2017-18 A YEAR OF FIRSTS FOR CHAMPS DANCE ACADEMY

As we say farewell to our class of 2018 and welcome to our class of 2022, we would like to reflect back on an amazing year. The 2017-18 school year was full of firsts for the Dance Academy. The Fall semester, Senior, Khalif Morgan was the first Dance Academy student to reach the semi-finalist round of the Music Center Spotlight Awards. We had 100% of our level 4 dance students participate in Spotlight and YoungArts scholarship competitions. We look forward to have more students in the upcoming years progress to finals in both competitions.

This year was also the first year the Dance Academy participated in the dance competitions season. In February, Junior, Siena Ciancia and Freshman, Nadia Bradfield were the first soloists to compete in Classical Ballet for CHAMPS at the Youth American Grand Prix in Las Vegas. Also in February, Dance Academy participated in the California Dance Classics Competition in Calabassas.

For the first time, ever, the level 4 dancers competed in the Ensemble division competition with their Conny Mathot choreographed piece, Iron and brought home the Silver Award! Siena Ciancia and Sophomore, Gabe Salazar competed in the Pas de Deux competition, winning Silver as well. Siena and Nadia again competed in the Classical Ballet division with Nadia receiving an Honorable Mention. Khalif Morgan, competed in the solo Contemporary Dance division.

Less than a week after winning 3rd place at the Youth American Grand Prix competition, the Dance Academy was invited to compete in the New York Finals of the Youth American Grand Prix. Our Level 4 students quickly committed to raising the $13,000 needed to make the trip to New York happen. It was a chance of a lifetime the students did not want to miss.

In less than a month, the Level 4 dancers were boarding a flight to New York for the finals. In addition to competing in the finals, the dancers also toured SUNY Purchase, took master classes at YAGP, and went into New York City for classes with the Alvin Ailey School and Broadway Dance Center. It was a wonderful experience and we owe a huge thank you to our Dance families, CHAMPS community and amazing teachers who helped make the trip possible. The Dance Academy was able to cover the entire trip via fundraising and parent donations.
FAREWELL CLASS OF 2018

Congratulations to our Dance Academy 2018 graduates! Our dancers are going places, here is the list of where you will find them making their mark next year!

Corinne Batchkoff - University of the Arts
Ayanna Berg - Dominican University
Pakela Gomes - LA Valley College
Damaris Gonzalez - LA Valley College
Lexi Gunn - Loyola Marymount University
Brianna Gutierrez - University of the Arts
Amanda LaCount - LA Valley College
Khalif Morgan - Alvin Ailey
Zoey Shockley - AMDA New York
Alejandra Vides - Grand Canyon University
Steven Wasserman - University of Virginia

1st Annual Beautification Day

Miss Mel, along with the Performing Arts Academy teachers, students and parents helped to organize our first ever beautification day! The turn out was overwhelming as we all gathered to make the performing arts space as vibrant as our student artists. Accent walls were painted in bright colors, lockers were cleaned, artwork was hung and the bulletin boards are ready for a year of activities, announcements and accolades. Student performance has been shown to improve when they have a great learning environment and our performing arts community made a beautiful environment.

A special thank you to Miss Mel for her vision, Roque Moscoso for his amazing support of our vision and the many people who pitched in to make even our water fountain shine like the top of the Chrysler Building. Now it's the students turn to treat the space well and keep it sparkling!

Summer Adventures in Dance

Each winter, our dancers audition and register for summer dance intensives across the country. This summer we had a record number of dancers who participated in summer dance programs. Below is a list of our dancers and where they danced this summer.

Seniors
Taylor Carlson - Tokyo the Academy
Siena Ciancia - Ballet West
Ari Pine - Hubbard Street
Charlotte Samuel - San Francisco Conservatory
Valerie Sanchez - Corn

Juniors
Natalia Royce - Joffrey Ballet West
Makayla Morris - ABT Florida

Sophomores
Nadia Bradfield - Ballet West
Jordan Priszmic - ABT Texas
Gabe Salazar - Choreographers Carnival
Hayley De Camara - Complexions
Anisa Walker - Masters of Hip Hop and Buildabeast

Freshman
Anabel Orino 9th-ABT

Aurelia Myers has been performing with Deaf West Company, in "Arrival and Departure". Zendaya Taylor will perform November 1st at the Skirball Center in "The Voices of the Unheard"
Upper level dancers kick off the year at SYTYD

On August 6th, our level 4 dancers had the opportunity to attend the rehearsal for So You Think You Can Dance live rounds. Dance Academy students were presented with a VIP opportunity along side the show choreographers. They got an early look at who the constetants were paired and their dances before the rest of the country found out. It was a rare look into what goes in to producing of a live dance show for television. The dancers eagerly cheered on their favorites!

After watching the rehearsal, students were given the opportunity to stay and be audience members for the live show. Our dancers were front and center in the "pit" and if you watched the live show you probably caught a glimpse of them.

It was a great way to get our dancers excited and ready for the beginning of the dance year!

Important Dates

August Guest Teacher - Hai Cohen
September Guest Teacher - Marisa Osato
September 13 - Back to School Night
September 18 - Rutgers University Master Class
September 30 - Spotlight Academy at the Music Center (Registration open NOW!)
Oct 1 - Students Begin Spotlight applications
Oct 6 - Level 3 & 4 Solo Shows 5pm & 7pm
Oct 15th - Deadline for Spotlight, Young Arts, Petite Oasis and Reflections
Oct 21 - Sherman Oaks Street Fair

Parent Support leads to a successful year

As we head back to school, let's take a moment to acknowledge all the accomplishments made possible by our supportive Dance Academy Families.

Without the support of our families, our trip to the YAGP Finals in New York would not have been possible. The Dance Academy parents organized our first ever Silent Auction, helped us sell Krispy Kreme Donuts before school and during lunch, and organized an all family yard sale. Our friends and families also supported the YAGP GoFundMe.

Our tireless parents (as well as Theatre and Music parents), staffed our concessions at the Collaborations show selling food, flowers, and dancer-grams. They helped get our flooring and props to the Theater, and helped to load in and load out for the show.

We were able to have our solo show videos and available to students for the first time ever thanks to a parent (and a digital media student) who donated his time, skill and equipment.

Throughout the year our parents donated for our wishlists, sponsored dancers for Pointe Shoe purchases and so much more.

The success of our program is due in part to the support we receive from Dance Academy families. So please, we encourage everyone to volunteer when we make the call. Your time is as valuable as donations.

Please consider donating from the Dance Academy "Wish List" on Amazon. And don't forget to use Amazon Smile when purchasing from the list. Search for our list on amazon under "CHAMPS Dance Academy" or click this link: http://a.co/dlb1e0K