

DANCE

Ballet group seeks volunteers for upcoming Nutcracker production

By Kathleen Holmes

David Holmes's career as an international ballet star brought acclaim in most of the major opera theaters and cultural centres in the world: England, France, Russia, Spain, Canada, the U.S., South America and South Africa.

The world was his stage.

If asked for a favorite he would say Portugal where he and his former wife and dance partner, Anna-Marie, founded the International Academy of Dance Costa del Sol on Portugal's Sunshine Coast.

While they were directing the Lisbon international festival, this special academy for gifted ballet students became an integral part of the festival, producing many star dancers.

Now, years later, another Sunshine Coast has become a part of Holmes life.

After a number of years in the U.S. producing and directing ballet classics with his wife and ballerina Kathleen Holmes, they decided to relocate with their two young daughters to Victoria, BC.

A chance visit to the Sunshine Coast changed everything.

The daughters fell in love with the area and Holmes had found the BC substitute for his Costa del Sol.

They decided to stay.

Word of the Holmes's background spread in the dance and theatre community.

Eventually there were inquiries as to the possibilities of producing a major ballet work for the Coast.

Mr. Holmes's former wife had just directed one of their Nutcracker versions for the Goh Ballet in Vancouver and supporters wondered if he

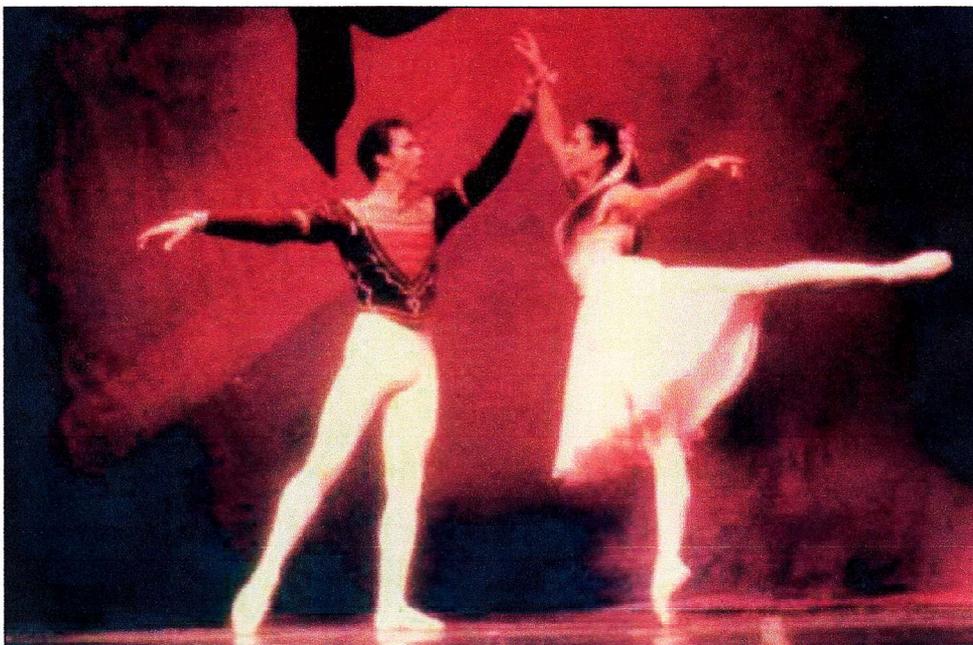


photo submitted

Kathleen Holmes in a performance of *Cinderella*.

could produce one here.

After much deliberation and investigating local resources, it was decided it could be done.

To do so would require strong community and corporate support.

After a series of public and private meetings with local organizations and dance academies, a non-profit organization, Coasting Along Theatre Society has been formed and a large roster of volunteers has signed on.

As set and costume designs get finalized, the Heritage Playhouse has been booked for a week of performances in December and open auditions are scheduled for September.

Guest artist inquiries are presently being made. They will need dancers and gymnasts from all areas of the Coast.

With a desire to source the production, scenery, costumes head pieces and props locally whenever possible, a search is on for experienced carpenters, painters, seamstresses, tailors and sculptors — hopefully

with previous theatrical experience.

Some amazing talent has already come forward.

Also crucial are the corporate or private sponsorships required to ensure this becomes an annual Christmas event.

The first year — the start-up year — is the hardest one.

If you wish to know more or become involved, please contact David and Kathleen Holmes at (604) 740-9951 or kdhhHolmes@gmail.com.

The webpage for coastingalongtheatre.org is coming soon.



**Bargain Barn Thrift
Store Madeira Park**

Summer Hours

Wednesday	10:30 - 3:30
Thursday	12:00 - 3:00
Friday	10:30 - 4:00
Saturday	10:30 - 3:30