

dance



by Karen Dacko
Contributing editor

August signals the end of summer, as dance programs culminate with performances. However, this month also heralds the beginning of a new dance season, as two of Pittsburgh's most established troupes, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre and Duquesne University Tamburitzans, take to outdoor stages and invite audiences to meet dancers and preview choreography.

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER DANCE: AUG. 4-5

In 1969, Nicolas Petrov, founder of what was then Point Park College's dance department, amassed a roster of stellar teaching artists in America. His goal was to provide an unparalleled learning experience for local students and make Pittsburgh a destination for international dance students. Today, the International Summer Dance program, directed by Susan Stowe, offers 220 students ages 10 through adult the opportunity to study with master teachers and to perform at Pittsburgh Playhouse. This year's faculty includes Jordeen Ivanov-Ericson, Douglas Bentz, Kiki Lucas, Kiesha Lalama-White and Sandra Torjano. (222 Craft Ave., Oakland, Fri., 8 p.m.; Sat., 2 p.m. \$15. Info: 412/621-4445, pointpark.edu)

PITTSBURGH BALLET THEATRE: AUG. 24

Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre's Terrence S. Orr has signed on for another three years as artistic director. He notes that two recent alumni of the company's graduate program, Michelle Joy, a National Society of Arts and Letters regional competition winner, and Nicholas Coppola, a student in the PBT School since 13, are stepping into the corps de ballet this season. They join the cast for PBT's annual Hartwood Acres performance, which features Twyla Tharp's *Nine Sinfonia Songs* (1982), which unfolds as a series of uniquely characterized adagios, ranging from the comical "Somethin' Stupid" to the misogynistic "That's Life." (Middle Road Performance Area, Hartwood Acres, Middle Road, Hampton, Thurs., 7:30 p.m. Free. Take your own lawn chair or blanket. Info: 412/281-0360, pbt.org)

DUQUESNE TAMBURITZANS: AUG. 25

Duquesne University Tamburitzans, the folk-music and dance ensemble offering songs and dances of Eastern Europe and bordering cultures, presents a free performance on Fri., Aug. 25, at South Park Amphitheatre. (Buffalo Drive, South Park, 8 p.m. Info: 412/396-5185, tamburitzans.duq.edu)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

September 29-October 1: 2006 Endurance Ride
October 13-14: PRCA/PRCA Rodeo
November 10-11: PRCA Rodeo



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