

Footnotes

Rusalka Ukrainian Dance Ensemble

December 2021



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Rusalka's Virtual Christmas Open House

Rusalka's Christmas Open House is an annual tradition going back as far as we can remember. It's always such a special time for us to connect as a community and share our story through dance. However with the rapidly changing events related to COVID-19 and out of an abundance of caution, we had to make the decision to cancel the in-person portion of our Open House held on Sunday, December 19.

Although we would have loved to celebrate the season in-person, we are so fortunate that circumstances allowed us to dance together, sharing our love of Ukrainian culture with our virtual audience. Thank you for joining us! We are so grateful for your attendance and continued support. If you weren't able to tune in live, our performance (featuring a special guest appearance from Junior Rusalka) is on our Facebook page for you to enjoy through the holidays.

With the cancellation of our in-person Open House, we were so glad to be able to donate food that wouldn't be eaten to 1JustCity. We wish to acknowledge and thank 1JustCity for all that they do to support those living with less in our community! And special thanks to Norm 'n Nates for the delicious food that went to a wonderful cause! We loved working with you.

Open House photo credit: Simeon Rusnak, Rusalka Alumni



Winnipeg Jets x Folklorama

In October, we were honoured to be one of five Winnipeg cultural performing groups selected by Folklorama to help the Winnipeg Jets kick off their season in the lead up to their home opener. Proudly wearing Jets jerseys, we recorded a condensed, modified version of Hopak in Assiniboine Park. This clip was showcased on the Winnipeg Jets and Folklorama social media platforms, building excitement for the season ahead. We were elated to see the Jets back in action and our Rusalka family is behind them all the way! #GoJetsGo



Workshop Series with Vincent Rees

Rusalka has the privilege of working with many knowledgeable guest artists in Manitoba and around the world! This fall we were thrilled to welcome Vincent Rees from Cobblestone Freeway Tours and Ukrainian Dance World to share our dance floor with us!

Vince facilitated his workshop “Rhythms of the Regions” for us as well as Junior Rusalka and our Rusalka UNF Adult Rec. Class. We learned about the similarities and differences of the rhythmical dance patterns that exist in the many and beautiful regions of Ukraine. Vince is so passionate about what he does and our time with him was amazing. Vincent Rees, thank you for helping us grow as students and performers- you are welcome back in Winnipeg any time!

Make sure you check out Cobblestone Freeway Tours for your next tour and Ukrainian Dance World for the best Ukie dancing inspiration!



WSO Holiday Pops!

We were so excited to join the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra for their WSO Holiday Pops! series again this year, which is a special made-in-Manitoba Christmas show complete with drums, dance, aerialists, and more! We waited 21 months to perform in front of a live audience again and WSO Holiday Pops! was all we could dream of and so much more.



We extend a heartfelt thank you to the WSO and Conductor Julian Pellicano for inviting us to share the stage for another exceptional holiday series. Winnipeg is so lucky to be home to such a dynamic, visionary, and community-focused musical institution. Any Rusalka dancer past or present will tell you that the experience of dancing on stage with the WSO is one like no other. We are always so honoured and humbled to work with them and can't wait till our next opportunity!



Join Our Family!

The best way to describe Rusalka is a family. We spend a minimum of seven hours a week together, learning and growing as dancers and friends. We are so lucky to have amazing and exclusive opportunities afforded to us to showcase our culture, like our Winnipeg Jets x Folklorama project and the WSO Holiday Pops! concert series.

We are always adding to our growing family! If you are a dancer 16 years of age or older and want to join us as we enter an anniversary year filled with performance and celebration, send us an email at general@rusalka.mb.ca. We would love to have you!

Board of Directors



For nearly 60 years Rusalka has been capturing the imagination of audiences around the world. We've shared the stage, we've shared rooms on tour, and we share memories that last us a lifetime. We can't wait to celebrate 60 with you. #Rusalka60

Amidst this joyous and festive holiday season our eyes are open to how fortunate we are to have such a supportive community that surrounds us. You, our audience, continue to allow Rusalka to live and breathe her passion and we remain incredibly thankful for this enduring gesture. Whether it be in person or through the virtual world, your presence in the story of Rusalka is vital. It permits Rusalka to celebrate and honour the pride we hold for our culture by expressing the beauty and richness that exists in the art of Ukrainian dance.

