

1995

CECCHETTI SOCIETIES INTERNATIONAL

PREMIERE NEWSLETTER

**This is the first International Newsletter of
Cecchetti Societies established throughout the world.**

-participating countries-

**Australia, Canada, Great Britain, ^{Italy} New Zealand, South Africa
and The United States.**

*In the interests of democracy, the news items are written in the
alphabetical order of the countries from whence they came.*

THIS NEWSLETTER HAS BEEN COLLATED BY AUSTRALIA.

*It is hoped that in the future each country
will produce an edition of the newsletter in turn.*

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR
(Robina Beard - Australia)

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this first International Newsletter. It has been most interesting, receiving the news from all over the world, and realising how much we all have in common.

I would like to think that now we have taken this first step, there will be much more interaction and exchange of ideas and information. The contact addresses of each of the Societies is given at the back of this newsletter, so we know where to find each other.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

It has been suggested that the International Societies consider holding an International Congress, and that the year 2000 would be a good year to aim for. This would give us plenty of time to organise and save up the fares.

Australia would like to suggest that if this International Congress eventuates, then we should hold an International Competition for Cecchetti Dancers at the same time, with quite a large cash prize to which we would all contribute a share. If we were attending the International Congress then judges could be gathered from those attending the Congress thus making a really important CECCHETTI occasion.

- Would your Society like to host this International Congress?
- Do you think that your members would be interested in attending such a Congress?
- Where do you think it should be held?
- Do you like the idea of an International competition?

Australia is very interested in this project. We would be prepared to host it here, as the Olympic Games will be held here in the year 2000. However, we would also be very interested in attending such a Congress wherever it was held...

I look forward to hearing from you all about this proposal.

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

In 1994 The Cecchetti Society of Australia Inc. celebrated the 60th anniversary of its first examination session. Our annual Congress was held in Brisbane in Queensland, a marvellous sunny city in a Northern State of Australia. Our dance magazine "Dance Australia" published an article on Cecchetti in Australia and it also had a special commemorative centrefold poster.

In Australia, the Cecchetti method is very strong in Melbourne, in the state of Victoria, where the method was first taught by Madame Saranova, who was a student of the Maestro. Our Australian Ballet company, and the Australian Ballet School are based in Melbourne, and we are proud that we have many Cecchetti students, both boys and girls, in the ballet school, throughout the three years of the course. We also have Cecchetti dancers in the Australian Ballet. In the other states of Australia, the Cecchetti is well established and growing.

In 1993, we recorded the music for the Intermediate syllabus onto cassette. These are two tapes, male and female, and enough music for set and free work. During 1994 five of our examiners, from all over Australia met together on several occasions to collate a set of technical notes for the Intermediate syllabus, to be used in conjunction with the tapes. They found it a fascinating project with many compromises being made throughout – five differing opinions being offered, and then final agreement being reached.

Australia is currently in the grip of "teacher registration" syndrome, with various different bodies putting forward schemes to register dance teachers. The Cecchetti Society is aiming to have input into all these discussions.

We have been successful, for 1995, in having a section on Australian Dance History included in each section of the History of Western Dance paper, which we feel is essential for the stature of all Cecchetti Societies.

At our recent annual Cecchetti Congress, which was held this year in Western Australia, one of our guests was Madame Kira Bouslov who came to Australia with the Colonel De Basil Company, and who founded the Western Australian Ballet Company. She told us a charming anecdote of how during one of their seasons in the United States, the Walt Disney artists were backstage, watching and sketching, to prepare for the cartoon film classic Fantasia, and that the dancing crocodiles, ostriches and hippopotami were based on the styles of the ballerinas in that company. Think about it the next time you watch Fantasia.

NEWS FROM CANADA

1995 is the 35th Anniversary of the National Ballet School in Toronto. Richard Glasstone from Britain, examined in Canada, during April and May this year. He visited St. John's in Newfoundland, Ontario and Winnipeg in Manitoba. His tour included the professional teacher training programmes at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School and the National Ballet School in Toronto.

