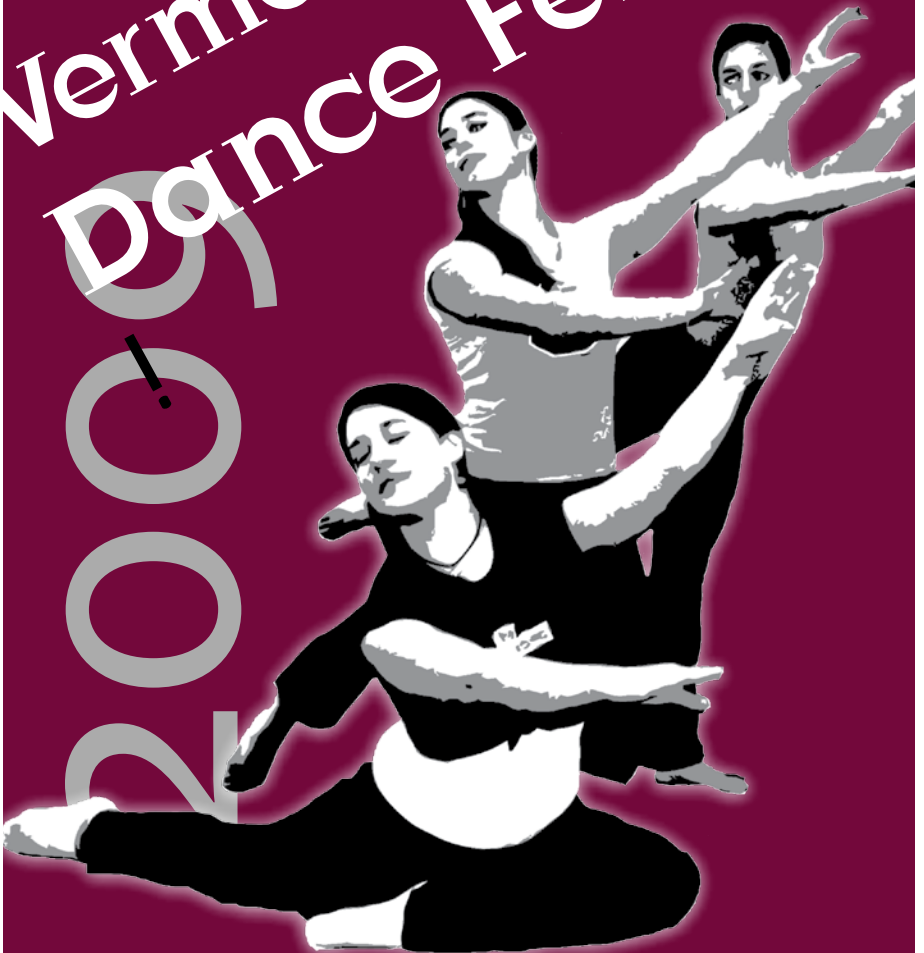


7th annual

Vermont State Dance Festival

2009!



Alumni Auditorium
Saturday November 21 2009

Lyndon Institute
Lyndon Center Vermont

The Festival History

The Vermont State Dance Festival is an annual event that began in 2003. After touring all of the Vermont high schools that had dance programs in 2002 as part of an independent study in college, I wanted to create an event that allowed teachers and students from all over Vermont to work together, learn from one another, and share knowledge. The Vermont State Dance Festival offers high school aged dancers of all disciplines an opportunity to study new and varied techniques with professional dancers and to showcase their skills before professional artists, teachers, their student peers and the general public.

The event is composed of three elements: a day-long series of workshops led by the professional artists; a closed session for the dancers to perform prepared choreographies for feedback from a professional, student peers and participating dance instructors; and an evening performance open to the general public.

The festival is intended to introduce students to new dance styles and techniques that they might not routinely be exposed to in their high school dance programs, or studios to allow students to interact with experienced professionals, and to provide the students an opportunity to perform before a larger audience than they might typically enjoy.

- *The enthusiasm of the kids is truly an inspiration to keep going.*
- *Everyone was welcoming and teachers taught with kindness that made you want to dance.*
- *I got to take classes that I might never have had opportunity to take...I love it. It was awesome!*
- *Tap was fun – had simple to follow movement/steps so that all participants could have fun and learn!*
- *Salsa was awesome! I could have done this class all day!*
- *It was nice the student had opportunity to mark pieces before performance with feedback. It was very well run and done in a positive manner.*

Schedule of Events

8:00-8:30	Registration
8:30-8:45	Welcome
9:00-9:45	Open class
10-11:00p.m	Workshop 1
11:15-12:15	Workshop 2
12:15-12:45	Lunch
12:45-2:00	Workshop 3 & Teacher Meeting
2:15-2:45	Facilitated Guest Performance in Auditorium
2:45-5:15	Facilitated Rehearsals
5:15-6:15	Dinner
6:15-6:45	Performance Preparation
6:45	Circle up in gym for all performers
7p.m.	Public Performance

Workshops

Choose from these options. . .

Explore your creative side with Smart Body Technique, Improv/Comp, and Folk Dance...OR...

