

corner while I taught; I'd just incorporate them into whatever I was doing. I remember a student once asked why I put a particular kick into a routine, and it was because I had to keep stepping over a Tonka truck while I was choreographing. But my two daughters helped out and both taught when they were older.

DT: Is there anything that you know now that you wish you'd known earlier on in your career?

BWF: I remember when I first began teaching, I'd sometimes put a very shy student in the front row and then they'd drop out. I wish I had known more about human nature and people's capacity for what they can handle—that took a while.

DT: Do you have any more advice to share with other dance teachers?

BWF: You have to remain excited about dance and not think of it as just a job. And you should really encourage your students and let them lead you. I once showed my boys' tap class a barrel turn and said, "When you're older, you'll be able to do this." Well, they all went off on their own and started trying it, saying, "Look at me, look at me!" It's all about listening to your students.

DT: How did you feel about handing over the business you created?

BWF: A former student of mine named Dancette Pratts, who started dancing with me at age 4, is now running my studio (currently called Inspirational Dance). She has danced professionally and always wanted to own a studio, and now she's there. And that's the greatest reward we can have as teachers, when our students become teachers. It's like passing the baton. **DT**

Fiona Kirk is a freelance journalist based in New York City.



SummerDance alumna Michelle Perosi assisting a student

New Jersey SummerDance 2009 Program

BY LEE ERICA ELDER

The New Jersey SummerDance 2009 program is more than just a workshop—it's a dance education revival for teachers and students seeking inspiration.

Begun in the early 1990s, the weeklong interactive event, hosted by the Union, NJ-based Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company, provides master classes in modern and cultural dance technique, repertory and composition, while exploring other dance-related topics, like film and dance criticism. Its challenging class setting draws from the CDDC repertory, with an emphasis on center-driven movement, weight transfer, breath phrasing, musicality and strong technique. This year featured guest artists will teach master classes/workshops, including "Choreography for the Camera I and II" (Susannah Newman), "Folk Dance of the Philippines" (Mica Bernas) and "The Dancing Life" (Carolyn Dorfman and Company).

The program culminates in a community-wide company and participant performance—a marriage of the learning and integration that is a trademark of Dorfman's teaching aesthetic. "The artist training focuses on three levels: the instrument; the thinking, feeling, creative human being; and the ensemble—dancing as part of a community," she says. SummerDance alumna Michelle Perosi, of the Union County Vocational Technical School Academy for Performing Arts, calls the workshop "challenging, inspirational, intimate and resourceful," and credits Dorfman with "opening my heart, mind and body to absorb whatever more you have to provide!" **DT**

PROGRAM STATISTICS

Prospective participants:

Intergenerational program open to students and teachers seeking dance immersion and professional development

Date/time: August 17–21, 2009; Monday–Friday, 9:30 am–4:30 pm

Location: Kean University, (D'Angola Building), 1000 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey 07083

Registration: \$325, includes all classes, materials and a CDDC T-shirt. (Lunch is not provided.) CDDC will award a limited number of scholarships to participants, based

on financial need, to cover tuition and transportation.

Director/founder: Artistic Director Carolyn Dorfman founded her company, CDCC, in 1982. She holds a BFA in dance from the University of Michigan, with certification to teach K–12, and an MFA degree from New York University's Tisch School for the Arts, respectively. She leads residencies on professional development and master classes at major universities nationwide. Dorfman has received five choreography fellowships from the New Jersey State

Council on the Arts and won the Jewish Women in the Arts Award for Dance in 2004.

Fun fact: SummerDance participants with a love of the camera, sewing machine or director's chair can explore their behind-the-scenes dreams through "The Making of Art"—a workshop where experienced composers, costume and lighting designers and stage managers will discuss the art of creation.

Contact: Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company, 2780 Morris Ave, #1-A, Union, NJ 07083; 908-687-8855; info.cddc@verizon.net; www.cddc.info