

TRYZUB TRUBKA

Spring 2011



Introducing a new series: Interview with an Alumni



The Trubka is very excited to introduce to you a new series titled 'Interview with an Alumni'. This quarter we've contacted Boyan Blocka of Vancouver, British Columbia to reflect on his time with the Tryzub family.

Tryzub Trubka: At what age did you begin Ukrainian dance?

Boyan Blocka: I started dance at the age of 4 in my mother's school in Regina. She'd named the school after her first born, which, as luck would have it - was me! I feel very fortunate for this and also, for not being named Blaine. I mean, "Blaine School of Dance?" Who'd believe that?

TT: What sparked your interest in this aspect of Ukrainian culture?

BB: The pure passion I saw in my Mom's adult ensemble 'Tavria.' For the first time in my life I experienced the power of dance to galvanize a crowd. This is something I later experienced with Tryzub and knew then I needed to join.

TT: Why did you continue to dance even when it might have conflicted with other activities?

BB: Creating anything great takes sacrifice. We

Inside This Issue

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Interview with an Alumni | 1 |
| Calendar of Events | 3 |
| Touring Update | 3 |
| Donor List | 4 |
| Donor Form | 5 |
| Tryzub on Facebook | 6 |
| Tryzub Society Who's Who | 7 |
| Alumni Updates | 7 |

were doing some amazing 'once-in-a-lifetime' things - the sacrifice was warranted. Besides, 7 years for a 4 year degree is not that uncommon, right?

TT: Is there anyone who had a profound effect on your success as a dancer and how were they important in your development?

BB: There are two equally important to me: Mel Bzdel - he danced in my mother's group and later in Calgary. Mel was noble, charismatic, athletic, and humble - as good a human being as anyone could hope to be. I guess I thought if I could at least dance as good as him, then maybe I'd figure out the rest too!

George Chronik - a god in blue jeans and red boots! I felt honored to be one of his troops and hope I did him proud. Years before joining Tryzub, I saw George in a documentary enshrouded in a Canadian flag, and I gotta tell ya, no one then or since has done embroidery and a flag so proud! Like an embroidered Bruce Springsteen oozing 'Hopakian' glory (and you can quote me on that), that was George for me.

TT: What was the time period you danced with the Ensemble?

BB: From 1989 to 2001, popularly known as the 'Boyanian Era.' I've since been informed by other dancers that the term was 'error' not 'era' - so humbly, I stand corrected.

- Interview continued on page 2

- continued from page 1

TT: Which dance was your favourite and why?

BB: HOPAK! It's the one dance where we show who we really are as individuals and as a group! It's life on stage!

TT: What are some of your most memorable Tryzub experiences?

BB: * Being so sore after practice that the next day, literally, I could not walk up the stairs.

* Lights so bright you can't see the audience - but you can always feel them.

* Catastrophically blowing out my ankle during a performance of Zaporozhets (Cossack dance) and serenading Chris Horbachewski with, "I think I broke my ankle - I'm leaving the stage", all the while staying in character and in tune.

* Recuperating from said injury and striving to be better than I was before - pretty much just to show up the doctor who said I'd need a cane.

* Dancing on a ridiculously small stage with a pole in the center and yelling "Pole!" before Dutchak got clobbered.

* Parliament Hill on Canada Day; dancing on a stage so hot you could literally cook eggs ... and feet.

* The guys toilet papering the same house (alum, of course) every year - then one year forgetting which one and reconciling this by simply TP-ing all the houses in the vicinity.

* Ridiculously awesome scavenger hunts with Rich and Nate requiring me to convince a cop to give me a ticket.

* The Grandstand Show Monsoon.

* Split jumps. Barrel Rolls. Flips. Fish flops. I felt alive learning, doing and mastering those solos. Thanks again for being the inspiration, Mel!

* Wishing I could be 'cool enough' to hang out with the older guys; hanging out with the older guys; and finally, wishing I could just hang out with the younger guys one more time.

* Passing my red boots on to someone (as they were once passed on to me) and having it really mean something.

* Feeling like I'd be young forever and wondering what it might be like to one day look back with pride...and now knowing!

TT: What direction has your life taken since you moved on from the Ensemble?

BB: In 2001, I moved to Vancouver - it snows 13 months of the year here; please don't visit. I have a wife I feel chronically unworthy of and a son with an enviable amount of hair. Together, we own a company called Kyosei, that helps individuals and companies revolutionize their lives and work through coaching, consulting and hands-on implementation. While I don't dance anymore, I somehow feel like I'm still wearing the red boots because I'm doing work I'm proud of, and to the best of my ability. My red boots, I guess, are now metaphorical.

TT: Do you still keep in touch with those you danced with?

BB: Not near as much as I should. But parenthood-induced sleep deprivation makes a great, though lame, excuse.

TT: What advice would you give to dancers interested in joining the Ensemble?

BB: The audience doesn't connect with technical perfection and repertoire, alone. Beauty and brilliance are found in the heart, not just the feet. Dance like it's your last day to dance because someday, it will be.

TT: Do you have any closing remarks?

BB: Thank-you for 12 amazing years and a lifetime of laughter and memories. Mnohaya Lita Tryzub! ☺



Turkey – An International Event

By: John Stadnyk

As many of our readers are aware, Tryzub is travelling to Turkey in July. What you may not know is Tryzub will have an opportunity to perform with groups from around the world, making this one stop festival performance an 'international' experience. Tryzub will share the stage with other performing groups from, Mexico, Venezuela, Spain, Egypt, Kyrgyzstan, Croatia, Senegal, Switzerland, and of course...Turkey. What a fantastic opportunity to promote Tryzub around the world while meeting new people, and making new friends.