Build your technical side with Ballet, Jazz, and Lyrical...OR...

Mix it up! Dapple in a little of everything!

Open Warm Up YOGA Class for everyone taught by Andrea Thibeadeau

New this year! **Special Teachers Class** taught by **Deirdre Moore** about how dance can reach all disciplines and be integrated into various subjects/courses in schools...will run from 12:45-2pm and is perfect for studio or school dance teachers. Deirdre will teach you how to motivate other teachers in your district to incorporate YOU...more movement in their classroom and show you how to make dance more accessible for education (science, math, English, music class, etc.).

TIFFANY RHYNARD – SMART BODY TECHNIQUE

Interlacing the parameters of activism and art, Tiffany Rhynard is interested in the convergence of movement, voice, and technology, specifically in dialogue with the study of human behavior. She is Artistic Director of Big Action Performance Ensemble (Big APE), an experimental performance company comprised of dancers, composers, and video and lighting designers. Rhynard's choreography has been presented nationwide and she will premiere her work in Schratzenberg, Austria this summer at Hotel Pupik. Her video works have been presented at the Dance for the Camera Film and Video Festival in Salt Lake City and Dancing for the Camera at the American Dance Festival. She holds an M.F.A. in Choreography from the Ohio State University and is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor in the dance program at Middlebury College in Vermont.

Workshop

Smart Body Technique is training for the contemporary dancer utilizing weight based and release modalities, improvisation, experiential anatomy, and the process of self-generating movement. The intention is to train the body to understand its innate intelligence so it can respond at any moment to a number of demanding tasks such as inverting, taking a partner's weight, moving at extremely fast or slow tempos, or executing a dramatic dynamic shift.

POLLY MOTLEY – IMPROVISATION/COMPOSITION

Polly Motley was born in Nacogdoches, Texas and lives in Stowe, Vermont. She began formal dance training when she was four years old. After learning to bop, she studied jazz, acrobatics, tap, ballet, and later, modern and post-modern theatrical dance forms, vocal and physical improvisation, dance ethnology and contemplative dance practice. She has made many intermedia works with filmmaker, Molly Davies, and has collaborated with a variety of artists, including dancers Dana Reitz and Simone Forti, poets Anne Carson and Jack Collom, and musicians, Takehisa Kosugi, Fred Frith, and DJ M. Singe. Motley now works closely with the New England Foundation for the Arts and makes performance/installations for museums and out-of-theater spaces. She teaches and performs in the US, Europe and Asia.

Workshop

Performance Practices for Improvisation:

We will work with entrances, exits and proximity in shifting solos, duets, trios and quartets.

Bare Bones Composition:

Based on the Japanese compositional principle JO HA KYU, we will structure solos with clear experiences of beginnings, middles and endings. This form may then be used for group compositions.

LINDA COPP – BALLET

Linda Copp has owned and operated the Lebanon Ballet School for 25 years. Linda graduated from the Hartford Conservatory, CT and was a former soloist with the Connecticut Valley Regional Ballet Company.

Linda began teaching in the Hartford, CT and Springfield, MA areas in 1971. She is the Artistic Director and a founding member of City Center Ballet, a non-profit semi-professional ballet company. As Artistic Director she has promoted the opportunities for City Center Ballet dancers to work with emerging choreographers and guest artists from across the US and abroad. She is also the rehearsal mistress for the Albany Berkshire's production of The Nutcracker in Lebanon, which involves the selection and training of nearly 100 local dancers.

MARIS WOLFF – FOLK DANCE

Maris Wolff is Professor of Dance at Johnson State College. She is founder and director of the Vermont Dance Collective, a professional company in residence at the college. In addition, she founded the Johnson Dance Ensemble, a student dance company, in 1978.

Maris' teaching credits include serving on the faculty of Hunter College and Clark Center for the Performing Arts in New York City, Amherst Early Music Program at Amherst College, University of Vermont, Community College of Vermont, Renaissonics in Boston, the Aegean School of the Arts in Greece, and the International Early Dance Institute. She has been an Artist in Residence at many schools and universities in North America, England, Europe and Africa.

Maris has performed at the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., at the Metropolitan Opera House and the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston as well as museums in Atlanta, Tulsa, Burlington and many other cities. Maris was a soloist with the Milwaukee Ballet and Ballet Repertory (New York). She has performed and taught as an independent artist throughout North America, Europe, England and Africa. She has also performed with many historical dance companies, including the Historical Dance Foundation (N.Y.C.), The Court Dance Company of New York and Renaissonics of Boston. In addition to live performances, Maris has danced in several television productions. She has been commissioned to choreograph for dance companies, music ensembles, theater and musical theater productions and for other organizations throughout the world.

Maris has been the recipient of two Vermont Arts Council Fellowships, and a Vermont State College Faculty Fellowship. She has received the Alumni Teacher of the Year Award and has been named an Ambassador of Cultural Exchange. Maris has choreographed over 300 dance pieces, numerous reconstructions of historical and multicultural dances, and has been commissioned to choreograph for dance companies, organizations, theater and musical theater productions in many locations.

