

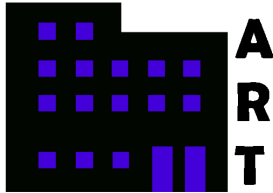


PO Box 1684 Youngstown, Ohio 44501-1684

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**Youngstown--**For some organizations, their location is more than just a shell in which they operate. Instead, it is the structure that sets the tone for what they do inside. That is the case for the Morley Arts Building and its primary tenants: Ballet Western Reserve, Ballet Western Reserve Center for Dance Education and the Oakland Center for the Arts. For this reason, on **Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM** BWR will present *Building Art* host an evening showcasing its downtown home.

## BUILDING ART



“This is a true celebration of what has become one of the Mahoning Valley’s most nurturing and most productive creative locations,” says Richard Dickinson, Ballet Western Reserve’s Artistic Director. “This building’s original renovation was a gift and it’s time for us to show what a worthwhile investment this was for the community.”

The fun-filled, evening packed, interactive evening will include a bit of all the traditional arts: dance, theater, music, song and painting. Attendees can choose amongst a variety of simultaneous and consecutive participatory and lecture-style workshops to include:

- Historical look at the role of the Morley Arts Building by Bill Lawson, Mahoning Valley Historical Society;
- Ballroom dance lessons taught by Travis Manero, Fred Astaire Studios;
- Original choreography by BWR students and Artistic Director Richard Dickinson.
- Discussion on the artistic process of choreography by Richard Dickinson;
- Sittings for painted portraits by local artist Gary Taneri (\$100--reservations requested);
- Performance by Michael Gelfand, Youngstown Symphony principal cellist and his son, Nate, of classical cello and violin sonatas;
- Voice recital by former Miss Ohio Amanda Beagle and several of her vocal students accompanied by pianist Anthony Ruggiero;
- Sneak preview of “Dinner with Friends” by members of the Oakland Center for the Arts.

*Interviews with any of the artists connected with the project are available upon request.*

The event reception will include heavy hors d'oeuvres catered by Michael Alberini’s Restaurant and Wine Shop, with beverages donated by Rulli Bros. A “Dinner for a Year” basket to include gift certificates from numerous area establishments will be raffled off during the evening. Tickets are \$5 and you need not attend to win.

All funds raised will go towards repairs and renovations of the Morley Building, most especially the restoration of the east wall of the structure which became exposed after the State Theater was demolished.

**Tickets are \$25.00 for adults and \$15.00 for students/seniors.**

Call 330-744-1934 for tickets or more information.



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### Ballet Western Reserve Special *Building Arts* Choreographers

Allowing advanced students to try their hand at creating dance is especially important to Artistic Director Richard Dickinson. Those selected to display their work at *Building Art* include:

NAME	RESIDENCE	AGE	DANCING
Emma Rumberg	Poland	17	14
Charis Kasler	Boardman	13	9
Helen Hines	New Castle	13	9
Patsy Montana Maxim	Girard	16	13
Gaia Dusz	Austintown	13	9
Jena Styka	Girard	14	8
Mira Mikan	Canfield	16	
Dorie Chevlen	Liberty	17	4
Tamara Chevlen	Liberty	18	5
Rich Livesay	Struthers	26	4



The works will be in different genres: including Ballet, Modern Dance, Tap and Swing Dancing. Each student has been paired up with a faculty member of Ballet Western Reserve Center for Dance Education; the teachers are acting as a mentor for the choreographers. The students are members of Ballet Western Reserve’s Company Dancers and range in age from 13 to 26 years of age.

“I was given the opportunity to choreograph at 15 years old for the Pasadena Dance Theater in California. It was an exciting time for me and to top it off that first work was given a National Endowment for the Arts Emerging Choreography Award,” says Richard Dickinson, Artistic Director of Ballet Western Reserve, “I want to give a similar opportunity to my dancers at Ballet Western Reserve.”

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Guest choreographer Rich Livesay is not your average BWR student. A 26-year old student, Livesay has [hemiparesis paralysis](#) on the left side of the body as a result of a traumatic injury to the right side of the brain in 1984. He began daily dance classes in 2006 as part of his recuperative therapy. He is working with BWR’s faculty as a way of improving his condition.



### History of the Morley

The Morley Arts Building, the former Elks Building, was renovated and dedicated in 1997 primarily with funds donated by Boardman real estate developer Michael Morley and was named to honor his parents, Judge Charles and M. Kathleen Morley, lifelong Mahoning Valley residents and patrons of the arts. It is made up of three floors, five studios, a board room, and a theater.



### **Rich Livesay: Challenging Physiology thru Dance**

Guest choreographer Rich Livesay is not your average BWR student. A 26-year old student, Livesay has [hemiparesis paralysis](#) on the left side of the body as a result of a traumatic injury to the right side of the brain in 1984. He began daily dance classes in 2006 as part of his recuperative therapy.

Choreography is new to Livesay; this will be the first dance he has created. He is being paired with Modern Dance instructor Karen Westerfield, who is acting as his mentor for this project. The

choreography is to “Joshua fought the Battle of Jericho” by Kai Robert Johansen. The dance will be performed by Arona Mostov and Gaia Dusz as well as Livesay.

“My research involves achieving the greatest results in the least amount of time, dance technique presented a technical approach to improving a condition I struggle with daily,” Livesay explains. “For the upper body, I’m using Navy Seal training methods and I use pointe work for the lower body.”

Dance has been and continues to be a major part of Livesay’s life since 2006 when he started dancing at Cherry Creek Dance in Denver, CO. This in turn led to other many opportunities, such as dancing at Jose Mateo’s in Cambridge, MA when he was studying French at Harvard Summer School. Eventually he ended up continuing his study of dance as a student of Ballet Western Reserve in 2007.

During the summer of 2008, Livesay did a summer intensive at Ballet Magnificat in Jackson, MS. During this time he had the opportunity to participate in some pointe technique classes which he found to be a technical approach to working his body and improving his condition.

Returning to Ballet Western Reserve, Livesay studied pointe during the fall semester and quantified the results during the spring semester at Belhaven College. He returned to Ballet Western Reserve in September 2009 as a more determined dancer as well as a choreographer. As a student of Ballet Western Reserve Center for Dance Education, he spends a good deal of time working to perfect my ballet technique which is allowing him to advance through the school and feel better and stronger physically.