

HOUSTON BALLET

STANTON WELCH - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

A Doll's House Story Costume Design Competition

Concept

You will be creating original artwork to be used as *inspiration for the design* of a world premiere ballet with choreography by Houston Ballet Artistic Director Stanton Welch entitled *A Doll's House Story* with music by István Márta. Your original artwork as well as the final design of the ballet is anime (Japanese animation).

Your original artwork will include character images of 16 individual characters- eight men and eight women. Below we have included the composer's notes appearing in the CD *Impact* available on Amazon.com. Your character images do not need to match the characters as detailed below—this information is included for reference only. You may find it helpful to listen to the music the ballet will be created to. A selection is available on the Amazon website.

A Doll's House Story (1985) renders in music the events of a tragic revolution of a few minutes' duration.

The revolution broke out overnight in the toy department of a store. There did not seem to be any rhyme or reason to it, and indeed, it erupted over a petty affair – it appears to be petty in hindsight anyway. The toys (plastic dolls, tin soldiers, bicycled regiments, intrepid civilians, undercover chimney sweeps, smart police officers, clowns, dwarfs and giants) engaged in pitched battle of unprecedented cruelty.

The fragmentary reports that have come down to us allow the reconstruction of but a few aspects of those events albeit rather important ones.

I have discovered, for instance, that the very first minute of the revolution claimed nine lives (among them that of a Pierrot, a Columbine and a heroic Harlequin). Within the next five minutes, six more deaths occurred, all victims of base instincts running amok.

The appearance of a night watchman put a temporary stop to the events, but fighting continued with even more bitterness once the torchlight had been switched off. The streets were overrun by ambulances with their shrieking sirens, tanks firing shells and other military vehicles – and soon there was silence. The presence of mechanized troops did its work: the rebels and fighters withdrew into their homes. The dead silence was only occasionally disturbed by the fumbings of a doll, groping cautiously in the dark for its lost limbs or head.

In the morning, the shop assistants, tired and sleepy after a short night's rest, were incredulously taking in the mess, looking in vain for signs of burglary or theft.

Later, in the course of the morning, a tiny wind-up guillotine swung into action but nobody took any notice.

István Márta (1986).

In addition to each character, please include the names you intend to give each character and please detail any special powers they possess.

Remember, although some characters may be more rigid, most if not all will need to move freely and interact with each other. Characters designed so that their movement is difficult or restricted may count against your artwork being chosen for the design. This should not restrict you in your imagination, but understand that we may ask you to change one of your characters if required. While it is not likely that we will request revisions of your original artwork, we reserve the right to do so.

Deadline

Original artwork must be received by July 1, 2007.

Prize and Recognition

The winning artwork will be displayed prior to and during the performances of the ballet—June 5-15, 2008 at one or more locations in Houston, Texas.

The artist whose original artwork is chosen as the winner will receive a check for \$2,500. In addition the winner will receive round trip economy class airfare to Houston as well as premium hotel accommodations in Houston. The winner will be acknowledged at the world premiere of the ballet June 5, 2008.

In addition, the artwork of 8-12 finalist artists will be displayed prior to and during the performances of the ballet at one of more locations in Houston, Texas.

Guidelines

All artwork submitted must be original.

Artwork may be submitted electronically, however a signed hard copy of your work will be required for final consideration. Artwork becomes the property of Houston Ballet Foundation once submitted and cannot be returned.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will Houston Ballet Foundation reimburse me monetarily for my artwork?

Unfortunately, no.

This same artwork has been submitted to another organization for a different use, may I still submit it for consideration for this project?

No, the artwork and concept, especially if chosen as the winning design cannot present a conflict of interest with regard to ownership. Your artwork and the intellectual property embodied becomes property of Houston Ballet Foundation. If your artwork is not chosen, Houston Ballet will release its intellectual property ownership of your artwork and concept on written request.

May I submit my art to another organization after Houston Ballet Foundation uses it?

Yes, but only if you are **not** the winning artist, you may submit the work for consideration in other projects.

*My art has appeared in another publication or has been used for another purpose. May I use it for the Houston Ballet Foundation's **A Doll's House Story** project?*

The answer is yes, as long as you retained the rights. You must inform Houston Ballet Foundation how it has been used and you must submit proof of your ownership of the rights—this may be in the form of a letter acknowledging your rights sent directly to Houston Ballet Foundation by the publication or organization the art was used for.

How will I be recognized for my artwork if I win?

The winning artist will be listed as “**Design inspired by the original artwork of [name of winning artist]**”. This credit will appear in the program whenever the ballet is performed.

How do I submit my art?

If you are sending the file electronically, it must be under 2 Megs per email. Art may be sent electronically to James Nelson at jnelson@houstonballet.org.

Mailing Address:

James Nelson

General Manager

Houston Ballet Foundation

1921 West Bell St.

Houston, TX 77019 USA