

OUR HISTORY...

Since 1999, the Vision Series Dance Festival has provided opportunities to over 425 choreographers and 1,900 performers from 32 California high schools, youth programs and dance studios and 56 professional emerging companies and college dance programs. Over 60 professional educators, Dance Magazine and California Dance Education Association have graciously given their time, energy and expertise to the advancement of the program. In addition, Vision Series Dance Days have given professional technical training to over 1,300 high school students.

TESTIMONIALS...

We need more such programs to prove to educators, administrators, politicians and the public that dance and the arts make for strong people and great performers.”
Joanna Gewertz Harris, Ph.D, Voice of Dance, *Vision Series 2004*

“DANCE MAGAZINE has been proud to lend our name to the *Vision Series*... The commitment of Ms. Heath and those who work with her is of the highest standard. I wish that each of our partnerships with the dance community could be as easy and fruitful as this one.” Sincerely, Barbara Paige Kaplan

“Thank you for all the time and faith you have invested in my peers and me. You’ve contributed to our development as individuals and our position in life...”
Love Always, Lauren Nelson, Sequoia H.S., Vision Series 1999-2001

“I took a dance convention and wanted to say that it was one of the best experiences in dance I have had in a long time. Donnette is a wonderful choreographer and I hope to be as good as she...” Amanda McSweeney, Lamar H.S., TX



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VISION SERIES DANCE FESTIVAL

The Vision Series Dance Festival provides educational and professional performance opportunities to an innovative cross-section of dance artists from the Greater Bay Area. It develops and presents the diverse visions of high school dancers, professionals, emerging choreographers, and academic instructors, regardless of individual experience or expertise. This educational project expands knowledge, provides mentorship, offers support, cultivates artistic exchange and increases the exposure of modern dance as an art form to the general public. Through this Festival, artists are supported and given the framework in which to grow and flourish.

SO, HOW DOES IT WORK?

Further details and photos at www.dancerepertory.org
(Vision Series & Photos link)

- Professional dance companies/colleges and high schools/youth groups share the professional stage performing their own works at the acclaimed Cowell Theater in San Francisco.
- Dance works encompass many styles, primarily modern or contemporary in nature, no hip-hop. For high school/youth groups it can be choreographed by a student, guest artist or program director.
- No one is excluded from participating in the festival and there is no audition process. We give this as an opportunity to be viewed and treated as equals, regardless of expertise or experience. Participants are placed on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- Each group has the option to have an established professional from the field serve as their Mentor. They schedule 2 on-site rehearsals and provide choreography feedback to help prepare them for the performance (stage presence, technique, thematic material, emotional integration, etc.). This is a great opportunity for each participant, young or established to get an outside eye about the integrity and depth of their work.
- Each group also gets a “buddy” (different from the Mentor). Each professional group is paired with a high school/youth group and meets with them at least once before the festival to show videos, dance together, share their works and help each other prepare for the showcase. At the festival they take class together and share the lighting rehearsal. Prior to the performance, they give each other a special “Buddy” Award (cheers, songs, mini dances). It gets pretty creative and is hands down the most special part of the day for everyone. Then, they perform.

WHAT MAKES IT SO SPECIAL?

UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT

The basic philosophy behind the Vision Series and all its programs is to embrace and support all levels of dancers and choreographers. We all know that dance can be very competitive and unforgiving. But most of all, we all tend to be very hard on ourselves, judgmental of those sharing the stage with us and even judgmental of each other's material. Everyone comes together with an open mind and open heart to have a new and exciting experience.

EQUALITY

This festival purposely mixes the skill levels so all are equals, at least for one day. Those that are more advanced become role models in every way, yet still challenge themselves with new experiences and expect even more out of themselves. Those that aren't as skilled are embraced and take the challenge of a professional stage, do their best with confidence and push themselves to their highest level. The purpose is not to prove what a great dancer you are, but to learn and give of yourself to those around you in a profound, loving and unconditional way. Everyone looks to each other, not at each other.

CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

The Mentors are specifically trained to give feedback in a loving, supportive and constructive manner. This allows the participants to grow and feel that what they have spent endless hours creating has value and meaning. It may need additional work, but we purposely strive to embrace each work and bring out its highest potential.

LEARN ABOUT THE FIELD

One of the most valuable lessons that the youth are able to gain comes from integrating first-hand with a company or college group that is in the professional field. These professionals act as role models and are able to give advice, information and useful tips when choosing a college, starting a professional company as well as the trials and joys of life as a dancer (pay, auditions, etc.).

NETWORK WITH OTHER ARTISTS

This is probably one of the most important elements and reasons why it was created. So many “buddy” groups and Mentors have performed with each other, given classes, choreographed works and kept in touch.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Many professionals get to see other dancers and have consistently commissioned them to perform in their companies or programs. Many works and/or choreographers have been commissioned for additional performance opportunities and/or festivals in the field. Many past participants have even gone on to work for each another.

INVESTMENT...

- \$75 Registration fee (refundable up to 60 days prior to festival).
- Prices vary from year to year due to the fluctuation of production costs. The general cost is \$40 per participant and is subject to change. We can set up payment plans and some professional artists may teach at our fundraisers to defer participant costs (not the registration fee) if space is available and they are needed. This feature is not a guarantee.

TIME COMMITMENT...

- One Mandatory Production Meeting (2 _ hours)
- One “Buddy” session prior to festival
- Two Mentor sessions prior to festival
- One festival day