



## **Friends of The Sarasota Ballet April President's Letter**

Dear Friends,

Happy Spring! April is an exciting time for the Friends and The Sarasota Ballet. This past weekend we got to experience the stunning Program Six - Portraits of Expression. Now we look forward to Program Seven - Inspirations, on April 26 - 27th, when our illustrious Company returns to the stage at the Opera House.

Our March Showcase Luncheon, featuring Director Iain Webb, was sold out! Always a crowd pleaser, Iain is in his 17th season and remarked, with a chuckle, "I am surprised the Board asked me to stay after the first year!" We are so grateful they did.

To the delight of attendees, Iain shared several humorous stories from behind the scenes of The Sarasota Ballet. During a lively Q&A, one member commented "Iain, you have given me 17 years of great joy...this man is a jack of all trades...when he first arrived in Sarasota, even printing out tickets when no one else was available."

**Fun Fact:** Iain shared that he used to be the one changing the large banners hanging outside the Asolo Theater!

Although he did not announce the next season, he said an official announcement will be made today, April 8th! He did say that the season will be amazing, including three world premieres and four performances will be accompanied by full orchestras. Thank you, Iain. We have much to look forward to in the fall.



Speaking of Showcase Luncheons, our last Luncheon for this season will be next week on April 15th at Michael's on East. Please reserve *TODAY* as General Manager, Jason Ettore, will be the featured speaker with "Insights to the Operations and the Making of the Season." Reservations can be made online [here](#) or by calling Amy Wensley at 941-225-6513.

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If you haven't heard, our own Jean Volpe, Guest Faculty for our Education Department, will be The Moderator for the **Ringling College Library Association Lecture Series** at the **Van Wezel on April 15th**, featuring Misty Copeland.

Misty was promoted to principal dancer, making her the First African American woman to ever be promoted to that position in the American Ballet Theater's 75 years of history. If you recall, Misty was a guest artist for The Sarasota Ballet Gala a few years ago. I encourage you to get tickets to support Jean for the evening lecture, so you will not miss out on our Luncheon earlier in the day.

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Our Membership Chair, Betty Ferguson is tirelessly working on member renewals. Please contact Betty via email at [bcamarest@yahoo.com](mailto:bcamarest@yahoo.com) or by calling 941-497-7841 if you are unsure of your membership renewal date.

As always, my mantra... "Be a Friend, Bring a Friend". I am forever grateful for your continued support of the Friends and The Sarasota Ballet.

Warmest Regards,

Pat Golemme



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