

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

OUR DANCERS TAKE MANHATTAN!

WINNING THE COVETED PULSE FACULTY "CHOREOGRAPHERS' PICK AWARD"

FOR "GET OUT ALIVE" CHOREOGRAPHED BY LINDSAY NELKO

CONGRATULATIONS!

TO EVERYONE FROM THE SHELLEY SHEARER SCHOOL OF DANCE WHO ATTENDED.

THE PULSE DANCE CONVENTION SUMMER FINALE IN NEW YORK CITY JULY 21-25, 2010

Creative Directors: Brian Friedman & Mia Michaels presented by Broadway Dance Center NYC

What a powerful dance event we experienced in New York City this summer! Lindsay Nelko and I attended the Pulse summer dance convention with 14 students and their families from the school. Our students ranging in age from 12 years to 22 years old participated in all the levels, including Advanced Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced and Advanced Pro. They are: *Maja Bakija, Alexis Frederick, Danika Frederick, Maria Grant, Alexandra Haverstick, Alannah Matte, Cassandra Potenza, Selano Potenza, Kelsey Pooles, Ashley Robson, Danelle Rougeau Suchy, Kalli Russell, Sara Thompson and Courtney Vertz*. Thirteen of these dancers prepared and trained for weeks in June and July, learning and rehearsing one or two performance pieces for this event.

Lindsay and I also participated in the Pulse Annual Teacher Workshop, which is part of the convention.

THE CONVENTION WORKSHOPS:

We were immersed in a minimum of 4 classes each day, for 4 days from July 22-25. The Faculty includes today's hottest directors and choreographers for the most popular concert tours, music videos, TV shows, commercials and films. You will recognize many of them as the judges and choreographers on the Hit TV show So You Think You Can Dance. The following is a list of the Faculty that we all took classes from at the convention: Brian Friedman, Mia Michaels, Chris Judd, LaurieAnn Gibson, Dave Scott, Tyce Diorio, Gil Duldulao, Desmond Richardson, Robert Hoffman, Andy Blankenbuehler (Toni award winning choreographer for "In the Heights" Hit Broadway Show), Ron Todorowski (dancing on Broadway in "Come Fly Away"), Peter Chu (Julliard faculty) & Ashley Wells (Radio City Music Hall Rockettes).

THE SOLO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

In addition to the phenomenal dance classes, 11 of our dancers performed their solos as part of the Solo Scholarship Program preceding the convention workshops on July 21 and 22. They were part of 150 soloists who received feedback from a panel of 6 New York City dance professionals. Four of our soloists were selected as Top Soloists to learn and dance in the closing number for the Gala Performance on Sunday evening! They had extra rehearsals each day before and after the convention to learn the choreography. Congratulations to **Maja Bakija, Kelsey Pooles, Ashley Robson and Courtney Vertz** who performed in the Rockette Kick Line choreographed by Elaine Grace, the Director of the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes! It was fabulous and I was so proud to see them perform in this iconic dance in New York City!

THE SUMMER INTENSIVE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

Kelsey Pooles attended the convention on a special Intensive Program Scholarship she was awarded this past February at the Toronto Regional Pulse. She had the opportunity to participate in an audition with the Faculty choreographers and was selected to work in a group dance number for the closing night Gala with LaurieAnn Gibson. LaurieAnn is currently best known as Lady Gaga's choreographer, so this was an incredible opportunity for Kelsey. She had extra rehearsals early each morning and again late in the evening to learn the dance. (This was in addition to the Rockette dance rehearsals above.) Congratulations on all your accomplishments Kelsey, you were a true professional!

THE PULSE PERFORMANCE SHOWCASE:

On Saturday evening July 24, we entered 2 group dance numbers in the Performance Showcase which were judged by the esteemed Pulse Faculty. The first piece "Make Believe" choreographed by Kim Gingras, Vincent Noiseux and Lindsay Nelko, was danced by 13 of our dancers. Please see the link explaining more about it on the News page. Our second piece "Get Out Alive" was choreographed by Lindsay Nelko and danced by 8 of our dancers (listed below). "Get Our Alive" was awarded the prestigious "CHOREOGRAPHER'S PICK AWARD" for the NY Pulse Convention! The group was selected and invited by the Pulse Faculty to perform again in the Sunday evening GALA, alongside the professional dancers and choreographers' pieces from the Pulse Faculty. This is their Highest Performance Honor!

FACULTY COMMENTS & FEEDBACK for "Get Out Alive":

"Extremely powerful piece" "Great choreography" "Especially good use of lifts"
"Dancers did an excellent job portraying the choreographer's vision and reaching out to the audience."
"Overall, great technique. Lovely lines and extensions. Beautiful dancers."
"Committed ending" "Well choreographed – scary!!!"
"Love how the costumes work with music and choreography – don't ever stop dancing"
"Why does it have to hurt? Sick! Brave – facials, good"

THE PULSE FINAL NIGHT GALA:

The show was one of the most exciting we have ever seen! Watching our piece "Get Out Alive" as the **CHOREOGRAPHER'S PICK**, share the stage with these performances was an experience we will never forget. The show included dances choreographed by some of the Pulse Faculty: Chris Judd, Dave Scott, Laurieann Gibson, Gil Duldulao and Robert Hoffman. The Pulse Intensive Scholarship dancers, Pulse Proteges and Elite Proteges auditioned for these pieces at the start of the convention (including our own **Kelsey Pooles in LaurieAnn Gibson's group**). It was an opportunity to see some of the industry's top choreographers' work danced by some of North America's top pre-professional dancers. The Gala also included guest professional dance appearances from Desmond Richardson and Rhythm City from the hit TV show America's Best Dance Crew. And to top it off, our 4 Top Soloists: **Maja, Kelsey, Ashley & Courtney** danced in the Rockette style Closing number. The Gala was an inspiring and amazing ending to our wonderful week in New York!

CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIPS: Congratulations to our students who won a total of 13 scholarships!

- ✦ All 8 "Get Out Alive" dancers won full convention scholarships to any regional Pulse convention in 2010/11, as part of their invitation to perform free of charge as the NY Choreographer's pick! Also, the piece will be featured in their Pulse Video Promo that they play in every city on our tour! The dancers are: **Alexis Frederick, Maria Grant, Alexandra Haverstick, Kelsey Pooles, , Ashley Robson, Kalli Russell, Sara Thompson and Courtney Vertz.**
- ✦ **Alexis Frederick** also won a full scholarship to a summer Pulse convention, as a result of being selected by faculty in the convention classes for her dancing.
- ✦ **Alannah Matte** won a full convention scholarship to any regional Pulse convention, as a result of being selected by faculty in the convention classes for her dancing.
- ✦ **Selano Potenza and Ashley Robson** won a full scholarship to Camp Pulse which is a special convention for dancers aged 8 – 13, with choreographers from High School Musical, Hannah Montana, iCarly and Camp Rock. They won this as a result of being selected by faculty in the convention classes for their dancing.
- ✦ **Courtney Vertz** won a Leadership scholarship which gives her a portion of the tuition to attend any Regional Pulse Convention. This award recognizes outstanding students nominated by studio directors.
- ✦ **Shelley Shearer** won a Studio Leader Award – no scholarship just the honor and a cute Tshirt ☺

PLEASE CHECK OUT THE PHOTO GALLERY SOON FOR PICTURES FROM THE PULSE EVENT!