

“It’s All Good” Valuing process over product... Rachel Howard, *Dance Magazine Studio Talk*, June 2005

George Washington High School students and Mentor Deborah Slater are participants in the Vision Series, a program that is simple in structure and infectious in spirit. “Seeing the high school kids reminds me why I do what I do,” says Slater. Nina Mayer says the Vision Series inspired one of her former dancers to pursue a full-time career, though all the students benefit from sharing the stage with professionals. “This project has allowed us to expand their idea of what modern dance can be. This is different than any competitions, they learn more at the Vision Series.” says Director Nina Mayer. Heath believes that at this stage many artists benefit more from “loving suggestions” than “harsh criticism.” What matters is that you’re going to learn and you’re going to get better. I want this show to be a big embrace.” says Heath, the Vision Series Creator.

“Vision Series 2004” Joanna Harris, *Voice of Dance*, March 2004

“We need more such programs to prove to educators, politicians and the public that dance and the arts make for strong people and great performers.”

Performing Arts Award 2001 by the San Francisco Youth Arts Festival for *Vision Series 2001*

“High School dancers get a feel for professional performance...” Janet Cohen, *Dance Magazine Press Time News*, May 2001

Several dancers are now planning dance careers. But to Donnette Heath, creator of the series, that is just the icing on the cake...”There are so many lessons dance can teach,” says Heath. To bring the experience to as many students as possible, she designed the *Vision Series* to support and celebrate dancers at all technical levels...”It’s a very supportive environment, the kids learn about the business, but also how to help each other. Vision Series dancers may go on to become scientists, bank clerks, or teachers,” says Heath, “but hopefully the experience will turn them into lifelong dance fans and leave them with happy memories. Most of all,” says Heath, “I hope they walk out of the theater feeling great about themselves. They should all feel as tall as the Empire State Building...”

“Young Performers get big chance with Vision Series...” Rachel Howard, *San Francisco Examiner*, February 1, 2001

“We can be so paranoid about showing our work, especially these kids,” says Heath. “They’re in a vulnerable state, and so are the young professional artists, who move to San Francisco because they want to become something big. This is about the performance opportunity, the time on stage. The performers are going to walk away from this feeling validated, feeling positive...”

‘Vision’ Inspires Teen Dancers... Tori Minton, *San Francisco Chronicle*, February 2001, “Students Find Stories in Dance...”

“It is that kind of intimate communication that Heath, executive/artistic director of Dance Repertory/San Francisco, wants to encourage in young modern dancers and their audiences through her Vision Series...The program is meant to educate and give exposure to the artists, and to introduce audiences to a commonly misunderstood art form... Heath says dance helped her find her identity. “It might help them discover something new about themselves, and accept who they are,”

From High School Students - Lauren Nelson, *Vision Series 1999-2001*

“Wow, what an experience! Thank you for all the time and faith you have invested in my peers and me. You have contributed to our development as individuals and our position in life. I don’t know how you do it, how you bring so much life to your movement and still have enough energy to devote to us and this cause.”

Elizabeth Ho, Crystal Springs Upland School, Vision Series 2001

“Never before had I ever had such a positive and professional dance experience. I had such an amazing time because of the supportive atmosphere behind the curtain, as well as the excitement and passion exuded by the other choreographers and dancers. I believe the Vision Series not to be just a workshop or show, but a priceless learning experience.”

From Educators in the Field - Gary Masters, *Jose Limon Dance Foundation of San Jose, Vision Educator/Mentor*

“... In this ever developing and changing technology, the opportunity to see aspiring dancers and choreographers express their hopes, dreams, fears and fantasies through the language of the Dance is indeed a time for joy and hope for the future. Not enough can be done to endow the youth of our world with the understanding of the amazing possibilities that life has to offer, especially those which can feed the spirit and inspire the soul. Whether many or few who participated in this exchange will continue with Dance and make it their life is not important. They have enriched and endowed by the experience of Vision Series...”

From Professional Emerging Companies in the Field - Emma Lou Huckabay, *Huckabay McAllister Dance, Vision Series 2000-2002*

“...the Vision Series is one of the most energizing events I have encountered. I am convinced this event will become an integral part of the San Francisco Bay Area dance scene. In doing so, the opportunities for dance audiences to see some engaging work, for seasoned and emerging choreographers to expose their work to new audiences, and for young dancers and choreographers to gain some unique insights will have the overall result of expanding the exposure of modern dance as an art form, inspiring young imaginations, and providing growth to all who participate.”

From High School Directors in the Field - Lauren Manduke, *Past Director, Sequoia High School*

“... both myself and my students were able to grow artistically and expand knowledge through this valuable and unique endeavor. It expanded community support, integrated many levels of performers and choreographers and allowed my students to use their imaginations in ways they never thought possible. Most of all, they felt their messages were being acknowledged and applauded, regardless of expertise.”