

EDUCATION NOTES



We had such a warm reception to our "Education Notes" last season that we decided to feature our work in education again this year. Included in our Notes are the performance "Dance At the Stone House", our work with Los Angeles Unified School District including - Packages for the Arts Community Partnership Network and for Professional Development, and Continuing Education

in the form of a Preview & Conversation with the Audience of "The Reality Series".

Education is one of those words with wide definitions that usually include "the imparting and acquiring of knowledge through teaching and learning, especially at a school or similar institution" and sometimes "an informative experience." It is in the arts, however, that a very special education happens, whether at age 5 or 15 or 55, education does its work through multiple parts of our beings and not just our brains. It has to do with "culture." For our programming in schools, we meet student needs by providing standards-based educational programs taught by dancers who are both trained educators and working professional artists,

and by providing an arts experience that is engaging and inspiring. We understand that the arts offer students an anchor for personal expression, a source of motivation, and a model to deal with life. We meet students' needs with multicultural and multidisciplinary workshops and assemblies that create a forum for students to develop creative ideas on how to approach work and solve problems in all subject areas. Our basic Professional Training Development workshops can empower teachers to feel confident in handling dance and movement. On a much broader level, we try to enlarge the context of each person's immediate world, both "real" and from the imagination, through our concert pieces. This is our goal with "The Reality Series" which is written about under Continuing Education with the premiere on May 10, 2008. In this Education section, we will focus on some of the work we do with the students during their curriculum time. Dance At the Stone House, a new site-specific educational program will also be featured. We will conclude with a few "evaluation" comments from teachers who attended our programs this year.

Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers is a 2007-2008 member of the Los Angeles Unified School District's Arts Community Partnership Network (ACPN). This designation through the Arts Education Branch of LAUSD affirms that LA C&D is a "qualified" provider who meets the criteria of the master services agreement. We have 10 vetted programs on LA County's www.LAArtsEd.org and we are a member of the touring roster for the Children's Creative Project in Santa Barbara.

Schools where we have worked and that we are currently working with since our newsletter last spring include: Ascot Ave., Bridge St., Buchanan, Bushnell Way, Chase, Century Park, Denker, Euclid Ave., Florence Ave., King Jr. ES, Loma Vista, Manchester, Micheltorina, Millikan MS, Ritter, 66th St., 68th St., Van Nuys, Vine, and W. Hollywood Elementary Schools. Their photos are featured here.



Center photo: Christian Moppett.

LA C&D Administrator Marissa Robles can be seen videotaping in the exuberant audience at the interactive performance at Manchester ES.



Photos of our dancers by Paul Antico.

Pictured: Karla Hagen, Anaja Holloway, Tamara Kagel, Sung-Yun Park, Salinee Vanichanan, Alexandria Yalj & Louise Reichlin. Stephanie Simpson and Teya Wolvington are also part of the company.



Dance At the Stone House

This season we developed a new site-specific work at the Sun Valley Youth Arts Center called **Dance At the Stone House**. Although all our programs are interactive, we had never done a work like this where 60 students would be both audience and dancers in a piece just 45 minutes long. Preplanning was crucial. Louise Reichlin began with trips to the site where she took many photos of the 83 year old building and of the children's art works within those grounds. She made many diagrams depicting where people would sit (both an indoors and a lawn audience), and how they would be divided into 10 groups of six students each (a necessity for historical buildings- max of 6 to a room). During the event we worked with the students in those groups to develop their parts and tour the facility. Audience members were both inside and outside on the lawn watching. The plan also included the process of the students learning about the architecture, touring the facility, and learning movement that showed how to construct a dance and how it would have felt to build that house. Some groups also created their own moves based on the art that other children made there such as the animals sculptures and "Day of the Dead" musicians painting. The dance was then spaced with the dancers and finally performed to music.

