



Arizona Dance e-Star

a publication of the **Arizona Dance Coalition**

Volume 1, Issue 2

February 2011

**More Arizona high school students are enrolled in dance classes
than in band, orchestra or theatre.**

15% of the schools use dance artists-in-residence.

Only 8% of schools reported having adequately equipped facilities for dance.

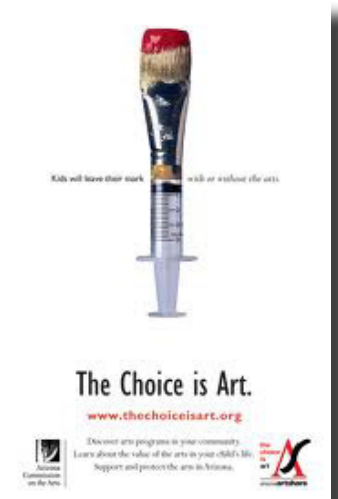
35% of the schools go on a dance field trip. Dance ranked 4th after music, theatre and visual arts.

– Arizona Arts Education Census Project, 2010

Why 4th? Could it be that there are not enough dance performances during the day for school field trips? Could it be there are not enough dancers available during the day to perform in school shows? The latter is what I have discovered in Tucson. *I welcome your comments on how we can find professional dancers to work daytime school performances.* When work and school take precedence over performing in an occasional school show -- even if it's a paid gig -- school children and their teachers miss the opportunity to see how choreographers and dancers interact with composers and musicians on a live stage. They miss experiencing the energy. They miss the magic. What can ADC do to rectify this? Let us know. We will print your comments in the next issue.

Bob Booker, Executive Director of the **Arizona Commission on the Arts** was the guest speaker at our annual meeting on January 8 in Phoenix and he talked about their new marketing campaign to promote art education. The statistics above are from a survey ACA conducted and are used to support their campaign entitled ***The Choice is Art. You can help.*** ACA has prepared ads you can download and place in your program books or post around town. Click on the link and start promoting ART.

Sincerely, *Krystyna Parafinczuk*
Editor & ADC Treasurer



The **Arizona Dance Coalition** is a membership-based, statewide 501(c)(3) nonprofit dance organization creating connections and communication between the general public and the dance community. ADC membership is available to individuals and organizations interested in the art of dance. You may join online at AzDanceCoalition.org. All questions about membership and sponsorship can be sent to Lisa@AzDanceCoalition.org. Calendar Events are posted online by ADC members. Article submissions, news, letters to the editor and advertising sales can be sent to Krystyna@AzDanceCoalition.org. Additional ADC contact information is on page 8.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



February 5, Saturday, 7 & 9 pm, ASU Gammage, Tempe Campus, 1200 S Forest Ave, Tempe, AZ 85287-0105, Mill Ave & Apache Blvd

SYMPHONY FOR THE DANCE FLOOR

Haitian-American artist Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR) presents an imaginative fusion of music, art, and movement with this world premiere. Soundtrack of our time. Choreography by Millicent Johnnie/direction by D.J. Mendel. Tickets: \$10-20 asugammage.com

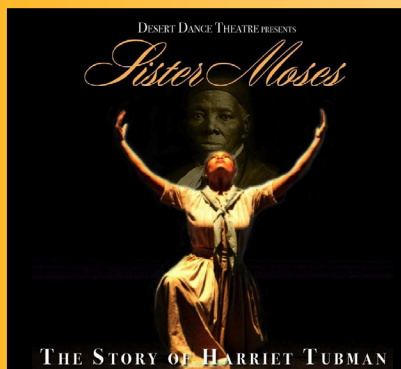
February 10, Thursday, 7-9 pm, ADC sponsored **FREE event RECYCLING COSTUMES FOR DANCE** presented by ADC board member & costume designer *Marlina Kessler* @ Dance Theater West, 3925 E Indian School Rd, Phoenix, **RSVP by Feb 9** 12thstreetcostumes@gmail.com or 480-200-9116. Some basic sewing, dyeing info and quick tips will be shared to recycle costumes as well as quick tips for easy changes. Bring a costume for review and discussion.



February 12, 1 pm ~ National Society of Arts & Letters DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY COMPETITION: ages 18-33 (*dancer must not have been paid as a choreographer*). **February 13, 1 pm ~** High Schools Dance Theater West, 3925 E Indian School Rd, Phoenix. NSAL Dance Chair *Susan Silverman*, 602-840-3883 or suzerina@aol.com. Awards for Az Chapter: 1st Place \$2000, 2nd Place \$1500, 3rd Place \$1000. For details, arts-nsal.org \$10,000 National 1st Award.

