

NEWSLETTER

DANCE CORNER



The American College Dance Festival Association holds regional annual conferences to support the role of dance in higher education. This year, the central conference was held at Hendrix College in Conway. Students and Faculty from various campuses in Missouri, Texas, Arkansas, Illinois, Oklahoma, Arizona, Colorado, and Kansas participated in the festival. Dance students from UALR made their debut at the festival and represented

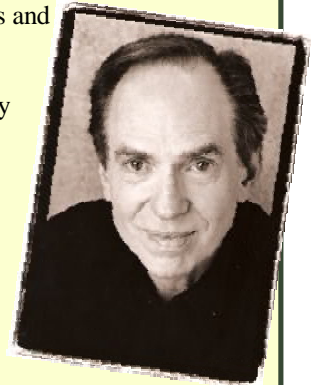
the up and coming dance program. ACDF is an excellent opportunity for students and teachers to share and expand their knowledge of dance. Students and faculty are encouraged to display their choreography at the adjudication concerts. The adjudication feedback sessions are constructive and encourage choreographic growth. The four-day event allots dancers two to four master classes per day. There is a large selection of classes to choose from. There are ballet, jazz, tap, and hip-hop classes offered, as well as a broad spectrum of modern dance techniques. ACDF exposes students to different cultures as well as dance styles in classes such as Afro-Cuban and Chinese dance. Some classes challenge dancers to explore dance rather unconventionally, such as Water Ballet Barre, which uses the resistance of water to build strength. The performances each night are very exciting as they display many valuable choreographic and artistic ideas and methods. On the last night of the festival, a reception is held which allows the students to relax, eat, mingle, and do what they do best—dance! Perhaps the most fulfilling aspect of ACDF is the opportunity to meet dancers, teachers, and choreographers from other cities and states who all share the common love for dance.



Article Written By: Allison Stephens, UALR Dance Student '09

It's the Straight Goods

The buzz is very much “dance” these days as we get closer to the opening of the gala spring dance concert on April 16! Early rehearsals and showings promise an exciting event featuring a company of close to thirty dancers in six pieces choreographed by our resident and guest artists, as well as an appearance by the Arkansas Festival Ballet.



Dr. JAY RAPHAEL

Department Chair

All told, we are expecting a rousing close to the 08-09 production season.

I also want to call your attention to the auditions on May 9 for the production of Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night which will open our season next year. The show will be created in partnership with the Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre and will feature a cast of our students, our faculty and local professional actors. Don’t miss this opportunity! Stop by and I’ll give you more information and instructions on preparing for the auditions.

UALR Theatre Arts and Dance Newsletter Staff

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Twelfth Night, or What You Will Audition Announcement



Auditions for *Twelfth Night, or What You Will*

In the Fall, the Department of Theatre will partner with the Arkansas Shakespeare Festival to produce William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* on the UT stage. We are hoping to put together a cast of UALR students, faculty and staff, and local professionals.

Auditions for current students will be held on the weekend of May 9-- **by appointment**. *If you are interested, please see Jay Raphael for more information and to get an audition appointment.* Soon after Spring break the department will provide a character breakdown, audition sides, and audition information.

This is a wonderful and fun opportunity for all of us to do one of Shakespeare's best comedies. Moreover, it will offer our students an opportunity to work with a broad variety of talented performers.