

# WORLD Dance Theatre

December, 2005



Special Holiday Edition



*May the silent snows of the season  
Quiet the heart and rest the soul  
While you retreat and rejuvenate within  
for a new blossoming in spring  
-Deborah*

Joyous holiday greetings from World Dance Theatre! We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support throughout this critical first year of our existence. We are so grateful for the encouragement, assistance, and financial aid that you have provided this year. Your help has made it possible for us to build and purchase new costumes, conduct our first residency, print new promotional materials, carry out a photo shoot, and pursue our not-for-profit incorporation. Your support of World Dance Theatre brings us one step closer to achieving our goal of uniting the world in peace through the arts.

## An Italian Folk Legend

According to Italian legend, the Three Wise Men stopped on their way to Bethlehem to ask directions at the house of La Befana, and to invite her to join them in paying respect to the Christ Child. She refused, and when night fell and she saw a great light in the skies, La Befana thought perhaps she should have gone with the Three Wise Men. So



she gathered some toys and ran to find the kings, but La Befana could not find them or the child. Now, each year on the feast of the Epiphany (January 6) she looks for the Christ Child. Since she cannot find him, she leaves gifts for the good children of Italy and pieces of coal for the bad ones.

*May your spirits be flowing this beautiful holiday season!  
-Corin*

## Holiday match-up game!

Match the "Merry Christmas" greeting to the country where you will hear it!

- |                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| a)"Nollaig Shona Dhuit"    | 1)Portugal        |
| b)"Maligayang Pasko"       | 2)Greece          |
| c)"Froehliche Weihnachten" | 3)Korea           |
| d)"Boas Festas"            | 4)The Philippines |
| e)"Kala Christouyenna"     | 5)Germany         |
| f)"Sung Tan Chuk Ha"       | 6)Ireland         |

(answer: a-6, b-4, c-5, d-1, e-2, f-3)

*Happy holidays to you all, regardless of what holiday you celebrate. Light the menorah, dance around the Christmas tree and enjoy this happy season! Make lots of memories for the year to come!  
-Sasha*

## Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is an African-American cultural holiday traditionally celebrated from December 26 through January 1. Conceived by Dr. Maulana Ron Karenga in 1966, Kwanzaa focuses on Nguzo Saba, or the seven principles: Unity, Self-Determination, Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity, and Faith. Kwanzaa enforces a connectedness to African cultural identity while providing a focal point for the gathering of African peoples.

## A Croatian Tradition

According to Croatian tradition, on the eve of St. Nicholas Day, children polish a pair of boots and place them on a window sill for Saint Nicholas to fill. However, what the boots are filled with depends on how well-behaved the child has been. Children are reminded that instead of candy, fruit and gifts, their boots could be filled with switches, which may be put to use!

*Wishing you and yours a happy, healthy holiday season and a blessed New Year.*

*-Doug*

## How to Play Dreidel

It is a tradition to play with a dreidel, a four sided top, on Hanukah. The sides of the dreidel have the Hebrew letters nun, gimmel, heh, and shin. The letters stand for the Hebrew phrase *nes gadol haya sham*: A great miracle happened there.

Make sure that everyone who is playing starts with the same number of objects.

1)Each player puts one object into the center, called the pot.

2)A player spins the dreidel and the letter that comes up tells what to do:

נ (nun): The player does nothing. The next player spins.

ג (gimmel): The player takes all that is in the pot.

ה (heh): The player takes half of what is in the pot (or half plus one if there is an uneven number.)

ש (shin): The Player puts one object into the pot.

3) Whenever the pot is empty, or there is only one object left in it, everyone has to put one in before the next spin.

4)The game is over when one player has won everything, and everyone else is wiped out.



*May the holiday season and the New Year to come bring joy to our world community and peace to our planet.*

*-Suzi*

## Happenings...

### News from P771!

Our residency at P771 is proceeding beautifully, with our students recently learning about Eastern European dance styles and Irish step dancing. They are excited to learn a Mexican dance and an African dance in the next sessions, and even more excited to perform for their classmates on December 20. This holiday extravaganza will include an ancient Hawaiian hula, a Chinese ribbon dance, a rollicking Irish jig...and a heartwarming rendition of "Jingle Bells!"

### Mele Kalikimaka!

"Mele Kalikimaka is the right way to say Merry Christmas..." Genalle will say Mele Kalikimaka to a first grade class in Pittsburgh this month, as the special guest at their Christmas party. The students will be treated to Island treats, Leis, and a dance workshop at their Hawaiian themed Christmas party! Special thanks to Genalle's 5 year old cousin Dionna Sypolt for booking WDT at this workshop!

### Arts Horizons

WDT is excited to announce that some of our artists are now working with Arts Horizons, an organization that brings performances and residencies to schools throughout the tri-state area! Arts Horizons is now utilizing our dancers as teaching artists, bringing international dance styles to students in Queens. If you know of a school that would be interested in booking World Dance Theatre for a performance or teaching residency, please contact Suzi at [suzi@worlddancetheatre.com](mailto:suzi@worlddancetheatre.com).

## And of course...Happy Boxing Day!!

Contrary to popular belief, Boxing Day is not the day you return your unwanted Christmas gifts! It is a holiday celebrated in Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Canada, which falls on December 26th. It is so called because on this day it was



customary for tradesmen to collect their Christmas boxes or gifts in return for good service throughout the year. Also, it included giving money and other gifts to charitable institutions and the needy. The holiday may date from as early as the Middle Ages, but the exact origin is not known. It may have begun with the Lords and Ladies of England, who gave Christmas boxes/gifts to their servants on December 26th, or maybe the priests, who opened the church's alms (charity boxes) and distributed the contents to the poor and needy.

*At this time of year for thanks and appreciation, I would like to thank all of our supporters who have helped our company to grow.*

*We have come a long way in one year thanks to you!*

*Happy holidays, everyone, and may your New Year be prosperous!*

*-Genalle*

*Wishing everyone a joyous holiday with family and friends and a New Year filled with peace and prosperity.*

*-Michele*

## Featured Recipe

In Armenia, all the villagers fast one week before Christmas by eating no animal food, and no food at all on the last day of that week. On Christmas Eve, *Pilav*, a rice or wheat food is eaten. After church service, fried fish, lettuce and spinach constitute the menu, since it is believed that spinach was the food that Mary ate on the eve of Christ's birth.

### Boulgeur Pilav

- |                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 small onion               | 3/4 cup lamb          |
| 1 cup rice or cracked wheat | 2 tsp. salt           |
| 3 cups water                | 3 tbsp. melted butter |
| 1/4 tsp. pepper             |                       |

Cut meat into cubes, and put into saucepan with water and salt. Let boil until meat is nearly done. Then add rice or cracked wheat and cook 30 minutes, not allowing stock to reduce to less than 2 1/2 cups. Brown finely chopped onion in butter and pour over the meat. Set aside 15 minutes to settle.

Donations to World Dance Theatre are tax-deductible. If you are looking for one last deduction for this year, we would love to help you out! Checks should be made out to Fractured Atlas and mailed to 43-18 42 Street-2R, Sunnyside, NY 11104. You can also make a secure credit card payment on-line at [www.fracturedatlas.org/site/contribute/donate/359](http://www.fracturedatlas.org/site/contribute/donate/359).

*Stay tuned for exciting information about our Spring performance series and gala event!*