

DIRECTOR'S LETTER



Dear Friends,

Special thanks to everyone for making The Bay Area Houston Ballet & Theatre such a success. Our supporters, and our company of committed artists and dedicated volunteers both on and behind the scenes, have been diligently working to create an even more ambitious and inspiring new season! We take great pride in the quality we have been able to bring to the community for the past thirty-one years and continue to strive to maintain the highest level of artistry as we evolve into a beacon for creative artists of all ages.

We are pleased and take great pride in unveiling our 2008-2009 Calienté season. This promises to be a season with SIZZLE! We will kick off our season with Dance Combustion - A Mixed Repertoire. This performance of many styles of dance from classical to contemporary showcases the brilliance of our Ballet Master, Luis Fuente, and the innovativeness of our own alum and Broadway veteran Dontee Kiehn. Former company members and volunteers will be welcomed back for this special weekend of festivities. The highlight will be a luncheon on Saturday, the 18th of October, as Ms. Kiehn will be awarded our second Jeté Award. The timeless classic *The Nutcracker*, a favorite and holiday classic for all, will enchant audiences in December. The season will wrap up in April with our production of *The Firebird* and *Carmen* - two ballets full of passion and magic!

Along with these dynamic productions, we are pleased to add five full-time Artists-in-Residence. The expertise of Luis Fuente, along with these professional artists promises to ignite enthusiasm and bring enhancement artistically to the Bay Area.

Our special fund raising events offer fun and celebration. In addition to the ever popular Breakfast with the Sugar Plum Fairy, an annual sell out, we will celebrate the end of the holiday season with dancing, feasting and merriment at our 12th Night Ball on January 24th.

The Bay Area Houston Ballet & Theatre Board of Directors and Advisory Council extends an enormous thanks to the people who continue to support our mission. This valuable work would not be possible without the generous personal and financial contributions of our patrons, benefactors, and volunteers. Finally, special heartfelt appreciation to our Volunteer Artistic Director, Lynette Mason Gregg, for being the inspiring leader with the determination to foster her vision into an incredible reality.

The Bay Area's own professional ballet company is growing and thriving — come be a part of our sizzle!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Reason". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jill Reason
Volunteer Executive Director