The photos were taken by Jesus "Chuy c/s" Rangel, the Art Center Director, Steve Fobalvarro, visual arts teacher, and Reichlin. This dance event was the first of "The Reality Series". Dancers included Karla Hagen, Anaja Holloway, C. Ivy Withers, Rocio Ponce, and Salinee Vanichanan.. Sixty students fourth to sixth grade, from Ritter ES and from Millikan PA Magnet, attended each performance. The students in their evaluations of the event all wrote about the uniqueness of the experience and that they had learned things about architecture and building and dance forms they had never thought about much before. Descriptions from the attendee/participants were "so fun, cool, happy, exciting, tremendous, great dancers, perfect, I like it because we put the dance together!" You can view a two minute slide show of the event on <www.YouTube.com/LouiseReichlin>.

We will be partnering with the Youth Arts Center again next year for additional projects as well as offering this event again next fall on November 13, 2008 as part of our continuing grant from the Department of Cultural Affairs, City of LA. Please contact us to participate and for additional to be announced dates – 213-385-1171.



Louise Reichlin & Jesus "Chuy c/s" Rangel and scenes from "Dance At the Stone House".

Professional Development for Teachers

Our interactive training sessions for teachers offer substantial practical techniques in developing creative intelligence within their students including physical dance study, cultural, aesthetic, and historic appreciation, and subsequent integration into the rest of the curriculum using a model that depends on participatory education. The topics range from "Creating a Dance" with practical examples to others that are more concerned with the integration of dance into other curriculum areas. "Creating a Dance" allows teachers to put together a full dance in that same session. They incorporate techniques on how to use the elements of dance – space, time, and energy, within their own dance phrases. Other often requested PD sessions are "Weaving Dance Into the Curriculum", "Dance and Open Court", and "Using Specific Cultural Dances." Some of their evaluation comments tell the story:

"What a great introduction to the elements of dance!"

"The workshop was great in providing a quick way to engage students and integrate dance into other subject areas."

"Informative"

"Fun learning! Awesome facilitators/artists- Thank you."

"Interactive and beneficial in strengthening our learning community."

(from Loma Vista ES)

"Good- tied to the standards. Fun – could be used to diversify lessons."

"Engaging and informative." "Great"

"Enjoyed the way a personal and educational connection was made!"

(from Ritter ES)

"Wonderful & uplifting!"

"Useful & motivational."

"The PD handout...really useful. It reminds us of things we already know & could apply or put to use."

"Very fun & educational."

"Engaging, motivational."

"It was insightful and a fun way to teach math and biology to students."

"I feel more confident about applying movement with my students."

(from Florence ES)

"The PD handout was concise and to the point"

"Helpful."

"Enjoyable & interesting."

"Engaging & insightful."

"This workshop brought back my HS years when I took dance, which made that time joyful. Very much liked and enjoyed."

"Wonderful!" "Excellent!"

"Loved it! It was fun and engaging."

(from Micheltorena ES)



Photos:
Louise Reichlin & Christian Moppett.

Students from
Bushnell Way,
Buchanan,
and Manchester
Elementary Schools
perform on stage
with our dancers in
"The Tennis Dances".



Spill on Performing

"Performing dance for Los Angeles schools with Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers has been my most rewarding and exhilarating experience to date. I love knowing that I am inspiring children to delve into the arts. When the students perform with us, there is never a dull moment. That element alone, keeps every performance fresh and exciting for the entire company."

(Karla Hagan, dancer with LA C&D, is a native of Chicago, IL where she discovered her passion for dance. In December 2006, she graduated with her BA in Dance from Western Michigan. See her photo right.)



Please see comments, evaluations, and photos from last year's Educational Notes at <http://www.usc.edu/dept/dance/p20_newsletter07.html>.