For six weeks during this summer, Diane van Schoor, from South Africa taught wonderful courses at both Red Deer College in Alberta and the National Ballet School in Toronto. She also worked with our examiners. A pilot Correspondence Course preparing for the ISTD Applied Anatomy and Physiology examinations got underway here this January. There are two teachers from the United States and four from Canada taking it. Regular courses start in the Fall.

A new book entitled 'Cecchetti - A Ballet Dynasty' is currently being published by Dance Collection Danse, Toronto. It will be made available to Cecchetti members through their National Societies and will be on sale at all locations where the Historical Cecchetti Photographic Exhibit is displayed in Canada, in 1996.

NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND (out of alphabetical order for economy of space)

First we must congratulate New Zealand on their sailing prowess in winning the Americas Cup, and bringing "The Olde Mug" to their country.

New Zealand has had an established Cecchetti Society for many years, Dianna Power-Palmer being one of the founding members. It has been based in the South Island in the very pretty city of Christchurch, with Cecchetti being taught also in Dunedin, Nelso, and Greymouth.

A school has recently been opened in Auckland in the North Island, by Miss Jill George, who was a dancer with the New Zealand Ballet Company. Miss George attended the recent Australian Congress in Freemantle in Western Australia, and they were all delighted that she was able to make that long trip.

New Zealand had its first National examiner appointed in 1990, Miss Alison Lamont, and she has been kept pretty busy. However she had quite a bad accident on her motor bike and was incapacitated for some time, but she is recovering slowly, and we wish her a speedy return to full mobility. (Is Miss Lamont the only examiner in the Societies to ride a motor bike?)

Charmaine Quaid, the New Zealand organiser describes the New Zealand Society as small but enthusiastic, and looking forward to hopefully expanding in "the land of the long white cloud".

NEWS FROM GREAT BRITAIN

THE CECCHETTI SOCIETY - LONDON

CECCHETTI EVENTS

1995	July 30	Cecchetti Congress Day	London
	August	Junior Summer School	Tring
	August	Summer School for teachers	Chichester
	November	Choreographic Competition	London
	November	Northern Mabel Ryan Awards	Mansfield
1996		South West Mabel Ryan Awards	
		Southern Mabel Ryan Awards	
		London Mabel Ryan Awards	

VIDEOS

Following the production of the very successful video of the Elementary Syllabus two further videos are in the course of production. The first will be of Grades 1, 2 and 3 and the second will be of Grades 4 and 5. The shooting has been completed and the finished videos should be available for sale later this year. A number of very successful 'Fun Days' were organised on 5th March throughout the UK this year to help raise funds for the cost of production of these two new videos. In London more than 100 children had a marvellous day full of activity and had the opportunity to try Modern, Character, Greek, Spanish and Repertoire in addition to Classical Ballet. The grand total raised has yet to be agreed but it will be a very substantial contribution. In addition the Cecchetti Society Trust has agreed to help with the funding problem.

SYLLABUS

The revisions to the Grades and Class syllabus have been finalised and the new notes have been printed and circulated. The previous music can be used quite successfully, this has been done in the UK and Southern Africa, the only exception is with the Ronds de Jambe exercise at the barre in Grade 5 which is now the traditional exercise as set in the Elementary. A supplement of additional music to give a wider choice will be available in due course. The original music will be quite acceptable for all examiners.

EXAMINATIONS

Five Enrico Cecchetti Diplomas were awarded in 1994. Examiners from London have toured in Belgium, Canada, Holland, Italy, Germany, Malta, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Southern Africa and we are looking forward to a visit by Shiela Darby and Marnell Himes from the USA during the summer.

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THE CECCHETTI CENTRE

This centre in London continues to provide a valuable opportunity for all in the UK and from abroad to learn and check on major syllabus work and to help to prepare for teaching examinations. Classes are held regularly on Saturdays at the centre which is based at the London Studio Centre. Courses are arranged at Easter and in the Summer.

