

Francis Performing Arts Company 2011-12 Company 1 – 2 – 3

August 10, 2011

Hello! Summer is (unfortunately) quickly flying by! Hope it's been great! We just had a FABULOUS workshop with Ariane Dolan, Nic Gareiss, Sarah Savelli, Samantha Shelton, and Kristen Bennett! I'm glad most of you were able to participate!

You are receiving this letter because you expressed interest in FPACo for this year, and/or were a Company member last year. We have some new students interested in participating again this year, so we will definitely have 3 Company levels again this year!

We have several things lined up right away, including one event in August, and the Performance for the Schools with a Gratiot County Community Foundation Grant.

We will have a FPACo Workshop and Audition again, **August 29 & 30**. This is a **mandatory workshop and audition** for any interested in being a member of Francis Performing Arts Company. This Audition will not eliminate any dancers from participating in FPACo. It is not a case of "some get in, some don't". If you are receiving this letter, it means that we already feel you are ready to participate, and we feel you are interested in moving to another level in your dance, and more performance opportunities. Participating in FPACo is a commitment on your part. *See the copy of the contract enclosed in snail mail!* All Company members will be asked to read, consider, and sign this contract again this year.

The Audition will give APA teachers and guest adjudicators the ability to see you work together, and form the 3 best groups that we feel will work together appropriately and give each of you the best opportunity to learn, advance at a good level, and participate in community involvements. Guest adjudicators help me so more objective decisions are made, and it's not up to me to "place" you. So there is some pressure to perform your best to be in Company 1 for example. **Just because you are in a certain grade, or dance level, does not determine which Company you will be in!** Each Company will be a different mix from last year! Each year the total mix of dancers is different, both in the specific list of individuals and their skill levels at the time of the audition, which is why we do audition! You must work to place yourself! Also, not all Company dancers will necessarily be in the same technique classes together with other Company members during the school year. New, young dancers will however, be automatically in Company 3 – so **NO STRESS FOR YOU!** Just perform your best to improve, and help us place the "more experienced" dancers by letting us see you all work together! You will be learning dances much more quickly than in your regular technique classes, and it is very important that you come back to each rehearsal knowing what you did the time before, so you can add on.

Company 1 and 2 will both have regular rehearsals on **Wednesday** evenings during the school year, approximately **8:00 - 9:15/9:30pm**. This will give us the ability to have the 2 groups work together, if desired, and/or swap choreographers more easily. Dancers in these levels must be prepared to do rehearsals during this time period!

Company 3 rehearsal time for the school year is yet to be determined, but possibly Thurs afternoon again.

Fall '10 Opportunities so far:

Tues, Aug 23 – Alley T fundraiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) – **REPLY ASAP – rehearse Mon 22nd**

Sat, Sept 10 – Lucky MacDuck Day – Tappers and/or Volunteers

Tues, Sept 21 – Performance for the Schools @ Alma College (3 daytime shows + 7pm show for public)

Dec 9-11 & Dec 16-18 – Gratiot Co Players "White Christmas" – Co 1 & 2

Fri, Dec 9 – Come Home to Alma for Christmas – at APA w/Church of God Choir

A very exciting, busy fall! Be sure and read next pages carefully, and **RESPOND ASAP** where needed! I still have much planning to do and I need your input!

Kathy Francis
463-2983

Francis Performing Arts Company 2011-12

CHRONOLOGICAL DATES & INFO

ALLEY T - BIG BROTHER / BIG SISTER FUNDRAISER

Mon Aug 22

10:00am-noon Learn dance(s) for modeling.
noon-1:00 Get fitted for Alley T clothes.

I need to know who can do this – ASAP! I also **need your T-shirt & clothing sizes** (I can refer to last year's measurements, but more helpful to know what size T-shirts & pants, etc, would you buy if you were shopping at Alley T? **Need street shoe size.** Some dancers will use their colored "UGG-style" booties.

Tues Aug 23

3:00pm

SHOW AT 7:00pm – Hometown Cellars Winery, downtown Ithaca

Arrive APA to REHEARSE. Wear black jazz pants, black or nude camisole leotard, "Broadway" recital T-shirt (or other APA shirt if not this year's) and bring black jazz shoes. Make up, hair in high bun (that can fit under hat or baseball cap.) These basics may be needed for partial costume!

4:30pm

Depart for Ithaca – snack stop at Ithaca McDonalds.

5:00pm

Arrive @ Winery. Dress in first Alley T outfit. Rehearse briefly in Winery space.

6:00pm

Finalize hair & make-up.

7:00pm

Fashion Show showcasing Alley T fashions and school wear; Hometown Cellars Winery lobby, downtown Ithaca

\$5 donation at door; All proceeds go to **Big Brother/Big Sisters.**

Hor d'oeuvres provided by Alley T as well as raffle for door prizes. Bring your friends!