February 14, Monday, 10:30 am

State Capitol, 1717 W Washington St, Phoenix
ARIZONA CENTENNIAL KICK-OFF EVENT
Arizona entertainers will perform in this free event to kick off Arizona's Centennial celebration. *Dave Pratt* will emcee. **Flamenco del Sol** is slated to perform around 11:40 am.



February 15, Tues @ 9:45 am & February 16, Wed @ 7:30 pm
Chandler Center for the Arts, 250 N Arizona Ave. **Desert Dance Theatre** presents **SISTER MOSES: The Story of Harriet Tubman** ~ a beautiful story of a courageous woman's determination to free her people from slavery through the Underground Railroad. **Axe Capoeira Arizona** opens the 7:30 pm show. Tickets: 9:45 am ~ \$4.50-\$5 Student Performances; Community Performance 7:30 pm ~ \$5-15. chandlercenter.org; 480-782-2680

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



February 18, 19, 20, ASU Herberger Institute School of Dance, Margaret Gisolo Dance Studio, Phy Ed Bldg East (PEBE)132, Tempe
TRANSITION PROJECTS I & II: The Shape of Dance to Come
 Graduating ASU BFA in Dance candidates present diverse and powerful new works on stage, in specific sites, installations and on film. Program I & II ~ 8 performances ~ times vary ~ dance.asu.edu
 Tickets: \$8-21.

February 25, Friday, 7:30 pm, Paradise Valley Community College CPA, 18401 N 32nd Street, Phoenix. **Desert Dance Theatre** presents
SISTER MOSES: The Story of Harriet Tubman ~ a beautiful story of a courageous woman's determination to free her people from slavery through the Underground Railroad. Tubman was America's first liberated woman of color. Tickets: \$15-8. Box Office: Tues-Fri 12-5 pm. 602-787-7738
paradisevalley.edu/cpa



Photo credit: Heather Hill



February 26 (Sat) @ 8 pm, February 27 (Sun), 7:30 pm
Scottsdale CPA, 7380 E Second St, Scottsdale **PARSONS DANCE CO & EAST VILLAGE OPERA CO ~ Remember Me** touches lightly on opera's most popular vocal moments including arias from *La Boheme*, *Carmen*, *Rigoletto* and *Turandot*. Romance, seduction, revenge and tragic love placed within the context of Parson's sexily exuberant dancers. Tickets: \$34-44 Call 480-994-ARTS (2787) ext 2

February 27, Sunday, 12-1:30 pm Scottsdale CPA, Virginia G Piper Theater ~ **ARTS CONNECT ~ DANCE CLASS & OBSERVATION with PARSONS DANCE CO - \$25**

Enrich your technique with this dance class for intermediate /advanced level dancers taught by *Ashleigh Leite*. Then observe **Parsons Dance Co** take class on stage. Observation time TBA. Call 480-994-ARTS (2787) ext 2 to reserve your spot. **\$25** Photos: *Lois Greenfield*



SUBMISSION DEADLINE

MARCH ISSUE
of the

Arizona Dance e-Star

FEBRUARY 25

CALENDAR OF EVENTS are taken from the **Arizona Dance Coalition** website postings by ADC members. All postings of events are restricted to 501(c)(3) organizations with the exception of charitable and free events, educational workshops and master classes.

All submissions are monitored. Content may be edited.

AzDanceCoalition.org

Arizona Dance e-Star Editor/Designer, Krystyna Parafinczuk
 Contributors: Lisa Chow, Marlina Kessler, Bill Thompson

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts

The city of Scottsdale, as part of a downtown re-development project, opened the **Scottsdale Center for the Arts** in October of 1975. While owned by the city, it is currently managed by the *Scottsdale Cultural Council*, a private nonprofit company that also operates the **Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art** (SMoCA) and the **Scottsdale Public Art**.

The Center is recognized for its diverse, high-quality presentations of classical and world music, dance, jazz and theater, educational programs and festivals, which serve tens of thousands annually. Renovated in 2009, the Center sits on a lush, 21-acre urban park and boasts the intimate and comfortable 853-seat **Virginia G. Piper Theater**, the smaller 137-seat **Stage 2** theater and neighboring 1,800-capacity **Scottsdale Civic Center Amphitheater**.

