

# MILLER MARLEY

SCHOOL OF DANCE & VOICE

WINTER 2011



Former student Mickaela O'Neill - Photo Courtesy of Sheryl McAvoy

## Studio #6 is Now Open!

We would like to dispel the rumor that there's a "new" dancing studio up the hill from Miller Marley. The truth is: It is new. But the studio belongs to us. Say hello to Studio #6.

The wait is over. We are proud to say that after months of blood, sweat and tears, Studio #6 is finally complete - all 3,150 square feet of it! And now we can accommodate our growing student body.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank our families for their patience and understanding during the construction period.

As a token of our appreciation, the studio would like to offer those students (who were members of a combined class) one class free-of-charge for the Winter Quarter. Families may add one "new" class to their child's schedule. This offer applies only to "new" classes and will be in effect from December 1st through February 29th. Please call the studio for more information.

If you were unable to attend the unveiling of Studio #6 at the Open House held on November 11th, please stop by and check it out. The studio is located in the row of businesses at the west end of the shopping center.

## A Studio is Born



An Open House was held on Friday, November 11th to celebrate the Grand Opening of Studio #6. Studio owner, Shirley Marley, officiated at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Miller Marley Presents ...

## A Recital for Little Stars

Featuring students in Preschool thru Grade 6  
Levels one thru three



Saturday, June 2nd 2011  
Kansas City Music Hall  
4pm & 7pm

Pictured above - Student, Gracyn Haney



Studio Director, Brian McGinness and Shirley Marley toast the opening of Miller Marley's newest addition, Studio #6.

**It's all about ...****THE DISNEY KIDS**

Put on your Mickey Mouse ears and listen up. It's off to Walt Disney World Orlando for a group of Miller Marley dancers who will perform two 30-minute shows at Downtown Disney over Spring Break 2012. Under the direction of Ann McCroskey, the 45-member troupe will present an upbeat Broadway style revue titled *Dance the Mouse House*.

Rehearsals are underway for the high-energy show which will feature three numbers choreographed by Miller Marley alumnus and former Entertainer, Ryan Worsing. Worsing is currently appearing on Broadway in the long-running hit, *Chicago*.

Everyone is invited to attend the Disney Sneak Preview which is scheduled for Sunday, March 4th at Blue Valley High School with performances at 3pm and 7pm.

The first act will feature the Miller Marley performance companies. Following intermission the Disney Kids will light up the stage with nonstop entertainment.

Proceeds from *Dance the Mouse House* will benefit the Disney troupe to offset costume and production expenses. Many thanks to Ann and Richard McCroskey and the entire Disney crew for a fantastic job.

**THE DISNEY TROUPE 2012**

Stephanie Ainsworth, Sasha Arutyunyan, Libby Brennaman, Libby Brennaman, Madeline Browne, Christine Carter, Ashley Coffin, Hannah Cruise, Mandy Dulny, Claire Eggleston, Emily Fiola, Gabby Fried, Ally Garton, Lily Giovagnoli, Katelyn Gravley, Katie Henderson, Alexis Jalbert, Jordan Kaseff, Pandi Lau, Katie Laxson, Brandon Luthi, Madison Masilionis, Nicole McCroskey, Mitchell McCroskey, Lauren Mylin, Mia Neaderhiser, Hannah Odgers, Jacqueline Passonno, Larkin Reilly, Maddie Robert, Katherine Rouse, Courtney Schmitt, Megan Secrest, Jessica Siplon, Caroline Shaw, Ally Smith, Krista Spindler, Lauren Stollman, Stephanie Surber, Madison Underdown, Gabby Wadley, Madeline Wadley, Megan Walstrom, Emily Walton, Kylee Wallentine, Jenna Wetzell

**McDonald's Nights**

McDonald's (103rd St. and Mastin)

January 10 thru February 7 | 4pm to 8pm

Mention Miller Marley when placing an order and the Disney troupe will receive 15% of all sales.

Receipts must be saved and turned in at the studio office.

