

BALTIMORE BALLET DANCERS CELEBRATE NATIONAL DANCE WEEK © WITH ANGELINA BALLERINA ®

Young fans of the popular children's storybook character, Angelina Ballerina ® , converged on Baltimore Ballet studios recently to learn a bit about classical ballet. On Friday April 27 and Sunday April 29 pre-professional dance students with Baltimore Ballet conducted, free of charge, a child-friendly hour of activities to enable young dancers to enjoy a hands-on, up-close & personal introduction to dance. Timed to coincide with National Dance Week, April 20-29, www.nationaldanceweek.org, the event celebrated the art of classical ballet.

The event was the work of 16 year old Aubry Myers, NDW Delegate and Baltimore Ballet scholarship student and soloist. Her *Angelina Ballerina ® Party* provided opportunities for youngsters ages 4-6 to play kinesthetic/listening games, handle authentic tutus and pointe shoes, and watch excerpts from the classical ballet repertoire performed live inside the Baltimore Ballet studios on York Road. "I've planned and worked on this project all year," said Myers, "I wanted to introduce little kids to ballet, but also I wanted to give something back to this wonderful ballet school where I am learning so much." She implemented the event with the help of Rebecca Band, Ashley Henderson, Kelly Martinet and Samantha Tager, all students of Baltimore Ballet's Artistic Director Cem Catbas.

Giving back, in an artistic sense, has been a hallmark of the Baltimore Ballet since 2001 when directors Cem & Elysabeth Catbas opened the school with a commitment to bringing quality ballet at reasonable prices to area audiences. Their annual Nutcracker is a holiday favorite, while the Spring productions are highly anticipated. In May families and children will delight in the humorous original choreography of Cem Catbas, the whimsical costumes and the talented Baltimore Ballet company dancers in *Carnival of the Animals*, featuring the well-known music by Camille Saint-Saens.

Baltimore Ballet presents *The Carnival of the Animals*. May 20, 2007, 5pm, Kraushaar Auditorium on the campus of Goucher College. \$18 adults, \$12 children 12 & under, or \$20 at the door. Call 410-667-7974 to reserve seats, <http://www.baltimoreballet.com>.

Jumping over the candlestick: Kelly Martinet supervises a kinesthetic game.



Story time: Sam Tager reads from an Angelina Ballerina® story by Katharine Holabird.



Examining a real pointe shoe



Watching a live performance: Aubry Myers, Baltimore Ballet, dances LaEsmeralda.

