

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Since our last newsletter we have completed four more after school programs through grants from Youth Arts & Education, Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Dept (CAD). Another five were done through the Hollywood Arts Council, and this year through a grant from Target we were able to create a series at West Hollywood Elementary School. The Milken Family Foundation also funds our educational activities. The longer series at West Hollywood, Rosemont, and Los Feliz ES involved the students creating their own costumes. West Hollywood was more similar to our curriculum programs where students have five sessions that include learning already set dances, creating costumes, and then performing with our professional

company for their peers at school. Although all are California Standards based, the CAD funded ones were much more experiential for each student and included writing and creating visual artwork to integrate their dance into other aspects of their lives. Rather than working on a final program, their culminations were called "Show & Share" which included a demonstration class for their families and peers, and a part where they created their own pieces. These two types of arts education are really different – yet both valid. Often the students are asked to fill out questionnaires on the first day, and then write a reaction piece after each class. The following are from 7 and 8 year olds at Los Feliz ES:

"When I started class it felt happy!"

"we make shapes when we had to take off our shoes."

"I felt excited. I Love Dancing!"

"I felt shy, excited and scared because it was my first day in class."

"i love you guys so much. Thanks for showing us so much. i am very jolly. i was very shy when it was the first day of dance. i hope you guys keep on teaching others."

"When i first came to dance class i was scared because i thought i was not going to make it. On the first day i was nervous. One the second day i was happy but i was afraid when Miss Louise told us that we were going to have a competition to see who was going to make the class because we had too many people. On the third day i was happy because i knew i was in the dance class already."

"It was fun! I was happy! I like it a lot too! I like you a lot!"

"I was shy when I had come. I like the part when I pretend I was a cat."

"I was so excited when I came in first I liked the things we did and my favorite was the across the floor. I like all the teachers in dance class."



"I learned a lot of things it was fun and cool."



Above: Company director Louise Reichlin and student translators - plus some dancing- for a Show & Share for families at Los Feliz ES. Left: 4th/5th grade students at Rosemont ES design invitations for Rosemont ES Show & Share. Right: Some student designed tee shirts from Los Feliz Elementary. (photos: Alfred Desio / Louise Reichlin)