



Photos: *The Patchwork Girl of Oz* dancers perform at the Brand Library and Arts Center in Glendale, March 2007. Left to right are Steven Nielsen as *The Wizard*, Teya Wolvington as *Dorothy* and Lindsay Dale as the *Patchwork Girl*, Steven Nielsen as the *Joking Horner*, Sung-Yun Park as *Ojo*, photos by Brittany Rogge

We continued working with many schools (the three central pages of Education Notes describe this in detail) and that work segued into showcasing excerpts from *The Patchwork Girl of Oz* at the booking conference for the Western Arts Alliance. We will be adding *The Shampoo* to our showcase this August at the conference, which will be held here in LA. Four dancers from my company drove to Santa Barbara last fall right after that where LR&D is on the roster of the Children's Creative Project. Alfred Desio, in between hospital bouts, went along and really enjoyed the drive and performances.

Just last month, in March 2007, we finally performed *The Shampoo* at the Brand Library and Arts Center. The capacity audience loved the piece as well as excerpts from *The Patchwork Girl of Oz*.

THE REALITY SERIES

Activities continued this season, and finally my new work "*The Reality Series*" is underway with the first look shown at the Brand Dance Series just March 18, 2007. The piece begins with me introducing the owner of "Shear Perfection" then asking for a volunteer from the audience to have their hair washed. My hairdresser Lynn Campbell stands by in her black smock near a sink basin on-stage, ready to simulate a shampoo. Dancers explore with movements that echo the experience; they become the hair, the bubbles and the water. Live dance is particularly suited to exploring an action as tactile as shampooing and brings to consciousness the latent feelings of sensuality, freedom and comfort present in a simple salon shampoo.

In "*The Reality Series*" we will examine everyday events and actions that we don't give too much thought to, such as a shampoo. Besides the dance and music by Afro Celt Sound System, the piece includes audience involvement that helps shape each performance.

CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL GRANT

Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers has just received a coveted grant from the California Arts Council (CAC) to develop "*The Reality Series*." The grant seemed to me a natural for LA C&D the moment I read the application description. It is called "Creating Public Value" and the CAC describes it as:

- *Building strong community relationships in order to build greater support of the organization's arts programs and services*
- *Defining ways in which the organization's relevance to its community can be identified and expanded to increase public participation*
- *Articulating the reinforcing the organization's return on investment for civic and political leaders, community supporters, audiences, and participants*

As we develop "*The Reality Series*" in different areas of the city we will be working with each community and the coordinators of on-site locations, thus continuing to serve high quality artistic work in underserved communities and encouraging people to think creatively. An important note for all of you readers is that we will be expanding our email list, and transitioning our newsletters into email format, **We kindly request that you email us at louisehr@LACHoreographersAndDancers.org with your name and email address so we can continue to reach you with news and updates. Please also include your street address so we can cross-index.**

Research is showing that learning to think 'out of the box' and expressing ourselves creatively (for both kids and grown-ups) may turn out to be one of the biggest pluses the arts can supply to our culture. Los Angeles is an underserved community, strange as it sounds, and with the lowest per capita investment in the arts of all the states, California and its Arts Council has been almost unable to function in the last three years. This grant is funded by special **Arts License Plate** sales as our state government has stayed at the 1 million dollar level since that drastic cut and is able only to pay its staff on that budget. So if you don't have a CA Arts License Plate, please consider it to help fund arts in California.

LOOKING FORWARD

Other projected themes of "*The Reality Series*" –

Los(t) Angeles: Although it's seemingly one city, LA's diverse cultures spawn innumerable different perceptions and realities, often dividing the city along multiple lines, as with the recent protests over proposed new immigration laws. This dance would use montages of modern hip-hop and traditional ethnic dance forms during which audience members will be recruited to join in. In this way the disconnectedness between the city, the cast, the audience members participating and those watching will mirror many of the realities of one of the most diverse cities on Earth.

Identity: Inspired by some of the creative appeals identity thieves perpetuate by email and the fantasy-like atmosphere of Alternate Reality Gaming (ARG), this work is both a dance and an interactive mystery for the audience to solve. For example: each dancer in the piece would begin with movement themes creating the character described in one of the spam (or scam) emails – (perhaps behind a scrim so only their shadows would be seen) and through ARG events members of the audience would discover clues that would entitle them to shift parts of the identities to other dancers, thus working together to strip away identities and layers of realities.

There is more to come – so please join our travels this season and journey into an exploration of looking deeper into today's reality, stranger than any fiction imaginable a short time ago. 🎭

AUDITIONS - LOUISE REICHLIN & DANCERS

A description of what we look for in our dancers - Experienced Male and Female Dancers, modern, strong ballet and jazz background, for paid performances with Louise Reichlin & Dancers for the 07-08 season. Our company has performance and teaching activities every week once we start performing at the end of August. Rehearsal honorarium. Dancers should have strong stage presence, expressiveness, musicality, and technique. Floor work important. All ethnic types. Under development is a new work called "*The Reality Series*". Louise Reichlin & Dancers also works in partnership with many schools in the Los Angeles area providing performances, staff development training for teachers and residency workshops with children. The company, a performing unit of Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers, was founded by Reichlin in 1979. For information and appointment call 213-385-1171 or e-mail louisehr@lachoreographersanddancers.org <http://www.LACHoreographersAndDancers.org>