

# Ballet

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Still, even after more than two decades working with the company, McGary got a few butterflies during auditions earlier this month for the December production of “The Nutcracker.”

“I had a moment where I said to myself, ‘I can’t believe this is happening,’ because I remember being so nervous to go to those same auditions back then. And now I’m running them. I’m giving the steps and casting it,” she said. “It was a little surreal. It was always what I thought I’d end up doing, but here it is, really happening.”

Maureen Robinson has known McGary for more than 20 years. It became clear in the past few years that McGary would eventually be the clear successor to Robinson and her husband, Keith, when they were ready to step down as co-artistic directors of the company.

“She always stayed with us, even when she went away to college,” Robinson said. “She was always connected with us. And we knew, after a while, that we had someone of her caliber that we could count on, and that could take this on when we were ready to be done ... Almost all the dancers here know her. She’s got tons of energy. She’s good with social media. We’re in really good hands.”

As artistic director, McGary plans to keep many of the things Robinson is known for: the wildly popular “Nutcracker” performances, the commitment to education,



DAN LITTLE | BDN

the spring showcases and children’s ballets. But she also plans to add a few new initiatives and programming opportunities for the venerable company.

“You don’t remain successful for 40 years for nothing. We’d never stop doing the things we’re known for and we’re really good at,” McGary said. “But I think we can do some behind the scenes changes that the audience might not see ... and I think we can expand our programming.”

One of the first programing expansions McGary has enacted is a trial run of a fourth show in the Robinson Ballet season, in addition to “The Nutcracker,” the spring

showcase and the children’s ballet. Robinson’s first fall show, “Reflections,” was performed last weekend at the Gracie Theatre at Husson University, featuring several different pieces choreographed by Robinson’s past artistic directors, including Ralph and Jeanne-Marie Robinson, Kelly Holyoke Fitzpatrick and Keith and Maureen Robinson.

McGary hopes that, going forward, she and her company also will have the opportunity to educate the public further on dance in its many forms.

“I want to get the community interested in dance. I think people see things like more modern dance pieces

and don’t know what to think. I want to make sure that we can help them understand what they’re seeing,” she said. “Smaller shows in smaller venues. More intimate things. We want to educate as well as entertain.”

In addition to McGary’s new role, Robinson Ballet’s board of directors also named a new managing director for the company this year. Longtime Bangor area arts supporter Karen Hartnagle took that position this summer.

And Robinson Ballet isn’t the only Bangor area arts organization that has undergone changes. Bangor Ballet’s artistic director and executive directors, Ivy Clear-Forest and Jane Bragg, respec-

Past and present Robinson Ballet dancers perform in “Reflections” on Sunday at Husson University’s Gracie Theatre.

# Hearts

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tations like ‘The Shawshank Redemption’ and ‘Stand By Me,’” says Harris. “This is a wonderful story, and Johannes and Ernest have again proved what fantastic writers they are with a wonderful adaptation of King’s source material. We are excited to start casting for the film and working towards production in 2017.”

“Hearts in Atlantis” served as the title story of King’s 1999 collection of two novellas and three short stories. Despite its title, the 2001 film of the same name, directed by Scott Hicks and starring Anthony Hopkins, took two of the other stories in the collection, “Low Men in Yellow Coats” and “Heavenly Shades of Night Are Falling,” as its basis.

Since launching in 2010, The Fyzz Facility, which has offices in London and Los Angeles, has invested more than \$110 million in 125 films, with recent credits including Martin Scorsese’s upcoming “Silence,” starring Liam Neeson and Andrew Garfield; Bruce Beresford’s “Mr. Church,” starring Eddie Murphy; and Alexandre Moors’ Iraq war drama, “The Yellow Birds,” featuring an ensemble including Alden Ehrenreich, Tye Sheridan, Jack Huston, Jennifer Aniston, Toni Collette and Jason Patric.

