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What's New with Rusalka

Board of Directors

Alumni & Friends

Rusalka UNF School of Dance
What's new with Rusalka

Rusalka Auditions – Dance with us into our 60th year!

As we begin the start of a new dance season and start preparations for our exciting anniversary year ahead, we are looking for talented and dedicated male and female dancers to join us as we dance into our 60th year!

Dancers must be 16 years of age or older. To register for group auditions today, email general@rusalka.mb.ca.

Auditions will follow current COVID-19 safety guidelines and protocols.

Share the news with family and friends that want to join our Rusalka family!

Thank You! Дякуємо!

Throughout the last year amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Rusalka has been incredibly grateful for the generous support of our arts and cultural community as we continue sharing our Ukrainian culture through dance.

We wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Manitoba Arts Council, Shevchenko Foundation, Carpathia Credit Union, St. Boniface Ukrainian Foundation Inc., the Government of Manitoba, and The Winnipeg Foundation for their support during a time of challenge and uncertainty.

We are able to dance into our 60th year with optimism and excitement because of you!
Rehearsal Series with Peter Storoschuk

For the month of August we were so grateful to have esteemed Rusalka alumnus, former instructor and choreographer, Mr. Peter Storoschuk, join us for an exciting rehearsal series to celebrate the end of our dance season!

Peter always ignites and inspires us with his incredible passion, talent, and energy. We are so thankful for him and look forward to new opportunities to work together as we begin our 60th anniversary season!

Celebrating Independence Day

On the 30th anniversary of Ukraine's independence, Rusalka was proud and honoured to gather at the Taras Shevchenko Monument on the Manitoba Legislative Building grounds to represent and promote Ukrainian dance and culture alongside Ukrainian National Federation of Canada Winnipeg Branch.

Слава Україні! Героям Слава!

Folklorama's One Unified Virtual Experience

We were so excited to put on our Hutzul and Kuban costumes again when we performed live on stage at the Burton Cummings Theatre for Folklorama's One Unified Virtual Experience on August 8.

We couldn't have imagined a better way to step back on stage than with our Folklorama family!
As the scenic colors begin to appear and change and the air becomes just a little crisper, it is apparent that a new and beautiful season is upon us. And with the onset of fall, we together have the privilege of turning yet another page in the Rusalka storybook. A continuation of the chapters written by our tremendous team of authors — audience, current dancers, alumni, volunteers, donors, supporters, family, and friends of Rusalka alike, all contribute to this incredible story in dance.

This time of the year presents itself with an opportunity for a new beginning but also brings a time of reflection on the pages once written. We move forward with excitement and anticipation of celebrating 6 incredible decades of Rusalka. An admirable milestone that will be recognized in true Rusalka spirit and style. Rusalka's rich history gives us tools, ways to analyze, and provide explanation. It allows us to see patterns that might otherwise be invisible in the present, therefore providing a valuable perspective for understanding. The ever-connected and important trinity: past-present-and future will remain part of the incredible 60-year legacy that is forever and always Rusalka!

As we approach this iconic year, we are reminded of the endless financial support that has been a vital component in cultivating the Rusalka of today. The Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to recognize and graciously thank all the generous individuals, businesses, and community organizations for being such an integral part of the Rusalka family. We remain humbled and incredibly grateful for these contributions that assist in sustaining and perpetuating Rusalka's ability to share and shine the beauty of our culture through the art form of Ukrainian dance.

Rusalka….soon to be 60 and shining brightly!

Get the latest Rusalka news delivered right to your inbox, and don’t miss out on exciting information ahead of our 60th anniversary celebrations next year! Subscribe through our website today:

https://rusalkamb.ca/contact

Please encourage other friends of Rusalka to subscribe to ensure they stay up to date on important information going into a year full of festivities!
60th Anniversary Logo Launch

As preparations for Rusalka's 60th anniversary celebrations move ahead with great momentum and excitement, we are thrilled to launch Rusalka's 60th anniversary logo!

The Rusalka Board of Directors and 60th Anniversary Planning Committee extend their sincere thanks and gratitude to Rusalka alumni Randy Kohuch and his creative team, who shared their time and talents to create a striking new logo to lead Rusalka into a new phase of inspiration and celebration in reflection of 60 years of dance!

We will be featuring Rusalka's new 60th anniversary logo as part of an upcoming winter merchandise release so please stay tuned for more details coming this fall. We can't wait to celebrate 60 years with you!

