

Dance Briefings

a publication of the Minnesota Center for Arts Education, David O'Fallon, Executive Director/Pamela Paulson, Director Resource Programs

Volume 1 No. 1

February 1997

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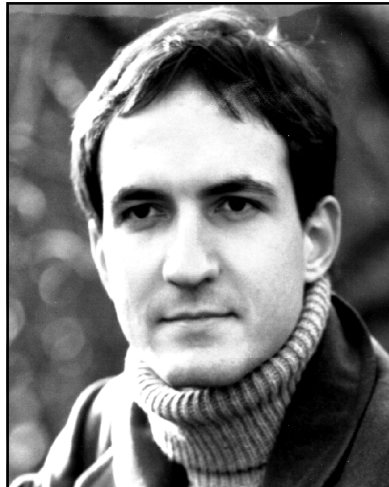
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Thanks to all those who attended the November 15 Dance Education Initiative workshop at the Minnesota Center for Arts Education. It was a remarkable and diverse gathering of teachers from past Dance Ed sites and our current schools. [Focusing on building connections in the curriculum and the community the day's first presentation was by Dance Ed veterans Mary Mickolajak and Mary Jo Swanson from Two Harbors.] They shared their exploration into Clog Dancing and Square Dancing and the community resources that support their endeavor which include a local clog dance authority and inventor, and a Professional Opportunity Program grant to support Mary Jo Swanson teaching and learning in Russia. Thanks Mary and Mary Jo!

Dance Ed Instructor Cindy Stevens led Adapta-a-dance, a dance exploration into cultural adaptations and evolution through choreographic theme and variation. Dance Ed teachers were asked to take the theme Cindy introduced back to their classrooms and they generate their own cultural variations. At the March 14 workshop we will share the results of our cultural adaptations.

DEI teachers from across the state participated with Arts High School math and dance students in an interdisciplinary lesson on Fractal Geometry conducted by Mary Harding and Maryann Dorsey. Dance Ed Instructors also introduced four lessons related to four High Standards of Learning in Language Arts Standards.

Showcasing resources available through the Learning Resource Center, Dance Ed instructors recapped Mary Kay Conway's "Wolf Behavior" lesson and Sam Costa and Elena White's "History of Modern Dance" lesson.



Byron Richard, Dance Resource Coordinator

Call me for copies of any of these lessons at (612) 591-4775, toll free (800) 657-3515, TDD: (612) 591-4770.

This October the MCAE hosted the National Dance Association "Focus on Dance Education Conference 1996". Eleven Metro area schools hosted site visits for visiting conference participants and eight schools and young people's dance organizations presented works on the Young Peoples' Dance Concert. Response from the visiting educators praised the quality and variety of dance in the schools they visited. Many of the participating schools were current and former Dance Education Initiative sites. Hosting site visits were: Apple Valley High School, Barton Open Elementary School, Downtown Open School, Expo for Excellence Elementary School, Minnesota Center for Arts Education, North High School, O.H. Anderson Elementary School, Sheridan Global Arts and Communications School, Tanglen Elementary School, University of Minnesota Dance Program, and Webster Open School.

As a result of the national exposure given by this conference to dance in Minnesota schools, a team of dance educators from the MCAE including Sam Costa, Mary Kay Conway, Byron Richard, Cindy Stevens, Elena White and Mary Harding, has been invited to work with k-12 dance teachers from all five burroughs of New York City at a conference in January hosted by the United Federation of Teachers and City Center.

The **Dance Education Initiative** has selected 8 new schools to begin the program in 1997. They include: Westbrook/Walnut Grove Public School, Eisenhower Elementary School, Newport & Royal Oaks, Richmond Elementary, Nisswa Elementary School, Language Immersion Program, Southwest High School and Otsego. After a series of 7 regional workshops designed to lead interested schools through the application process, 18 schools submitted applications before the November 15 deadline. Applications will be offered again in 1999.