PROFESSIONAL DANCERS

There are strong Cecchetti roots in most of the major ballet companies in the UK which include the Royal Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Rambert and Scottish. Many of the Principals had their early training at White Lodge when the Cecchetti Method was taught throughout the school and others received their early training in Cecchetti work before entering the Royal Ballet School. Good examples are Jessica Clarke and James Bailey who are young soloists at the Birmingham Royal Ballet, they had received their early Cecchetti training from Sandra Powell in Horsham before continuing with the work at White Lodge, they were the two delightful dancers featured in the Elementary Video. Another example is Jonathan Payn who has just joined the Birmingham Royal Ballet. He took all his Cecchetti examinations while studying with Janet Kinson in Ipswich before he joined the Royal Ballet Upper School at 16.

CECCHETTI CONGRESS DAY

This is a special day in the Cecchetti year in the UK. It is an opportunity for all our teachers from the UK and abroad to meet, talk, take part and observe. We do hope that we will have many visitors from abroad. This is followed immediately by our Annual Summer School for teachers which takes place in Chichester.

NEWS FROM ITALY

Associazione Nazionale Coreutica Enrico Cecchetti - A.N.C.E.C. is the society formed by Raymond Lukens and Franco De Vita in 1988 to promote the work of Enrico Cecchetti in Italy. Its president, Brenda Hamlyn brought the work of the Cecchetti Society to Italy over 30 years ago.

A.N.C.E.C. ACTIVITIES during 1994/5:

October/December 94 - Classes for the student and junior members of the Society were held in schools all over Italy, culminating in two classes taught by Richard Glasstone in Florence. A teachers course on the Grade and Standard revisions was held by Richard Glasstone at the Hamlyn school in Florence.

February/May 1995 - Student and junior classes continued to be held

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ITALY (continued)

throughout Italy. A teachers course on stage make-up was held by Franco De Vita, and solo variations from the classical repertoire were taught by Patrizia Comini and Raymond Lukens.

The 4th A.N.C.E.C. Competition – the Rya Teresa Legnani competition – was held. Rya Teresa Legnani was a pupil of Enrico Cecchetti at the school of La Scala. She then became a Prima Ballerina of the company of La Scala. She was present at the inauguration of A.N.C.E.C. but sadly has since passed away.

The 5th Festival of Classical Dance of the Cecchetti Schools in Italy was held.

July 1995 – The FIRST International Summer School for Students and Teachers to be held by A.N.C.E.C. took place in Reggio Emilia

SUCCESSFUL CECCHETTI TRAINED DANCERS FROM ITALY in recent years

Tessa Adriani – "Aterballeo" – Reggio Emilia

Aurora Benelli, Laura Giannotti and Cristina Poggi – The Company of
Carla Fracci

Allesandra Biaggiotti – Tampa Ballet U.S.A.

Giacomo Ciriaci – The Royal Ballet Company – London

Silvia Frosali – Company of the Teatro Comunale di Bologna,
Aterballeto, The Bonn Ballet Company

Natalia Giani – winner of the Benetton Scholarship for the Martha
Graham School

Chiara Giovagnoli – winner of the Alvin Ailey Dance Center New York
Scholarship, Balletto Hispanico N.Y.

Eleanora Gori – Teatro Comunale di Firenze, Tel Aviv, Manheim, and
Basilea Ballet Companies

Allesandro Jacopini – English National Ballet and Opera di Berlino

Claudia Manzini – Teatro de Bordeaux, Dutch National Ballet Company

Francesca Niccolai – Company of the Pantomime Theatre of Tivoli,
Copenhagen

Allesandra Prospero – Martha Graham Company N.Y.

Serena Reggioli – The Company of the Opera, Nice

Evelina Ricci – The Prix Espoir at the Prix de Lausanne

Allesandra Scaffei – Aterballeto, Arena di Verona and Trieste Ballet Co.