60th Anniversary
Save the Dates

Rusalka Christmas Open House
Sunday, December 19, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Rusalka Ukrainian Dance Camp
July 17 – 24, 2022

Rusalka's 60th Anniversary Gala
Saturday, November 5, 2022

Legacy Leaders

Legacy Leaders is Rusalka's monthly fundraising campaign ahead of our 60th anniversary next year. Every month, we feature one of our Legacy Leaders on Rusalka's Facebook and Instagram platforms to express our tremendous gratitude and appreciation for the generous and dedicated individuals that help continue Rusalka's legacy through consistent financial donations.
Our Legacy Leader for the month of July was Nicole Boch.

“I joined Rusalka because of an inner passion for Ukrainian dance. Like many dancers, I was unaware of the magnitude of what was to come. Rusalka provides its dancers with memories and friendships to last a lifetime. From access to dynamic choreographers and countless opportunities to travel and showcase the beauty of Ukrainian dance, Rusalka fosters a deep and lasting connection to culture and community. I feel so honoured and thankful to be a part of such an amazing organization. When I heard about the $20 a month program, I thought that this was the perfect way to support the group that gave me so much. I encourage others to consider donating to ensure we keep our Ukrainian culture alive and growing through music and dance.”

- Nicole Boch, Rusalka Alumni, 2002 – 2009

Our Legacy Leader for the month of August was Myron Tarasiuk.

“Rusalka opened my eyes to the world and provided me with many wonderful, memorable experiences and lasting friendships. The thrill of performing on stage with equally dedicated dancers is truly a lasting memory and this is what I wish for Rusalka dancers today and future generations. It must be noted that Rusalka is truly a very special “family of dancers” in the literal sense – grandparents, parents, sons and daughters have and continue to dance in Rusalka to this day. I have chosen to contribute to Rusalka financially and continue its renowned history and heritage. As a Legacy Leader, we play a very significant role in supporting the day-to-day operations of the organization and as a proud alumnus, I encourage all who share this connection to Rusalka to contribute what they can to sustain a group that will soon be commemorating its 60th Anniversary- what a remarkable achievement!”

- Myron Tarasiuk, Original Member of Rusalka, 1962 – 1984; Former Instructor, Artistic Director, Board Member, and Chair of Rusalka's Alumni Association

The spirit of Rusalka is strong because of donors like Nicole and Myron. Join them in supporting Rusalka with a minimum $20 monthly charitable donation through CanadaHelps.

By becoming a Legacy Leader, your automatic monthly sponsorship will support Rusalka’s operational and artistic needs now and into the future. Rusalka needs people like you to provide a stable financial foundation for years to come. Follow in Nicole and Myron’s footsteps and become a Legacy Leader today!

Logo Credit: Markian Maximiuk, Rusalka Dancer
Footnotes Blast from the Past

Check out an excerpt from the 1999 edition of Footnotes. You may notice a few birth announcements for some of our current Rusalka ensemble members. Rusalka truly is a family of dancers!

Knots & Tots & Forget-me-nots
I did (or they did)
Christine Honeybun & Garry Preachuk
Julie Rorabeck & Steve Kotosich
Paul Sun & Valentine Honoldynski
Chief Justice Benjamin Hewak & Mona Hordik
Myles Burdeniuk & Darlyn Faia
Michael Kubrakovich & Sharon Buckler
Tanya Zubatuk & Daniel Guihchak

Oh, Baby!
Amy (Dribas) & Blair Yakimoski - a daughter, Larissa
Lorraine & Pat Kuryk - a daughter, Natasha Gabriele
Lorraine Michuk & Tim Ochuchuk - a son, Ilya Avram
Randy Kohut & Carol Tauberse - a son, Nicholas John
Merv & Barb Pichylak - a son, Matthew
Leanne (Dubowsky) & Paul Loewen - a son, Luke Gabriel
Candace (Noel) & David Skromeda - two sons, Kristian & Benjamin
Randy & Julie Skromeda - a son, Lukas
Lisa Stecky & Al Delaquis - a son, Ryan
Lizanne Ritzier & Marc Penner - a son, Christopher
Karen (Dulinski) & Chris Morrow-Ultee - a son, Nicholas
Sherry (Todoruk) & Mark Karpa - Twins!! - Adrianna & Alexander

1999 Board of Directors:
Congratulations to Rusalka’s newly elected board of directors. The following is the new slate of energetic, talented board members:
Sandra Toews
Fred Mazepa
Bhodana Bashuk
Rev. Andrew Jaruse
Nadya Kmet
Ray Honeybun
Craig German
Paul Sun
Mary-Anne Wachychyyn

Did you know?

