

KELLYN LOPES DANCES OFF TO NEW YORK CITY

Will Perform on August 8 with Sonoma Ballet Conservatory Before Departing

Sonoma, CA (July 20, 2009) — Sonoma Ballet Conservatory student Kellyn Lopes, age 17, has been accepted to Marymount Manhattan College in the heart of New York City where she will pursue her “absolute dream job to be a Broadway show choreographer.” Patricia O’Reilly, the Conservatory’s Artistic Director, is thrilled that Ms. Lopes will be able to perform with the Sonoma Ballet Conservatory one more time this summer before departing for college.

Sonoma Ballet Conservatory’s 5th Annual Workshop Performance on Saturday, August 8, at 10:30 a.m. at the Sebastiani Theatre on The Plaza will feature guest choreographer Jonathan Burnett’s *The Nutcracker, Act II* with a circus orientation as well as a lyrical ballet dance for three choreographed by Ms. Lopes to “My Funny Valentine.” Ms. Lopes feels that “choreography is about a main picture, a main idea and substance. With dance, the picture is moving, the story is evolving, and an impact is made. That’s art. As a choreographer, I strive to create art. . . . I am a dancer, a mover, a choreographer, but I am an artist too.”

The Nutcracker, Act II will be presented along with *Maestro*, also choreographed by Mr. Burnett, formerly of the Irish National Ballet. In *Maestro*, Mr. Burnett offers us his impression of Maestro Enrico Cecchetti’s last ballet class. Other performance highlights include solo variations performed by Intermediate and Advanced dancers from the classical ballet *Paquita*.

The Workshop Performance gives students an opportunity to show family, friends and the general public what they have learned during Sonoma Ballet Conservatory’s 5-week Summer Intensive. Many dancers expanded their dance vocabulary by studying Character, Flamenco, Jazz, Modern and Conditioning-Stretching while continuing Ballet Technique and Pointe classes. The audience will also see pieces performed by our Preballet, Character, Flamenco, Jazz and Modern classes all staged by Conservatory resident and guest faculty.

Conservatory students Mallory Bardet (age 15) and Erin O’Reilly (age 17) are slated to perform on August 8 after having studied at the summer programs of American Ballet Theatre and Houston Ballet Academy, respectively. This summer, Ms. Lopes chose to remain close to home for a final Sonoma Ballet Conservatory Summer Intensive. Mr. Burnett has enjoyed his time coaching Kellyn and he says, “Kellyn is a delight to work with and teach. Her choreography shows real promise.”

Ms. Lopes first began her training at Sonoma Ballet Conservatory under the direction of Beth Marie Deenihan with her main teachers being Gina Ness and Tamara Statkoun. In early 2005, Ms. O’Reilly became the Conservatory’s director and Kellyn’s main instructor beginning in the fall of 2005. Ms. O’Reilly feels “that it has been a real honor and pleasure to work with Kellyn over the past four years—to have witnessed her blossoming talent grow.”

At the Conservatory, Ms. Lopes also had the opportunity to learn other movement styles such as Jazz, Modern and Flamenco. Under Ms. O’Reilly’s tutelage, Kellyn prepared for and successfully passed her Intermediate Foundation and Intermediate Royal Academy of Dance Vocational Examinations in 2006 with the mark of merit for both exams. Beginning

in 2004, Ms. Lopes attended summer intensives at Sonoma Ballet Conservatory, San Francisco Academy of Ballet, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, American Ballet Theatre and last summer at San Francisco Conservatory of Dance. At the latter program, directed by Summer Lee Rhatigan, she had the amazing experience of studying excerpts of Jiri Kylian's *Falling Angels* with Elke Schepers of Nederlands Dans Theater.

At Justin-Sienna High School in Napa, from where Ms. Lopes has just graduated, she performed in numerous musical productions, including *Cats*, *Damn Yankees* and *West Side Story*. Not only was she a featured performer in these productions but she also contributed choreography beginning in her Junior year.

For more information about Sonoma Ballet Conservatory's Fifth Annual Summer Workshop Performance, please call 938-1424. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Children 3 and under are free but will need a ticket. Tickets are available at Sonoma Ballet Conservatory, 561 Broadway Suite B, during operating hours.