WORKSHOP AND AUDITION

The following dates are CRITICALLY IMPORTANT and REQUIRED for any dancer wishing to participate in Francis Performing Arts Company! (FPACo). You may decide later not to join FPACo, but in order to do so, you MUST attend these dates.

Mon Aug 29

Jazz Combination

10:30am-noon Company Workshop class to learn combination (*this may be cancelled if all can attend pm*)

3:30-5:00pm Company Workshop class to learn combination

These two rehearsal periods will be IDENTICAL. **Please notify us which one you will attend.** If all can attend 3:30-5pm, we may decide to cancel the morning class. (If both times ARE held, any dancers may attend BOTH if they would like extra rehearsal time!)

Tues Aug 30

10:00-11:00am PRACTICE period to review combination

-break-

Prepare for audition – DRESS APPROPRIATELY FOR AN AUDITION! A nice leotard!
Hair beautiful – tied up, out of face!

noon-2:00pm

COMPANY AUDITION

Placements will be posted by 4:00 for Open House.

STUDIO OPEN HOUSES

Pick up schedules – Company levels posted

Tues Aug 30 4:00pm – 8:00pm

Student volunteers needed for all days to help – let me know!

Wed Aug 31 10:00am – 6:00pm

Used Items for Sale available for "shopping" during Open Houses.

Thur Sept 1 10:00am – 1:00pm

BOTTOMS UP SALE AT APA!

Thur Sept 1 **2:00pm – 7:00pm**

Bottoms Up will bring leotards, tights, skirts, jazz pants, dancewear items to buy off the rack! Shoes will be sized and ordered, and delivered to us at APA prior to classes beginning. Used-for-sale will be put away while Bottoms Up is here, so shop the used items at Open Houses!

REHEARSALS BEGIN FOR "BROADWAY & BEYOND" FOR SCHOOLS

Tues Sept 6 Info to come

LUCKY MAC DUCK DAY

Sat Sept 10 Volunteers needed for various things! **Let me know if you are interested!**

"BROADWAY & BEYOND" FOR SCHOOLS

Mon Sept 19 7pm Dress Rehearsal

Tue Sept 20 All Day + 7pm evening show Shows include dancers from Taiwan!

DANCE IN THE MOMENT WITH NIC GAREISS

Sept 28, Oct 5, Nov 9, Nov 16 during regular FPACo 1 & 2 rehearsal time, Wed night

DANCE MASTERS OF MICHIGAN WORKSHOP

Attendance encouraged for all dancers, but **required for dancers who did not attend Summer Dance Fest**

Sat Nov 19 Juniors (10-12yr) afternoon

Sun Nov 20 Teens (13+) morning – Seniors (15+) afternoon

COME HOME TO ALMA

Fri Dec 9 Times to be determined.

GCP "WHITE CHRISTMAS"

Dec 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18

Company 1 & 2; 1 jazz dance, 1 tap dance; Would like to split into 2 casts so dancers don't need to be at 2 full weekends. **Please let me know which dates you can do, ASAP.** Dec 9 is also "Come Home to Alma" show(s). One dance is just before intermission, the other just after intermission. Dancers will be able to arrive after show begins, and leave when done.

CUT & RETURN NO LATER THAN ----- AUGUST 15 -----

NAME _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____

ALLEY T - BIG BROTHER / BIG SISTER FUNDRAISER; Aug 22 & 23 _____ Yes _____ No

If yes: T-shirt size _____ Sweatpant size _____ Street shoe size _____

WORKSHOP; Aug 29 10:30am-noon _____ 3:30-5:00pm _____ either/both _____

STUDIO OPEN HOUSES

Help with new student tours, handing out schedules, selling Lucky MacDuck tickets:

Tues Aug 30 (4:00pm – 8:00pm) I can help _____ to _____ o'clock

Wed Aug 31 (10:00am – 6:00pm) I can help _____ to _____ o'clock

Thur Sept 1 (10:00am – 1:00pm) I can help _____ to _____ o'clock

LUCKY MAC DUCK DAY; Sat Sept 10 Volunteers needed for various things!

I am interested in attending and helping! _____

DANCE MASTERS OF MICHIGAN WORKSHOP; Sat Nov 19; Sun Nov 20

I may be interested; ask as it gets closer! _____

GCP "WHITE CHRISTMAS"; Please check all dates you could be available. 7pm shows Sat/Sun; 3pm Sun.

Fri Dec 9 _____ Sat Dec 10 _____ Sun Dec 11 _____ Fri Dec 16 _____ Sat Dec 17 _____ Sun Dec 18 _____