With some help from Darren Lemke (past Tryzub Chairperson), the Ensemble Dancers will soon be receiving a studio visit from Mr. Torgay Ogut, Turkish Consulate to Canada in Calgary and Mr. Cunety Tirmandi; both will visit the studio prior to the tour to speak with dancers about cultural and religious considerations, what to pack, and safety while travelling in Turkey.

Stay tuned to the Trubka for photos and stories from the tour. ☺

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 2011

16 Dancing with Fire!
(Tryzub Ukrainian Dance Ensemble joins with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra)

29 & 30 Tryzub Ukrainian Festival

MAY 2011

6 Perogy Dinner Fundraiser
7 Tryzub School Year End Show
8 ONE – Celebration of World Dance
14 Joint Performance with Troyanda Ukrainian Dance Club of Lethbridge

JUNE 2011

4 & 5 Calgary Ukrainian Festival
10 Perogy Dinner Fundraiser

JULY 2011

6 - 18 Lake Festival in Istanbul Turkey

AUGUST

19 – 27 Globalfest

For more information on any of the above events please contact us:

Tryzub Ukrainian Dance Society
www.tryzub.ab.ca
info@tryzub.ab.ca
403-720-4840

The Tryzub Studios are located at
#115, 3953 - 112 Avenue SE in Calgary, AB.

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| | | | Brass up to \$99 |
| | | | Joanne Adamow Alberta Theatre Projects Elizabeth Amer Carlie Arsenault Rev. Mark A. Bayrock Jim Beardsley Tyler Bernakevitch |

- continued from page 4

Lara Bertsch
 Don & Marcy Bobyn
 Emma Bolt
 Dreena Buyachek
 Calgary Ukrainian Festival
 Lio Caliente
 Paula Callihoo
 John Charbonneau
 Michael Chez
 Grant Clark
 Deanne & Oliver David
 Murray DeJager
 Darlene DeMone
 Kevin & Dawn Derijck
 Crystal Doyle
 Hank Duff
 Joseph Dulina
 Michael Dutka
 Helen Eckenstene
 Madeline Elias
 Mark & Sheryl Ewanchyna
 Erin Fulton
 Great Things in Store
 Eugene Gogowich
 Laura Herasymuk
 Michael Ilnycky
 Diane Iwanchuk
 Eugene Jasinski
 Larry Jurgens
 Tamara King
 Rhonda Knight
 Holly Kowalchuk
 Paul Kyba
 John & Bernice Lesiuk
 MADD
 Tony Marchand
 Edele Marchinko
 Sheldon & Raelene Martina
 Kerry McKenna
 Kim Mazyn
 Taras Nazarko
 Newport Grill on
 Lake Bonavista
 Stan Odut
 Eugene Olynyk
 Andrew Parsons
 Eric & Joann Pickle
 Roxanna Pullan
 Dasha Pushkar
 Starr Rezewski
 Krista Schnick

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 Haley Simpson
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 ☪



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 Calgary, Alberta T2P 2L7

**** Please Note: Donations \$25 or greater will be issued a tax receipt ****




We're now on Facebook!

If you are not already aware, you can now find the Tryzub Ukrainian Dance Ensemble as a Public Figure on Facebook.

By simply clicking on the “LIKE”  icon on our page you can be connected to all upcoming events and announcements.

Currently we have 258 individuals who have found us on Facebook! From this we can see that our top subscribers come from Canada, the United States, Mexico, Venezuela, Australia, the United Kingdom and Turkey. Additionally, we currently have fans from a total of 14 different countries and our top Canadian cities are Calgary, Winnipeg and Edmonton!

Here's a sneak peak of what we look like! 

facebook Search

Tryzub Ukrainian Dance Ensemble
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UKRAINIAN DANCE ENSEMBLE
IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY (July 2011)
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: VASYL KANEVETS

Wall Tryzub Ukrainian Dance En... · Top posts

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Tryzub Ukrainian Dance Ensemble
will be performing with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra on April 16, 2011 at 8 pm. For more info click the link! http://www.cpo-live.com/main/event_detail.php?event_id=453

Dancing with Fire!
www.cpo-live.com
Saturday, April 16, 2011 8pm EPCOR CENTRE's Jack Singer Concert Hall
Mélanie Léonard, Resident Conductor
Tryzub Ukrainian Dance Ensemble

Wall
Info
Photos (1)
Discussions
Events

About
In September of 1974, seven dedicated individuals put together the framewor...
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Who's in the Tryzub Ensemble?

Artistic Director:

Vasyl Kanevets

Ensemble Members:

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Tyler Bernakevitch | Charles Pullan |
| Jordan Biss | Dasha Pushkar |
| Laura Bobyn | Kaley Sheppard |
| Emma Bolt | Joren Tzitzoglakis |
| Lesia Bzdel | Nathan Woynarski |
| Christina Chumak | |
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Alumni Updates

Help to keep our alumni list current and ensure you continue to receive Tryzub updates. We would appreciate if you would provide us with the following information:

- Name
- Mailing Address
- Phone Number(s)
- E-mail
- Recent News
 - We'll include any news you would like to share in upcoming editions of the Trubka!

Tryzub Alumni Association

Contact:
 Debbie Horbachewski
 or
 Maria Ochitwa

E-Mail:
alumni@tryzub.ab.ca