The revised edition of the **Directory of Dance Educators in Minnesota** is now available. Copies of the directory are being mailed to listed educators and are available at the MCAE for \$13. Please make out your check to the MCAE and send it with your request for the directory to: Marla Riemer, Minnesota Center for Arts Education, 6125 Olson Memorial Highway, Golden Valley, MN 55422. Finally, browse our webpage to learn more about "what's happening" at MCAE. www.mcae.k12.mn.us

Of interest: Dance for Health is a community service fund-raising event to promote dance and improved physical activity and health. For an application call me at (612) 591-4775, toll free (800) 657-3515, TDD: (612) 591-4770.

Also of interest: Target Stores' Treatseats program has low cost tickets to selected cultural events. Call 1-800-481-7328 for information on upcoming events. They list the touring dance event "Stomp" in February.

MCAE's Professional Opportunity Program (POP) is designed to promote contributions of Minnesota educators and artists to produce new knowledge which improves teaching and learning in the arts. Grants for individuals up to \$1200 and team grants up to \$2500 are available. These grants can be used to support individuals or teams of educators, artists, or artists and educators working together in elementary and/or secondary education. The program encourages research in dance, literary arts, media arts, music, theater and visual arts, as well as interdisciplinary approaches. POP applicants are also encouraged to consider topics which shed light on diverse cultural approaches to learning in the arts and how the arts contribute to the students' development of social identity. Contact Marla Riemer at (612) 951-4744 or (800) 657-3515 for POP guidelines and application materials.

Frameworks for Arts Curriculum Strategies (FACS) Teams of writers in each of the six arts areas produced content standards which support the Minnesota Graduation Standards by serving as guides to curriculum development. A matrix, aligning the FACS Standards to the Graduation Standards has been prepared. A video tape, introducing the FACS Standards to teachers is nearing completion. The three FACS Pilot sites (Fosston,

Minneapolis, and Moorehead) are finishing work on their final reports which include a reflection on their processes of implementing the FACS Standards and some of the curriculum materials they produced.

The final FACS publication is due out the first of the year. It will include the standards, matrix, curriculum examples, video and a wall chart. Contact Marla Riemer at (612) 591-4744 or (800) 657-3515 for more information.

Magnets and Professional Development Magnet Arts Schools, roughly nine throughout the state, are supporting regional bases of professional development. Each Magnet will develop the capacity to support arts education practitioners learning from each other on topics of critical importance. Each Magnet school will receive independent funding in addition to program-wide funding support of regionally initiated professional development plans.

New programs at the MCAE are the Minnesota Arts & Education Partnership (MAEP) and the Partners, Arts and Schools for Students (PASS) program. MAEP funds school, business and community partnerships for seven years. 11 partnerships were selected for funding this fall. Four of the partnerships include dance arts organizations, including: 10,000 Dances, Ballet Arts Minnesota, El Arco Iris, Dance Educators Coalition, and Young Dance. The eleven partnerships are beginning the planning year phase of their grants. For more information contact Martha Carey McCudden, Director, at (612) 293-9254. As

PASS moves to the MCAE it will pursue two goals. First, it will create assessment tools that can be incorporated into interdisciplinary arts learning. Second, it will seek to introduce the PASS model of arts in education to schools throughout Minnesota. PASS recently held a two-day workshop to 30 participants in northern Minnesota to plan classes in 10 different schools. For more information contact George Sand at (612) 627-2165.

MOVEMENT IMPROVISATION FOR TEACHERS AND MOVEMENT LOVERS

Many teachers have expressed an interest in getting together on a regular basis to dance, reconnect with other teachers, dance, create and explore structures for movement, dance, work out topics and progressions for classes, dance . . . you get the idea. I am happy to facilitate the sessions, and I invite the group members to bring in their movement gems for us to experience. (One session we'll have a dance accompanist and dance, dance, dance to the music.) January 18, February 15, March 22, April 19 and May 17 from 1:30 - 3:30 Mary Kay Conway will facilitate a class at Center for Performing Arts, 3754 Pleasant Avenue, Minneapolis (between Nicollet and Lyndale at 38th). For Information and Registration call (612) 690-4837. Sponsored by Dance Educator's Coalition with assistance from the Dance Education Initiative of the Minnesota Center for Arts Education.

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