• Anyone who danced, directed, instructed, or was a support person (served on the Board, helped with costumes, etc.) is considered a member of the Rusalka Alumni Association.
• One year ago, the Alumni and Friends Committee was established as a working committee of 13 alumni who represent the very large Association of approximately 650 members.
• General objectives of the Alumni Association are to maintain contact with all members through planned activities and to encourage alumni to contribute to the organization by offering their help and support for various initiatives.
• This past year the Alumni and Friends focused on reconnecting. They had a fun first season together and helped initiate and accomplish a variety of goals for the organization.
• Our Alumni and Friends Committee would love your input! Contact Lynda Thompson, Alumni Rep, for more information at alumni@rusalka.mb.ca.
• Connect with your fellow Rusalka alumni by joining our refreshed Facebook Group “Rusalka Alumni – Winnipeg”.
Rusalka UNF School of Dance

The Rusalka UNF School of Dance was excited to see returning students and their families earlier this week, while meeting and welcoming new members to the school for the 2021-2022 dance year!

The school focuses on the fundamental principles of dance training, building a strong foundation for the command and development of technique and artistic expression. Rusalka UNF School of Dance is committed to providing a positive, motivational, and welcoming place for all dancers to achieve their artistic goals and dreams. We are so proud that many students of the Rusalka UNF School of Dance eventually become the Rusalka ensemble members of tomorrow.

New programming features for the 2021-2022 dance season include:

**Standardized Syllabus:** All classes will follow an incremental and progressive instructional syllabus focusing on the importance of fundamental skills that will set the foundation for consistent and successful Ukrainian folk dance training.

**Technique & Choreography Workshops:** Dancers of select classes will have the opportunity to participate in technique and choreography workshops up and above their weekly training to further their dance education by learning from a variety of professional instructors.

**Druzi-Adult Recreational Ukrainian Dance Class:** Did you dance growing up and want to dance again? Maybe you have never danced and want to give it a try? We have something for you! Share your love for Ukrainian folk dance, learn something new, and enjoy an energetic environment filled with exercise, music, fun, and friendship. No experience required.
Registration is still open if you or someone you know is interested in joining the Rusalka UNF School of Dance! To register and for more detailed information about this year’s class offerings, please visit https://www.rusalka.mb.ca/school.

We are thrilled to welcome back Jason Sliva as the Director of the Rusalka UNF School of Dance. We are thankful to have him part of our team and for the expertise, talent, and leadership he will share with our school and all who belong to it.

In addition, our talented group of instructors eagerly await the arrival of all returning and new students to the school. They are looking forward to sharing their passion and love of Ukrainian dance together with them.

We would also like to take this opportunity to recognize and extend heartfelt gratitude to our outgoing Director, Chelsea Perrault. Chelsea has served the Rusalka UNF School of Dance for the past four years and selflessly devoted herself to nurturing a close-knit family in dance.

Chelsea dedicated herself fully with professionalism, passion, tireless commitment, talent, and an authentic love for our students and families.

The Rusalka UNF School of Dance is in part who she is today because of Chelsea’s admirable influence and hard work. On behalf of the Rusalka UNF School of Dance and the Rusalka Board of Directors we wish Chelsea much health and happiness in her future endeavors.

We are so happy to welcome our students back to UNF Hall for an exciting year ahead. It’s time to shine!

**The Rusalka UNF School of Dance Team**

- Jason Sliva - Director and Instructor
- Oksana Preachuk - Instructor
- Marta Tkaczyk - Instructor
- Nadia Medynska - Instructor
- Katie Skwarchuk - Instructor
- Nick Sawka - Instructor
- Rachel Mickall - Assistant Instructor

Like and follow Rusalka UNF School of Dance on Facebook.
Don't want to miss out on the next chapter of Rusalka's story?

Like and follow us on social media to stay up to date on upcoming announcements and events:

Facebook: facebook.com/RusalkaWpg
Instagram: @rusalkawpg
Twitter: @RusalkaWpg

Meet our Rusalka Footnotes team:

Editor and Designer: Orycia Karpa, Rusalka Dancer
Artwork: Markian Maximiuk, Rusalka Dancer
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