



Orlando Ballet to Perform at Eti-Keys Celebrity Tea

Members of Orlando Ballet will step lightly onto center stage at the Eti-Keys Celebrity Tea where they will showcase the beauty and elegance of their amazing talent. The inspired program will be introduced by Ms. Charmaine Hunter, Director of Orlando Ballet's Community Enrichment Program.

Ms. Hunter is an internationally acclaimed principal ballerina, choreographer and director who employs her extensive expertise introducing children to the world of dance and its potential through S.T.E.P.S (Scholarship Training for the Enrichment of Primary Students).

Taught by trained Orlando Ballet teaching artists, the program is designed to give 2nd and 3rd graders an opportunity to study classical ballet and various dance genres in a safe environment. The curriculum introduces the fundamentals of dance: discipline, focus, self expression, confidence and cooperative learning. It also ignites the participants with an interest in the arts.



MEET CHARMAINE HUNTER

Ms. Charmaine Hunter began her formal dance training at the Hartford Ballet School before moving to New York City to study with Arthur Mitchell, Artistic Director of the Dance Theatre of Harlem (DTH). While continuing her formal education at the Professional Children's School, she rose through the ranks, eventually becoming principal dancer and one of the company's leading ballerinas. During her 25 years with the company, she electrified audiences with her performances in a broad spectrum of roles, but is best known for her role as The Firebird. She has enjoyed notable choreographers, including a long list of Balanchine ballets. In 1988, as principal dancer with DTH, she performed in the former Soviet Union as part of the United States Cultural Exchange Initiative and was inducted into the prestigious Kirov museum. In 1992, the company was the first to perform to sold-out, integrated audiences in South Africa after the 30 year cultural ban was lifted. She also traveled to China, where she gave the country its first performance of the Firebird and conducted extensive outreach and educational activities in Beijing and Shanghai. Among the highlights of Ms. Hunter's career are command performances for European royalty and historic engagement at London's Royal Opera House. She also performed for luminaries including Quincy Jones, Bill Cosby, Oprah Winfrey, Nelson Mandela, Cicely Tyson, President and Mrs. Clinton, President and Mrs. Bush, Mr. and Mrs. Colin Powell, many others. She has directed or played an integral role in numerous productions in the Canada, The Netherlands, Singapore, and Las Vegas, including Disney's *Lion King*, Cirque du Soleil and, most recently, Celion Dion's mega-production *New Day*. She co-founded the Las Vegas Contemporary Dance Theater with dancer Bernard Gaddis, formerly of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and was a teaching artist with Disney Musicals in Schools. Before moving to Orlando, she taught in the Academy of Texas Ballet Theater, where she directed the Professional Division.