

Raising The Barre: Inaugural Fundraiser Benefits Ballet Makkai Foundation

The Irina Makkai Classical Ballet & Dance School held its first annual fundraiser for the Ballet Makkai Foundation and raised over \$5,500 to award students scholarships to pursue the art of dance. The public was invited to support this new cause at their first “Raising the Barre” fundraiser at The Art Center in Highland Park, the perfect backdrop for this event.



Photography by Kasia Jarosz

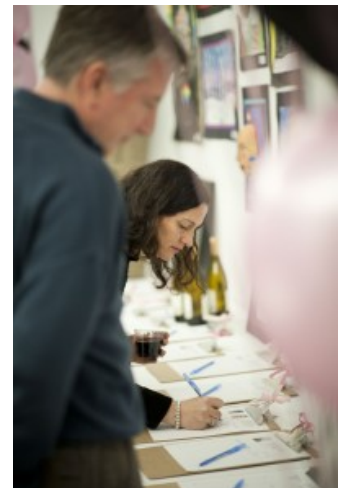


Diala B Joseph, Marzena Jonak and Aleksandra Efimova

“We’ve watched recipients of our scholarships begin their careers at such young ages and go on to join the likes of Joffrey Ballet, Ballet San Antonio, Ballet West and North Carolina School of Arts. Our philosophy is not just about dance – it’s instilling the art of dance into our children,” says Lilla Makkai Daniels, Creative Director. “We couldn’t be more pleased with the results of our first fundraiser, in which The Ballet Makkai Foundation will offer opportunities to dancers in our community to expand their horizons. Now we can expand our performances to full length ballets and offer scholarships to those who need and deserve them.”

The evening showcased the beloved art of dance with two performances by the Ballet Makkai Youth Company as a standing-room only audience watched in awe. Food and drink was provided kindly by: Phoenicia, Moccio’s Pizza, Bella Via, Sunset Foods, Real Urban Barbeque, Garden Fresh, Greater Than Drinks and Terlato Wines International.

Additionally, silent auction items were generously donated by: Russian Pointe, Lesser, Lutrey, McGlynn LLP, The Institute of Aesthetic Surgery, E-Street Denim, Arabesque, Salon Vole, Mathew Klujian and Sons, Nicole Vacca Designs, KM Zumba, Chicago Botanic Gardens, Pong, River North Dance Company, Canine Care, Real Fit Gym, Three Love Birds, Bong Nails and Spa, BloOut Bar, North Shore Chamber Music Festival, Abigail’s, Gina’s Face and Body Spa, Highland Park Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Highland Pop.



ABOUT THE IRINA MAKKAI CLASSICAL BALLET & DANCE SCHOOL

Owned and operated by mother and daughter duo, Irina Makkai and Lilla Makkai Daniels, Irina Makkai Classical Ballet & Dance School was the 2012 recipient of the Mayor's Award for the Arts. They offer an array of dance classes for students of all ages including Classical Ballet, Modern Dance, Jazz, Tap and Hip Hop, as well as Pre-Ballet programs for children 2 ½ to 7 years old. The three-story, 12,000 square foot facility offers four state-of-the-art dance studios, a study room, lunchroom, and locker/dressing rooms. The Irina Makkai Classical Ballet & Dance School is located at 2126 First Street in Highland Park, IL 60035. For more information, please call 847.433.1449, or visit <http://www.balletmakkai.com>