## Performance Companies Fall Performance Schedule

**The MiniTainers**

September 16: Overland Park Sprint Center  
Barbeque Challenge

October 21: Oak Park - Carpenter Elementary  
Halloween Haunted House

**The Show Biz Performers**

October 22: Shawnee Mission Park  
Big Bad Pumpkin Derby-Canine Costume Contest

October 29: Overland Park Clock Tower  
All Harry Hallows Eve

**The TiniTainers**

October 29: Overland Park Clock Tower  
All Harry Hallows Eve

**The Miller Marley Entertainers**

The Broadway National Tour of *Peter Pan*, starring former Olympian, Cathy Rigby, is currently flying to host cities around the country and Miller Marley alumnus, Rod Roberts, is onboard as the Associate Choreographer for the production. This summer Rod flew into town to share one of the show's most popular numbers with the Entertainers.

Rod Robert's association with Ann McCroskey goes back a long way. They danced together in the Entertainers as high schoolers and have since kept in touch. Ann had long wanted Rod to choreograph a dance for her and the opportunity finally presented itself when Rod offered to teach the original choreography from "Ugg-A-Wugg" to the Entertainers.

This was after Roberts obtained permission from *Peter Pan* choreographer, Patti Colombo, who also gave her consent for the Entertainers to perform the number. This type of arrangement is virtually unheard of in the industry.

"Ugg-A-Wugg" has been described by critics as "part ballet, part jazz dance and part Stomp percussion fest." The Entertainers will perform the piece for the first time during Act One of the upcoming Disney Preview Show.

Class Photos this page Courtesy of Ann McCroskey

## Broadway Jazz Showcases Student Choreography

Ann McCroskey's Broadway Jazz classes now offer a new and exciting perk. The students will not only study musical theater style dancing but also the art of choreography. On Broadway, the resurgence of revival shows has brought about an increasing demand for both dancers and choreographers who are trained in traditional jazz technique. Broadway Jazz introduces students to theatrical style dancing reminiscent of iconic Tony Award winning choreographers that include Bob Fosse (*Chicago*), Michael Bennett (*A Chorus Line*), Jerome Robbins (*Westside Story*) and Gower Champion (*Bye Bye Birdie*).

Now Miller Marley's Broadway Jazz students will have the chance to spread their choreographic wings under the tutelage of Ann McCroskey, one of the most sought-after choreographers in the city. "I am trying to offer another important component in the dance education of my students. I have found that many of our students are asked to be choreographers or dance captains so I wanted to be able to guide them in this process," Ann said.

Dance plays an integral part in the storyline of a musical and it is incumbent upon the choreographer to create dance numbers that reflect the plot and the character development. And, the choreographer's vision, the mental image of how the dance will look, is the guiding force for the choreography.

Ann's Broadway Jazz students are trained dancers and drew upon their backlog of performance experience and overall dance history in creating the choreography. Students Ally Smith and Kate Bowling, both 12 years-old, were the first to tackle the assignment which required them to select a song from a Broadway show and choreograph a one-minute segment. After the completion of the assignment Ann will meet with each choreographer individually to evaluate her performance.



Kate Bowling does some fine tuning with Broadway Jazz student, Madeline Wadley.

Kate Bowling, leads a group in "If They Could See Me Now" from the Broadway musical, *Sweet Charity*.

Kate choreographed the piece as part of an assignment for Ann McCroskey's Broadway Jazz class.

(first row l to r)  
Natalie Caruso  
Courtney Schmitt  
Larkin Reilly  
(second row l to r)  
Ally Garton  
Shelly Bushman



Ally Smith is a member of the Miller Marley Competition Team and the Entertainers. When she heard about the assignment it was a foregone conclusion that she would pick a number from the musical, *CATS*. Ever since she was four years old Ally has had a fascination with the musical and even had the opportunity to see the show on Broadway. She chose "Macavity the Mystery Cat" for her piece.

Ally explained that she "envisioned the dancers being very much cats" and wanted the female cat's movements to reflect their love/hate relationship with Macavity. These are spunky, sultry junk yard cats with very distinct feline personalities. Ally gave each dancer a solo in which each cat struts her stuff and added, "I love girl power dances and this dance is true girl power."

Kate Bowling is a member of the Miller Marley Competition Team, the Youth Ballet Company and the Entertainers. Kate chose "If They Could See Me Now" from the musical *Sweet Charity*. Kate said, "I wanted an upbeat song and this was perfect." Commenting on the experience Kate said, "I love that Ann is letting us experience something we might be doing later on in life. I really feel that it is a very important part of our dance education."

