

young

Friends of the
ROYAL NEW ZEALAND BALLET

July 2004

Hi there!

If you are lucky enough to see the ballet of *Madame Butterfly*, you will not see any tutus but you will see lots of kimonos and obis which are the traditional costumes worn by Japanese women and men.

In fact, between them the company's 32 dancers will wear 260 costumes, 68 wigs, 37 hats and 21 elaborate headdresses. *Madame Butterfly* has eight costume changes and the highlight is a stunning gold kimono with a 40 foot train - a tutu is certainly a lot easier to dance in! *Madame Butterfly's* uncle, the Bonze, wears a costume which weighs 14 kilos!

The dancers will also wear special make up to make them look Japanese and altogether will go through \$8500 worth of foundation, eyeliner and lippy!

You can see the costume and the make up for the Bonze in the photo below – it makes him look very fierce!

The Bonze



DANCER PROFILE

Nadine Tyson



Photo: Stephen A'Court

Our featured dancer in this issue is Nadine Tyson.

Nadine was named ECNZ Young Dancer of the Year in 1997.

After 9 years with the Royal New Zealand Ballet, she will retire in October.

Nadine wrote a diary while on tour in the UK. You can check out this diary on the website:

<http://www.ballet.co.uk/weblogs/tyson/>

See over the page for a letter from Nadine to you.

Butterfly Wordfind

S B F O L S Z D F B E E Q K U
A O V X L C F D R A H S I E G
C H B O E L B M W N C U Y R A
G H V I T Y E A O A B C O M Z
E E H K K J T U K P F E E T Y
G B Y A I V R K A A L R V Q D
F S X N M L A H U J I T J H X
M B E E O A Y T E C O L S P N
A Y M T N C A L A N Q E J E P
X I A S O G E A D H O S V Z O
C H D Y L F R E T T U B J A O
K I A I S I E T S I L A B S X
C P M F P M B J E B P A Z I Q
W N B T J K X O V A I O X Y R
I V O W K R E S N N O I Z B Z

BUTTERFLY **AMERICA** **OBI**
JAPAN **GEISHA** **LOVE**
KIMONO **BETRAY** **MADAME**

Madame Butterfly

Madame Butterfly is the tragic story of love and betrayal set in Japan.

The beautiful geisha Cio-Cio San, known as Madame Butterfly is only 15 when she marries the American, Lieutenant Pinkerton.

Her friends and family do not approve of the marriage and she cuts herself off from them when she marries him.

Madame Butterfly believes that Pinkerton loves her and they are married for life, but Pinkerton is really already engaged to marry someone else back in the United States. For him, it is not a real marriage.

When Pinkerton leaves Japan, Butterfly brings up their young son and waits faithfully for him to return and take them back to America with him. She is very poor but refuses to marry anyone else.

Her hopes are shattered when Pinkerton arrives in Japan several years later with his American wife. They want to adopt the boy and take him back with them to the United States.

Abandoned and betrayed, Butterfly is left to face the future alone.

A letter from Nadine Tyson

Hi Young Friends of the Ballet

I thought I'd start by telling you a wee bit about myself. I'm originally from Auckland and I started ballet when I was 5 years old. I moved to Wellington (best city in the world!) when I was 17 to train at the New Zealand School of Dance. I have been with the company for nine years now – quite a long time, don't you think!

Anyway, we have all just returned from six weeks touring around England and Scotland. It was fantastic and we had an amazing time there – a lot of hard work but a lot of fun too.

The highlight for me was performing at the Sadler's Wells Theatre in London. I think that what made it even more special was the enthusiastic response we received at the end of every performance there.

Now it's back to the studios in Wellington. We are already rehearsing Madame Butterfly – our next season. So everyone is busy learning new choreography for their different roles in the ballet.

I had my first costume fitting yesterday and the costumes are beautiful, so it is all very exciting here at work.

I hope you can come and see the show when we're in your neighbourhood.

Bye for now,

Nadine