
artLINKS

Volume 8, No. 3

June/July 2002

Arts integration and arts-in-education news for educators, artists, and parents



Photo © Eduardo Patino



Photo © Eduardo Patino

25 YEARS AND STILL ON THE MOVE – ARTS EDUCATOR JACQUES D’AMBOISE SHARES HIS METHODS WITH THE LEHIGH VALLEY

by Kathryn Williams Craft

For the past 25 years, award-winning arts educator Jacques d’Amboise has exposed more than a million children to the magic and discipline of dance through programs associated with his nonprofit, New York City–based National Dance Institute. By tracking its alumni, NDI knows that its programs have impacted these children’s lives. The Lehigh Valley Arts Council is thrilled to announce that d’Amboise, a true arts-in-education trailblazer, will come to the Lehigh Valley this fall to share his teaching methods on October 17, 18, and 19.

Dance aficionados will recognize his name. For more than 30 years, Jacques d’Amboise was a prin-

cipal dancer with the New York City Ballet. His mentor, Ballet Master George Balanchine, choreographed more works for d’Amboise than for any other dancer. Yet d’Amboise will not be here to teach the Valley’s dance teachers how to crank out professional dancers. His goals are broader: to help children develop discipline, standards of excellence, a curiosity about the world, and a belief in themselves that will carry over into all other aspects of their lives.

“I had been dancing for 30 years before I felt I knew the depth and scope of dance: its historical and cultural roots, its enriching and transforming aspects, its force as a preeminent tool for communi-

continued on p. 2

artLINKS is a newsletter of the Lehigh Valley Arts Council's Arts-in-Education Coalition. Article ideas and news about arts-in-education projects and opportunities are welcome.

Edited by Randall Forte
and Ann Simmons

©2002 This publication may be reproduced for educational purposes.

Our mission: To promote and support the role and value of the arts in education.

LVAC Executive Director:
Randall Forte

AIE Program Director:
Jan Mrozinski Crooker

LVAC Arts-in-Education Coalition Steering Committee:

Margaret Campbell
Lise Dubé
Donna Fritchey
Marilyn Hazelton
Priscilla Johnson
Dawn Ketterman-Benner
Diane Witman Koch
Jeannette MacDonald
Silvia Mandler
Rebecca Sapora-Day
Susan Allport Schneider



We need you! LVAC membership fees support this publication and other arts-in-education advocacy efforts.

For membership information:
Lehigh Valley Arts Council
1633 Allen Street
Allentown, PA 18102
phone: 610-437-5915
fax: 610-437-5916
e-mail: info@lvartscouncil.org
web: www.lvartscouncil.org



LVAC is supported in part by a grant from the PA Council on the Arts (a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of PA and the National Endowment for the Arts).

ation," d'Amboise has written. "NDI and its teachers know how to articulate and convey to children the scope and depth of dance. Our children learn these things as well as the skills needed to express them. In an environment that fosters excellence, our teachers guide the children in developing, honing, and performing these skills."

The three main aspects of the NDI dance curriculum address the structure of dance, how choreography creates meaning, and how dance uses the other arts to tell a story. NDI students from its participating schools perform together in a huge annual "Event of the Year." In May, inspired by all that had transpired in the wake of September 11, their performance celebrated "The Spirit of New York."

The Lehigh Valley Residency

This spring, in preparation for the yearly conference that aids area educators in their efforts to integrate the arts into their core curriculum, LVAC's Arts-in-Education Coalition invited Jacques d'Amboise to be a keynote speaker. He declined, saying, "If I come, I don't want to talk about it, I want to show people what I do." With that in mind, the Arts Council decided to sponsor d'Amboise in a residency, and, thus, our upcoming fall program was born: a series of workshops that will impact children, college students, classroom teachers, dance educators, and administrators.

The program will begin October 17 at Muhlenberg College, where d'Amboise will share his methods with dance and education majors from universities around the area. On Friday, October 18, educators and teaching artists are invited to join d'Amboise in action, participating in a workshop with 5th graders at Muhlenberg Elementary School in Allentown. On Saturday, October 19, he will teach a morning workshop for Allen High School's Academy of the Arts students and other community dancers at Trexler Middle School.

The residency will culminate in a public performance on Saturday afternoon at Trexler Middle School's auditorium. College students from the Thursday session at Muhlenberg College will perform a piece based on the elementary science curriculum; Muhlenberg Elementary fifth graders, as well as the teachers who attended the Friday session, will perform a dance about America that ties into social studies themes of exploration and colonialism; and the Allen High School and other area dancers will perform a work as well.

As they did at our other fall workshops, Lehigh Valley educators and administrators interested in pursuing artist residencies will be able to peruse displays and speak with some of our area's teaching artists on Saturday afternoon.

Learn from a Master

This residency offers several opportunities to study with the "Pied Piper of Dance," a man whose incredible depth of experience in arts education has been fueled by the same passion that saw him through a lengthy professional career.

