

EDUCATION ON TOUR OR WITH CONCERT PERFORMANCES

When we did a residency at ARTCORE in Wyoming last season, we worked with students who learned the Hoppers and Horners from our dance/multimedia work "**The Patchwork Girl of Oz**". The presenter there wrote, "You touched the lives of 2,480 people from the Casper area with your excellence." At the Madrid last season, our young guests were from Welby Way ES in the Valley; for the performance at the Ivy Substation we provided after school programs at Linwood Howe in Culver City. In addition, we donated our services to Manchester ES-, a Title I school in Central LA, a school whose students we had been particularly impressed with during a curriculum ACPN residency with many at-risk students. These 3rd graders showed great enthusiasm and potential when we initially worked with them. Thanks to a dedicated teacher who secured bus transportation along with some older student volunteers who provided additional supervision, they were also able to perform with us at the Ivy Substation. It was equally gratifying to see the positive effects of this experience on these volunteers, who were also at-risk students.

These performances are different than the other educational activities because the productions have an additional element – **theatricality** from high production values and more demand for perfection from a "paying" audience. It brings a different side to the process – the precision and ability to repeat something with clarity is certainly not the only thing in life, but striving for excellence is another side that the quest for seeking perfection in a dance can teach. Sometimes we just use volunteers from the audience to be in our bigger concert pieces, and this doesn't fall so much into education as under memorable enriching experiences. We did this at the Levitt Pavilion where 1,100 saw "The Patchwork Girl of Oz" in their beautiful outdoors bowl and at the Brand Art Gallery concert just last month.



Photos: Above: Our dancers in a school assembly performance. Upper right: Administrator Amy Cureton who will tape the students' performance so they will be able to see themselves in our follow-up workshop (photos: Louise Reichlin)

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, while the latter can include Open Court. They incorporate techniques on how to use the elements of dance – space, time, and energy, within their own dance phrases. Other PD sessions also teach some of our choreography that teachers take away and use with their students.

Some of their evaluation comments tell the story:

- "Enjoyable – I am able to see how this can be done in my room."
- "Can be used across other content areas such as math. Lesson was practical for student use."
- "Great discipline and use of discipline"
- "Fun, kinesthetic, hands on, kept us active and engaged"
- "I enjoyed it – can you come here every week?"

(all from Cienega Elementary School)

- "Great- it reminds teachers of the importance of adding kinesthetic activities during the day. It also motivates students to move."
- "Awesome!" "Eye-opener."

(all from Broadous Elementary School)

- "I got many ideas of movement that I can use during my class. I can do movement during reading or math so my students can learn easier."

(Park Ave. Elementary School)

- "Engaging and provided confidence to try choreography with my students."



- "Empowering!"
- "Very useful and full of important ideas."

(all from San Fernando Elementary School)

On our residencies including Assemblies, Teaching Workshops for students, and Professional Development:

- "Students were enthusiastic and engaged in the performance. Students also learned about other cultures. Overall: great work!"

- "Fantastic! Please come back."

(Cienega Elementary School)

- "The group of choreographers and dancers who came to our school did an excellent job working with our students. We look forward to having them again next year."

(Park Ave. ES)

- "I was very pleased with the LA Choreographers & Dancers program. It really taught the students to be open and more outgoing. The students really appreciated the program. Louise Reichlin & Dancers were great!"

(Fries Ave ES)

- "All the teachers and students really enjoyed the dance because it included them into the program."

(Griffin Ave ES)

- "I can't wait for Louise and LA Choreographers to come back and work with our students! What a treat! Class A Act!"

(Grant Elementary School)

- "My students loved it. They left the auditorium dancing."

(109th ST Elementary School)