Broadway Jazz student, 12 year-old Larkin Reilly, is a member of the Miller Marley Competition Team and the Entertainers. A week after Ann announced the assignment, Larkin was selected to choreograph *Bye Bye Birdie* for a high school in her hometown of Leavenworth, KS.

When asked if she was intimidated by the fact that she is only 12 years old and was in charge of

a group of high school students, Larkin nonchalantly replied, "Oh no. Not at all," and added that the kids were very respectful and great to work with.

Ann said, "This is awesome because it proved my point. Miller Marley dancers are definitely noticed for their leadership and dancing ability."

Ann credits mentors Shirley Marley (studio owner) and Sharon Wiber (former choreographer at Ann's alma mater, Shawnee Mission South High School) for her inspiration to become a choreographer. "Growing up I was Shirley Marley's assistant for many of her classes. That's where I learned how to teach, which is a very important skill for choreographers."


Broadway Jazz student, Ally Smith, choreographed her piece to "Macavity the Mystery Cat" from her favorite Broadway musical, *CATS*.



During her sophomore year Ann worked as an assistant to Sharon Wiber for Shawnee Mission South's production of *Kiss Me Kate*. Ann went on to say, "That summer I choreographed my first show at Theatre in the Park. I was only 16 years old. I know it's because Shirley Marley and Sharon Wiber took the time to work with me. I want to do this for my students."

Join Us On **facebook**

Become a friend of Miller-Marley School of Dance and Voice. Receive up to the minute studio news and important information. Browse the photo gallery and enjoy networking with friends. A link to our Facebook page can be found on our website at [www.millermarley.com](http://www.millermarley.com)



The Miller Marley Youth Ballet Presents  
**Clara's Dream**  
 and a Holiday Musical Revue with the  
 Miller Marley Performance Companies

Saturday and Sunday December 3rd and 4th  
 Performances at 2pm & 7pm each day  
 Blue Valley North High School  
 Tickets for General Admission - \$10

To order tickets or for further information call 913-492-0004

**Clara's Dream**

VIP Reserved Seats  
\$35

Proceeds to benefit  
flying apparatus  
for the MMYB  
Spring Ballet,  
*Peter Pan*

Special  
Group Discount for  
Girl Scout Groups

Photo - Chloe Costello  
(Governess / Clara's Dream)  
Costume Design  
by Elaine Biggs  
Photo Courtesy of  
Kevin Smith

Special thanks to Chris Halford (Herr Drosselmeyer) and our talented Clara's Dream guest performers!

**Miller Marley Students Shine in  
Local Professional Theater  
Holiday Productions**

**A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

Kansas City Repertory Theatre Nov. 19-Dec. 26

Connor Clary (Tiny Tim, Scrooge as a Boy)  
Children's Ensemble: Lauren Chandler, Erin Lowe,  
Maggie Mulligan, Mia Vaught, Megan Walstrom

**A VERY SPECTACULAR CHRISTMAS**

Musical Theater Heritage Dec. 1-18

Brendan Hulla, Alec Walberg, Wyatt Walberg, Willa Walberg

**A VERY ACCIDENTAL HOLIDAY**

Lidia's Restaurant Nov. 27-Dec. 12

Megan Secrest

**SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL**

The Coterie Nov. 1-Dec. 31

Nick Grant (Jo Jo), Lily Giovagnoli (Thing 2)

**Miller Marley Show Biz Performers and  
TiniTainers Participate in Charity Drive**



Recently, the Miller Marley TiniTainers and Show Biz Performers gathered at the home of Kaitlin and Kara Mack for a Packing Party to benefit Operation Christmas Child. The children wrapped 20 gifts that will be donated to the organization on behalf of the two performance companies. (first row l to r) Lela Pereira, Lily Canet, Riley Cornell, Ashley Thomas, Grace Heinrichs (second row l to r) Regan Howard, Emerson Pereira, Kara Mack, Kaitlin Mack, Molly Thomas, Caroline Sorcher

Happy Holidays from your Miller Marley Family

10448 Mastin Overland Park, KS 66212 - 913-492-0004  
e-mail: [info@millermarley.com](mailto:info@millermarley.com) website: [www.millermarley.com](http://www.millermarley.com)