



Peek-a-boo, indeed! Inside,  
a chance to meet the new faces at UMO...

**UMO**  
**Ensemble**  
PO Box 347  
Vashon, WA 98070-0347

**GREETINGS!**

Many of our friends and supporters have been asking "What's happening with UMO these days?" Well, we can honestly say - quite a lot!

For starters, there are now **three** UMO offspring and, yes, as a result we are evolving as a group.

This informal letter is an opportunity to catch you up on what we've been up to over the past several months, both as individuals and as an organization. So please read on and enjoy. And if we haven't told you lately, thank-you from the depths of our art for your continued support of our creations, our programs and our mission.

With gratitude,  
UMO Ensemble

**Administrative Staff**

Claudette Evans, *Managing Director*  
Jeannie Dougherty, *Development Specialist*  
Aubry Ludberg, *Bookkeeper*

**Board of Directors**

Susy Roberts, *President*  
Caroline Sherman, *Secretary (Interim)*  
Robert Berley, *Treasurer*  
Jolly Sue Baker  
Tom DiStefano  
David Godsey  
Janet McAlpin  
Kristina Wicke

**UMO Mission:**

*To stir the human spirit and incite the imagination by providing awe, challenge and inspiration through original and compelling physical theatre.*

**From the Ensemble**

As our personal and professional responsibilities have grown, we have expanded our sense of Ensemble to include a wider circle of associate and guest artists who share a commitment to original and compelling physical theatre. We will welcome one new artist for FATAL PERIL, plus one or two performance interns. We are also looking to add one new Ensemble member by the end of the year, and a second in 2004. As the faces of UMO change, know that we are committed to maintaining the strength of the mission and the integrity of the art.

**UMO Calendar** (see you there!)

March-May *PlayWrite*  
K-12 classes in King and Pierce Counties  
(call for detailed schedule)

**April 17-27 EL DORADO**  
**State Theater, Olympia**  
**(Contact Harlequin Productions at 360-786-0151 for tickets)**

July 7-28 *Writing, Masks & Improv*  
Teaching residency at Ruth Dykeman  
Children's Center, Burien, WA

July 11-13 *A New Show (t.b.a.)*  
Oregon Country Faire, Veneta, OR

**Sept 26-Oct 12 FATAL PERIL**  
**World Premiere**  
**Broadway Performance Hall, Seattle**

Fatal Peril explores the human impulse for violence focusing on the moment just before violence is committed. This newest UMO work is an episodic, fractured narrative that includes surreal puppetry and darkly comedic characters in Beckett-esque scenarios.

Contact UMO at 206-463-2128 or  
email [info@umo.org](mailto:info@umo.org)

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## ESTHER

I have been busy being the Mom of my 19 month toddler, Aziza. She loves to read, swing and take walks in the woods. Bill and I call her our little parrot. Recently I dropped a glass, spilling its contents all over the floor and exclaimed “S—!” Aziza repeated it with perfect clarity and intonation. Guess I have to watch what I say now. Ooops?!



Aziza

A while back, Jonathan Hart came from NY to teach a vocal workshop as part of our research for FATAL PERIL. He is a fabulous teacher – and it was the most inspiring workshop I’ve taken in years.

I have been working on solo aerial performances on a circus apparatus called “tissu”. Guess I’m not too old to learn new tricks. It is the most physically challenging form I’ve done in my life and is greatly satisfying. A memorable moment was performing outside the site of the new Seattle Opera House from a 25’ high beam to the gasps of dignitaries like Seattle Mayor, Greg Nickels.

Also, I have been serving as Artistic Director for many of UMO’s corporate events including most recently, events for Microsoft and Safeco. For Safeco I choreographed a 15 minute finale of bungee clowning, acrobalancing, aerial hoops, and spinning harnessed climbers. Talk about fun!

## JANET & DAVID

We are enraptured with our son Kai, born September 5th. He is a delightful spirit with a playful personality and a remarkably cute face (think we’re biased? look below!) Kai has had some trips to the hospital over these past months, but he is now in good health and good spirits. He is a source of inspiration and wonderment.



Kai

We both are reminded daily of the preciousness of life on this planet.

Even as our availability to UMO has changed, David continues to serve as Chief Artistic Officer as well as Education Programs Director. Janet has her hands absurdly full with directing EL DORADO for its remount in Olympia in April as well as serving as Artistic Director of UMO’s next mainstage piece, FATAL PERIL, due to premiere in September. Janet is excited to collaborate closely with Elizabeth Klob on FATAL PERIL, and we are both looking forward to working with Jonathan Hart again this spring on vocal work for the piece.

Oh, yes - we recently returned from a residency in Sheboygan, WI., where we created a live game-show with community members called “The Mansion of Happiness”. It was a chilly trip, but the performances were fun!

## MARTHA

Its been a big year.

Last fall Martha got certified as a Bikram Yoga instructor (yup - that’s the hot, sweaty kind!), and then spent last spring in San Francisco performing with Teatro ZinZanni.

And then...



Ruby Lucia

Ruby Lucia Enson Joyce was born on November 20, 2002, on the evening of a clear full moon. Proud parents Martha Enson and Kevin Joyce are enjoying every waking and sleeping moment with little Ruby Lu. As of this writing, she has achieved mastery of giggling and karate chops to the face.

This year, in addition to being Ruby’s mom, Martha will work with UMO on our newest piece FATAL PERIL and direct the Seattle production of Teatro ZinZanni.

Watch for a full  
*UMOTION*  
newsletter in June!

## From the Managing Director...

It has been an amazing time to be associated with this talented group of artists. The past few months have been incredibly busy, filled with entrances and exits, sorrow and happiness. It has also been a time of change, as we are in the process of developing a new strategic plan that will reorganize the company while maintaining a high standard of excellence. Stay tuned for details on our progress.

I am most grateful to our friends and family for their guidance, and continued support. Since my arrival last June, it has been my absolute pleasure to work with a skillful board of directors whose sacrifice and dedication goes unmatched. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the departure of Beth Hammonds, who recently completed her tenure as board president. Thank you Beth for your uncompromising leadership, your presence will be missed. And thanks too to newly elected president, Susy Roberts, for bravely taking the helm. I’d also like to wish a fond farewell to departing board members Jolly Sue Baker, Tiana Colovos, Casey Hannan and Danette Leonhardi for their countless contributions to the UMO board, and to former office manager Beth Farnham and Ensemble member Bradley McDevitt for everything.

As you know, the newsletter serves as an update for UMO happenings, a way to check in with our extended family. It also reminds us of why your financial support is so vital to our existence. Our heartfelt thanks to those of you who contributed to last fall’s annual fund drive. Without you, our programs would not continue. If you didn’t give during the last campaign, don’t worry, take a moment now to make your voice heard. Support UMO today by making a gift of just \$25. (Imagine, if everyone gave at that level, I’d only have to ask you once year). Please make your gift today, and thanks.

Claudette