



Cheremosh profiles

Fall 2008

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Cheremosh Dancing AROUND ALBERTA

There was no rest for the Cheremosh Ukrainian Dance Company once it returned from its successful tour of China in August 2007. The 2007 – 08 performing season was one of the busiest on record; over 50 engagements.

The 2007 – 08 season began in the City of Ft. Saskatchewan, Alberta with Cheremosh performing at a fundraiser for the Ft. Saskatchewan Hospital, with special guest Premier Ed Stelmach! Cheremosh then showcased their talents at the Alberta Arts Touring Alliance event in Banff, Alberta.

Early in 2008, Cheremosh again took to the stage in Athabasca, Alberta, where the Athabasca Arts and Cultural Association presented Cheremosh in concert. The two hour performance was met with high praise and a very enthusiastic audience.

Summer 2008 saw Cheremosh once again headlining the Vegreville Pysanka Festival, performing two shows over the weekend presenting the beauty and energy of Ukrainian dance to a jam packed grandstand.

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Mykola Kanevets — SHARING HIS EXPERTISE WITH AUSTRALIAN UKRAINIAN DANCERS

In December 2007, Mykola Kanevets, Artistic Director of the Cheremosh Ukrainian Dance Company, presented a number of workshops in Australia. The trip was the latest in what have become frequent visits to the continent down under to teach Ukrainian dance.

Mykola's relationship with the Ukrainian dance community in Australia began in 2001. Initially, he was contacted by Peggy and Paul Kulhawec, instructors of the Ukrainian dance group Taisa of Melbourne, Australia. Ukrainian dance is a fairly new art form in Australia, and Taisa's instructors were interested in learning from a professional who worked in a more established dance community. Mykola was invited to travel to Australia to work with them and their group that summer. During that time, he was also the guest instructor at a national workshop, where he worked with dancers from all over Australia. Then in 2002, the Veselka Ukrainian Dancers from Sydney, Australia, toured western Canada and attended rehearsals with Cheremosh in Edmonton.

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Mykola Kanevets

In 2005, Mykola returned to Australia as a guest instructor where he worked with dancers from Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney. He has been working with Taisa, as well as with Verkhovnya from Melbourne and Veselka from Sydney, ever since. His most recent trip to Australia which took place in December 2007 has proven to be one of the most rewarding yet.

As Mykola spends more time working with these dancers, his influence becomes more visible. When asked about his favourite part of the trip, Mykola said that the first time he went to Australia, the dancers had difficulty mastering his exercises and choreography. But this time, he reported that the dancers were well prepared and knew what to expect. Mykola has been able to see them grow as performers, both on a technical level and as a group. The progress these dancers have made in such a short time is no small feat.

When asked about the dancers in Australia, Mykola said, "They have a very big desire to dance. There is a big wish to explore Ukrainian dance on stage...but it is necessary for them to bring their quality of dance to a higher level." Mykola's guidance and leadership have helped bring them closer to achieving this goal.

As for plans to return to Australia, Mykola said that the next time he visits, he would like to bring Cheremosh with him – a big idea, but an idea that is undoubtedly possible.

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Dancing

As Cheremosh looks forward to the 2009 and 2010 seasons, the performing opportunities abound. Cheremosh has nearly ten performances booked throughout Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Visit www.cheremosh.ca to check for performances in your local area.

PRESENTING THE Cheremosh School



CHEREMOSH SCHOOL OF DANCE — Costume Renewal Initiative

The Ukrainian Cheremosh Society prides itself on creating and maintaining one of the most unique and diverse inventories of the Ukrainian dance costumes in North America. As the Cheremosh School of Dance continues to grow, so will the number and variety of costumes that are needed. Over the past two years a costume audit was completed and revealed that approximately 26 new sets of costumes will be required over the next five to seven years. Updating the School's wardrobe will cost over \$50,000.00. Initial funds have been identified and fund raising activities will begin in the new year. If all goes according to plan the first new costumes will be on stage in the spring of 2009. Watch for them!



hool of Dance

In the spring of 2007, all of the Ukrainian Cheremosh Society's junior groups came together under the single banner of the "Cheremosh School of Dance". The Cheremosh School of Dance includes the junior performing groups, Cheremshyna, Chumak II, Chumak I and three Novice classes. Dancers range in age from five to seventeen years of age. The Cheremosh School of Dance also has its own dedicated Vice-President who collaborates with the parents, students and instructors of the School to ensure that all dancers are training to their full potential. With nearly 90 students enrolled this season, the Cheremosh School of Dance is quickly becoming home to many dedicated Ukrainian dancers. The School has also started to offer classes in ballet technique, which strives to compliment and enhance the skills students have acquired in their Ukrainian dance classes. Dancers in the Cheremosh School of Dance also have fun with annual travel providing great opportunities for friendships to flourish and dancers to get needed stage experience. Keep an eye out for the talented dancers from the Cheremosh School of Dance they perform often in the Edmonton area.



