

2012 Arts Festival Dance Program

In the Fall 2011, the Arts Council's subcommittee for Arts Festival Programming examined the Arts Festival's program from many angles and determined that some improvements needed to be made to the quality of the artistic output in some categories – and in particular, where artists are not faculty or professionally-led. As a result, the committee members resolved to look for opportunities to introduce professional mentors into the festival preparation process for some student groups. In addition, registration and audition standards will be raised so that the quality of the festival's programming becomes more even.

This will affect dance groups in three ways:

1. The Arts Council will sponsor 1 dance workshop led by faculty and/or alumni dance professionals in April. These workshops will focus on dance artistry for both traditional and cultural dance forms, as well as concept development and choreography. Choreographers from all groups will be required to attend at least one of the workshops.
2. The audition process will be somewhat more rigorous this year, with a panel of dance professionals (faculty and alumni) providing feedback that we expect will be incorporated into the routines (the auditions are three weeks before the festival). Furthermore, for groups that audition several pieces, the committee may be more selective on the number of pieces that are included in the Festival Showcases.
3. The performance showcases will be organized a bit differently this year. The "Critics Choice" showcase will present pieces selected by the audition committee as achieving the highest level of quality – all forms of dance are eligible for this showcase. The "Dance Showcase" will feature pieces from all groups, with emphasis on the cultural context of the art form which will be presented by the emcee. This showcase will most closely resemble the festival showcases from past years, but with an emphasis on educating the audience about the form of dance – whether it is ballet, swing, Irish, Hawaiian, or Japanese, for example.
4. In addition, in an effort to provide artistic inspiration and role models, the Arts Festival will include a program of professional dance, with works choreographed and/or performed by faculty, and performances from professional faculty and alumni dancers.

The various dance showcases will be presented throughout the three days of the festival. The professional dance program will likely be presented just once, however, the "Critics Choice" and "Dance Showcase" programs can be repeated or selections changed from day to day, depending upon the pieces selected by the groups, and then by the audition committee.

2012 Arts Festival Dance Schedule

Monday, April 9 th		Dance Signups Begin
Sunday, April 1 st	Time TBA	Dance Master Class
Saturday, April 14 th	2:00-6:00pm.	Dance Auditions in Brighton Dance Studio
Sunday April 15 th	2:00-6:00pm.	Dance Auditions in Brighton Dance Studio
Thursday, April 26 th	1:15-2:00pm.	Arts Festival Dance Showcase
	3:30-4:15pm	Arts Festival Dance Showcase
Friday, April 27 th	12:45-1:30pm	Arts Festival Dance Showcase
	3:15-4:00pm	Arts Festival Critics Choice
Saturday, April 28 th	1:45-2:30pm	Arts Festival Dance Showcase
	4:00-5:00pm	Arts Festival Dance Showcase

Dancing with bOp!

Groups participating in this program will have to show their pieces to the audition committee during the festival auditions. (These pieces can be auditioned using an audio recording.) The groups will be required to incorporate feedback from the professional committee so as to enhance the quality of the performance. Groups will have the opportunity to meet with the Festival Dance Coordinator in advance to review their pieces and prepare for the auditions. Because the public pays for tickets for this performance, and because it takes place more in a "concert" style atmosphere rather than during the afternoon festival, the groups must present performances of the highest level of quality.