

# Artists for *Gotta Dance!*

Friday, November 9



At fifteen years old, **Catrina Choate-Heretoiu** moved to New York City to train at the School of American Ballet. After high school, she began working in the corps de ballet of Miami City Ballet, where she performed many Balanchine Ballets, as well as works by Paul Taylor. Ms. Heretoiu's performance career also includes working with Carolina Ballet and Miami Contemporary Dance Company. She holds a B.A. degree in English Literature from Florida International University and an MFA degree in Dance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Ms. Heretoiu is a guild-certified Feldenkrais practitioner and has structured specific Awareness Through Movement lessons for dancers. She has taught ballet and modern dance to all levels, creative movement for children, and has facilitated expressive movement classes for incarcerated women. Ms. Heretoiu believes in the power of movement to enhance learning and self-development. **Ms. Heretoiu will be working with dancer**

**Aki Hasegawa on a demonstration of pointe dancing.**

**Champaign Urbana Ballet (CU Ballet)** was formed in 1998 to promote classical and contemporary ballet, to offer training and performance opportunities to talented youth, and to enrich and involve the community through the art of dance. Under the artistic direction of founder Deanna Doty, the company has diversified its repertory and earned a reputation in the dance community as a superb training ground for pre-professional classical dancers. Through outreach programs, CU Ballet exposes children to the history and beauty of ballet. Champaign Urbana Ballet presents *The Nutcracker* each December with partners Sinfonia da Camera and Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and a full ballet each spring. The 2012-13 performance year marks the company's 15 season.

## Champaign Urbana Ballet Performers

**Ben Chapman** is a high school sophomore and has trained exclusively at Champaign Ballet Academy for eight years under the direction of Deanna Doty and guest instructors of the Academy. Last summer Mr. Chapman attended a summer program with Salt Creek Ballet. Mr. Chapman marks his third season as a company member and has previously appeared with CU Ballet in *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, and *Cinderella*. He performed the role of Franz in *Coppélia* and will dance the role of Cavalier in the upcoming performance of *The Nutcracker*.

**Maura Dickson** is a senior at Central High School. She has been dancing for 14 years and has trained with Deanna Doty at Champaign Ballet Academy for the last 5 years and attended Joffrey Ballet's Summer Dance Lab in 2011. Ms. Dickson has danced the role of Swanhilda in *Coppélia* with CU Ballet and will dance the role of Sugar Plum Fairy this December in *The Nutcracker*. Photo credit: C U Ballet.



## Saturday, November 10

**Jalimuso SISWA** performs music, songs, and dance from several sub-Saharan nations, but particularly the Old Malian Empire, which includes Senegal and Guinea and South Africa. The group is diverse in ethnicity and age. Jalimuso SISWA has the dual purpose of teaching song, dance, music, culture, history, and contemporary issues to group members, who then educate audiences through their performance. The group was formed by Amira Davis as an extension of her dissertation research on performance as critical pedagogy. Jalimuso (from Gambia, also called Jelimuso in Guinea) is a word from the Mande language meaning “female storytellers.” SISWA is an acronym for Sisters in Solidarity with Africa. Photo Credit: Nailah Davis.



## Sunday, November 11

**Joe and Carlota** started tango in Champaign-Urbana, today the largest tango community in Illinois outside of Chicago. They have been dancing and teaching together for ten years. They run the Champaign Tango School ([cu-tango.com](http://cu-tango.com)) and teach tango throughout central Illinois and Indiana.

In their classes Joe and Carlota transmit the unique spontaneous feelings of the tango. Learners start to dance and have fun right from the start. Their students get hooked on tango and want to do it all the time.

Joe and Carlota have taught and performed at various workshop events and tango festivals. Recently they choreographed the tango opera *Maria de Buenos Aires* (Piazzolla/Ferrer).

Joe and Carlota have studied with many teachers, but they acknowledge special debts to the following maestros of the tango: Carlos Gavito (Buenos Aires); Eduardo & Gloria Arquimbau (Buenos Aires); Mingo & Esther Pugliese (Buenos Aires); Susana Miller (Buenos Aires); Alberto Paz & Valorie Hart (New Orleans).

