



**Westlake School for the Performing Arts brings to life Clara and the Toy Soldier, the Sugar Plum Fairy, the Cossacks, and all the unforgettable characters of Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker Suite.**

**DRIVEN from B1**

**WSPA has produced professional dancers, choreographers, teachers, and directors including top hiphop danseur Patrick Rivera Cruz, second-generation dance teacher**

To date, WSPA boasts of six studios and a music room at the Performing Arts Center with 22 teachers for over 150 classes offered each week. It also boasts of a performance program that takes its students to competitions, international festivals, and annual productions.

In 1994, WSPA formed its Performance Program. The school's dedicated and committed students, ages ranging from 5 to 21 years old, audition for acceptance in the Junior, Jr. Apprentice, Apprentice and Company levels in ballet, tap, jazz, Polynesian, hip hop and musical theater programs.

These students choose to commit to multiple classes a week and endless hours of rehearsals maximizing their potential and abilities.

Commitment and dedication of each student, paralleled by the professionalism of teachers, and parent support, paved the way for each program to blossom into a strong performing group known today as: WSPA Dance Company

from the ballet/contemporary program under Rivera-Peoples; Te Orama from the Polynesian Program lead by Kumu Anthony Manaois; The Company from the hip hop program directed by Patrick Rivera Cruz; and MTC from the musical theater program under Katie Kerwin.

Individually and collectively, these groups have received local and global recognition for their high quality presentations and professionalism.

Rivera-Peoples trained under Felicitas Radaic, and subsequently earned an accredited position as a teacher with the London Royal Academy of Dance, after passing a rigorous exam with flying colors. Relentless in the pursuit of her passion, she gained professional experience as a lead company member under BP's artistic director, Alice Reyes, herself the prime example providing a haven for creative and innovative choreographers and artists such as the late Philippine National Artist,

Salvador Bernal, and world renown ballet stars such as Vakhtang Chabukiani, Natalia Makarova, Leslie Browne, and Fernando Bujones. This knowledge and experience accompanied by her unwavering passion for dance inspired Rivera-Peoples to lead WSPA students.

Fostering her joy of performing all over the world and the love for the art of dance, Rivera-Peoples returned to Scotland for the Aberdeen International Youth Festival in August of 2007. Then, as a 16-year-old performer with the Philippine Ballet Theatre, and later, coming in full circle as a director with 65 delegates ages ranging from 11 to 22 years old. Her students performed a diverse repertoire of classical ballet/modern contemporary, Polynesian, and Hip Hop works.

Her feat did not end in Scotland.

In 2008 and 2010, WSPA's Te Orama from the Polynesian Program and The Company from the hip hop program, per-

formed in the biennial Macau International Youth Dance Festival in China alternately. This summer, WSPA intends to accept invitations to perform in Tahiti, China, and Scotland, sending students from all its programs including musical theater and tap to the three countries around the world.

Rivera-Peoples believes that parent involvement is invaluable to the success of everything in WSPA, which nurtures a home for the young and the old who want to create magic and beauty in their lives. Working as a community with a pool of parent volunteers, a non-profit parent-based organization, the Young Performers Inc. or YPI was founded in 2006. YPI serves the community with free dance performances while strengthening its financial arm to sponsor productions and develop subsidies for travel and competition opportunities of the students.

WSPA has produced professional dancers, choreographers, teachers, and directors.

Many of them are dancing locally and teaching out of state, including 25-year-old Patrick Rivera Cruz, the only son of Rivera-Peoples, who heads the Bay Area's top hip hop crew. The Company, travels at least once a month guesting as a hip hop master of Movement Lifestyle in countries like Spain, Brazil, Germany, Thailand, Singapore, Japan, Portugal, Czech Republic and Canada.

WSPA has earned quite a reputation for its pre-professional training in ballet. The school is a three-time recipient of the "Outstanding School Award" in 2004, 2010 and 2011 in the San Francisco Regional of the Youth America Grand Prix (world's largest student ballet scholarship competition). Rivera-Peoples was twice awarded the "Outstanding Choreographer" for her ensemble works and WSPA ballet teachers Lauren Main DeLucia and Tina Fargas-Newell (also a former BP member) have produced Hope Awardees for YAGP in the pre-competitive level.

Recognizing the need for a Ballet Professional Division for the career oriented students, Rivera Peoples invited Victor Kabaniaev from the Diablo Apprentice Program to lead the soloists to world-

class level. Joining WSPA with Kabaniaev is the young medalist Miko Fogarty who was one of the six featured ballet students in the ballet documentary "First Position." First Position recently had its World Premiere at the 2011 Toronto International Film Festival and was named the audience choice's first runner up for Best Documentary.

WSPA's upcoming presentation at the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco will star principal female leads 13-year-old BalletMmedalist, Miko Fogarty, as Sugar Plum Fairy, along with 2010 Hope Awardee, Hikari Jacobson, as Snow Queen. 2011 Hope Awardee, Jasmine Cruz, performs Clara, 2010 YAGP New York finalists Hannah Hapin will be Sugar Plum alternate, Tristan Brosnan and Ian DeBono will alternate as the young Prince, Madison Chang, alternating as Clara, and Erin Fong as the Snake.

Nestled in a quiet neighborhood in Daly City is a community of art, the Westlake School for the Performing Arts, where dance is a passion, discipline is a way of life, and community service is a priority.

For more information, call (650) 757-1244 or email [wspa1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wspa1@sbcglobal.net).

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