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An early photo of Donald McKayle

Newsletter JULY 2022

Lori's notes:

Hello, Hello, Hello! I hope you are doing well, with strong nerves and good energies on your side!

Our BDC season is winding up, but we are looking forward to the next year with great anticipation! You can expect to see a long-awaited excerpt by Eleo Pomare; it had been delayed by the pandemic and injury. Plus, a work by Donald McKayle, another legendary choreographer!

I was lucky to have danced with these towering figures, and am happy to bring their work to our audiences. It has been a long time since I was bitten by the Dance Bug. While I was still in New York, after dancing with a few good companies, I formed the Blue Mercury Dancing Company. After almost eleven years, I relocated to Dallas and inherited what would become the Beckles Dancing Company ... I like that dancing bit! And you'll see work by me as well this coming year.

Please continue to support us as we grow. We want to share that special light with you, your family, and friends old and new.

BDC Donald McKayle Repertory Fund

We have begun a fund to help us raise the necessary monies to properly present a work by Donald McKayle. He was born on 6 July 1930 and would have been ninety-two this year. He is considered one of America's most important performing arts creators, from his earliest works of American Modern Classics, *Rainbow 'Round My Shoulder*, *District Storyville*, and *Games* to recent works, *Bittersweet Farewell*, *Uprooted: Pero Replandado*, and his final offering of *Crossing the Rubicon: Passing the Point of No Return*, plus hundreds more of dance, theater, movie, television, film and cabaret.

I was fortunate enough to have worked with Donald! I had performed his work prior to working with him directly at the American Music Theater Festival in *The Emperor Jones*. Subsequently at Ailey II, I was assigned the role of the Witch Doctor. The role was originally performed by Charles Moore, yet another legend, in the pure-dance version called *Vever*.

Lea Vivante McKayle, Donald's wife and Artistic Director on Donald McKayle Legacy, had offered the opportunity to perform works by the late choreographer. The DM Legacy is one of the

most comprehensive bodies of artistic output along with archival materials in the theatrical and dance worlds.

In order to fulfill the honor of performing the master's work, BDC has to raise the funds to compensate the DM Legacy for the use of the work, which in turn supports BDC and its continuing outreach. Please join us by supporting our efforts. Our total fundraising goal is \$10,000 for this. In addition to the Legacy payment, we would have to pay for the stage crew, lighting designer, music rights, costumes and, the dancers' rehearsals and performances. Thank you for making a difference for the growth of Beckles Dancing Company.

Replenishing and strengthening the ranks

Between now and September, BDC will be auditioning and interviewing dancers and board members! If you have the talent or skill set and are interested in working with us, please email Loris at arganovadance_21c@yahoo.com, or text at 214-886-2321

Kudos

The Mary Lois School of Dance just celebrated 50 years with a gala and then a proclamation by the mayor of DeSoto .. Layla Brent is dancing in The Lion King .. Tristan Rodney retired from BDC this year .. Charlotte Crawford is branching out into Fashion Marketing, among other things .. Lacy Brent is dancing with Pegasus Contemporary Ballet .. Kaleb Smith is going to study at Fordham University and dance at The Ailey School! Congratulations!!! Time is passing, and I'm trying to stay abreast.

Upcoming Events

16 Jul – 2:00 pm BDC will participate in the fundraiser for Lesley Snelson at Life in Deep Ellum, 2803 Taylor Street, Dallas. Admission \$22, plus whatever you can give!

27 Jul at 2:00 pm Three dancers from BDC will participate in the Sammons Jazz Children's Concert – Music Moves Me

22 Sep - North Texas Giving Day is coming!

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Beckles Dancing Company is a component of ARGA NOVA DANCE, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.