Rusalka's 60th anniversary year is upon us and with great anticipation and excitement, we look forward to sharing many special moments together with all of you. A true community celebration to commemorate this iconic milestone in the style and spirit that is and will forever be Rusalka!

60th Anniversary Save the Dates 2022

Rusalka's 60th Anniversary Golf Tournament

Friday, July 15

Rusalka Ukrainian Dance Camp

July 17 – 24

Rusalka's 60th Anniversary Gala

Saturday, November 5

Save the Date Annual General Meeting

Thursday, February 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Legacy Leaders

Legacy Leaders is Rusalka's monthly fundraising campaign ahead of our 60th anniversary next year. Every month, we feature one of our Legacy Leaders on Rusalka's Facebook and Instagram platforms to express our tremendous gratitude and appreciation for the generous and dedicated individuals that help continue Rusalka's legacy through consistent financial donations.



Our Legacy Leader for the month of September was Deborah Capek.

"When I was young I loved Ukrainian dancing and when my parents took me to see Rusalka perform at the Centennial Concert Hall, I was so incredibly impressed. After watching them perform, my goal was to be good enough to be accepted into the ensemble one day.

My years as a Rusalka dancer were truly the best. The experiences offered to me, the people I met along the way, and the many friends I made and still cherish to this day have helped shape me into who I am today. Rusalka did so much for me that I think it is important to give back as a monthly donor. I wish Rusalka continued success and I want the organization to be able to offer the next generation of dancers the same life-changing opportunities that were afforded to me many years ago!"

- Deborah Capek, Rusalka Alumni, 1981 - 1990; Former Board of Directors Member



Our Legacy Leader for the month of October was Stefan Baluta.

"Rusalka gave me connections to many good people. Dance helped me practice the discipline to do difficult things- an important skill I have carried over into my career and personal life. Now I'm in a position where I can donate to Rusalka so that the next generation of dancers can have those invaluable opportunities too. I would encourage my fellow alumni and friends to give if they are able to ensure that the legacy of Rusalka continues for many years to come."

- Stefan Baluta, Rusalka Alumni, 2007 - 2016



Our Legacy Leader for the month of November was Fort Group Chartered Professional Accountants.

"We support Rusalka because one of our core firm values is to be a good community member. In commitment to giving back to our community, we are very proud to support Rusalka, an organization that has been so interwoven into the fabric of the Winnipeg arts community for nearly 60 years. We wish you every success as you begin the next chapter of your long and proud history."

- Alex Yaworski, Partner, Fort Group Chartered Professional Accountants

Fort Group Chartered Professional Accountants Inc. is a Manitoba owned and operated public accountancy and business advisory firm located at 865 Henderson Highway that has been serving clients for nearly 50 years. For more information on Fort Group, visit <http://fortgroupcpa.ca/>.

The spirit of Rusalka is strong because of donors like Deborah, Stefan, and Fort Group. Join them in supporting Rusalka with a minimum \$20 monthly charitable donation through CanadaHelps.

By becoming a Legacy Leader, your automatic monthly sponsorship will support Rusalka's operational and artistic needs now and into the future. Rusalka needs people like you to provide a stable financial foundation for years to come. Follow in Deborah, Stefan, and Fort Group's footsteps and become a Legacy Leader today!

Logo Credit: Markian Maximiuk, Rusalka Dancer

**SUBSCRIBE
TO OUR
MAILING LIST**



Subscribe to our Mailing List

Get the latest Rusalka news delivered right to your inbox, and don't miss out on exciting information ahead of our 60th anniversary celebrations next year!

Subscribe through our website today:
<https://rusalka.mb.ca/contact>.

Please encourage other friends of Rusalka to subscribe to ensure they stay up to date on important information going into a year full of festivities!

Alumni & Friends

Calling Rusalka Alumni!

Now is an exciting time to connect to Rusalka's community in anticipation of the 60th Anniversary year!

All who danced, instructed, served on the board, or was a support person are considered a member of the Alumni Association. The Alumni & Friends Committee represents the large association.

The Committee wants to provide our members the opportunity to stay in touch with their Rusalka family. We encourage all members to join the growing list of subscribers to receive the Footnotes Newsletter and information on all that is new with Rusalka. Please forward this newsletter to your alumni friends and invite them to visit the Rusalka website at www.rusalka.mb.ca/alumni to subscribe. Our alumni are so special to us and we don't want them missing out on any events and opportunities going into a big year of celebration!

