

# UCSB Arts & Lectures New York City Ballet **MOVES**

By Mark Whitehurst / CASA

**UCSB ARTS & LECTURES FÊTÉ ITS PRODUCERS CIRCLE MEMBERS** with a season opening reception with the dancers of the New York City Ballet, Peter Martins, NYCB Artistic Director, and internationally renown dancer Darci Kistler, following a performance by the newly formed troupe called New York City Ballet Moves, on October 18th at the Granada Theater.

Celesta Billeci, the Miller McCune Executive Director of UCSB Arts and Lectures, introduced Peter Martins to the members of the Producers Circle and guests. She also invited Martins to speak to the gathering.

"I'm thrilled. It's been a dream of mine. For 20 years I've wanted to do this group....They're the creme of New York City Ballet," shared Martins.

Martins, who is a native of Denmark, was introduced to the NYCB in 1967, when George Balanchine invited him to dance the title role in a piece called *Apollo*. This was the beginning of a long association. Then in 1981 he was named Ballet Master, a title he shared with George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, and John Taras.

The reception followed the first of two evening performances by the select traveling troupe in their West Coast debut performance. The troupe is a new initiative that includes 25 performers from the NYCB's company of principals, soloists, and musicians.

"When Celesta brings these groups to town – that every other town would like to see perform – we are wise to come!" commented Ralph Wilson.

The two dance performances were presented as part of the Anne and Michael Towbes Dance Series. Additional support was generously provided by Annette and Dr. Richard Caleel and Andre Yew as event sponsors along with the Santa Barbara Community Events & Festivals Program, KEYT3, KDB93.7, Santa



Annette Caleel and Darci Kistler

Barbara News-Press, and Alma Rosa Winery & Vineyards.

Darci Kistler, who has achieved iconic status in the dance world accompanied the troupe and taught a class at UCSB, that was dynamic. She is referred to as the last muse for legendary choreographer George Balanchine. She married Martins in 1991 and retired as a dancer in 2010 after a thirty year career with the company. She and Martins have one daughter.

The program for New York City Ballet Moves

included George Balanchine's *Sonatine*, Jerome Robbins' *Dances at a Gathering*, Peter Martins' *A Fool for You*, *Hallelujah Junction* and *Zakouski*, and Christopher Wheeldon's *After the Rain* pas de deux, and *Polyphonia*.

Dancers for the NYCB were: Principals Joaquin De Luz, Gonzalo Garcia, Sara Mearns, Tiler Peck, Abi Stafford, Jonathan Stafford, Janie Taylor, Daniel Ulbricht, and Wendy Whelan; Soloists Antonio Carmena, Chase Finlay, and Ask la Cour; Corps de Ballet members Ashly Isaacs,



Amar Ramasar

Lauren King, Lauren Lovette, Allen Peiffer, Brittany Pollack, Taylor Stanley, and Christian Tworzanski.

Live music was provided for some of the repertory by Cameron Grant, Alan Moverman, and Susan Walters, all of whom played piano. Kurt Nikkanen played the violin.



Top: Daniel Ulbricht; Bottom: Teresa Reichlen, Sterling Hyllin, Sara Mearns

Photo by Henry Leuwyler (c) 2010



Robin Martin and Patricia Gregory



Linda Hedgepeth and Celesta Billeci, A&L Executive Director



Roman Barafiak, A&L Associate Director and student Erica Mesker



Peter Martins, NYCB Artistic Director and Annette Caleel



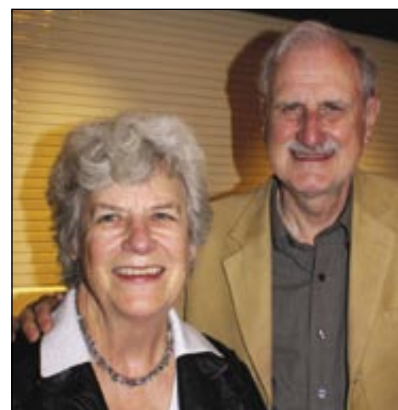
Irene and Ralph Wilson



NYCB Dancer Daniel Ulbricht, Bonnie Crotzer, and Andre Yew



Richard and Thekla Sanford



Suzanne and Duncan Mellichamp



NYCB Dancer Antonio Carmena with Michael Pereira