



VICTORIA  
ACADEMY  
of BALLET

## *TO THE POINTE - November 2016*

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### **Remembrance Day**

There will be no classes on **Friday, November 11.**

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### **Cecchetti Workshops and Award Auditions**

On October 23rd, 34 VAB students from Level 5 to Bridge travelled across the pond to Burnaby for the Cecchetti Society of Canada Fall Workshops and Award Auditions.

After a full day of travel and classes, our students still had the energy for an impromptu photo shoot!



**We are so pleased to announce that the following students have been selected as candidates in the Cecchetti Classical Ballet Awards Competition 2017:**

Abigail Bowering

Annissa Granegger  
Robin Butterfield  
Hazuki Kishida  
Layanna Robinson  
Anna Lawrance  
Yura Nitta  
Akane Shimizu  
Anri Hirota  
Rin Nagakura  
Sayaka Matsushita  
Charlotte Battigelli  
Paula Cobo Botello

**Congratulations dancers!**

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## Gingerbread Tea - Saturday November 26



Parents of dancers in the Foundational, General and PTP 1/2A programs will have received an invitation to the Gingerbread Tea (and no doubt your dancer has mentioned working on their demonstration in class!)

To celebrate the season, we've decided to throw open the studio doors and invite you to watch the hard work that your dancer has been putting into each ballet class.

Then, join us in the adjacent studio for tea and goodies, with some special offerings from the VABSS:

- Lovely silver ornaments with the VAB logo
- Silk Road Tea
- Purdy's Chocolates
- Pure cotton hand embroidered bags from Germany
- Hand embroidered lavender sachets from Germany
- Children's pink ballet tights

All proceeds from the tea (refreshments and festive offerings) go towards the Victoria Academy of Ballet Scholarship Society - enabling young dancers to take class who may not otherwise be able to.

[Please be sure to RSVP](#) to the tea. Tell us how many people will be attending (including yourself) and your dancer's ballet class level.

\*\*Teen Ballet, while not performing in the Gingerbread Tea, will have an open class for parents to watch on Tuesday November 22.

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## Visions of Sugar Plums

### Congratulations to Emily and Miki

Congratulations to 2nd Year Bridge students Emily Faris and Miki Takahashi who will both be guest artists in the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy in Stage West School of Performing Arts and Urban Beat's production of The Nutcracker. Each Emily and Miki will have the opportunity to perform in 2 performances in Port Alberni and Campbell River.



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## A Sweet Showing

Mark your calendar on Saturday afternoon December 17th for the annual Candy Cane Christmas show at the Metro Studio Theatre, **sponsored by the CIBC Children's foundation.**

Tickets and time info to follow in the coming weeks.



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## Thanks, Friend

**Thank you** to all from the Foundational and General program who participated in **Bring a Friend Week!**

Your guests added a vibrance and excitement to class and we hope they enjoyed the experience! If they are interested in joining a class, please encourage them to contact the office as we take year round registration for our Foundational and General Programs!

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## Company Spotlight:

*We asked VAB Dance Theatre*

*Company's Rachel Harper to share a few things about what inspires her and what it's like to dance at VAB*

**Where I'm from:** Calgary, AB

**Trained in:** Classical Ballet (Cecchetti and RAD), Modern/Contemporary, Character/National dance, and many different styles of Jazz

**Favourite role/production I was part of:**

Princess Aurora, or Clara in Alberta Ballet's Nutcracker

**Dream job:** Ballet dancer with The Royal Ballet of London/The Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Choreographer

**Favourite dancer/choreographer/company:**

Evelyn Hart/Sir Kenneth MacMillan/ The Royal Ballet

**Favourite post-class meal:** Sharing a hot chocolate with friends, as a treat

**What inspires my training:** My love of performing on stage and passion to achieve my dreams as a dancer

**Favourite memory at VAB:** I couldn't choose just one! Seeing Transience (the pas de deux I choreographed) performed on stage, the year end show 2016, performing and travelling across The Island and Vancouver, and many special moments in and out of the studio with my friends and teachers.



## **Faculty Spotlight:**

*Get to know our hardworking faculty.*

*This month: Ms Turner*

**Full Name:** KerryLynn Turner

**Trained in:** Vancouver, BC, Canada

**Favourite role/production I was part of:** I

always loved being created on; it felt that the piece had my blood, sweat and tears in it for all the years

that it gets passed along! But I have wonderful memories of dancing Balanchine's *Rubies* (with Ms. Bellis!), William Forsythe's *A Vile Parody of Address....*, Jean Grand-Maître's *Tema Celeste*, and John Alleyne's *In the Course of Sleeping*. Many different inspiring moments and challenges with each piece.

**Career highlight:** Seems a bit silly, but having my image chosen for all of the advertising and marketing campaigns for a couple of seasons was pretty fun. Making the cover of *Dance International*, which later won best magazine cover in Canada was also a nice surprise. Guesting with the National Ballet of Canada in their tribute to Glenn Gould gala performance.

**Favorite dancer/choreographer/company:** Sofiane Sylve for how strong and dynamic she is, but also for her musicality and quality of movement. I've always enjoyed Paris Opera Ballet, but I also love Netherlands Dance Theatre, San Francisco Ballet, the Royal Ballet (London) and Dutch National Ballet; really, any company that has a group of diversely talented dancers and a Director that sees the value in moving forward with keeping their repertoire fresh and inspiring while able to maintain quality in any classical work they may perform.

**If I weren't a dance professional, I'd be:** I knew at 10 years old what I wanted to be and do for a living. Once I stopped dancing professionally I moved onto the next thing that made sense to me, and that was studying to become a good teacher. There's always something to learn, and the profession is always growing and changing. I wouldn't dream of doing anything else.

**Best advice for up and coming dance professionals:** Drop any ego you may be hanging onto when you walk into a new situation and just allow yourself to be present and ready to learn.

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## VAB Important Dates

November 11, 2016	Remembrance Day - No Classes	Whole School
November 26, 2016	Family and Friends Watch Day	Foundational Program
November 26, 2016	GP Gingerbread Tea	General Program
December 10, 2016	Last Day of Classes Before Break	Foundational/General
December 12, 2016	Optional Thanksgiving Makeup Class	Foundational/General
December 13, 14, 2016	Cecchetti Examinations	General/PTP/Bridge
December 17, 2016	Last Day of Classes Before Break	PTP/Bridge
December 17, 2016 (TBD)	Christmas Performance	PTP/Bridge

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## Follow VAB on Social Media

Victoria Academy of Ballet is on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter! Follow [@victoriaacademyofballet](#) and [@vaballet](#) for the latest updates, information and behind the scenes pics!.

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