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“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., Texas

San Francisco Youth Arts Festival  
*Performing Arts Award 2001*

Zellerbach Family Foundation  
Grant 2001-2002, 2004-2007

Fort Mason Foundation  
Grant Recipient  
2000-2002, 2004-2007

**Vision Series Mission:**

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 education 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.

**Our History:**

Since 1999, it has provided opportunities to over 525 choreographers and 1,950 performers from 35 California high schools, youth programs and dance studios and 62 professional emerging companies and college dance programs. Over 67 professional educators, master teachers, Dance Magazine and California Dance Education Association have graciously given their time, energy and expertise to the advancement of all participants. This project has also provided exposure for these artists to over 6,500 audience members. Over \$6,000 in scholarships have been developed and distributed to participating choreographers and/or participating programs as support for expansion of artistic careers and program enhancement. In addition, Vision Series Fundraiser Workshops have given professional technical training to over 1,500 high school students. Lastly, visual art exhibits were presented by The International Children’s Art Museum and a portion of ticket sales were donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation and the Shanti Aids Project.

**From the Founder:**

The Vision Series was initially designed to provide professional performance opportunities for choreographers of various backgrounds and expertise. The idea stemmed from a Teen program that I was directing in Salt Lake City, Utah in conjunction with Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company. I wanted the students who were volunteering to assist this company to gain more knowledge and exposure to dance by creating something themselves, performing, and gaining feedback from professionals. The goal was to help them gain self-confidence, inspire them to create from a place deep inside of themselves and to feel accepted and supported by their peers and professionals in the field.

After I founded dRep, my experiences in Salt Lake City gave birth to the Vision Series. Because of my own experiences in dance that were so competitive and demanding, I wanted a place for dance artists and performers to give of themselves and feel they are embraced and supported as they grow. Dancers can be harsh on each other, and especially on themselves when showing their work or performing. I believe artists thrive best when they are accepted and recognized and the Vision Series was created to give them this platform. They may just be starting, or have been creating and performing for years, but this festival is a chance to blend these masses and embrace each other as we struggle toward artistic success. Professional Mentors that are respected and established artists in the field enhance the participant’s abilities and give them the loving guidance they might not have received otherwise.

This project was not created to present incredible dancers doing incredible work. Everyone has their own ideas about what is good, rather, the goal of the Vision Series is to bring forth a way for various dance artists, both young and seasoned, to be presented to the general public and gain more exposure. The idea behind this festival is to celebrate the diversity of dance and support one another as we develop and mature into professional artists. Students involved in the festival gain a deeper perspective into what it takes to be a professional dancer and choreographer. We are creating a non-competitive, non-judgmental environment based on acceptance for where we are now. It is open, loving and supportive at the most vulnerable and vital place for artists – on the stage. Expertise is a result of experience, and everyone deserves a chance to be seen.