

# Masterpiece Dance Theatre



Dear Principal

School age children who are interested in the performance arts -- especially dance and allied arts -- face significant challenges in obtaining quality dance training and performance experience. Despite the current interest in dance as seen in the many TV shows and movies that feature dance performance, opportunities to develop the widespread interest in dance among youth, into the level of skill necessary to perform safely and well throughout their lives are scarce, particularly in the LA area.

We have a program that supports dance students through their elementary and high school training and continues to support them as they develop their performance skills during their college years. The program is especially valuable as an adjunct to students' physical education providing enrichment and context for their physical development beyond sports and athletics.

We have been developing our Conservatory of Dance and the Allied Arts here in Los Angeles during the past 10 years as a key part of our dance and performance company, Masterpiece Dance Theatre (MDT). During this time, we have developed a learning program based on the Vaganova Method curriculum.

***A key benefit of the Vaganova Method is a reduction in the risk of injury the student is likely to experience during either training or performing. This proven strength of the Vaganova method will benefit students in all aspects of their physical development.***

The Vaganova method and other dance forms we practice provide benefits of both a spiritual nature due to the "work ethic" embodied in the training as well as practical benefits that derive from the physical conditioning and injury prevention outcomes of the training.

Our dance school is unique in that it is the only school in N. America to have a ballet curriculum officially endorsed by the Vaganova Ballet Academy and the Russian Ministry of Culture to teach the nine levels of the Vaganova Ballet Curriculum as taught in the great ballet schools of St. Petersburg. This dance curriculum produced dance performers like Mikhail Baryshnikov, Rudolf Nureyev and Marina Semyonova and continues to produce great dancers today such as: Igor Zelensky, Farouk Ruzimatov, Svetlana Zakharova, and Diana Vishneva (all of who have performed in one or more American dance companies). Russian emigré dancers who trained in St. Petersburg and Moscow, developed early 19th Century American ballet training methods. Their influence led directly to the development of many great American, Canadian, Latin American and European dance performers including Alicia Alonso, Alicia Markova (Alice Marks), Dame Margot Fonteyn, Sylvie Guillem, Fernando Bujones, Karen Kain, Frank Augustyn, Lucia Chase, Rasta Thomas, Cynthia Gregory, Gelsey Kirkland and many more.

We have taught several hundred students from the greater Los Angeles area using our methods. A great many have managed to remain high academic achievers throughout their high school years and into their college years without having to sacrifice their academic or physical education standards for a quality dance education.

The goal of our Conservatory Dance Program is to provide a superb pre-professional dance program comprised of a Vaganova-based ballet and allied arts curriculum, which complements and is

academically compatible with institutes of higher learning. Our program allows students to continue and broaden their interest in the performing arts without sacrificing academic standards while building on previous physical education training.

We have begun offering our conservatory dance classes at the American Jewish University. Students may now enroll in our regular or accelerated program on completion of a preliminary placement audition. Young children may start as early as seven years of age and up. Students 14 years and older benefit from our Accelerated Program; these students will be able to continue their program of study with us through the end of high school and into whatever college or tertiary program they choose to enter. On-line programs will support continuing education and training when time or geography prevents regular class attendance. By the end of their college or university years, these students will have the skills and knowledge that will allow them to pursue a career that includes the performance arts or to apply performance art skills at a professional level in their career of choice.

Our programs are offered at the America Jewish University in a professional dance studio/school environment with a correctly sprung dance floor, professional ballet barres -- set at the correct height and mirrors, creating the perfect atmosphere and environment for learning the art of dance.

Because we are now providing classes very close to your school, we can offer your students a unique opportunity to develop their skills in dance and the allied arts while meeting many of the Visual and Performing Arts standards for California Public Schools.

We believe a partnership would benefit both our schools.

We believe we can compliment your student's academic and physical education objectives with an inherent appreciation for the arts and the cultural traditions, which accompany the study of the Arts. We would like to foster their interest and help them to fulfill their dreams whatever they may be in the pursuit of a performing arts career or simply to carry an appreciation and love of the arts throughout their lives.

Participating students will have opportunities to appear during our seasonal performances, live on-stage at the Gindi Auditorium. We are also willing to assist in your school theatrical productions to help you, your staff and students achieve truly professional performance results.

Let us know if you would like to work with us to customize a program for your school.

Sincerely,

Nadya & Golden Koscuik