Should you have any questions or are interested in joining the Committee, we welcome you to reach out by email at alumni@rusalka.mb.ca. We would love to hear from you!

Save the Date Budmo Bingo

Saturday, April 30, 2022
UNF Hall, Winnipeg

Join your fellow alumni for an evening of bingo and fun as we celebrate 60 years! Mark your calendar and stay tuned for more information. Can't wait to see you under the "O"!

Save the Date Dancing Together Rusalka & Alumni

Tuesday, January 25, 2022
7:00 – 8:00pm
UNF Hall, Winnipeg

Get ready to join the ensemble members for a dance and conditioning class led by Rusalka instructor, Dmitri Dovgoselets. Alumni guests will participate alongside our current dancers in an hour rehearsal experiencing elements of barre, centre work, and fun choreography. Following the class, we will enjoy some refreshments and fellowship. **RSVP to alumni@rusalka.mb.ca by Tuesday, January 18, 2022.**

Don't forget to dig out your favourite Rusalka apparel from the past! We look forward to sharing the dance floor with you! This event will adhere to the current Public Health Orders set out by the Government of Manitoba and will have COVID-19 health and safety protocols in place.

Rusalka UNF School of Dance

Under the artistic direction and management of Rusalka, the Rusalka UNF School of Dance offers high caliber instruction and education in the art of Ukrainian folk dance. The Rusalka UNF School of Dance focuses on the fundamental principles of dance training, building a strong foundation for the command and development of technique and artistic expression. The highly trained faculty at the school of dance consider it a privilege to educate, inspire, and share the love of this beautiful art form with their dancers. So much so that many of the students of Rusalka UNF School of Dance eventually become the Rusalka dancers of tomorrow!

We have had a very busy start to our 2021-2022 season and are so grateful to be back dancing together in-person! Check out a couple highlights of our 2021 fall dance season below.



Dancing Together

Our fall 2021 Dancing Together initiative took place the week of October 25. Members of Rusalka visited the dancers of Junior Rusalka and the school for what proved to be an incredibly fun and valuable opportunity. The ensemble represented with great enthusiasm and were inspirational role models, teachers, and friends to these young dancers. The spirit of Halloween also filled the air and many wonderful memories were made. The week concluded with members of Junior Rusalka attending the ensemble's rehearsal. Junior Rusalka danced and learned alongside our talented artists and teaching team which allowed them to experience a taste of life on Rusalka's dance floor. We are thankful for every opportunity to connect and build relationships with the future generations of Rusalka!

Shining Stars Christmas Celebration

Earlier this month we were thrilled to host our Shining Stars Rusalka UNF Christmas Celebrations both in-person and virtually! Our talented young dancers demonstrated what they have learned in their classes in three short months, impressing both their families and instructors! We extend a huge congratulations to our amazing faculty, devoted families, and passionate dancers. We couldn't share our love of Ukrainian culture through dance without your unwavering commitment and enthusiasm. You made celebrating the season together so much fun for us. We hope you had the best time and enjoyed the special visit from Santa (St. Nick)!



As we look forward to 2022 and Rusalka 60, we are thankful for our dancers and their families, dance instructors, and the Rusalka Board of Directors and ensemble for their support and guidance as we've all worked collaboratively to navigate the last 21 months of challenge and change. We are so excited to welcome you back to the dance floor in the New Year!

The Rusalka UNF School of Dance Faculty

Christine Hur - "Druzi" Adult Recreational Dance Class

Oksana Preachuk - Instructor

Teeson Thompson - Instructor

Nadia Medynska - Instructor

Katie Skwarchuk - Instructor

Nick Sawka - Instructor

Rachel Mickall - Assistant Instructor

Ella Robins - Volunteer Assistant Student Instructor

Like and follow **Rusalka UNF School of Dance** on Facebook.

Happy New Year!

On behalf of our entire Rusalka family, we wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season, and all the best for the year ahead!



Don't want to miss out on the next chapter of Rusalka's story?

Like and follow us on social media to stay up to date on upcoming announcements and events:

Facebook: facebook.com/RusalkaWpg

Instagram: [@rusalkawpg](https://www.instagram.com/rusalkawpg)

Twitter: [@RusalkaWpg](https://twitter.com/RusalkaWpg)

Meet our Rusalka Footnotes team:

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