With a mission to present, create and advance arts and cultural experiences and opportunities for the community, visitors, cultural institutions and artists, the Scottsdale Cultural Council provides excellence and innovation in the arts for everyone. The programs are made possible, in part, by the support of the City of Scottsdale as well as members, donors, foundations and corporations.

Each year, arts education activities involving thousands of young people from schools and community organizations are presented by the Center. The programs -- *Cultural Connections*, *Master Classes* and *Student Performances* -- focus on interactive exchanges between children and artists designed to inspire creativity, foster communication and tolerance, promote cultural exchange, create a positive image of self and community and enrich the overall educational experience.



CALENDAR: ScottsdalePerformingArts.org **480-994-ARTS (2787)**

ARTS CONNECT ~ Within each of us is a creative force that can be expressed through the performing arts. Explore your own artistry at these stimulating events that bring you into direct contact with local experts and the season's artists. **Arts Connect** events are held at the SCPA unless otherwise noted and do not include ticket prices to the performances.



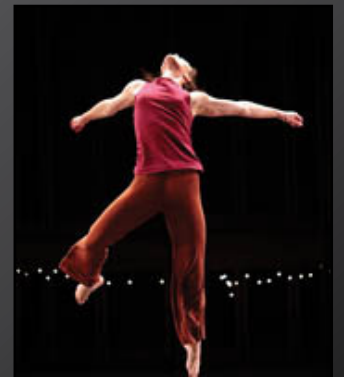
February 21, 28 @ 8 pm
Virginia G. Piper Theater
Lena & Chris Jacame
teach traditional
Spanish flamenco. \$35
Classes precede **Paco**
Pena's Flamenco Vivo
performance on **March 11**.
Open dance 6:30-7:30 pm.



March 10, 6-7 pm
Dance with Camera
Scottsdale Museum of
Contemporary Art
Modern dance through
the lens of a camera.
Tour precedes Merce
Cunningham Dance Co
performance.



March 19, 12-1:30 pm
Philadanco - Class,
Observation & Preview
Lendo Abdur-Rahman leads
class (Bricks Dance Studio).
Later observe **Philadanco**
on stage 2-2:30 pm. \$25
Preview 7-7:45 pm
Young at Art Gallery.



April 5, 9:30-10 pm
Virginia G. Piper Theater
Q&A with Mark Morris
Dance Company
Katrina Becker, KBAQ
89.5 FM announcer &
music host moderates
this post performance
Q&A session.

Arizona Dance Coalition Projects, Regional & Festival News

ADC Lifetime Achievement Award (LAA) Nominations

Reminder: Deadline for nominations is March 31.

ADC & DancInc. Young Choreographers TAP Dance Competition

Reminder: Deadline for submissions is March 28.

In an effort to stimulate and develop young dancers' creative skills (ages 16-30) and expand their level of tap training, dancers are asked to present *original* pieces for adjudication by tap experts outside their local community. Three cash awards \$150-\$50. Winners' will be invited to present their pieces at the *Sounds of the Soles of the Southwest* performance Saturday, May 21st at 7 pm, Pima Community College CFA Proscenium Theatre, Tucson. For eligibility, requirements, submission, contact Krystyna@DancInc.biz or call 520-743-1349.



National TAP Dance Day Celebration May 21-22

Performances & Master Classes

Regional & ADC Festival News

Northern Arizona

ADC will join **Canyon Movement Company** and **Human Nature Dance Theater** to co-host the second annual **Flagstaff Performing Arts Fringe Festival** in mid-May. Master classes and performances will grace the northern Arizona dance scene with companies from around the west. More information will be forthcoming in future issues. If you would like to participate, please contact ADC board members *Gina Darlington*, cmcgina@gmail.com, 928-526-9403 or *Jayne Lee*, jayne@humannature.ws, 928-773-0750.

✂ **Canyon Movement Company, Gina Darlington** and **Human Nature Dance Theatre** have been nominated for the **2011 Viola Awards** - Performing Arts category - presented by the **Flagstaff Cultural Partners**.

Central Arizona

This year's ADC Annual Meeting was on January 8, 2011 at Dance Theater West. We would like to thank our guest speaker, Robert Booker from the **Arizona Commission on the Arts** for updates and information about arts funding and advocacy. We are encouraged to join or get involved with **Arizona Citizens Action for the Arts** and attend the next **Arts Congress** on Monday, February 7, where arts advocates, professionals, educators and supporters from all over the state will bring their collective voice to the Arizona Legislature for personal meetings with elected officials.