Continuing Education

Our new **"The Reality Series"** is being developed as an interactive dance/multimedia work based on parts of our lives that we often don't pay too much attention to. Developing both the work and an audience that is engaged in the process of creating a work like this falls under continuing education. It has been aided by a "Creating Public Value" grant from the CA Arts Council, the LA County Arts Commission, and the Department

of Cultural Affairs, City of LA. The site-specific **"Stone House"** work was also part of "The Reality Series" but targeted to youth. Several weeks ago at Alva's Performance Gallery in San Pedro members of the preview audience not only volunteered to participate in the interactive work **"The Reality Series"**, but they also put together clues that shaped the actual dance – in real time. They also participated in discussions after the performances about how it felt to go on stage to participate ("intimidating at first, and then I loved it!). In **"The Shampoo"** an audience member has a simulated hair wash while the dancers explore the feelings and emotions a simple shampoo evokes. In **"Los(t) Angeles"** the entire audience rises to learn Korean classical arm movements with our dancer Sung-Yun. Others volunteer to learn a simple hip-hop combination with Anaja. In **"Identity"** audi-

Narrator/Director Reichlin with cast in "Identity".



ence members see copies of real emails Reichlin has received, see the dancers in shadow silhouettes and then all in full lights doing everyone's characteristic movements, and finally making choices on their identities. See more about this piece, which is both "continuing education" and great entertainment on www.LACHoreographersAndDancers.org (click on Current News & Performances -The Reality Series)".

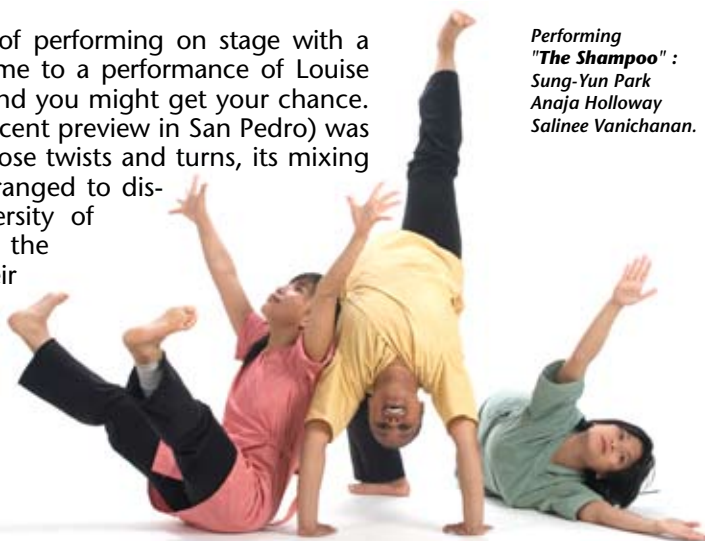
*Performing "Los(t) Angeles":
Salinee Vanichanan, Sung-Yun Park,
Anaja Holloway, and Batista Gremaud
(Guest Flamenco artist.)*



"The Reality Series" photos by Paul Antico.

"Do you dream of performing on stage with a dance company? Come to a performance of Louise Reichlin & Dancers and you might get your chance. The highlight (of a recent preview in San Pedro) was **Los(t) Angeles**, whose twists and turns, its mixing of styles tastefully arranged to display the ethnic diversity of Los Angeles, allowed the dancers to display their many strengths and audience members to display their enthusiasm."

*(Lynn Warech,
Dance Reviewer,
Random Lengths)*



*Performing
"The Shampoo":
Sung-Yun Park
Anaja Holloway
Salinee Vanichanan.*

School Residencies Include Assemblies and Teaching Workshops for Students

A teacher wrote :

"A kindergarten student said 'Even the sun came out to see the performance! Thank you.'"

(After an outside performance at Bridge St. ES)

"It was super great. Thanks for the interaction and performance."

"One of the best we've had."

"I loved it! Great!"

"The kids really enjoyed the program. You had their total attention."

(from Ritter ES)

"It was great to expose the students to different types of dance forms."

"It was entertaining and helpful incorporating it (dance) into the classroom."

"Great- lots of language development."

"Students were engaged and receptive more than the usual."

(from Florence Ave. ES)

See more about **"The Reality Series"** and links to videos at www.LACHoreographersAndDancers.org. Also info on low priced group sales. Contact the Madrid Theatre for individual tickets www.culturela.org/madridtheatre/tickets.html >. If you would like to be on our email list please email request to louisehr@LACHoreographersAndDancers.org