directed by Peter Royston, this project was the first theatrical production done by the students at Briarcliff Manor Elementary School in many years.





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Your Family YMCA at Tarrytown once again kicked off its annual campaign to raise funds for underserved community members. Our 2009 Strong Kids Campaign has already

raised almost half of its \$100,000 goal, but we still need YOUR help more than ever. With the uncertain economy and more of our members and friends out of work, OUR help is needed more than ever. Won't you please consider making a donation today? All donations, no matter how large or small, are so critical to our success. Pledge envelopes are available at the Member Service Desk, or contact Barbara Turk by phone (914) 631-4807 or email barbarat@ymcatarrytown.org.

We conducted a lobby campaign this year to inform our members of all the charitable work we do in the community. Hint: While your membership fees keep our state-of-the-art programs running, your donations are what enable us to offer financial assistance to help those in need.

Did you know that over 70% of the children in our Tarrytown After School Care program receive financial aid? Or how about the free water therapy classes we offer to disabled community members? Did you know that 100% of your donation goes directly to financial aid for those who need it? And finally, did you know that the Family YMCA at Tarrytown provides over

\$300,000 annually in financial assistance to over 1,000 individuals for childcare, youth, family and senior programming and



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62 Main Street
Tarrytown, NY 10591
ph: 914-631-4807
fax: 914-631-4841
www.ymcatarrytown.org