## Supper, auction to aid Waltham family

EASTBROOK — A spaghetti supper and auction will be held 4-8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 24, at Cave Hill School, 1205 Eastbrook Road.

The event will offer live music, 50/50 raffles, auctions and food. Admission is by donation at the door.

A benefit motorcycle ride will leave from the Mill Mall in Ellsworth at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 24. The ride route will be around Mount Desert Island and end at the event site in Eastbrook.

Fee for the ride is a donation of \$15 per bike.

These events will benefit the Merchant family of Waltham, who lost their home and belongings, including items for an expected baby, to fire on Sept. 12.

For information or to donate, call Don Clark at 667-2419 or Kathy Hisler at 669-0301.

# Wilson

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True Stories of Girlhood and Accidental Fame.” Wilson has been writing for years: She studied playwriting at New York University; her website is named marawilsonwritesstuff.com; and her witty commentary on Twitter has earned her 300,000 followers. But when lit agents began approaching her with the idea of writing a book about her days in the movie business, she sparked at the idea of being able to explain herself in more than 140 characters.

“When you see that somebody’s last credit is ‘Thomas and the Magic Railroad’ when they’re an awkward 12-year-old, you’re, like, ‘Oh, how sad,’” she said. “You don’t know what happens between those IMDB entries. I knew there were people who felt sorry for me and people who were making up stories about me. I think I wanted to reclaim that narrative.”

Wilson was sitting at the Tea Rose Garden in Old Town Pasadena, a quaint cafe she went to with her “Matilda” castmates when she was a girl. Though she now calls New York City home, Wilson is a Burbank native, and most of her family still lives here. But as soon as she got the chance to move out of L.A., she jumped. At 18, she felt like everyone here was too focused on looks. Plus, she sunburned easily. And all the driving made her carsick.

But even 3,000 miles away, she found it difficult to escape her reputation. At NYU, she was “a thousand percent” known as the girl who used to be a child star, said Rachel

Bloom, star of the CW’s “Crazy Ex-Girlfriend” and Wilson’s former classmate there.

“I remember the first time she brought ‘it’ up. I was, like, ‘Wait! Wait! You’re Matilda! I was such a fan,’” said Bloom, who met Wilson while hanging lights in a theater tech class freshman year. “I’d heard a couple people be, like, ‘She’s not that friendly. She’s kind of cynical and dark.’ She was a child star, so people expect her to be bubbly and happy. But she was this dark and neurotic Jew from Los Angeles, and I thought she was awesome.”

That Wilson even went to college is a rarity for a kid actor. Most young stars decide to strike while the iron is hot — meaning keep acting while they still look fresh-faced — instead of pursuing higher education. Wilson credits her interest in education to her parents, both of whom attended Northwestern University on scholarships. Her mother, who served as her manager, died from cancer when Wilson was just 8.

“Her mom treated her so differently than most of these kids’ moms,” said Bonnie Liedtke, who was Wilson’s agent for 10 years and also represented Leonardo DiCaprio and Zac Efron when they were kids. “We were on a set in Chicago once, and she needed to go to the ladies room. They radioed in two ADs to escort her, and Mara’s mother screamed at them. ‘She’s just going to the restroom! She needs to be a normal kid!’ She made sure she kept it as humble and normal as possible, and Mara was able to hold on to that.”

“The only stars are in the

sky.” That was the credo in the Wilson home. Any money she made on film sets was put far away in saving accounts that she wasn’t allowed to touch. Once, when she was shopping for dorm room supplies at Target, Wilson got into a fight with her father because she wanted to buy some slightly pricier items. She was paying her own tuition, she argued, so why shouldn’t she be able to get whatever she wanted at Target?

“And he said, ‘Do you understand how much sacrifice it took on our part to get you those places?’” she said, taking a bite out of a miniature cucumber sandwich. “‘You wanted to keep acting, and we were the ones driving you everywhere and with you on set the whole time. That was work for us too, but we never got paid for it and we’re never going to get paid for it.’ That was sort of this reality check for me, like, ‘Oh, right, this actually did take a lot of sacrifice.’”