Born Joseph Jacques Ahearn, d'Amboise grew up in the toughest section of New York City's Washington Heights. Young "Joey's" mother was determined to make sure Joey and his older siblings experienced the arts as a positive alternative to the street gangs to which Joey already belonged. Through his extraordinary talent and hard work, d'Amboise became one of the superstars of the New York City Ballet.

While still performing, d'Amboise founded the National Dance Institute with the humble goal of introducing his own sons to dance without their "feeling forced to take lessons." So he began by calling up his sons' school and asking for "a place, an hour, and perhaps a piano" and told his sons to invite some of their friends. From those first six hesitant boys, who were instructed to dress in "whatever you would wear to play ball," his unwavering belief that dance should be accessible to all children has motivated d'Amboise to build a program that now offers 32-week dance programs in 18 public elementary schools in New York City.

Over the years, the program has grown to include national and international residencies, special Saturday programs for children who wish to receive advanced dance instruction and additional performance opportunities, and a summer institute. NDI also develops curriculum guides for its classroom teachers to help them integrate the arts with traditional classroom subjects.

Mr. d'Amboise's efforts have won him numerous honorary doctorate degrees in the arts and the humanities, as well as the National Medal of Arts (1998) (America's highest national honor for cultural contribution), the Kennedy Center Honors (1995), a MacArthur Fellowship (1990), the Capezio Award (1990), and many more.

Never at a loss for energy or enthusiasm, d'Amboise has gone to considerable lengths to achieve his arts-in-education goals. Likening himself to Johnny Appleseed, in the year 2000, at the age of 65, d'Amboise set out to hike the length of the 2,160-mile Appalachian Trail, stopping along the way to teach dance in 14 states, including a stop in Bethlehem sponsored by the Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley. The massive undertaking was designed, through per-mile pledges, to raise seed money for an endowment fund to train more NDI teachers. Although he suffers from arthritis in his

knees, ankles, and feet, d'Amboise and his son George, himself a cancer survivor, completed the trek. "Hiking takes me down to life's absolute necessities," d'Amboise said at the time. "But we need food for the soul, and that comes through the arts."

Engaging Students with the Arts: It Works

When makers of the recent PBS documentary "Who's Dancin' Now?" (the sequel to the Academy Award-winning documentary "He Makes Me Feel Like Dancin'") tracked down NDI alums, they found a creative, hardworking group of people in a variety of careers who credit NDI with helping them to become more able to accept challenges and ready to work hard to achieve success.

Charlie Edel, NDI class of 1994, became a New York City high school teacher this year after graduating from Yale. "Much of what you learn at NDI has nothing to do with dance," Edel says. "You don't have to be the best dancer, or the best at whatever you're doing. If you have enthusiasm, it makes up for a lot. Throwing yourself into something and

just trying your hardest can take you far. At NDI, you learn how great you can be if you put your mind to it and the importance of perseverance and stick-to-itiveness. When I face challenges in teaching, I try to remember that."

How to Get Involved

LVAC can register up to 60 elementary and secondary school teachers for the type of residency d'Amboise will offer us here in the Valley. Over the course of three days, they will be able to observe him work with college students, as well as participate in the creation of an original dance piece with fifth graders. In cooperation with Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21, PA Act 48 credit-hours are available. Registration begins June 15, 2002, so we encourage you to save the dates and call the Lehigh Valley Arts Council office at 610-437-5915 to make the necessary arrangements. College students and community dancers will be selected by invitation only. The preliminary schedule and fee structure are listed in the table below.

artLINKS

Please continue to submit your arts-in-education news so that we may share it with our readers.

Issue	Deadline
8/02	7/5/02
10/02	9/5/02

Mail: LVAC
1633 Allen Street
Allentown, PA 18102

Phone: 610-437-5915

Fax: 610-437-5916

E-mail: info@lvartscouncil.org

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE AND FEES

Thursday, October 17, 2:30–8 p.m., Muhlenberg College, Trexler Pavilion: College students learn and rehearse "Particles Collide" dance.

Friday, October 18, 8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m., Muhlenberg Elementary School: Fifth graders, teachers, and teaching artists learn and rehearse "Coming to America" dance.

Friday, October 18, 6 p.m., Muhlenberg College: V.I.P. Dinner.

Saturday, October 19, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Trexler Middle School: Allen High School Academy students and community dancers learn and rehearse a dance; participants from all three days have a dress rehearsal for the public performance.

Saturday, October 19, 4–6 p.m., Trexler Middle School: Meet & greet with teaching artists; public performance of the three dances.

Note: Educators, teaching artists, college students, and community dancers who register for workshops must commit to rehearsing and participating in the public performance on Saturday, October 19.

FEES:

\$40/educators and teaching artists (includes Day 2 activities, refreshments, and two tickets to the public performance).

\$30/community dancers (includes Day 3 activities, refreshments, and two tickets to the public performance).

\$25/Lehigh Valley Arts Council members.