✂ **Arizona School of Classical Ballet** has been engaged to participate in **The Phoenix Symphony's** *Symphony of the Schools Wild Wild West* concert in celebration of Arizona's birthday February 23-24 at Symphony Hall. Joseph Young, assistant conductor, will direct the events. The dancers will perform to *Hoe Down* from **Rodeo** by Aaron Copland and **Huapango** by Jose Pablo Moncayo (Garcia). The February issue of **Dance Teacher** has a photo spread (10 pictures - pg 13) on the NDEO Conference held in Tempe and an article on Arizona dance teachers developing a curriculum to tackle teen issues (pg 58)

entitled *Dance Your Troubles Away*. The article discusses *Becky Dyer* (ASU), her 8 years of research teaching teens in difficult environments, and the launch of her **Arizona Dance Educators Action Research Project**. The article also discusses the work of dance teachers *Susan Griffin* (South Mountain High School) and *Mary Anne Fernandez Herding* and *Kelly Martel Scovel* (Xavier College Preparatory High School). Eleven-year-old *Kendall Glover* (Dance Studio 111, Phoenix) appeared on **Live To Dance** on January 27.

Southern Arizona

The **National TAP Dance Day Celebration** will take place **May 21-22** at the Pima Community College West Campus, Tucson. Dancers and choreographers are invited to participate in the performance Saturday evening entitled *Sounds of the Soles of the Southwest*. Master classes will take place Saturday and Sunday. Call 520-743-1349 or email Krystyna@AzDanceCoalition.org for submissions. The event will culminate on Sunday with a free performance by master class participants, a lecture on the history of tap dance, and a TAP JAM. Shim shamers are invited to come up on stage and close each performance. More details will be available in April.

✂ **ZUZI! Dance Company, School & Theater** presents the spring **No Frills Have a HeART Dance Happenin'** with a variety of performers from throughout Tucson and Southern Arizona Feb 11-12, Fri-Sat. Performers include Utterback Middle School dance team, Pistor Dance Ensemble, Capoeira, TAZZ Dance Group, ZUZI! Co and ZUZI! "Many Limbs" Youth Co, TAZZ Dance Co, Funhouse Movement Theatre and UA dance students. **Legacies of Africa** is being presented by **Barbea Williams Performing Co** on Feb 25-26, Fri-Sat, to celebrate Black History Month. Axe Capoeira, UA Africana Dance Ensemble, Human Project to perform.

Celebrate **Black History Month** in your classes by playing the music of *Ella Fitzgerald*, *Nat "King" Cole*, *Duke Ellington*, *Count Basie*, *Albert Ammons*, *Meade "Lux" Lewis* and *Pete Johnson*. Show the classic 1943 movie **Stormy Weather** with *Lena Horne*, *Bill Robinson*, *Cab Calloway*, *Katherine Dunham*, *Fats Waller* and the fabulous *Nicholas Brothers*. **A Song Is Born** is another classic 1948 movie studying the birth of jazz music. It stars many jazz greats including *Louis Armstrong*, *Lionel Hampton* and dancers *Buck and Bubbles*.



PHOTO OF THE MONTH by *Heather Hill*
Renee Davis as Harriet Tubman in DDT's *Sister Moses*

Dance Performance teaches U.S. History

In all of the years that **Desert Dance Theatre** has performed **Sister Moses: The Story of Harriet Tubman**, the students, teachers and general audiences have responded with standing ovations. The teachers love bringing students to this production because it fits into their school curriculum for social studies and American History. Teacher materials/study guides are sent to the schools ahead of time, so the teachers are able to prepare their students about Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad during the time of slavery and the Civil War. So when the students and teachers see the production, history comes to life, and everything that they studied about slavery and the Civil War is reinforced and makes a lot of sense. The study guide also includes puzzles, games and short quizzes that teachers can use to test the students on what they learned.

Description and History About the Production

Sister Moses: The Story of Harriet Tubman, produced and performed by **Desert Dance Theatre** for 19 years, is a beautiful story of a courageous woman's determination to free her people from slavery through the Underground Railroad. She was one of America's first liberated women of color, who fought against all odds for the sake of freedom and equality. This production brings light to the incredible accomplishments of *Harriet Tubman*, the anti-slavery activist.