Nicoletta Santoro – Teatro Comunale di Firenze, Bonn and Hamburg
Ballet Companies and the Bejart Ballet Losanne

Marzia Tinot – Teatro Comunale di Firenze

Viktor Uygan – The Hartford Ballet U.S.A.

NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

SYLLABUS

The last seminar of 1994 saw the Council of Management very busy studying the revised grades ex. London. A national questionnaire revealed that the membership felt very strongly that the grades were over-loaded and that streamlining would provide a better product, technically and artistically.

We set about reviewing the grades and with the help of an artistic committee made up of the Council and invited examiners of various levels, we restructured the syllabi, with only minor changes. The result is not necessarily a shorter syllabi, but one which will take less time to teach and allow more time for creative work, making syllabus only PART of the training of our dancers.

Diane van Schoor toured the country teaching the revised syllabus. She was accompanied by her husband Roland Thompson. The Associate was also presented, and a Music Promotional course.

The Council felt the need to include these levels to also provide on-going education at qualifying levels.

Roland Thompson has published a music guide for the society. The Council encourages members to continue to study to upgrade their qualifications and status.

ASSOCIATE AND ASSOCIATE DIPLOMA

No decision has yet been taken regarding the new examination. the South African Society has not reduced the entrance pre-requisite to that of Elementary, and still requires that prospective Associates hold the Intermediate certificate. We have in the past two years included practice teaching in the Associate exam. Candidates are expected to teach 4 pre-primary or primary pupils during their exam.

CYRIL BEAUMONT AWARD - 1995

This award is usually held every second year and is open to dancers who have passed their Advanced exam. The recent Award was held in Johannesburg at The Wits Theatre with the adjudicating panel of Eduard Greyling (CAPAB Ballet), Anna Nel (RAD), Val Whyte (Sponsor of the Cecchetti Society) and Diane van Schoor (Artistic Director of Cecchetti Society & chair of the panel).

The competition takes the form of an elimination class, followed by three classes presented by three different teachers. Eight girls entered and six went through to the finals. The prize which is a monetary one of R15,000 was not awarded to an outright winner, but divided between two dancers who the panel felt would benefit from further tuition. They were Kim Viera (pupil of Joecy Pretorius) and Tania Cross (pupil of Joy Cooper).

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SOUTH AFRICA (continued)

RETIREMENT

The Administrative Chairman, Ms. Louise Lombard, is to retire from office, after a period of 12 years in the chair, at the A.G.M. which is to be held in Johannesburg on Saturday, May 20th.

PERFORMING ARTS COUNCIL

These are to be abolished by the new government and replaced with we-do-not-know-what. The future of the Arts in South Africa is a little uncertain at present but as always, artistes remain optimistic.

NEWS FROM THE U.S.A.

The Cecchetti Society Inc. USA and The Cecchetti Council of America jointly funded the presentation of the Historic Cecchetti Photographic Exhibit. This splendid collection of over one hundred rare photographs of the Cecchetti dynasty, and of Enrico Cecchetti with many of his famous students was assembled by the Italian city of Civitanova Marche, home of the Cecchetti family, as a tribute to the Maestro. It has been displayed in artistic venues throughout the United States.

At the present time this collection is on view at the San Francisco Library and Museum of Performing Arts. The display continues to major cities in the U.S. until January of 1996, then moves to Canada from January to September 1996, returning to the United States for the end of the year. This exhibit has helped to inform the general public of Cecchetti's great contribution to the world of dance and that the principles of his work are continuing today, developing a new generation of dancers.

Spring examination session this year will be conducted by Betty Seibert FISTD. The tour will cover the United States starting in early March and ending in late April.

1996 will be the 25th Anniversary of the Cecchetti Society Inc. USA. We are planning an International Summer School with Teachers' courses which will include music education, teaching techniques, anatomy instruction as well as syllabi and free style ballet classes. We are pleased to have Richard Glasstone as one of the guest teachers and Ross Alley as the music director. the dates are August 11-18, 1996. It would be a great pleasure to welcome overseas guests to this event.

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