CHEREMSHYNA ON THE ROAD: 2008 Penticton Peach Festival

August 2008 saw Cheremshyna (the senior group of the Cheremosh School of Dance) traveling to Penticton, British Columbia to perform at the Penticton Peach Festival. Together with Chumak II, Cheremshyna presented five shows at the festival and marched in the festival parade. Braving temperatures of over 40°C, the dancers did a fabulous job entertaining the huge crowds in Penticton. It wasn't all dance for Cheremshyna and Chumak II, there was time to take in local attractions and spend some time at the beach.

This is the third time over the past ten years that Penticton Peach Festival has extended an invitation for performers from the Cheremosh School of Dance to perform at this event. Well done Cheremshyna and Chumak II!



HONOURARY MEMBER GAIL CURRIE PRESENTS Documentary Film

Gail Currie recently completed a year long documentary project entitled *A Perfect Passion: Mykola Kanevets & the Cheremosh Ukrainian Dance Company*. This 50 minute documentary profiles Cheremosh's Artistic Director, Mykola Kanevets and his influence on Cheremosh and Ukrainian dance since coming to Canada in 1991. Blending interviews, behind the scene footage and in-studio rehearsals of "Edmonton Hopak", Kanevets' tribute dance to his chosen home, this film gives audiences an insider's view of the man behind the excellence that is Cheremosh. The premiere screening was held November 14, 2008 at the Royal Alberta Museum Theatre in Edmonton, Alberta.

UPCOMING Events

January 2009 –
Cheremosh Family Dance

May 2009 – 25th Annual
Cheremosh Dance Festival

May 2009 – Cheremosh School
of Dance Concert

July 2009 – Cheremosh Open
Golf Tournament

September 2009 – Cheremosh
Ukrainian Dance Company in Concert –
Edmonton and Calgary

Please call 780-466-0089 or visit
www.cheremosh.ca for more details
as dates approach.

CHEREMOSH... REVOLUTIONS DVD Nominated for Award

The Cheremosh Ukrainian Dance Company is pleased to announce that its recent DVD production entitled "Cheremosh... Revolutions" was nominated as one of six finalists in the Best Musical or Variety category by the Alberta Motion Picture Industries Association (AMPIA).

"Cheremosh is very excited and thrilled about this nomination," said DVD producer Jason Golinowski. "It has been a very robust and productive year for Cheremosh, our highly successful 10 show tour of China, the Cheremosh ... Revolutions DVD debut on Bravo! Television and now this nomination have really set the 2007 – 2008 season apart from any other. This nomination really demonstrates how Cheremosh and Ukrainian dance have become an important part of the Canadian dance scene."

Up against tough competitors such as CBC Television's "Avril Lavigne: Exclusive" and "My Song is My Gift: A George Canyon Christmas", Cheremosh... Revolutions did not receive an award, but competing in the same category as these international calibre performers was very exciting.



FIVE CHEREMOSH DANCERS reach Milestone

Being a full time dancer with the Cheremosh Ukrainian Dance Company is a physically demanding and a time consuming commitment. During the 2007 – 2008 season, five Cheremosh dancers celebrated 10 years with the Company. The Cheremosh Ukrainian Dance Company is pleased to salute Daniel Berry, Matthew Currie, Melania Koziak, Niki Marsuiak and Andrea Yakimyshyn as they dance their way into another decade. Veteran dancer Andrea Yakimyshyn reflects:

“*Having danced for 10 years and played parts in organizing three international tours (Scotland, USA, China) you really come to see participating in Cheremosh as a lifestyle. It is a hard, demanding schedule but the rewards are numerous and as I reflect back on my early years in the group I can really see how I have developed as a dancer and an individual. Cheremosh has played a great role in my life.*”

— Andrea Yakimyshyn



Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____ - _____

Email: _____

Donation amount: \$ _____

Please make cheques payable to: Ukrainian Cheremosh Society



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Cheremosh thanks you for your generosity.

Your support will ensure that Ukrainian dance remains vibrant for years to come.