

## April 2009 EDU News

### Happenings in the past month

#### Residency

April was a month in which SPA saw its last residency take place, this time with Australian solo artist, **Ros Warby**. It was a mini-residency that ran for two days: on Tuesday April 14<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009. She was able to visit the Harris County Community College (HCCS) in Town & Country on Tuesday. On the same day she had an interview with KUHf which allowed for a discussion of her work and interests. By Wednesday's end, Ros Warby had paid a visit to the University of Houston for a lecture/demonstration session, followed up by a master class session at the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA). All attendees were ecstatic at the opportunity they'd had to learn from her!



#### Performances

In April, SPA had two performances. The first took place on the 9<sup>th</sup>, an inspiring performance by **The Ten Tenors**, Australia's export, who made their Houston debut at Jones Hall. Astounding singers, they left very thankful and enthusiastic audience members behind. By mid-April, Wortham Center patrons got a visit from yet another Australian artist, **Ros Warby**, a solo performer of various dances with intricate meanings and implications. She was also making her Houston debut with her latest award-winning solo dance work.

#### Arts Talks!

On the night of The Ten Tenors performance, patrons were privileged to have as guest speakers **The Ten Tenors' Musical Director, Graham Foote**, as well as a member of the singing group, **Ben Clarke**. Jones Hall patrons were able to have their questions directly answered by two people who would know intimately the goings-on of the touring artists. **Ros Warby**, on the other hand, was able to hold a question-and-answer session directly following her performance, in the Cullen Theater. Patrons were invited to stay for a bit longer after the show to ask her direct questions, such as what led to her development of the choreographed piece(s) she performed.

#### Performance Preludes

The **Elmer Bondy Intermediate School Chamber Orchestra** was proud to perform in the Jones Hall lobby on the night of The Ten Tenors' performance, April 9, 2009. Their performance was in turn very well received by the patrons. It was not the first time that SPA's Education & Outreach Department brought in this school's chamber orchestra, and we are pleased that each time we have not been disappointed! They are exceptional players and entertainers and we were privileged to host them once again. By April 17, SPA was excited to have **Jhon Stronks** of the **Houston Metropolitan Dance Company** perform a contemporary dance called "there...in the sunlight". He was there to also draw attention to the night's main event: **Ros Warby** and her **Monumental** piece. Jhon, a solo performer in Wortham Center's Grand Foyer, took full

advantage of the space available to him, much to the delight of the excited, well-entertained patrons. His performance was exceptional and proved that the Houston Met Dance Company, of which he is a member, is here to stay.



## Upcoming events and noteworthy highlights

### Free Family Fun event

The education department is gearing up to have its **last Free Family Fun day of the season** at the Children's Museum. It is slated to take place on **May 7<sup>th</sup>** by **Dolce Strings** whose performance will be aimed at highlighting the upcoming performance of **Hot Peas 'N Butter** at the Wortham Center.

### Performances

We are left with three more exciting performances of the season! **Aspen Santa Fe Ballet**, a company with an upward spiraling reputation, is coming to the Wortham Center on **May 8, 2009**. This performance group will also be



hosting a master class session a day before at the Jewish Community Center. Around the same time period, we have **Hot Peas 'N Butter** which is a wonderful, engaging children's musical group who can get any child in the mood. They are coming to the Wortham Center on **May 9, 2009**. Our very last event for the season is going to take place in a different location on **May 29<sup>th</sup>**. **Esperanza Spalding** will be giving a jazzy evening performance at the Miller Outdoor Theater, a Houston first for her. This event is particularly noteworthy not just because we would be watching a well-known prodigy on the double bass, but also for the fact that it is a **FREE** event! Many are invited to take advantage of this beautiful and rare opportunity.

Each of the remaining three performances, **Aspen Santa Fe Ballet**, **Hot Peas 'N Butter**, and **Esperanza Spalding**, will have performance preludes for which all are certainly invited to see.

### Master Classes

The **Aspen Santa Fe Ballet** company will be hosting/teaching a dance master class at the **Jewish Community Center (JCC)**. SPA's partnership with the JCC and I.W. Marks has made our series of dance master classes possible. The JCC is located at 5601 S. Braeswood Blvd., Houston TX 77096. Classes are open to the public, with a maximum class size of 35. The cost to participate is \$3.50 for advance reservations and \$5 at the door. To register, please contact Maxine Silberstein at 713 729 3200 ext. 3223 or email her at [msilberstein@jcchouston.org](mailto:msilberstein@jcchouston.org). You may also register online by clicking [here](#) for registration form. All interested students of any age are welcome to register for this master class!

### Summer Program

The SPA Education & Outreach Dept. is hoisting up its summer program this season for the first time ever! It will run from **June 4<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup>** at Black Middle School for their students in the 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade. They will be taking classes from the program's head facilitator, **Randall Flinn**, of the **Dance Ad Deum** dance company based in Houston. Each Monday to Friday of that time period, 3 sets of students will have one-hour dance classes per day with the same three student groups participating together for the entire summer program. This stability in the form of a *structured* dance study environment will enhance students' learning experience.

### Teacher Workshops

We have two more workshops left in the season and we are planning to do both in conjunction with our Theater District partner, **Broadway Across America (BAA)**. One of the workshops will be held in anticipation of our visual art contest in the 09/10 season and in conjunction with BAA's production of ***Cirque Dreams – Jungle Fantasy***. The other workshop will be held in conjunction with ***Fiddler on the Roof***, another production by BAA. For more information or to register, please call Uche at 713-632-8112.

### About SPA

For more information on our events for the remainder of this season and for all of next season, or to purchase tickets, please visit our website at [www.spahouston.org](http://www.spahouston.org).

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