

Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers

Newsletter

SPRING INTO SUMMER 2007

Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers' mission is to create high quality, concert work opportunities for Los Angeles artists, to present works that communicate to a diverse audience by infusing dance with the cultural influences found in LA, and to enlarge an educated dance audience by reaching out to segments of the population that are typically underexposed to the arts. By directly involving audience members in concerts with participatory activities and indirectly involving them through the utilization of varied, cultural elements used to explore

humanistic themes, the organization aims to demystify dance while preserving the artistic integrity of the medium. In this way, **LA C&D** is committed to using dance as a unifying force that crosses cultural, generational, language, and socio-economic lines. Since its inception in 1979, **LA C&D**, a non-profit organization, has presented multiple educational programs and created many new works through its two professional dance companies **Louise Reichlin & Dancers** (modern) and **Zapped Taps™/Alfred Desio** (electronic & acoustic tap).

SINCE WE WROTE LAST... TO... LOOKING FORWARD

from Louise Reichlin, Director

Our last newsletter was 04-05. It seems so long ago. It was an incredibly busy year and we produced at both Barnsdall and the Ivy Substation as well as going to more than 40 schools. In the summer of '05 **Louise Reichlin & Dancers** performed *The Patchwork Girl of Oz* at the Levitt Pavilion. Dancing on concrete is tough, but the setting in Pasadena and their beautiful outdoor bowl plus 1,100 in the audience with blue balloons (no one was sure where they came from) was memorable. That September **Louise Reichlin & Dancers (LR&D)** toured to ARTCORE in Casper Wyoming where Carolyn Duel, the Director there wrote: "You touched the lives of 2,480 people from the Casper area with your excellence."

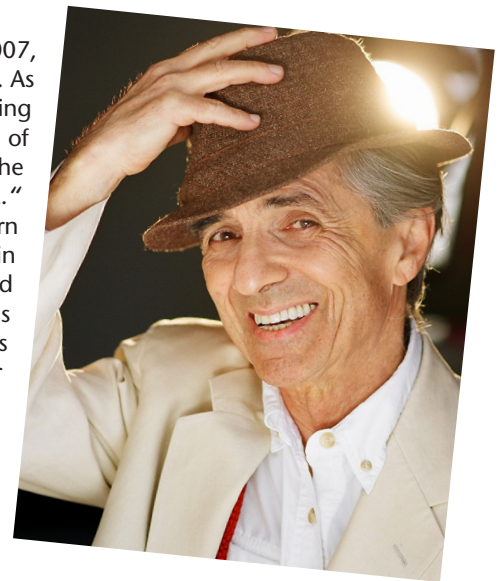
That fall **Alfred Desio** was creating much new work and did jazz concerts at the Jazz Bakery and the Largo with a wonderful pianist Larry Goldings and his group. **LR&D** performed at the Madrid Theatre and was also featured on Korean television here in LA. Just before I attended the National Performance Network (NPN) meeting in Miami around the same time, I was having my hair washed at a hair salon Shear Perfection and was subsequently inspired to do a piece about a shampoo—something that we usually don't consider much. I started working on it with dancers the following spring.



photo above: *The Shampoo* in performance...
photo below: Dancers Lindsay Dale, Kiyoko Ando,
Teya Wolvington, Eva Wieland
photos by Erik Abbott-Main

IN MEMORY OF ALFRED DESIO, THE ELECTRONIC TAP DANCER, A FORMAL BIO

Alfred Desio passed away February 14, 2007, of complications from cancer. He was 74. As recently as May 2006, Desio was performing with his students at the Colburn School of Performing Arts and being taped for the summer show "America's Got Talent." His very last performance was a Colburn School Encounter at 49th St. School in June, and the symptoms already precluded his driving himself. Since the diagnosis in June, Desio was in and out of Cedars Sinai Medical Center six times with bladder cancer that moved to the meninges area of his brain. His fight with the disease ended in a peaceful exit at Olympia Medical Center with his wife of 39 years Louise Reichlin at his side.



Alfred Desio, Director of **Zapped Taps™/Alfred Desio**, Choreographer, and Composer, is the inventor of electronic tap, Tap-Tronics™ - a system that allows tap dancers to play electronic instruments using the sound of the taps as a source. A veteran of the original Broadway productions of *West Side Story*, *Fiddler On the Roof*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Zorba*, *Kean*, *She Loves Me*, and *Donny Brook*, he had the distinction of being Katharine Hepburn's personal photographer for *Life Magazine* while a member of the cast of *Coco*. Early dance training and performance was with Jerome Robbins, Jack Cole, Peter Gennaro, Donald McKayle, and Michael Bennett; he also was assistant to Joseph Pilates, Pilates Technique. Dancing with Donald McKayle, he created the boy in the original *Rainbow Round My Shoulder*. His innovative use of Tap and Electronics was featured in the Tri-Star film *Tap* starring Gregory Hines and Sammy Davis Jr. Alfred was invited by the Smithsonian Institute to perform his **Zapped Taps** at the opening of their new Experimental

photo above:
Alfred Desio in June 2005.
photo by Russell Baer

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IN MEMORY OF ALFRED DESIO
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