

FRCB Quarterly Membership Meeting - FINAL

May 22nd, 2021

Virtual via Zoom platform

Silvie Gallardo called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.

In attendance were Johanna Camara, Ganga Keppetipola, Tara M, Silvie Gallardo, Eleanor Simpson, Kathryn Chongpinitchai, Shauna, Nancy Popson, Setu van Lare, Charlie Pavitt, Irene Elliott, Tracy Fitzgerald, and Bill Wood.

MINUTES:

- Review and approval of Minutes from prior Meeting
 - Motion to approve: Setu
 - Second: Nancy Popson and Ganga Keppetipola
 - All approve

CONSENT CALENDAR:

- Review and approval of Consent Calendar
 - Motion to approve: Nancy Popson
 - Second: Charlie Pravitt
 - All approve

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Eleanor Simpson):

- Guidelines in regard to Covid are changing. Eleanor has requested a meeting with Betty from City of Rockville to discuss the vision for the return to normal activities.
- No answers are available regarding a summer show until Eleanor can meet with Betty.
- Senior students have begun discussing their choreography project with more information to follow.
- The brochure for the Ballet has been through several rounds of edits and should be finalized shortly.
- Updates are in progress for the RCB website hosted by the City. Some RCB members have given photos. Eleanor is still interested in collecting behind-the-scenes photos of dancers and volunteers, including kids in costumes.
- Class numbers remain small, with adult dancer numbers holding steady and young dancer numbers remaining small versus the last 5 years or so.
- Eleanor is hopefully for mixed opportunities, like outdoor classes.
- We were informed the studio wood and Marley flooring have been refreshed.
- No watch parties scheduled yet, but Eleanor and Kathryn will meet to discuss next plans for dancers.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Ganga reviewed the Q1 financial sheet
- ALUMNI REPORT:

- Kathryn noted there was nothing to report at this time.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT:

- Setu noted that Dinis posted article on social media about Asian stereotypes regarding Nutcracker and there was an inquiry into whether RCB would take any actions; Eleanor stated that RCB has already thinking about these types of issues and that RCB welcomes input
- Eleanor noted the Orientalism of the music, based on the composers of that time; RCB doesn't have the budget to rescore
- RCB has previously made conscious efforts to address stereotypes in the shows by careful phrasing of language in the program and discussions with dancers in class
- Nancy suggested an insert in the Nutcracker program that addresses these issues.
- Bill noted how Claudia had approached the performances with open casting and interpretations of the stories.
- Tracy agreed with Nancy, and thought it was also interesting from audience perspective
- Silvie also agreed that the insert fantastic idea since the community-at-large is having these conversations.
- Kathryn suggested a live, open forum with choreographers and community
- Setu suggested adding information to the website and social media about the choreography, what is behind it, such as the thought and deliberate action
- Setu will draft response to the social media inquiry and send it for review to Eleanor, Erin, and Silvie.
- Bill noted he is also willing to talk about other RCB shows, such as the one based on Othello.
- Elea noted stereotypes in other ballets, such as La Bayadère, for example
- Nancy inquired whether there may be grants to reimagine classic ballets

OLD BUSINESS:

- Bylaws Revision Project –
 - Next Meeting scheduled for Monday night, but due to limited availability of participants, the meeting will be moved to another Monday.
 - Adoption of project calendar
 - Silvie Sent draft from David; we will formally adopt calendar and keep moving forward with project
- Silvie thanks Nancy for the DVD project; Nancy stated that there are a few extra copies of Nutcracker and Alice in Wonderland and anyone who is interested in these should contact Nancy.

NEW BUSINESS

- Plan for further RCB Community activities
 - Hopeful for outdoor classes
- Proposals for virtual showings or other activities
 - Send ideas to the board.
- Other

- Tara M suggested partnering with restaurants (assuming they are recovering; can we loop in partnership, not necessarily for fundraiser)
- Propose date for next meeting.
 - 12 weeks from now is Saturday, August 14th, 2021; following week also clear as back-up (3 PM is good)
- Nancy thanked the board members for keeping things going.

- Bill Wood moved to close the meeting
- Second: Nancy
- All approve; meeting closed at 3:53 PM.