

# Denver Ballet Guild supports local dance as a performing art

BY SCOTTIE TAYLOR IVERSON



*Flair!*

What would you expect at an annual luncheon presented by the all-volunteer (since 1979) Denver Ballet Guild whose tagline is Art in Motion? A ballet performance!

Officers, the nonprofit organization hosted Brian Young, who founded Sweatshop Dance, a professional training academy for dancers, eight

In addition to installing of-

years ago. During his career, the talented Young admits to moonlighting as a singer. He has been dancing himself since he was 8 years old and still dances every day. The owner/director of Sweatshop choreographs and literally

does it all except for running of the business part that is the responsibility of his partner Brandon Collette. To the delight of guests, Young not only brought one group of dancers, but several that were varied – in costume and even included a few solo performances. Beautiful Columbine Country Club was the perfect venue for a sumptuous salad luncheon and accommodating dance floor in the ballroom. “Ballet is the gold standard of dance,” said Young. “We need to keep it in the forefront. The body tells the story. Dance doesn’t pay, it requires

supporters,” he reminded the room full of supporters which is the role of the guild. In the audience was Denver Ballet Guild member Hillary Morland whose son Paul attended Denver School of the Arts and trained at Sweatshop. He went on to study at New York University and has performed with several companies in New York. Now, he is on national tour with *Fiddler on the Roof*, playing the fiddler! Denver Center for the Performing Arts brings this favorite to the Mile High City from June 11-15.

BELOW: Sweatshop founders Brian Young and Brandon Collette surround Hillary Morland whose son Paul, a former Sweatshop student is now on tour with *Fiddler on the Roof*



Longtime supporters, Marla Gentry, LaFawn Biddle and Diane Sweat



Kira Leach dances to *It's All Coming Back To Me*



Adam Sexton, Colorado Ballet's managing director of advancement, Denver Ballet Guild President Pam Piro, president-elect Beth Murphy, nominating chair and former president Marlo Wagner who presented the slate of new officers



Group performance to *Concerto in A Minor*





The finale to *Human*  
Photos by *Scottie Taylor Iverson*