Maris Wolff received her training in New York City at the School of American Ballet, American Ballet Theatre School and Harkness House for Ballet Arts. Maris has studied many modern dance techniques including: Humphrey, Limon, Graham, Horton, Cunningham, Duncan and Denishawn as well as composition, improvisation and jazz, tap, and folk dance. In addition, she has pursued special studies in renaissance, baroque, nineteenth century and early twentieth century dance. She has also studied massage therapy and various body awareness techniques. In addition Maris has studied acting at the Uta Hagen School of Acting in New York City, the Iowa Theatre Lab, and with Philip Walker of the Afro-American Drama Company, as well as taking many acting workshops and private lessons. Maris has also designed and built costumes for many dance companies and has studied advanced costuming at the University of Vermont.

Workshop

Folk Dance explores the joyous art of communal dancing from selected international origins. Students will “step into the shoes” of people from many different countries, experiencing the joy of participating in the simple dances that people do for pleasure in many different parts of the world.

Dance has been an instinctive element in ritual and expression since the beginning of mankind. As dance progresses in history, we begin to see distinctions in the movement of the inhabitants of different geographic areas. Climate also begins to have an influence on the way people move. The type of work performed in a particular region, is then abstracted into dance. Social and religious ceremonies also become integrated into the dance of its people. As cultures develop, we see a correlating development reflected in the dance. The diversity we now experience in the different nations of the world is seen in a rich variety of dance styles. Students will experience the great diversity within the cultures of our world.

My goal is that students will reflect upon and compare their own culture with that of other countries. At the same time that students celebrate the differences between various cultures, I hope that they will also cherish our common bonds, and discover that we are similar and unique simultaneously.

DIANA SEAVER – LYRICAL DANCE

Diana Seaver has been dancing since the age of 3 has never stopped. She began her training in Massachusetts and began competing at age 7. As a teenager, her family relocated to Vermont where she continued her training under her mother and then began teaching with dancers’ corner at age 16. In addition to producing fine dancers over the years, several of which have gone off to dance professionally, she also has produced award winning choreography for the company @ dancers’ corner. Diana continues to further her dance education whenever possible by attending DMA teaching training school, open classes in new york city and learning conventions which bring the industry’s most current talent to cities in our region. Diana lives in Hartford, VT.

Workshop

Lyrical Dance is a form of contemporary dancing which is a mix of ballet, modern & jazz but with a story line. Our class will begin with a stretching routine which will touch on both ballet and jazz techniques using a combination of both intricate & technical work, as well as pedestrian/naturalistic moves.. Following our center floor work, we will learn a short routine which incorporates emphasis on transitional and continual flow of movement, use of breath and exploration of theme. Our routine will be based around feeling, emotion and technique. Although good technique is crucial, spirit generally tells where the dance will go.

BILLBOB – JAZZ DANCE

Billbob Brown is a professor in jazz and modern dance, choreography, and dance history at UMass Amherst. He received his BFA from Arizona State University and Master of Arts (in Dance History and Criticism) from the University of New Mexico. Billbob has created and directed shows at the Utah Shakespearean Festival, and choreographed and performed in TV work and award-winning commercials for the Chicago Cubs, Molson Canadian Beer, Disney Studios, and ABC-TV. He has toured nationally with the Bill Evans Dance Company, was co-founder and artistic director of Desert Dance Theatre in Phoenix, now in its 30th year, and with whom he still performs and choreographs. In Albuquerque, he was director of Buen Viaje Dancers, a group of people with disabilities with whom he toured throughout the southwest and Hawaii. His Emmy-award winning video, "Opening Doors," with Buen Viaje, has been seen on PBS stations across the country. He has taught and performed in Japan, England, Switzerland, and throughout Mexico and the United States. Billbob is presently the artistic director of Chaos Theory Dance, a multi-media company that performs funny dances with videos and voice.

Registration Form

School/Studio Name

Name of dance teachers at school/contact person (people)

School/Studio Address

Phone Number

Extension

Fax Number

E-mail Address (contact name)

Number of students who will be attending the festival
(limit of 25 per school/studio)

Early Bird Registration Fee \$20 per student by October 17, 2009.

Registration Fee after October 17 is \$25 per student by November 14.

Choreographies – limit 2 per school/studio and each piece needs to be under 5 minutes in length. Upon receipt of the registration form, you will be sent a sign up sheet for workshops and request for information about the choreographies you will be bringing to the festival.

Registration includes workshops and dinner. Students are expected to bring their own lunch. Festival tees will also be available to students upon registration and throughout the day for \$10 or during the evening performance for \$15.

Checks can be made out to Lyndon Institute.

Check is included

Check will be sent by (date)

Are you interested in bringing choreography to the festival to perform in the evening performance and rehearse that day?

Yes

No

Tell me a little bit about your school and what it has to offer for dance

For more information, please call **Rebecca McGregor at**

802-626-1356 or **e-mail at**

rebecca.mcgregor@lyndoninstitute.org

If interested, please mail registration form to:

Rebecca McGregor

Lyndon Institute

Dance Instructor and Festival Coordinator

P.O. Box 127

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