Desert Dance Theatre's artistic directors, *Marion Kirk Jones*, *Renee Davis*, and *Lisa R. Chow* created *Sister Moses*, along with music director, *John D. Anthony*. The concept and much of the work was researched collaboratively with the help of *Susan Smith*, director of **String Sounds** (quartet). The script is embellished with traditional spirituals, slave songs and other music of that time around the Civil War Era.

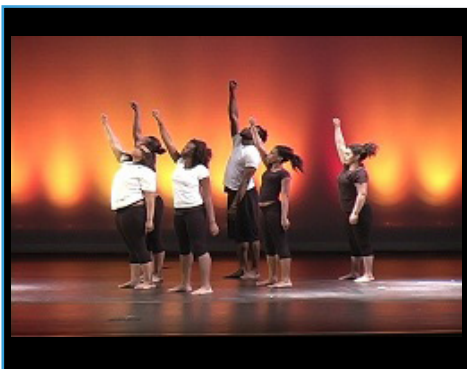
Since the production's premiere at the Herberger Theater Center in January of 1993, *Sister Moses* has been performed in various sold out venues throughout the Phoenix area including: Chandler Center for the Arts, Gammage Auditorium, Paradise Valley Community College, Scottsdale Center for the Arts, South Mountain Community College; and at several high schools. The company's out-of-state performances include venues in Las Vegas, Nevada and Austin, Texas. Over 60,000 audience members of all ages have enjoyed the experience of *Sister Moses*. For the 20th anniversary, DDT hopes to tour the show in different locations near areas of the Underground Railroad Safe Houses.

This powerful dance drama features Desert Dance Theatre with *Renee Davis* as *Harriet Tubman*, dramatic narration by *Renee Morgan Brooks*, African drumming and music direction by *Step Raptis*, accompaniment by *String Sounds* and traditional spirituals sung by a choral ensemble featuring baritone soloist Greg Dansby. The unique blend of this 45-minute multi-disciplinary presentation highlights the most important episodes of *Tubman's* life.

Sister Moses is a valuable educational tool in bringing this period of history alive. It shares the knowledge and experience of the struggles and accomplishments of *Tubman* that will bring a source of inspiration to students and adults alike. The program follows *Tubman's* life as a young slave on a Southern Plantation, her attempts to escape slavery, her work on the Underground Railroad, and her contributions to the Abolitionist movement. Slave songs from that period are featured for their significance as a means of passing information among the slaves. Hidden in the lyrics were vital escape details.

About the Author

Lisa Chow is Desert Dance Theatre's (DDT) artistic director, company manager, choreographer, performer and educator. DDT has been on the roster of the Arizona Commission on the Arts since 1981 and has toured throughout Arizona, Mexico, California, Nevada, Texas, New York and the northwestern states. She choreographs children's programs in collaboration with *String Sounds* (String Quartet). Chow is the co-founder and co-artistic director of *Crossroads Performance Group* along with *Step Raptis*, performing interdisciplinary music and dance projects since 1989. She was 1st Vice President of the Arizona Dance Arts Alliance (2002-05), coordinated many Arizona Dance Festivals, and is president of the Arizona Dance Coalition.


FEBRUARY 26, 4 pm, State High School Dance Festival

Desert Ridge High School, 10045 E Madero Ave, Mesa. Lynn Monson High school dance students from as many as 34 schools with more than 600 students throughout Arizona participate in various technique classes with new teachers and perform in a non-competitive adjudicated concert. Students take three different technique classes and then perform in the afternoon. Non-competitive adjudication is provided for schools upon request.

COSTUME TIP by Marlina Kessler

A washable Crayola marker is a great way to ID costumes with dancers' names. You can also use them to temporarily change light colored costumes. Circles, stripes and dots can give a solid colored t-shirt an extra kick.



Wash it and it is back to solid and ready for the next dance!


BIZ TIP by Krystyna Parafinczuk


mailchimp.com

MailChimp is an e-list manager that will build and maintain up to 1000 subscribers for *free*. It also has templates to design attractive emails and you can send up to 6000 emails per month for *free*. For many of us, this is completely adequate. Just don't "unsubscribe" (versus "delete") anyone as you manage the list or the patron(s) will have to re-subscribe themselves!

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JOIN ADC


Become an Arizona Dance Coalition Member ~ online (PayPal)

or snail mail / click on the icon to download application

Board Members are needed with expertise in organization & event planning, marketing/graphics, writing and computer/website maintenance.

Help us grow and make a difference.

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Desert Dance Theatre



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