Her ability to step outside herself is evident in “Where Am I Now?” in which she talks about the harsh realities of the movie business without letting emotion overwhelm her. Of those awkward post-puberty years, she writes:

“As I saw it, when it came to careers, I had three choices: get cosmetic surgery and go out on auditions for the cute and funny best friend characters, stay the way I was and go out for the meager character actor roles for young women or accept myself and give up the idea of a Hollywood film acting career.”

She went with the latter option, primarily as a means of self-protection: “If I was

going to break up with Hollywood,” she writes, “I wanted it to be mutual.”

Wilson still acts occasionally — just not on the big screen. She does a lot of voice work, most recently on “BoJack Horseman.” And she hosts a show at New York’s Public Theater, “What Are You Afraid Of?” about people’s phobias.

Sometimes, she said, she misses being on film sets, which she has plenty of warm memories from.

“One thing I always loved was the rolling chorus — when they’d call ‘speed, marker, background, action,’” she remembered. “The sound of it was comforting to me. I took note of the different ways directors said action. Chris Columbus would kind of stretch it out. And Danny DeVito would yell ‘cut’ just by making weird noises.”

But writing has brought her a different kind of fulfillment. She’s working on a couple of pilots and a graphic novel. And she’s still very active on Twitter, where last month she revealed to her followers that she identifies as “bi/queer.”

“It wasn’t until I was well into my 20s that I was, like, I’m going to need to face the fact that I definitely had a crush with Lucy Liu when I was on a sitcom with her,” she said with a laugh. “I’m not just attracted to one gender. I’m attracted to men, women — some people who don’t really consider themselves either. I think that it kind of explains some things about me — just puts them into perspective. That I used to pretend to be a carpenter in kindergarten. That one day I was really sad that Lucy Liu

didn’t show up to set because she had food poisoning.”

For someone who has lived her life with an audience since she was a girl, it makes sense that Wilson is most comfortable finding herself in public. But in a way, it seems that she’s always known how her story would play out.

“I might not want to be an actress all of my life,” the 7-year-old she told Couric in that “Today” interview.

“I understand you’re thinking about becoming a screenwriter,” Couric replied. “Have you written any scripts yet?”

“No,” Wilson answered. “I have a lot of them in my head.”

“Well, good,” Couric said. “I think you’ve got a lot of stuff in your head, Mara.”



86 Main St, Bucksport ME

### Classes Now Open for Registration!

**Starting September:**

WC/Oil/Acrylic Pleinair	Sept 10	5 weeks	\$250
Drawing	Sept 17	1 day workshop	\$ 75
Mandalas	Sept 26	6 weeks	\$150
Understanding Color	Sept 28	8 weeks	\$200
Watermedia Montage	Sept 28	8 weeks	\$200

**Starting October:**

Zentangle Basics	Oct 3	4 weeks	\$100
Pastels	Oct 8	1 day workshop	\$ 75
Beginners Acrylics	Oct 13	6 weeks	\$180
Kids can Paint!	Oct 12	1 hr, 10 weeks	\$150
Pleinair all mediums	Oct 14	1 day workshop	\$ 75
Seniors Oils/Acrylics	Oct 18	5 weeks	\$150

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## CALENDAR of Events

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<b>Men's Night</b> <i>Corn hole tournament. Mens give away.</i>	<b>Taco Tuesday</b> <i>\$2 tacos &amp; \$5 margaritas</i> <b>Lip Sync Battles from 9-11 P.M.</b>	<b>Ladies Night</b> <i>with Margaritas, Martinis, &amp; Makeovers (door prizes including salon gift certificates &amp; designer handbags)</i>
THURSDAY	FRIDAY & SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<b>8-10 P.M. Trivia Family Night</b> <i>kids eat for \$2</i>	<b>Live Music</b>	<b>Watch for the return of Reggae Sunday</b>

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