



Happy Holidays from C. Eule Dance!

Newsletter 2008

2008 Dancers

Mona Afable
 Ivanova Aguilar
 Cornelius Brown
 Alison Cook Beatty
 Hasi
 Erin Jennings
 Faith Kimberling
 Mariko Kumanomido
 Chie Mukai
 Edgar L. Peterson, III
 Carmen Nicole
 Gisela Quinteros
 Sean Scantlebury
 Yuu Fujita Toews
 Merrin Trombka
 Michelle Vargo
 Matthew Wagner
 Justin Wingenroth



2008 Benefit Committee

David M. Zlotchew (Chair)
 Jorge Amador
 Andrea Aranoff
 Marilyn Feuer
 Jeremy Kasha
 Aaron Kesselman
 Jeanette Lee
 Meg Okura
 Ann Richardson
 Dena Gayle Rosenberg
 Bruce Thongsack
 Glen de Vries

Year of the Crane

Some say 2008 was the Year of the Rat, but for C. Eule Dance, it was the Year of the Crane. At the end of 2007, I started choreographing our largest project to date, *The Crane Wife / Tsuru no Ongaeshi*, a full-length dance novella that tells the story of a famous Japanese Fable through a melding of traditional Japanese dance and music with contemporary Western forms. This project was a true collaboration with composer Meg Okura who created a complete original score, and with Japanese Folk Dance specialist, Momo Suzuki who choreographed traditional Japanese dance sections and coached the company on Japanese movements and customs.



Sergei Krakisau

The Crane Wife premiered in February at Long Island University's beautiful Kumble Theater, where we were asked to perform as part of their Asian New Year Celebration, sharing the program with Meg Okura's Pan Asian Chamber Jazz Ensemble, who also played Meg's beautiful score live for *The Crane Wife*. We followed up the premier with two well received performances of *The Crane Wife* in Spring festivals: The 29th Annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Festival on an outdoor stage at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza; and inside Macy's Herald Square at their Asian Celebration. Next, we performed *The Crane Wife* as part of our Annual Season at the end of May.



Sergei Krakisau

Get Your Kicks on Pier 66

Our 2008 performances of this multidisciplinary theatrical work culminated in October, when we were honored to be one of the few performances included in the Annual openhouse**newyork** Weekend, America's largest architecture and design event. In this site-specific production on Pier 66 Maritime, we used the whole pier as our set, and led the audience around the pier from scene to scene, allowing them to discover the architecture of the pier while enjoying the performances. In this version, the narration was replaced with original songs performed by Katie Takahashi. We received great feedback from the audience who mostly commented on how they loved our use of space, and we were asked to return next year by Pier 66 and by openhouse**newyork**.

Community Outreach

In keeping with the C. Eule Dance tradition of community outreach and education, we concluded many of our performances of *The Crane Wife* with a workshop on-stage where children and adults had the opportunity to learn about the dance and music in the piece and to try it out for themselves. Along with our work with children, we also reach out to senior citizens. In April, we performed our old favorite, *Louise*, at the Museum of the City of New York for the Manhattan Boroughwide InterAgency Council on the Aging. We also performed free concerts for seniors throughout the year to live music by the The New York String Society in the Westside Community Gardens and at the Sirovich Senior Center.



Stuart Ross

Preparations

A lot goes into preparing and producing our shows and, in many cases, presenting them to the public free of charge. In addition to our busy rehearsal schedule, the company members took a trip to Pennsylvania in July where dancenowNYC granted us an artists' residency for the weekend at Silo/Kirkland Farm. The residency allowed us an intensive work period to collaboratively develop the foundation of our next big project, scheduled to premier in our 2009 season, and the beautiful escape from the city helped get those creative juices flowing. In September, we had our Annual Benefit party, *One Autumn Night*, held at the elegant Tenri Cultural Center in Greenwich Village. The event featured Japanese-inspired food and entertainment. Silent and live auctions were held featuring items that were all generously donated by local merchants, friends, and company members. We managed to raise a large part of our budget for our openhouse**newyork** performances thanks to our generous donors and patrons, and of course, due to the hard working benefit committee and volunteers. A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved for making the night such a success!



Repertory Classics

In addition to our many performances of *The Crane Wife*, we performed other repertory favorites in 2008. At the end of May, we had our Annual Season, presented by The Performance Project, at University Settlement. This program featured live musical performances by Meg Okura's Pan Asian Chamber Jazz Ensemble performing their own repertory as well as accompanying *The Crane Wife*, and by pianist Koji Attwood who partnered our dancers in *Prelude/Nocturne*. We were

excited to receive our first review in *The New York Times*, where Roslyn Sulcas wrote of *Prelude/Nocturne*, "Ms. Eule was on to something here; in those dramatic arm-lifting gestures, and their sliding falls from the pianist's bench, the women felt like emanations of Mr. Attwood's consciousness, or perhaps embodiments of the music itself." In October, we performed our Persian-inspired *Gole Sangam* as part of CT Meets NY at the Crystal Theatre in Norwalk, Connecticut and at Dance New Amsterdam in New York City. Last but not least, in November, we performed a 60-second piece called *Stretched* as part of 60x60. In this unique performance, each minute of the sixty featured a new composer and a new choreographer, and the show was performed on the beautiful stage of The World Financial Center's Winter Garden. Our 60-second piece employed brightly-colored slinkies to create a striking visual image that matched the electric composition of Cyprian Li.

Looking ahead

We have much to look forward to in 2009! In January, we will be presenting excerpts of *The Crane Wife* at APAP (Association of Performing Arts Presenters), performing in JK & Associates Boutique Roster's showcase. We will have our Annual C. Eule Dance Season in late Spring, and for the first time ever, C. Eule Dance will be presented abroad, as we will be performing our work *face2face* in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland in August. For more information or to purchase a C. Eule Dance DVD, please visit our website at www.ceuledance.org.

Thank you for all your support over the past years. Please continue supporting us by attending our performances and benefit parties and/or by making a tax-deductible donation. Your donation will go towards the creation of new works and will help fund more free C. Eule Dance performances/workshops for the community.

We wish you Happy Holidays, and hope to see you in the New Year!

Warmest Regards,

Caron Eule, Artistic Director

