



## ***The State Ballet of Rhode Island***

RI's First Established Classical Ballet Company

Artistic Director \* Herci Marsden

P.O. Box 155, 52 Sherman Ave. Lincoln, RI 02865-0155

401.334.2560, fax 401.334.0412, www.stateballet.com, info@stateballet.com



### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### ***Smallest State...Longest Tenure of Arts Education!***

Venues are booked, costumes are sewn, choreographers are creating, dancers are rehearsing, and Rhode Island arts patrons are abuzz about the history being made before our eyes...

The State Ballet of Rhode Island's Artistic Director and Co-Founder Herci Marsden is proud to announce its 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Anniversary Season! This occasion is truly historic as the Company, along with Ms. Marsden, is one of the oldest continuously operating civic/regional ballet companies in the country. Now into the third generation of dancers, The State Ballet is thrilled to continue to the tradition of providing ballet to Rhode Island and the surrounding areas.

The State Ballet of Rhode Island's fifty year success has been based on honoring its commitment to maintaining core values. In a nation where values are often compromised, The State Ballet of Rhode Island is a living example of 1) Excellence in Action; 2) Tone at the Top; and 3) Solid Commitment to Core Values. Quite frankly, the State Ballet of Rhode Island exemplifies the original essence of the American Dream and original American values.

#### **Ballet History:**

The spirit began in 1960 when Herci and Myles Marsden founded The State Ballet of Rhode Island as a non-profit, regional, civic, ballet company. For fifty years, The State Ballet of Rhode Island has been a showcase for the area's dancers. Many use the valuable training and experience they gain to pursue professional careers in dance and the arts. For those students who choose not to make dance their vocation, The State Ballet of Rhode Island provides them the opportunity to fulfill their artistic ambitions on the semi-professional level. For all, The State Ballet of Rhode Island offers a variety of meaningful experiences.

- ◆ The discipline and commitment of training.
- ◆ The freedom to aspire.
- ◆ The cultivation of integrity and respect to their team members.
- ◆ The thrill of performing.

As a not for profit organization and the first ballet company to offer arts education programs in local schools, The State Ballet of Rhode Island has four key ways of educating the community:

- ◆ **Company Productions:** The State Ballet of Rhode Island produces 6 full length ballets each performing season and affords the educational opportunity for ballet students to pursue their passion of dancing.
- ◆ **Project Ballet in Education:** During each performing season, two performances are allocated to the Project Ballet in Education initiative. Through sponsorship, local Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts schools have the opportunity to attend the ballet at the theatre while obtaining expert narration, at no or reduced cost.
- ◆ **Explore Ballet Workshop:** The Explore Ballet Workshop is designed to offer an onsite school ballet curriculum including demonstrations and short performances.
- ◆ **Community Involvement:** A believer in community involvement, The State Ballet of Rhode Island prioritizes our community. Numerous performances are provided throughout the year to libraries and other not for profit organizations to enhance the education in the arts, at no or reduced cost.

The State Ballet of Rhode Island has also been fortunate to have the influence and oversight of many legendary artists such as: Ana Roje, Oskar Harnos, and Sir Anton Dolan. In true American style, these international artists sought to impart their influence into the American Artist melting pot – through the vehicle of The State Ballet of Rhode Island.



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### **Herci Marsden:**

A native Croatian, Herci began dancing at the age of five with the National Ballet School of Yugoslavia and was later a member of the Yugoslav National Ballet in Split. Through the years, her instructors have included such notables as Katic, Roje, Harnos, and Slavenska. In 1958, Herci emigrated to the United States to live in Lincoln, Rhode Island where she co-founded the Brae Crest School of Ballet. As Prima Ballerina, Herci Marsden made her American debut in 1960 with The State Ballet of Rhode Island – the repertory company she was instrumental in establishing. Through Herci's core values of freedom, integrity, diligence, respect and commitment, she has established a solid tone at the top for the State Ballet of Rhode Island that has supported a fifty year success. Herci exemplifies the definition of American Master Artist, a leader, and a dynamic woman in business.

While Herci is not a native American, she exemplifies the very core of what has built and established this great country. Through her fearlessness, she emigrated from her native country to begin a new life in the land of opportunity – like many Americans who fought to fulfill their dreams in a land of freedom, justice, and liberty. Herci's goal is very simple – to share her passion and love for dancing while never sacrificing her values.

With her dedication and commitment to providing artistic opportunities for dancers, choreographers, and musicians alike, it has been possible for many Rhode Island artists to achieve their dreams. Under her direction, three generations of Rhode Island audiences have enjoyed many ballet classics, as well as have had exposure to new and unique dance performances.

Herci is a prolific example of a dynamic woman in business. While passionate about her work, Herci prioritizes her family and is a true and devoted mother. Herci sets a very powerful example for young women that it is possible to pursue your passions, be in business, and yet also live a balanced healthy existence that prioritizes family. Herci's leadership example is important for woman to understand as they face difficult challenges in balancing their work and their families.

### **2009-2010 Performing Season**

The 2009-2010 Performing Season will feature multiple performances. Detailed information and a calendar of events can be located at the following URL: [www.stateballet.com](http://www.stateballet.com)