Tickets for the public performance only: \$5/general public; \$3/LVAC members.

opportunities • performances

Summer Arts Classes and Camps June, July, and August

The Lehigh Valley's arts organizations offer children a variety of cultural activities and summer classes and camps in the performing and visual arts. Visit LVAC's web site at www.lvartscouncil.org or call the organizations at their numbers given below.

Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley, 610-865-0353

Banana Factory, 610-332-1300

Baum School of Art, 610-433-0032

Civic Theatre of Allentown, 610-432-8943

Community Music School, 610-435-7725

Crayola Factory, 610-515-8000

DeSales Summer Theatre Institute, 610-282-1100

Historic Bethlehem Partnership, 610-882-0450

Moravian College Music Institute, 610-861-1650

Pennsylvania Playhouse, 610-871-4299

Pennsylvania Youth Theatre, 610-332-1400

Repertory Dance Theatre, 610-965-6216

Stage Door Workshop, 610-398-8557

T.A.P. (Teach All People), 610-253-7895

Main Street Theatre Children's Series June 1–August 24

The Main Street Theatre of Quakertown offers a different show every Saturday at 11 a.m. throughout the summer. Upcoming shows include *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*, *Peter and the Wolf*, *Cinderella*, *Aesop's Fables*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Muppets on Main Street*, and *Christmas in July*. \$5/person. 215-536-3545.

opportunities • performances . . . continued

- PA Shakespeare Festival
June 1–August 3** *Compl't Wks of Wm Shksp'r (abridged)*, June 4–30; *Hamlet*, June 11–30; *Henry V*, July 9–August 3; and *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, July 16–August 3. Performances run Tuesday–Sunday; call for times. \$21–\$35. *The Green Show* is presented outdoors before the evening performances. “Take an Adult to the Theater” allows one student ticket to admit both the student and an adult companion to Wednesday and Saturday matinees. The children’s show, *The Emperor’s New Clothes*, runs June 1–August 3, Tuesday–Saturday, 10 a.m.; \$7. The festival takes place at DeSales University, Labuda Center for the Performing Arts, Center Valley. 610-282-3192.
-
- Muhlenberg Summer
Music Theatre
June 12–August 11** *Once Upon a Time in New Jersey*, June 12–30; *Damn Yankees*, July 10–August 4; *Dames at Sea*, July 24–August 11. Performances run Tuesday–Sunday; call for times. \$10–\$28. “Sunday Family Nights” offers one free youth ticket for each adult/senior ticket to the 8 p.m. show. Musical theatre for children: *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* runs June 26–August 3, Wednesday–Friday, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.; \$7. Muhlenberg College, Trexler Pavilion for Theatre & Dance and Baker Center for the Arts, Allentown. 484-664-3333.
-
- Crayola Dream-Makers
Institute K–6
June 23–28** Kutztown University sponsors a six-day institute designed for elementary (K–6) art and classroom teachers and curriculum supervisors. The course is based on the Crayola Dream-Makers program guide “Weaving What We Are.” Lectures, seminars, museum visits, group discussions, and individual consultations meet Sunday, 3–8 p.m., and Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Call for more information. 610-683-4520.
-
- Emerging Masters Recital
Series, July 7, 21, and 28** The Allentown Art Museum presents musical performances by promising young musicians of the Valley. The series is coordinated by George Boyer and takes place on Sundays from 2 to 3 p.m. Free. 610-432-4333.
-
- Arts Integration for
Classroom Teachers
July 8–19** LVAC offers a two-week course for classroom teachers and professional artists, which focuses on developing new curricula based on arts integration principles, multiple intelligence theory, and state standards. The class is held Monday through Friday, 12:30–4:30 p.m., at Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21. Participants may register for PA Act 48 credit. Registration deadline July 1. 610-437-5915.
-
- storyvision
July 14, 21, 28; August 4** Theatre Outlet’s actors perform fanciful, fantastic, and utterly magical stories on Sundays from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Allentown Art Museum. Free. 610-432-4333, ext. 32.
-
- The Velveteen Rabbit
July 18–August 3** Pennsylvania Playhouse enacts the timeless tale of the love between the Velveteen Rabbit and his one special boy, based on Margery Williams’s book, at the Playhouse on Illicks Mill Road, Bethlehem. Performances are given Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 11 a.m. \$13–\$15. 610-865-6665.
-
- City Arts: Allentown
Cultural Camp for Kids
August 19–23** Cultural day-camp for ages 8–12 inspires a lasting appreciation for the arts by exploring a full spectrum of arts experiences with professional artists and educators. Sponsored by a partnership of the Allentown Art Museum, Allentown Symphony, Baum School of Art, Community Music School, Repertory Dance Theatre, and Theatre Outlet, the camp’s theme for 2002 is “Stars and Stripes in the City.” Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. \$195/child. Enrollment is limited to 40 students. 610-432-4333, ext. 32.
-
- Aesop & Company
July and August** The Touchstone Theatre tours the parks and playgrounds of the Lehigh Valley with its “Summer Street Theatre.” Call 610-867-1689 for information on how to include the production in your summer program.
-