

Artistic Director, Choreographer
Theresa Slobodnik

Assistant Director, General Manager
Blair London

Set Designer
John Slobodnik

Board of Directors
Blair London, Katie Scofield

BT-SLO.org

September 2021

Dear Friends of BT-SLO,

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us something important – we cannot lose those things precious to us. BT-SLO is precious, and we cannot lose what we have built through all our efforts and your continued support.



It has been a year and half since we have been able to bring you live performances full of passion and artistry. We have continued classes at the studio and mounted performances to video, but we miss you – our wonderful audience. We miss bringing the *electricity of connection* to our performances and events.

Update on the State of BT-SLO

1. We have continued to operate through COVID with our commitment to the safety of our dancers and teachers. We have gone the extra mile implementing official guidelines and mandates.

2. Understandably, we lost many students during COVID. We have been fortunate to gain new students; however, our enrollment and class offerings are significantly below pre-COVID levels. Thus, our tuition income is well below that prior to the pandemic.

3. We were fortunate to receive a State of California grant for COVID relief for nonprofits. The grant helped cover expenses, but it was not enough to make up for the loss in revenue from reduced enrollment and tuition. We have reserve funds which will last approximately one year in our current economic position.

4. At the onset of COVID, Chris Miller, Managing Director of the Performing Arts Center San Luis Obispo (PAC SLO) called a meeting of county arts leaders to create the *Central Coast Coalition of Arts Leaders* of which BT-SLO is an active member. Look for a Celebration of the Arts festival coming in Spring 2022!

Live Performance Returns!

BT-SLO will present a live outdoor performance on Sunday October 17th at 2pm. In our parking lot, on our touring stage, our Performing Company will present Gilbert Reed's 'Peter and the Wolf' with full sets and costuming, plus a charming mini 'Hansel and Gretel' danced by both company and Youth Ballet students. More information on this outdoor performance will be coming.

For now, we need your help.

BT-SLO Jewel Fundraising Campaign

Due to COVID, we cannot hold an in person fundraising event. Instead, we are announcing the **BT-SLO Jewel Fundraising Campaign** with four levels of giving (attached flyer). Plus, a generous BT-SLO benefactor has agreed to *match* all donations up to \$15,000; your donation will be *doubled*, and it will truly help us through this time.

Thank you for all you have given to BT-SLO. We would not be here without you. Your donation will be received with gratitude and respect. Donations can be sent to the address below, with a check made out to "BT-SLO" or through our website BT-SLO.org.

Yours in the Arts,

Theresa Slobodnik, Artistic Director, Ballet Director
Blair London, General Manager, Adult Ballet Program Director
Katie Scofield, Board Member, Contemporary Dance Program Director

BT-SLO. 4436 Sunflower Way, SLO, CA 93401
Ballet Theatre San Luis Obispo is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit

BT-SLO.org
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