

California Dance Educators Association

A member of CAAE (California Alliance for Arts Education), CDEA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of dance as an art form at all public and private levels of education.



DANCE REPERTORY/San Francisco's VISION Series 2001

*"We all search within to find our vision.
Dreams do become reality. Let us celebrate."*

DANCE REPERTORY/San Francisco (dRepSF) presented their third annual VISION Series at San Francisco's Cowell Theater on February 3, 4, and 10, 2001. Lectures were presented in partnership with Dance Magazine by a diverse panel of educators who informed students about related career opportunities: becoming a professional dancer, developing a dance company, etc. Silent auctions raised over \$3,000 for scholarships for participating choreographers.

Conceived and produced by Executive/Artistic Director Donnette Heath, its mission is to provide educational and professional performance opportunities to an innovative cross-section of dance artists from the Greater Bay Area. It develops the diverse visions of many ages and levels of choreographers, regardless of individual experience or expertise. The education festival expands knowledge, offers support, cultivates artistic exchange and increases the exposure of modern dance as an art form to the general public.

Participants are aspiring high school dance artists, academic instructors and emerging professional choreographers. Working side by side, both the emerging companies and other professional dance educators serve as mentors to the students, providing valuable artistic, technical and performance guidance. Mentorship consultations began at the high schools in January and they expanded their abilities by participating and performing in the Festival. The emerging choreographers and companies also received feedback about their works and production values. "Buddy" Spirit Awards were given to increase the support of all participants.

Lauren Nelson of Sequoia High School says, *"What an experience... I am so honored to have been a part of it and in turn had it be such a part of me. Thank you for all the time and faith you invested in me and my peers, you have contributed to our development as individuals and our position in life."*

Elizabeth Ho of Crystal Springs Upland School states, *"...It was a wonderful, creative and inspirational experience. Once my mentor came to help me with my piece, I realized what a wealth of information and assistance the Vision Series was to my dance. I had such an amazing time because of the supportive atmosphere behind the curtain. I believe it is not just a workshop or show but a priceless learning experience."*

"I could be in school, shy, into my studies, but on stage I can experiment with my character, be something I'm not normally. Sometimes the character I play on stage leaks into my own life..." states Tracey Lopez of George Washington High School.

The Festival embraces the crisis of artists struggling to find

and maintain space to develop, refine and present their art. It presents developing works in a professional setting external to the institutional system and small performance venues. VISION Series creator Ms. Heath states, *"We must continue to educate the youth of today and expose them to all art forms. Soon artists of every nature may have nowhere to go and this generation must fight for the arts and its value to us as human beings. We cannot survive alone, and must come together now more than ever. With this experience, a new belief system can be developed about ourselves to help further the arts."*

Since 1999, VISION Series has provided opportunities to over 125 choreographers and 515 performers from 13 Bay Area High Schools and over 30 emerging companies. Over 40 professional educators and Dance Magazine have graciously given their time, experience and expertise to the advancement of all participants.

Everyone's devotion and energy has given it life.

dRepSF is currently developing VISION Series 2002 for March of next year at the Cowell Theater. If you are interested in assisting, learning more about or participating in the VISION Series or other dRepSF activities, please call Donnette Heath at (510) 652-0101

or visit www.dancerepertory.com

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